

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured growing the teak tree yesterday.

# Everybody needs to conserve forests in rural areas and green urban areas as national duty

Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) office has planted 194,001 trees and windbreaks in 39 ceremonies from 2011 to date.

It is necessary to conserve forests close to the rural areas whereas urban people have to green their environs as a national duty, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. The Senior General delivered a speech at the fourth monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2023 of the families of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) near Yezin Dam in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He continued that extracting the necessary volume of timbers for the development of the nation and growing trees will improve the socioeconomic life of the people in harmony with the conservation of the natural environment and ecosystem. The Senior General underscored that extreme extraction of timber can cause climate change. It can be seen that Nay Pyi Taw faced 26.97°C average temperature in 2006, compared with 28.50°C at present. As such, Tatmadaw grows trees as public movements across

the nation, he added. The Senior General noted that it can be observed that colonialists unlimitedly extracted timbers from valuable forests of Myanmar. Now, forest coverage in the country has declined to 42 per cent because of the extraction of timbers to bolster finance of the State in successive eras. The Senior General gave guidance to all to nurture the plants for thriving in all seasons as a compulsory measure.

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ASEAN-BAC Philippines, ASEAN-BAC Myanmar ink MoU for agriculture, MSME development

## Myanmar attracts US\$135.49 mln in Chinese FDI over last five months

Nineteen China-listed enterprises pumped US\$135.49 million into Myanmar in the past five months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

Chinese companies primarily made investments in labour-intensive manufacturing industries that can create jobs for residents. Singapore is the top source of FDI so far, investing \$337 million in the power sector. China is placed as the second-largest investor in Myanmar.

Myanmar drew foreign direct investments of US\$484.155 million in the past five months (April-August), including expansion of capital by the existing enterprises, and the power sector topped the FDI line-ups, as per the statistics of the DICA.

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# NATIONAL



## Southern brick pavement of Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan



Photos show the southern brick pavement of the Shwezigon Pagoda. **PHOTOS: DIPA LIN**

THE people can study the brick pavement and undamaged stupas, lion statues and other sculptures on the wall

of Shwezigon Pagoda, World Heritage Site in Bagan, NyaungU township of Mandalay Region.



King Anawrahta (1044-1077 AD) initiated the construction of the pagoda in 1059 AD and King Kyansittha (1084-1112 AD) continued the construction in 1089 AD, and it completed within six months. At the same time, King Kyansittha laid the southern pavement which is about 1,500 feet. It was constructed from the location, where the two lion statues are situated, to the current location of today. There are entrances beside the brick walls. On them, the sandstone stupas, lion statues and other figures

can be seen. The current southern pavement is 230 feet long and the pavement to the west is 220 feet long. The pagoda board of trustees preserves the works of art of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century of Bagan era such as nat spirit statues, lion sculptors and wall.

There is the Kyansittha cave near the Shwezigon Pagoda. Although the mural paintings in the cave are not very artistic but they are interesting ones. It is called the Kyansittha cave or Anawrahta cave. — Dipa Lin/KTZH



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Promoting literacy for  
a world in transition:  
Building the foundation for  
sustainable and peaceful societies



8 September 2023

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Education 2030

## Local/foreign well-wishers can donate US dollars to further foreign accounts for Mocha victims

AN announcement has been issued for local and foreign well-wishers to conveniently make cash donations to Myanmar account OA-011834 opened at Myanmar Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw and foreign account 1DA-0300086 at Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank in Yangon as well as other electronic payment systems and mobile payments QR codes for the victims of extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit on 14 May 2023.

At present, local and foreign well-wishers wishing to donate foreign exchange US dollar can send their cash donations to further foreign account EDN-600018 opened at MEB in Nay Pyi Taw.

*National Disaster Management Committee*

NATIONAL

Everybody needs to conserve forests in rural areas and green urban areas as national duty

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General continued to say that Myanmar is endowed with western and eastern mountain ranges, middle mountain ranges as well as Shan plateau in addition to the Chindwin, Ayeyawady and Sittoung rivers. As these moun-

grown 190,473 trees from 2011 to the third tree-growing ceremony in 2023, 109,885 of which are thriving today, accounting for 55 per cent. As such, the Senior General instructed officials to nurture the plants for thriving. The fourth tree-growing ceremony needed to cul-



The Senior General views the monsoon tree-growing ceremony yesterday.

Salient points in the speech of the Senior General at the monsoon tree growing ceremony:

- It is necessary to conserve forests close to the rural areas whereas urban people have to green their environs as a national duty
- Forest coverage in the country declined to 42 per cent because of the extraction of timber
- Everybody has to nurture the plants to thrive in all seasons as a compulsory measure

tain ranges are covered with forests, systematic utilization of forests can benefit the country, he added.

The Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) has

tivate 3,528 trees including teak, Manjansha and gum-kino plants to have successfully thrived.

The Senior General and his wife grew a teak tree and then

viewed round the cultivation of trees by Tatmadaw members and families in set pieces.

The ceremony was also attended by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior

General Soe Win and his wife.

At the fourth ceremony, they cultivated 1,764 teak, 882 Manjansha and 882 gum-kino plants, totalling 3,528. The Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) has held 39 tree-growing ceremonies

from 2011 to date, growing 194,001 trees and windbreaks.

Likewise, similar ceremonies took place at relevant military commands by growing 175,674 industrial crops, perennial plants, shade and windbreaks. — MNA/TTA

Kuwaiti Ambassador calls on DPM & MoFA Union Minister



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe receives the Kuwaiti ambassador yesterday.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Mubarak M

A Aladwani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of

the Union of Myanmar yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the existing friendly bilateral relations, mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas including trade and investment, energy and labour, implementation of the existing bilateral agreements and resumption of ongoing negotiations for future cooperation agreements, and enhancement of collaboration both in the regional and multilateral arenas, particularly under the frameworks of ASEAN-the Gulf Cooperation Council and the United Nations. — MNA

Myanmar attracts US\$135.49 mln in Chinese FDI over last five months

FROM PAGE-1

The Myanmar Investment Commission gave the go-ahead to 31 foreign projects from seven countries in the past five months. Singapore ranked first with five enterprises in FDI amount, followed by China with 19 enterprises. Two enterprises each from the Republic of Korea and the USA put foreign investments in the country. One enterprise each from Hong Kong SAR, India and Samoa also made investments this year. The existing enterprises from Chinese Taipei, China, Hong Kong SAR, the ROK, Singapore and the UK also increased foreign investments, the statistics showed.

The agriculture sector drew \$2.578 million from three enterprises. Two enterprises put \$317.178 million in the power sector. The manufacturing sector received \$63.529 million of FDI from 26 projects, while the transport and communications sector attracted capital expansion of \$77.82 million. Increased capital of over \$23 million was pumped into the livestock and fisheries sector as well. — KK

|                                         |           |           |            |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| COVID-19 report,<br>7 September<br>2023 | NEW TESTS | NEW CASES | CASUALTIES |
|                                         | 3,569     | 4         | 0          |

NATIONAL

SAC Member, Kachin State officials hold public meeting, visit Myitkyina University

STATE Administration Council (SAC) Member Daw Dwe Bu, accompanied by Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and other state officials, attended a public meeting at the Kachin State gymnasium yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, Daw Dwe Bu emphasized the SAC's commitment to a comprehensive development roadmap, food security, domestic product improvement, internal peace, and holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election. She urged unity with the SAC and the state government.

