

Advanced cooking oil and agriculture to boost industries and services: SG

Officials at different levels have to prioritize the distribution of quality strains of crops and animals, as well as systematic cultivation and livestock breeding tasks, to achieve success in relevant sectors.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that the manufacturing industry, which operates with oil crops and cotton, can benefit the State. Chairman of the State Administration

Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the coordination meeting on the expansion of sown acreage of crops, increase of cotton production and development of

livestock breeding sector at the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that although groundnut,

sesame, Niger and oil palm are thriving in Myanmar, the country imports cooking oil yearly. As oil crops do not meet the target production, production cost is higher, he added. **SEE PAGE 3**



The picture captures the Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary in Bogale Township, Pyapon District of Ayeyawady Region.

Section 144 imposed at Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary

THE township administrator of Bogale Township in Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region, imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code to prevent anyone except officials from entering the Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary starting on 1 August. The township authority of Bogale implemented the restriction after officials spotted individuals linked to criminal rings taking refuge in the 33,779-acre Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary to

hunt animals, fish, shrimp, birds, crocodiles, and to collect forest products without any official permission. The Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary Island, one of the seven ASEAN Heritage Parks in Myanmar, is a breeding ground for crocodiles and a habitat for wild animals, fish, and shrimp. It features mangrove forests that include the Burmese grape (*Baccaurea ramiflora*), climbing flat bean (*Dalbergia obovata*), and mangrove date palm (*Phoenix paludosa*). The sanctuary is managed by the

Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Administrator Office, which operates under the Forest Department's Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The prohibited area also includes the confluence of the Kadongani River and the Bogale River in the north of the island, the Bogale River in the east, the confluence of the Kadongani River and the Bogale River in the south, and the Kadongani River in the west. — TWA/TH

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Maintain irrigation facilities for a safe society

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Ministries donate foodstuffs to frontline Tatmadaw, security force members

BUSINESS **PAGE 11**



Myanmar exports over 87,800 tonnes of fish internationally (April-July)

NATIONAL

Organizations strongly condemn MNDA’s attacks

MNDA terrorists attacked a hospital and residential wards in Lashio Township, Shan State (North) – which are not military targets – with the use of heavy weapons, rockets and drones, resulting in the death of civilian patients, staff and family members of security forces, with some being abducted. Some residents were also temporarily displaced by the attack.

The Young Men Buddhist Association (Kayin State), the Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association, the Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturer Association (MPMDMA), and the Myanmar Chamber of Commerce for Pharmaceutical and Medical Device have issued statements strongly condemning war crimes committed by MNDA. — MNA



Statement of Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Kayin State)

6 August 2024



1. MNDA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and hurt. They forcefully abducted some local people.

2. Moreover, their attacks led to the displacement of residents and severely disrupted civilian lives.

3. In its statement, the Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Kayin State) objected to and condemned the attacks of terrorists on non-military target buildings, wards and religious buildings.

Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Kayin State)



Statement of Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association

6 August 2024

MNDA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and hurt. They also abducted some local people by force.

Moreover, their attacks led to the displacement of residents and severely disrupted civilian lives.

In its statement, the Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association objected to and condemned the attacks of terrorists on non-military target buildings, wards and religious buildings.

Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association



Statement of Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturer Association

6 August 2024

IN Lashio, northern Shan State, recent attacks by MNDA terrorists targeted the military hospital with rockets, heavy weapons, and drones. The assault resulted in deaths and injuries among patients receiving treatment at the hospital, as well as among families of hospital staff. MNDA also unlawfully detained and taken away some individuals.

It is the right of every individual to receive safe and secure healthcare, regardless of their location or circumstances. The Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturer Association firmly opposes any attacks on healthcare facilities and consequent harm inflicted on patients and medical staff.

Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturer Association



Statement of Myanmar Chamber of Commerce for Pharmaceutical and Medical Device

6 August 2024

MNDA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and hurt. They abducted some local people by force.

Moreover, their attacks resulted in the displacement of residents and severely disrupt civilian lives.

In its statement, the Myanmar Chamber of Commerce for Pharmaceutical and medical Device objected to and condemned the attacks of terrorists on non-military target buildings, wards and religious buildings.

Myanmar Chamber of Commerce for Pharmaceutical and Medical Device

Over 400,000 pilgrims visit