Representatives from district and township administration bodies, town elders, residents, entrepreneurs, cultural groups, and civil society organizations discussed various issues, including land ownership, village-to-village road im-



SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu (C) is seen during her inspection tours in Kachin State.

provement, market upgrades, Manaw Ground beautification, environmental concerns, and ethnic literature education. Chief Minister U Khet Htein

Nan addressed food security, economic development plans, and government support for local needs. The SAC member coordinated with state officials

to address these issues.

Subsequently, Daw Dwe Bu met the education staff, including the rector, pro-rectors, professors, and departmental

heads of Myitkyina University. The university's activities and cleanliness efforts were discussed, with a focus on enhancing teaching activities.

SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu encouraged educators to nurture students who think critically about right and wrong, fostering talented and aspiring youth for the country's future.

The university representatives presented their requirements, and the SAC member addressed them in coordination with relevant ministries and the state government.

The day concluded with a get-together dinner as part of the Youth Fair Week development activities programme, attended by SAC member, the state chief minister, and other officials at 5:30 pm. — State IPRD/TS

International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies marked in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 2023 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was held yesterday morning at the Department of Environmental Conservation under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw attended by Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi, deputy ministers, the permanent secretary, department heads and representatives.

The Union minister first highlighted that the theme for this year's International Clean Air Day celebration is "Together for Clean Air" To increase cooperation at the international level; It is being held with the purpose of increasing air quality measures and solutions and sharing responsibilities according to roles in order to overcome air pollution.

Access to clean air is important for human health and daily life; Air pollu-

tion is a serious threat to human health worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, about 6.7 million people die each year due to air pollution, and about 24 million people are exposed to the dangers of indoor air pollution.

Since air pollution is transboundary in nature, the regional level deals with the problem of transboundary air pollution that often occurs between neighbouring countries. National and international cooperation should be increased. To reduce Transboundary Haze Pollution Problems, Myanmar has signed the ASEAN Agreement on Cross-Border Smog Pollution Control and is cooperating internationally.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change along with air pollution; use of renewable energy sources; Development of green economic sectors and clean air for fu-



The event of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies in progress.

ture generations and the Union Minister encouraged that they all must work together to pass on a green environment and good ecological systems. Then a video was shown commemorating the

2023 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies and took the documentary photos together. The Union minister and the attendees viewed the display of commemorative posters. — MNA/TS

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NATIONAL

MoI urges media sector to empower public's mental resilience

THE government makes concerted efforts to ensure peace and tranquillity, promote the economy, and fend off price hikes.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said above while meeting the staff of affiliated departments under the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event commenced with a video clip on nation-building endeavours and the role of state media.

In his speech, the Union minister highlighted the video clip that features the activities of the government during two years and a half for the country through collective strength and appreciated the staff for their collective efforts in performing their respective duties.

He also said that the sharing of information through various media outlets regarding the

collective efforts of government, public, Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and private organizations in overcoming the challenges in all sectors including the Cyclone Mocha bring mental power to the public. All the challenges should be solved based on the goodwill, lovingkindness and honesty of all.

In the information age, it is easy to know what is happening in the world. All the world countries emphasize their own self-interest and treat other countries unevenly just for their interests. He called for the cooperation of every individual staff member in implementing tasks of national interest through media, saying the government makes concerted efforts to ensure peace and tranquillity, promote the economy and fend off price rises.

He continued that the Prime Minister carries out



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn addresses the meeting with departmental staff of the Ministry of Information yesterday.

the development programmes for the country in addition to the measures to promote the MSMEs and instruct the youths to become perfect ones with five essential strengths.

He then urged the staff to be aware of one-sided information spreading on Facebook.

Then, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung coordinated the discussion and fulfilled the needs of the staff. — MNA/KTZH

Union Health Minister receives Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar



The Bangladeshi ambassador calls on Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win yesterday.

UNION Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win of the Ministry of Health met the delegation led by Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the ministry's reception hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, both parties had a friendly discussion on matters of promoting cooperation in the health sector of the two countries, global health issues

such as epidemic prevention and response, universally accessible healthcare services, activities to solve the problem of antibiotic resistance, issues that the two countries can cooperate in, such as drowning prevention activities and so on, the status of preparing healthcare activities for accepting displaced persons, and issues regarding the registration and distribution of Bangladesh-produced drugs and medical products in Myanmar. — MNA/CT

Confiscation of illegal items: timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs and vehicles

THE combined team captured a total of 1.976 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K138,376 at the Milepost 70/6 on Patheingyi road in Ingapu township on 1 September. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

The combined teams under the Tanintharyi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized an unregistered Honda Insight car (approximately K6 million) at the Eainshaepyin checkpoint in Dawei township and an unregistered Honda Fit car (approximately K2.5 million) on Bokpyin-Kawthoung road in Bokpyin township on 3 September. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Similarly, the combined on-duty teams under the management of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections on 4 September and impounded a Nissan Condor truck (estimated value of K25 million), headed to Mandalay from Muse, carrying three kinds of goods worth K9.2 million including 2,100 pairs of DoDo Toe Post sandals that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Milepost 25/3 on Muse-Mandalay road and a Hyundai truck (estimated value of K15 million), travelling from Lashio to Mandalay, carrying two kinds of goods worth K2.082 million carrying 861 porcelain plates without official documents at the Milepost 25/1 on Muse-Mandalay road. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team confiscated a Nissan Diesel truck (estimated value of K30 million), headed

to Mandalay from Myawady, carrying 10 kinds of goods worth K27.79 million including 2,880 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk and 10,500 bottles of Lipovitan-D energy drink that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) in Hpa-an township on 5 September. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined teams conducted inspections on 5 September and nabbed a Shacman tractor head and a trailer (approximately K65 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying five kinds of goods worth K19.345 million including 2,500 kilogrammes of Paint and 3,000 kilogrammes of Plastic roll without official documents near Famous fuel filling shop in Phayagyi and a Mitsubishi Fuso vehicle (estimated value of K30 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying 115 tyres (used) worth K8.05 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) near Shwethanlwin Tollgate. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

An on-duty team seized four Toyota Hiace (estimated value of K85 million) carrying six kinds of goods worth K15.202 million without official documents on Washao-Waingmaw road in Waingmaw township on 6 September. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

As a result, a total of 18 arrests were made on 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 September, with an estimated value of K340,307,376, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

# Swift turnaround times offered for U-Turn procedures in Kawthoung, Myawady

THE Myanmar MoU workers in Thailand can carry out U-Turn processes in Kawthoung and Myawady through the one-stop service system. The Myanmar Embassy in Thailand released the necessary information on 7 September.

It was announced on 26 August that Myanmar workers in Thailand under the MoU system, who hold PJ passports that are valid for two years or more, have been informed that they will be provided with a one-stop service system in Myawady and Kawthoung to allow them to re-enter Thailand in a short period using the MoU/U-Turn system.

To perform the U-Turn process within a day, the Ministries of Labour of the two countries have already instructed the one-stop service team to serve



An official from the Myanmar Labour Attache Office is seen serving a labour issue.

around 700 Myanmar workers in Myawady and about 300 Myanmar workers in Kawthoung on 11 September.

Documentation activities for the U-Turn procedure between the employer, regional labour offices of Thailand, the

Department of Employment in Thailand, and the Myanmar Labour Attache Office must be done by the employer or employment agencies.

After the completion of the activities, the U-Turn process can be completed by the MoU

workers in three or four days at two border cities at a low cost.

In addition, MoU workers sent from blacklisted companies can register at another company for the U-Turn process with the consent of the employer and the MoU worker. — TWA/CT

## Myawady border trade route recovers amidst soaring foodstuffs prices

THE Myawady border trade route has been recovered to travel normal traffic including trucks by the end of August due to the ungently repairing of concerned officials but the price of most imported foodstuffs is still rising in the Yangon market.

Daw Lay Ni, a housewife in Sangyoung township, told GNLM that the imported foodstuffs prices are rising again instead of coming back down in the final days of the September first week.

The price of locally produced coffee which was bought at K100 in the retail market

before 2022 has risen to K300. The instant coffee sachet (18 grammes) made in Thailand was priced at K300 starting from the end of August from at K250 in the August third week.

Similarly, a Cereal sachet (30g) is also risen to K350 and the price of an instant Cereal sachet (20g) is increased from K500 to K600. A Cereal big package, a domestic product, including 20 small sachet (30g) is increased to K6,200 from K4,700 before the Thingyan Festival period.

Not only the price of foodstuffs in the imported items has been increased in the market



Shoppers are seen selecting foodstuffs at the store.

for the reason of transportation issues but also the price of domestic foodstuffs has risen. Consumers said that transportation

has returned to normal right now but the prices of foodstuffs and related items have not come down. — TWA/MKKS



The photo shows tamarind stocked at a warehouse for sale.

## Low foreign demand diminishes tamarind prices

WITH the demand from foreign trade partners declining, the price of tamarind is on the decline, U Aung Tun, a seller at the Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The prices of export items (rice, onion, pulses, peanut, sesame and sugar) are rising, whereas the prices of gum karaya, tamarind and Hygrophila Phlomoides are still low, said a tamarind and herb seller from Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre.

The prices of tamarind moved in the range between K1,150-2,000 per viss depending on varieties and quality on 6 September.

A type of tamarind designated for exports fetches K750 per viss, Ko Win Oo, a trader told the GNLM.

The price of gum karaya hit K4,500 per viss on the back of strong demand by China, Thailand, Malaysia and India in 2021. The prices then drastically dropped to K7,000-9,000 per viss due to lack of foreign demand, the herb sellers said.

Similarly, the foreign demand pushed up the price of Hygrophila phlomoides Nees to K20,000 per viss in 2021. This year, the price plunged to K5,000 per viss.

Despite some foreign companies offering to buy tamarind in mid-2023, it does not reach an agreement. The new tamarind will flow into the market at the end of the year. — TWA/EM

## Free certificates granted for five gold business licence categories

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) announced free certificates are being issued for five types of gold business licences to all gold shops and gold retailers in Yangon.

Applying for gold business licences

needs the following steps: a gold shop licence certificate, a gold refining licence certificate, a goldsmith licence certificate, a pawnshop licence certificate, and a gold bar transactions licence certificate and these certificates are being approved free

of charge at Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) office at the office hours.

There are over 10,000 gold shops in Yangon Region and they have to expire at the end of December every year. — TWA/MKKS

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## ASEAN-BAC Philippines, ASEAN-BAC Myanmar ink MoU for agriculture, MSME development

CHAIR of the ASEAN-BAC Philippines Mr Jose Ma A Concepcion III and Chair of the ASEAN-BAC Myanmar, U Aye Win signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 5 September at the Sultan Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia to cooperate in agriculture and MSME development, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The agreement covers studies and guidance to contribute to the development of the value chains in agriculture, production, food security and safety, promising agriculture sector between the businesspersons and the institutions concerned, farmers working on a small, medium and large scale. It also

elaborates on promotion of the trade and investment opportunities, technology exchange and setting the necessary economic requirements in service sectors. Then, it sheds light on improving effective strategies in bracing climate change and sustainable agricultural economics for the two nations.

At the roundtable dialogue held on 5 September at the Sultan Hotel, ASEAN-BAC Philippines inked the respective MoUs with the counterparts from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Brunei, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand.

ASEAN Business Advisory Council Myanmar (ASEAN-BAC Myanmar) was formed in 2003 after approval at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, to serve the voice of the



The ASEAN Bussiness Advisory Council holds the roundtable dialogue in Jakarta, Indonesia.

private sector and boost ASEAN's efforts towards economic integration.

ASEAN-BAC Philippines was formed to promote economic models of the Philippines and

good business environment, agricultural products and industrial transitions. — NN/EM

## CBM implements measures to stabilize kyat against US dollar depreciation

KYAT'S tumble against the greenback has slowed down following the Central Bank of Myanmar's action.

The CBM notified on 21 August 2023 that those holding foreign currencies without having a valid licence or permit will face legal action under the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

Kyat devaluation against the dollar came to a standstill at approximately K3,500 in the shady dealings. At present, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sets the reference exchange rate at K2,100.

CBM has set the currency trad-

ing band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, according to a directive issued by the CBM on 10 August 2022.

Therefore, financial institutions including the banks and informal money exchanges are instructed to set a dollar value at K2,094 for buying and K2,106 for selling. Nevertheless, the over-the-counter Kyat-dollar exchange rate was K3,460 for buying and K3,560 for selling on 7 September.

There is a large price difference

between the reference rate of the CBM and the unofficial market rate. Yet, there is no way for the CBM to set the new price, as per the notification released in May 2023.

The dollar gained to around K4,000 on 19 August.

Under Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, only those entities holding foreign exchange dealer licences are allowed to deal in foreign currency and traveller's cheques.

According to the notification (7/2014) dated 30 September 2014 issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar, stating that under clause 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, domestic residents are allowed to keep US\$10,000 in maximum or equivalent amount of foreign currencies for six months. If those foreign currencies that have been unused for over six months have to be exchanged in local currency at the market price through authorized dealers or deposited into bank accounts.

Those illegally holding foreign currencies will be taken action under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the CBM warned again.

Following that notification, the foreign exchange transaction calmed down and the rate dipped gradually. — NN/ EM

## Myanmar earns \$1.28 bln from agricultural exports in Apr-Aug

MYANMAR earned US\$1.28 billion from agricultural exports between 1 April and 25 August in 2023-2024FY, according to the Trade Policy Branch under the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exports its agricultural products such as rice, broken rice, beans and pulses, maize, raw rubber and so on to its neighbouring countries like Thailand, China, India and Bangladesh via border camps and sea routes. It also exports to Korea, Japan, Russia and EU member states.

"According to the latest data of trade, we received over \$1.28 billion from agricultural exports between 1 April and 25 August in 2023-2024FY," said Deputy Director Daw Khin Thet Mu of Trade Policy Branch.

In agricultural sector, the country ships fruits and vegetables, sesame, tea leaf, sugar and other products in addition to agricultural, animal and marine products, minerals, forest products, CMP and manufactured goods, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce. — ASH/KTZH



The front view of the office of the Central Bank of Myanmar-CBM.

OPINION

Lend a helping hand to illiterates to become literate

THE International Literacy Day, established during UNESCO’s 14th General Conference on 26 October 1966, is commemorated annually on 8 September. This global celebration, initiated in 1967, serves as a poignant reminder of the profound significance of literacy for individuals, communities, and societies worldwide.

Myanmar embarked on its literacy campaign in the Meiktila District in 1964, subsequently expanding its reach to encompass all townships across the country. The campaign’s primary focus was on providing the 3-Rs courses — reading, writing, and arithmetic — to eradicate illiteracy. The results were nothing short of remarkable. Over a decade from 1960 to 1970, Myanmar’s literacy rate surged to over 90 per cent of the population. UNESCO recognized Myanmar’s dedication by bestowing the Mohammad Riza Pahlavi Prize

in 1971 and the Noma Prize in 1983, affirming the nation’s exceptional commitment to literacy with widespread public participation. As of 2019, Myanmar’s adult literacy rate stood at 89.07 per cent, according to the World Bank’s development indicators. The government’s efforts to educate school-age children are evident through the operation of 13,879 basic education middle schools and 21,550 primary schools in rural areas, along with 1,626 middle schools and 3,318 primary schools in urban areas. However, the ratio of middle schools in rural to urban areas is 8:1, and for primary schools, it’s 6.5:1, highlighting the need to provide ample educational opportunities for all. While successive governments have prioritized the education sector, the number of literate individuals in urban areas still surpasses that in rural regions. The rural areas face challenges such as lower student enrollment and high dropout rates, despite the presence of schools. Ensuring that educational opportunities reach children in all corners of the country remains a critical goal.

In the past, Myanmar’s model 3-Rs courses demonstrated exceptional success in staging literacy campaigns. By encouraging people to read literature, these courses laid a strong foundation for further education. The government is now implementing plans to expand education alternatives, including the KG+5 programme, with the ultimate aim of fostering a learning environment conducive to the KG+9 scheme.

Recognizing International Literacy Day should be a collective endeavour, not just in Myanmar but across the globe in line with the theme for 2023 of the significant day “Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies”. It serves as a reminder of the tireless efforts in literacy campaigns and underscores the importance of selecting the most effective teaching methods and creating conducive learning environments for broadening the horizons of the people.

THE title of this article, ‘Benefits of leisure reading from young’ comes from a news story of AFP that appeared in the Global New Light of Myanmar on 20 August 2023. The news reads as follows...

“Fewer and fewer young people read for pleasure. Yet this activity is extremely beneficial to them in cognitive, intellectual and behavioural terms, especially if they get into reading at an early age, a new study reveals. Researchers in Britain and China have investigated the multiple benefits of “leisure” reading by analyzing data from the Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development cohort, recruited as part of a longitudinal study of over, 10,000 young adolescents in North America. The scientists wanted to determine whether reading for pleasure in early childhood contributes to the cerebral and cognitive development of young people ...”

The news reminded me of my childhood days when my grandparents were alive. Although our country regained independence in 1948, peace did not prevail across the nation. As a Myanmar saying goes, “A lance is struck deep in a low plain”, insurgencies dominated the rural areas where we were born and brought up.

To make matters worse, there were so many illiterates in our community. To be objective, we were in the dark about what the government was doing for



Teens who enjoyed childhood reading excelled academically and in cognitive tests.  
ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

Benefits of leisure reading from young

By Maung Hlaing

people in those days.

My grandparents and parents were not educated as they were brought up under the colonial yoke. However, they were taught the three R’s (Reading, Writing and Reckoning) by learned monks who were well-versed in Buddhist literature including the treatises

on Buddhist Philosophy. Thanks to the monks, they could read Jataka stories, or Buddha life’s stories (life stories of previous incarnations of Buddha), and take on religious texts.

As we had no electric light at night, Grandpa or Grandma told us tales or stories in the moon-

light. As we had no school to go to, they used to read stories with us to give us a lasting love of books.

As a result, hundreds of times, we were transported to the Benares and saw King Bramahdat who is well acquainted with children. Although we had not read the Zinat-hta-pakar-thani,

we were quite familiar with the life stories of the would-be-Buddha. And we used to hear the story of “Mae Htway Lay and the Serpent”, an original folktale of Myanmar. We had pity on Mae Htway Lay who was simple and honest. On the contrary, we had an antipathy for her cruel elders. The

Six bln tonnes of sand extracted from world's oceans each year: UN

Marine Sand Watch employs AI to monitor global marine dredging of various materials.

SOME six billion tonnes of sand and other sediment is extracted from the world’s seas and oceans every year, the UN said Tuesday, warning of the devastating toll on biodiversity and coastal communities.

Launching the first ever global data platform on sediment extraction in marine environments, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), warned that the scale of dredging was growing, with dire consequences.

“The scale of environmental impacts of shallow sea mining activities and dredging is alarming,” said Pascal Peduzzi, who heads UNEP’s analytics centre

GRID-Geneva. He pointed to the effects on biodiversity, as well as on water turbidity, and noise impacts on marine mammals.

The new data platform, Marine Sand Watch, uses artificial intelligence to track and monitor dredging activities of sand, clay, silt, gravel and rock in the world’s marine environment.

It uses so-called Automatic Identification System (AIS) signals for ships combined with AI to identify the operations of dredging vessels, including in hotspots like the North Sea and the east coast of the United States.

The signals emitted by the vessels allow “access to the move-

ments of every ship on the planet,” Peduzzi told AFP, adding that AI makes it possible to analyze the mountains of data gathered.

That process is still in the early stages, and so far, only around 50 per cent of vessels are being monitored.

‘Gigantic proportions’ -

But the platform estimates that out of some 50 billion tonnes of sand and gravel used by humanity each year, between four and eight billion tonnes come from the world’s oceans and seas.

“This represents six billion tonnes on average every year, or the equivalent of more than one

million dump trucks every day,” Peduzzi said. He pointed out that “our entire society depends on sand as a construction material”, to make everything from schools, hospitals and roads to hydroelectric dams, solar panels and glass.

At the same time, sand plays a vital environmental role, including to protect coastal communities from rising sea levels.

The UN is aiming to publish the 2020-23 figures by the end of this year. But it is already clear that these activities are not slowing down, but rather are “taking on gigantic proportions”, Peduzzi said.

He warned that the world is approaching the natural replenish-

ment rate of 10-16 billion tonnes of sediment washed into the world’s oceans each year.

‘Not sustainable’

While the tipping point has not been reached at a global level, he cautioned during a press conference that in some localities, “we are extracting it faster than it can replenish itself”.

“This is not sustainable.”

The North Sea, Southeast Asia and the East Coast of the United States are among the areas with the most intense marine dredging.

SOURCE: AFP



Sand and gravel play a pivotal role in the construction industry, serving as fundamental building blocks for countless projects worldwide. PHOTO: PIXABAY

change. These stages are the toddler stage, the preschool years, the early school years, and the pre-teenage years.

Of the four stages, developing language skills is a major challenge for children during the toddler stage. It is for this reason that many parents use stories and pictures to help toddlers increase their vocabulary and build sentences. As for the preschool years which extend from three to five years of age, children should become accustomed to books without texts before they go to school. In most countries, whether they be developing or developed, people pay much attention to the production of preschool books which can be called the source of literature for children.

The early school years, which last from about the age of five to eight, mark a major turning point in a child’s development. As for this age group, books and reading habits come to play an important role.

The motto “Interest is the soil in which knowledge can grow” was vividly seen on the first page of the readers (textbooks) we read in our early school years. Young students could enjoy interesting stories such as ‘The King and the Gooseherd’, ‘Androcles and the Lion’ and so on.

The pre-teenage years which extended from about eight to thirteen can be said to be very important periods for a child because a wrong action may be permitted

under some circumstances unless they are attracted by interesting reading materials.

After getting married, when I got a daughter, we could make her enjoy listening to bedtime stories. Whenever we had time, we used to read the ‘Shwe Thway’ Journal or other books for children to her before she had even learned to read. In other words, we were able to create reading for pleasure in her early childhood. As a result, we could instil a good hobby of reading into her and this hobby enabled her to have the ability to distinguish something good from something bad.

We, parents, should not be reluctant to leave an inheritance of ‘reading from an early age’ for our children to come. Researchers have shown that teenagers who had started reading for pleasure in childhood performed better than others not only at school but also on cognitive tests measuring verbal learning, memory and speech development.

To my opinion, parents should be encouraged to read stories with their children to give them a lasting love of books. Reading and lasting love of books is the only single way that can make the future of generation by generation brighter and smarter. Don’t forget the saying “One who reads is taller by a head than those who do not read”.

Regarding “When to start reading”, my opinion is that ‘The earlier, the better.’

ARTICLE

SCI/ENVIRON  
WORLD

H2A rocket with Japan’s lunar  
lander successfully lifts off

Japan launched its lunar lander aboard an H2A rocket, marking its first major domestic rocket liftoff since March amid the global space race.



An H2A rocket carrying the Japanese space agency’s lunar lander lifts off from Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture on 7 September 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

AN H2A rocket carrying the Japanese space agency’s lunar lander was launched Thursday at Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan, making it the first liftoff in Japan of a major domestic rocket since March amid an intensifying global space race.

With the SLIM small-scale explorer designed to test technology for pinpoint landings on the lunar surface, Japan aims

to become the fifth country after the former Soviet Union, the United States, China and India to land a craft on the Moon.

According to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, the H2A, which took off at 8:42 am, “flew as planned”, with SLIM having separated from the rocket successfully about 47 minutes later.

The XRISM X-ray astro-

nomical satellite, which will be used to observe plasma in stars and galaxies, was also on board and separated successfully.

The development came after a failed inaugural launch in March of Japan’s next-generation H3 rocket, under development by JAXA and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. It was the H2A rocket’s 41st successful launch in a row since 2005.

— Kyodo

Tencent claims new  
AI chat bot skills  
comparable to ChatGPT

CHINESE tech giant Tencent on Thursday claimed its new chatbot had some capabilities on par with top US rival ChatGPT, as the global artificial intelligence race heats up.

Tencent’s “Hunyuan Aide”, which it released to the public on Thursday, follows the similar ERNIE Bot rolled out by fellow Chinese company Baidu last month.

Beijing introduced fresh regulations last month for AI developers, aiming to allow them to stay in the race with the likes of ChatGPT maker OpenAI and Microsoft while tightly controlling information online.

Tencent on Thursday gave a

live demonstration of Hunyuan Aide’s capabilities, with the bot introducing itself in response to questions typed by an employee on a laptop, and solving a simple arithmetic problem.

Vice-President Jiang Jie said at the livestreamed summit that the bot outperformed US-based Open AI’s earlier model GPT-3.5 and was on par with GPT-4 in identifying trick questions such as “what is the safe way to speed”.

It even exceeded the latter when answering questions from the Chinese university entrance exam, he said. AFP was not able to independently verify the claims. — AFP



Robots are displayed at the opening of the three-day 2023 World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai on 6 July 2023. PHOTO: GLOBAL TIMES

Pace of increase in CO2 concentration has  
increased three-fold: report

THE pace at which the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere is increasing — due mostly to the burning of fossil fuels — has jumped three-fold in five decades, an international report said Wednesday.

In 2022, there were on average 417 parts per million (ppm) of the planet-warming gas in the air, up 2.2 ppm from the year before, according to the annual State of the Climate report led by scientists from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This is 50 per cent more than pre-industrial levels and “the highest in the



Temperatures reached record-breaking highs during the year across multiple continents. PHOTO: AFP

modern atmospheric record and in paleoclimate records dating back as far as 800,000 years”, the report noted. Annual growth

in global mean carbon dioxide averaged across the last decade has tripled since the 1960s, it found. — AFP

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

Early humans deliberately made mysterious  
stone ‘spheroids’

THE early ancestors of humans deliberately made stones into spheres 1.4 million years ago, a study said on Wednesday, though what prehistoric people used the balls for remains a mystery.

Archaeologists have long debated exactly how the tennis ball-sized “spheroids” were created.

Did early hominins intentionally chip away at them with the aim of crafting a perfect sphere, or were they merely the accidental by-product of repeatedly smashing the stones like ancient hammers?

New research led by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem suggests that our ancestors knew what they were doing.

The team of scientists examined 150 limestone spheroids dating from 1.4 million years ago which were found at the ‘Ubeidiya archaeological site, in the north of modern-day Israel.

Using 3D analysis to reconstruct the geometry of the stones, the researchers determined that their sphericalness was “likely to have been produced intentionally”. — AFP

‘We’re going to sink’: hundreds abandon Caribbean island home

ON a tiny Caribbean island, hundreds of people are preparing to pack up and move to escape the rising waters threatening to engulf their already precarious homes.

Surrounded by idyllic clear waters, the densely populated island of Carti Sugtupu off Panama’s north coast has barely an inch to spare with houses crammed together – some jutting out into the sea on stilts.

The island’s Indigenous community of fewer than 2,000 souls scrapes by without potable water or sanitation.

They live off fishing, the harvesting of starchy crops like cassava and plantain, traditional textile production and a bit of tourism.

It is not an easy life, with intense heat and a lack of public services adding to the discomfort of overcrowded conditions on



On a tiny island in the Caribbean, hundreds of people are preparing to pack up and move to escape the rising waters that threaten to engulf their homes in coming decades. PHOTO: LUIS ACOSTA / AFP

an island the size of five football fields.

And now, climate change-induced sea level rise is threatening

to make life even more difficult. With homes already flooded

on a regular basis, experts say the sea will engulf Carti Sugtupu and dozens of neighbouring islands in the Guna Yala region by the end of the century.

Forty-nine of the isles are populated, and rest just a few feet (less than one meter) above sea level. “We have noticed that the tide has risen,” retired teacher Magdalena Martinez, 73, told AFP as she sat embroidering a brightly coloured toucan onto a “mola” cloth traditional to the Guna people on Carti Sugtupu.

“We think we’re going to sink, we know it’s going to happen,” she said.

Martinez is one of hundreds of inhabitants of the island expecting to move soon to a settlement on mainland Panama newly built by the government – a move that may save the islanders, but puts at risk their culture and way of life. — AFP

Three dogs star in Leopold Mozart symphony in Denmark

ON stage at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, Torben Petersen waves his arms like a conductor to encourage Sophus, his eight-year-old spaniel, to bark.

Sophus, along with two other equally well-trained pooches, Cookie and Sica, barked on command in time with the Danish Chamber Orchestra for a rare performance on Sunday of “Hunting Symphony”, a little-known piece by Leopold Mozart, the father of Wolfgang Amadeus.

The work is rarely performed with live dogs on stage, with or-

chestras usually preferring to use recorded sound.

Selected at an audition last spring for their barking skills, the three hounds rehearsed conscientiously with their masters, who were generous with treats to get them to bark on cue.

“The symphony is in three movements and in the last movements, we will hear the hunt begin and we will have shootings, and then the dogs will start to bark,” the head of the orchestra, Andreas Veto, told AFP during a rehearsal before Sunday’s show. — AFP



Live dog performances in orchestras for this piece are unusual, with recorded sound typically used instead. PHOTO: AFP

Japan boyband agency admits founder’s sexual abuse



The president of Japanese talent agency Johnny & Associates has admitted that its late founder sexually abused young aspiring stars. PHOTO: KAZUHIRO NOGI/AFP

THE president of Japan’s biggest and most successful boyband agency admitted on Thursday that its late founder

sexually abused young aspiring stars, decades after allegations first emerged.

Johnny Kitagawa died aged

87 in 2019, having engineered the birth of J-pop mega-groups including SMAP, TOKIO and Arashi that amassed adoring fans across Asia.

Allegations that he abused young men who wanted to be stars surfaced in Japanese media in 1999.

But it was not until this year that they ignited full-on soul-searching, following a BBC documentary and denunciations by victims.

“Both the agency itself and I myself as a person recognise that sex abuse by Johnny Kitagawa took place,” said Julie Fujishima, a niece of the accused music mogul who died in 2019. — AFP

Caravan caters for last-minute brides in Harare

INSIDE a rusty old caravan, brides-to-be try on gleaming white wedding dresses whose pricetag would normally put them way out of reach.

Parked to the side of a Harare courthouse where

couples go to tie the knot, the caravan even enables brides to get fitted on the way to getting wed.

It’s not exactly something borrowed -- the business is a commercial venture, hiring

out wedding dresses, bouquets and decorations.

But in Zimbabwe, plagued for decades by poverty, unemployment and high inflation, the rental service is an affordable godsend. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## China property stocks soar in Hong Kong on stimulus hopes

SHARES in battered developers rocketed in Hong Kong on Wednesday on investor bets that Beijing will follow up recent pledges to boost the real estate sector with more measures.

Fears about a debt crisis in the country's property industry have seen some of its biggest players scythed in recent years as they struggle to repay debtors and finish projects owing to a lack of funds, fuelling worries about the wider financial system.

That has come as the economy stumbles with growth this year expected to be one of the worst for decades.

However, many firms have enjoyed a much-needed bounce in the past week as officials, under pressure to prevent the issue worsening, announced a number of policies to provide support to troubled firms.

Among them are the lowering of down payments for some mortgages and the introduction of tax incentives for people to



The ox statues at the Exchange Square in Central, Hong Kong. PHOTO: XINHUA

purchase, while data has shown home sales rebounding, according to Chinese media reports.

On Wednesday, the state-backed Securities Times news outlet said in a commentary that lifting restrictions on buying and selling property could "stabilise

the confidence and expectations" of potential homebuyers.

"Restrictive policies in non-top-tier cities can also be cancelled as soon as possible, in accordance with each city's needs," it said.

"Right now there is an ur-

gent need to strengthen policy support at points of sale for real estate" to release latent demand, it said.

The purchase limits were meant to address an overheated market and were "no longer timely". — AFP

### TOP HEADLINE

#### UAE oil giant announces new carbon capture project

THE United Arab Emirates' state oil company ADNOC announced a major new carbon capture project on Wednesday, less than three months before it hosts UN climate talks in Dubai. The new initiative will siphon planet-heating carbon dioxide emissions from the Habshan gas processing plant in Abu Dhabi and store them permanently underground, a statement said. The project, described as one of the biggest in the Middle East and North Africa, will be able to capture up to 1.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year, tripling ADNOC's carbon capture capacity, it said.

"As ADNOC continues its transformation towards a lower carbon future, it is our intention to make further investments to significantly reduce our emissions, including in carbon capture and storage," said Musabbeh Al Kaabi, executive director of Low Carbon Solutions and International Growth. — AFP

## Canada trade deficit narrows as imports plunge in July

CANADA'S trade deficit narrowed in July to Can\$987 million (US\$723 million) as imports plunged — due in part to strikes at its Pacific coast ports — while exports rose slightly, the government statistical agency said Wednesday.

This follows a revised Can\$4.9 billion deficit the previous month.

After reaching a record in June, the deficit with countries other than the United States fell,

while a surplus with the United States went up, according to Statistics Canada.

Total imports decreased 5.4 per cent to Can\$61.4 billion in July.

The decline, like in the two previous months, was broad-based, but led by lower gold asset transfers between financial institutions.

Goods typically imported from Pacific Rim countries, such as China, Taiwan, South

Korea, Peru and Japan, that rely on Pacific coast ports fell as British Columbia dock workers went on strike for almost two weeks.

This included clothing, footwear and accessories as well as electronics.

Imports of industrial machinery and parts also declined.

Exports, meanwhile, increased 0.7 per cent to Can\$60.4 billion.

July saw exports of aircraft almost double, due to increased sales of private jets and commercial aircraft to the United States, Britain, Austria, Cyprus and France. Exports of canola more than doubled, with higher volumes sent to China and Mexico. Grains shipments were not impacted by the British Columbia ports strike. However, lower sales of refined gold to the United States and Britain dragged down exports of unwrought gold. — AFP



A container ship sits in Burrard Inlet in front off the coast of North Vancouver, 11 July 2023. Don Mackinnon. PHOTO: AFP

## Australian economy beats forecasts in second quarter



A man wearing a face mask walks before the Harbour Bridge in Sydney, Australia on 22 July 2020. PHOTO: SAEED KHAN /AFP/FILE

AUSTRALIA'S economy grew more than expected in the second quarter, data showed Wednesday, despite the "unrelenting pressure" of interest rate hikes and global turmoil.

Gross domestic product expanded 2.1 per cent on-year in April-June, slightly less than the previous month but better than forecasts of 1.8 per cent. From the previous quarter, it grew 0.4 per cent, which was in line with estimates and faster than Germany,

France and the United Kingdom.

Although Australia was in a position of "relative strength", Treasurer Jim Chalmers cautioned that it remained vulnerable as China — a key trading partner — struggles with its own economic malaise. "This is a steady result, but we know that households are under pressure from the rising cost of living and higher interest rates," Chalmers said as he announced the country's national accounts. — AFP

# Tourism Australia awaits more Chinese travellers to return, says tourism official

HAVING welcomed a rising number of Chinese tourists since the beginning of this year, Australia’s peak tourism body is upbeat about a further boost coming from its number one market, especially after China announced the resumption of group tours to several overseas destinations.

“We are pleased to see that Chinese travellers have been returning to Australia in a growing number since the start of the year and can’t wait to welcome many more back in the coming months and years,” Managing Director of Tourism Australia Phillipa Harrison told Xinhua in a written interview.

Starting on Aug. 10, travel agencies and online tourism service providers in China can resume offering group tours to a longer list of countries and regions, including Japan, Britain, the United States and Australia.

Harrison regarded the coming back of Chinese group travelers as “good news for the Australian tourism industry” which would help to support the ongoing recovery of the country’s visitor economy.

— Xinhua



Photo taken on 16 September 2022 shows blooming flowers in early spring by the Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra, Australia. **PHOTO: CHU CHEN/XINHUA**

# Stocks waver amid jitters over more tough central bank actions

WALL Street and European stock markets retreated on Wednesday on fears of more interest-rate hikes as oil prices climbed, stoking fresh concerns about high inflation.

Crude futures jumped Tuesday after key OPEC+ producers Russia and Saudi Arabia extended supply cuts to the end of the year in efforts to boost their revenues.

Markets remained on edge on Wednesday as oil prices wobbled.

Wall Street’s three main indices were lower in late morning trading, with data showing activity in the US services sector unexpectedly picking up in August.

Europe’s main equity markets also ended the day lower.



US interest rates are already at a two-decade high and some analysts warn that further increases could risk tipping the world’s top economy into recession. **PHOTO: AFP**

in the US services sector unexpectedly picking up in August.

Europe’s main equity markets also ended the day lower.

Buoyant crude prices complicate efforts by global central banks to tame stubbornly-high inflation, dampening expectations of a pause in tighter monetary policy.

US interest rates are already at a two-decade high and some analysts warn that further increases could risk tipping the world’s top economy into recession.

“The extension of output cuts by Russia and Saudi Arabia through to the end of the year... may force the likes of the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates higher for longer,” said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould.

“Markets are reacting negatively,” Mould said. — AFP

# UK reassures big tech over new encryption rules

THE British government on Wednesday gave guarantees to instant messaging platforms over concerns that they could be forced to monitor encrypted messages for harmful content.

Several tech companies, including Meta-owned WhatsApp and Signal, voiced fears at a proposed law that could force them to stop end-to-end encryption of private communications.

But junior culture, media and sport minister Stephen Parkinson said the government had “no intention... to weaken the encryption technology used by the platforms”. “We have built in strong safeguards into the bill to ensure that users’ privacy is protected,” he told a debate in the upper chamber House of Lords. The Online Safety Bill, currently making its way through parliament, has been introduced to crack down on harmful content, including online child sex abuse. Encryption is a feature of many instant messaging platforms but Parkinson said companies would not be forced into digital snooping of users.

— AFP

encryption technology used by the platforms”. “We have built in strong safeguards into the bill to ensure that users’ privacy is protected,” he told a debate in the upper chamber House of Lords. The Online Safety Bill, currently making its way through parliament, has been introduced to crack down on harmful content, including online child sex abuse. Encryption is a feature of many instant messaging platforms but Parkinson said companies would not be forced into digital snooping of users.

— AFP

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

ဆောင်းပါးများကို အခမဲ့ ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါသည်။  
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (295N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (295N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-9-2023** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC DHANTIA VOY.NO. (SB334A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC DHANTIA VOY.NO. (SB334A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-9-2023** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

# ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD



In this file photo taken on 12 May 2003 trucks harvest corn grains at a farm in Guarapuava, Brazil. **PHOTO: NANI GOIS / AFP/FILE**

## Brazil to pass US as world’s top corn exporter

*This shift in global corn export dominance is attributed to Brazil’s exceptional harvest. Brazil is already the world’s top producer and exporter of soybeans.*

BRAZIL is set to pass the United States this year as the world’s top corn exporter, ending years of US dominance thanks to a bumper harvest, officials said Wednesday.

The South American agricultural giant, already the world’s top producer and exporter of soybeans, is on track to export 50 million tonnes of corn in 2023, “surpassing US exports”, the state-run Nation-

al Supply Company (Conab) said in its latest production report.

The forecast roughly aligns with projections from the US Department of Agriculture, which had said in an August report that Brazilian corn exports were on track to reach 56 million tonnes this year, surpassing the United States, at 41.3 million.

However, the US remains

the world number one corn producer, at 348.8 million tonnes, more than double Brazil’s forecast of 131.9 million.

Brazil’s claim to the corn export crown comes largely thanks to a climate that allows its farmers to harvest three times a year, with particularly good weather conditions this year fuelling a bumper crop.

Productivity gains also played a big role. — AFP

## Syria’s ancient adobe houses threatened by war, displacement

TRADITIONAL mud-brick houses that the people of northern Syria have built for

thousands of years risk disappearing, as 12 years of war have emptied villages and left the



Also known as ‘beehive houses’, the conical adobe structures keep cool in the blazing desert sun, while their thick walls also retain warmth in the winter. **PHOTO: AFP**

buildings crumbling.

Also known as “beehive houses”, the conical adobe structures are designed to keep cool in the blazing desert sun, while their thick walls also retain warmth in the winter.

Umm Amuda Kabira village in Aleppo province is among a handful of places where residents long used to live in the small domed houses, made of mud mixed with brittle hay. “Our village once had 3,000 to 3,500 residents and some 200 mud houses,” said Mahmud al-Mheilej, standing beside deserted homes with weeds growing out of the roofs. — AFP

## Greece launches rescue effort in flooded villages

GREEK emergency services on Thursday were trying to rescue potentially dozens of people from villages in a central region that has seen more rain in 24 hours than it normally sees in a year.

Fierce storms battered Greece, Türkiye and Bulgaria earlier this week, following a period of extreme heat and devastating wildfires.

A “large-scale” operation was underway to reach villages near the town of Karditsa, where the water level had risen between 1.5 and two metres (five-seven feet), fire service spokesman Yannis Artopios told

public TV broadcaster Ert.

“It’s very difficult to reach them,” he added.

The mayor of the Palamas district, where Karditsa is located, told private TV channel Skai that villagers were stuck in their homes “without any form of assistance”.

The channel showed footage of houses underwater. At least 14 people have been killed by the downpours in Greece, Türkiye and Bulgaria countries. Such extreme weather is becoming more frequent and more intense as a result of human-induced climate change. — AFP



Flooding near the central Greek city of Volos caused damage. **PHOTO: AFP**

### TODAY’S HIGHLIGHTS

#### China to send vice-premier to N Korea for founding anniversary

A Chinese delegation led by Vice-Premier Liu Guozhong will visit North Korea to attend events later this week celebrating the 75th anniversary of the country’s founding, the two countries said Thursday.

The Chinese group will visit North Korea from Friday at the invitation of the North Korean government and the ruling Workers’ Party of Korea, headed by leader Kim Jong Un, for the anniversary on the following day, the official Korean Central News Agency and the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. — Kyodo

#### Japan lawmaker arrested in suspected clean energy bribery

A Japanese lower house lawmaker was arrested Thursday on suspicion of receiving massive bribes from a wind power company, prosecutors said, in a corruption case over the development of green energy the government has sought to promote.

The arrest of Masatoshi Akimoto, who has left the ruling Liberal Democratic Party amid the allegations, is set to deal a blow to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s Cabinet, for which the approval ratings have remained sluggish. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Messi, Haaland and Bonmati lead Ballon d’Or nominees



Lionel Messi could win his eighth Ballon d’Or on the back of a season in which he led Argentina to World Cup glory. PHOTO: AFP

LIONEL Messi and Erling Haaland are among the leading contenders to win this year’s men’s Ballon d’Or, while Spain World Cup star Aitana Bonmati leads the nominees announced on Wednesday for the women’s prize.

Messi, who recently left Paris Saint-Germain for Inter Miami, is in with a chance of succeeding Karim Benzema and winning the Ballon d’Or

for the eighth time in his remarkable career after leading Argentina to World Cup glory in Qatar last year.

Haaland may be his main rival for the prize after scoring 52 goals in 53 games to help Manchester City win the treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup last season.

The Norway striker last week won the UEFA player of

the year award for last season.

PSG’s Kylian Mbappe and Haaland’s City teammate Kevin De Bruyne also feature among the 30 nominees for the prize, the winner of which will be announced at a ceremony in Paris on 30 October.

Benzema, who ended a 14-year spell at Real Madrid in June when he moved to Saudi club Al-Ittihad, is also nominated. — AFP

Gray leaves Everton for Saudi club Al-Ettifaq

DEMARAI Gray has left Everton for Al-Ettifaq ahead of Thursday’s transfer deadline in the Saudi Pro League.

The 27-year-old forward is the latest Premier League player to head to the Gulf nation, joining former Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson at the club managed by Steven Gerrard.

Gray’s departure from Goodison Park for an undisclosed fee, reported to be £8 million (\$10 million), comes after the deterioration of his relationship with Everton manager Sean Dyche.

The winger aired his grievances on Instagram, saying it was “difficult to play for someone

who doesn’t show you respect as a person”.

Dyche responded by saying Gray had effectively gone on strike, making clear he did not want to train as he believed he had secured a move away.

The former Leicester player made 75 appearances for Everton, scoring 12 goals, after returning to England from Bayer Leverkusen in 2021.

He has not featured for Everton this season.

The Jamaica international said in a statement that he would be “forever proud” to have played for Everton, who are in the relegation zone after a poor start to the season. — AFP



Everton’s Demarai Gray has joined Saudi club Al-Ettifaq. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar to play Nepal today for FIFA Int’l Friendly

MYANMAR national men’s football team will take on Nepal men’s football team today for the FIFA International “A” Friendly match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Myanmar national team head coach Michael Feichtenbeiner has announced the roster for team Myanmar consisting of 27 players, and they have made the best practice before the friendly match with Nepal.

Ordinary stand and grand stand tickets for the friendly match will be sold at Gate No 2 of the Myanmar Football Federation today.

The friendly match will be broadcast live on SkyNet Sports and Channel 9 HD Channels, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation. — KZL



A Myanmar team player hit the ball with great speed during the training session ahead of the FIFA-friendly match against team Nepal. PHOTO: MFF

Colombia Olympian investigated over corruption while sports minister

COLOMBIAN prosecutors said Wednesday they are investigating Olympic weightlifting champion Maria Isabel Urrutia on suspicion she mishandled hundreds of public contracts while serving as sports minister under leftist President Gustavo Petro.

Prosecutors said the 2000 Sydney Games gold medalist is suspected of “possible illicit actions” when she handled 104 contracts “without complying with legal requirements”, according to a statement sent to the media.

Urrutia, who maintains her innocence, heads to court in the next few days, the statement added, without providing more details.

The 58-year-old athlete who won Colombia’s first Olympic gold medal served in Petro’s cabinet after he came to power in August 2022.

In February, facing a deep political crisis, Petro replaced three of his ministers, including Urrutia. Petro argued she was not spending government money wisely.

According to an indictment presented by prosecutors in June, Urrutia sought to “guarantee” that her allies receive government contracts.

Urrutia says she acted legally and claims that Petro’s decision to fire her was politically motivated. — AFP



INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Thursday that leaders of the G20 summit he is chairing this weekend must support developing nations to tackle climate change with more cash and by sharing technology.

Against a backdrop of record-breaking temperatures and deadly heatwaves across the globe, climate scientists and activists have warned of dire consequences -- particularly for developing countries -- if leaders fail to forge a consensus.

Modi has pitched India as a self-styled leader of the "Global South", a bridge between developed and developing countries.

"Many countries of the Global South are at various stages of development and climate action must be a complementary pursuit," Modi wrote in an editorial carried by several Indian outlets as well as international dailies including in Britain and Japan.

Globally, wealthy nations missed their pledge to provide, by 2020, \$100 billion a year in climate finance to poorer nations, eroding trust that polluters will help vulnerable countries least responsible for warming to tackle the challenges of climate change.

The Group of 20, which will meet in New Delhi this weekend, consists of 19 countries and the European Union, making up about 85 per cent of global GDP, and a similar amount of its carbon emissions. "Ambitions for climate action must be matched with actions on climate finance and transfer of technology," Modi added. — AFP

# India's Modi calls for climate finance ahead of G20 meet

*The G20, representing a significant portion of global GDP and carbon emissions, is urged to take meaningful actions on climate finance and technology transfer.*



India's G-20 presidency strives to bridge divides, dismantle barriers, and sow seeds of collaboration. PHOTO: AFP

## Moscow rubbishes US claims of depleted uranium shells being 'non-radioactive'

THE White House's claims that depleted uranium ammunition is not radioactive are nonsense, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

On Wednesday, US National Security Council Strategic Communications Coordinator John Kirby said that depleted uranium rounds were neither radioactive nor carcinogenic.

"What is it: lies or silliness? [Scientists] have mentioned it multiple times and there are stand-alone articles saying that depleted uranium is toxic and dangerous for humans when it is in the form of radioactive dust, and the effect of radionuclide contamination of soils has also been brought up," Zakharova said on Telegram. The rate of cancer diagnoses increases in places where depleted uranium

*Scientists emphasize the danger of depleted uranium as radioactive dust and soil pollution with radionuclides.*



The United States will supply depleted uranium ammunition to Ukraine. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/FILE

ammunition was used, she recalled. This was experienced by Italian soldiers who took part in the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, Zakharova added. "Out of 7500 people exposed to toxic substances

and radiation, 372 people died, which is a mortality rate of 5 per cent or a fatal outcome for every 20th person. Moreover, they died of agonizing cancer complications, such as kidney dysfunction,

lung cancer, bone cancer, esophageal cancer, degenerative skin diseases, Hodgkin's lymphoma and leukemia," the spokeswoman said. The Serbs, who were victims of NATO bombing, also suffered from depleted uranium munitions, as the Serbian Health Ministry said there was an increase in diseases such as cancer, infertility in men, autoimmune diseases of a broad [spectrum of] pathologies, pathological complications of pregnancy, mental illnesses in children in the regions bombed by NATO, the spokeswoman said.

On Wednesday, the US Defense Department announced a new \$175 million military aid package for Ukraine that includes depleted uranium munitions for Abrams tanks, as well as air defense equipment and 155mm artillery shells. — SPUTNIK

## UN calls for age limits for AI tools in schools

THE United Nations called on Thursday for strict rules on the use of AI tools such as viral chatbot ChatGPT in classrooms, including limiting their use to older children. In new guidance for governments, the UN's education body UNESCO warned that public authorities were not ready to deal with the ethical issues of rolling out "generative" Artificial Intelligence programs in schools.

The Paris-based body said relying on such programs rather than human teachers could affect a child's emotional wellbeing and leave them vulnerable to manipulation. "Generative AI can be a tremendous opportunity for human development, but it can also cause harm and prejudice," said Audrey Azoulay of UNESCO. — AFP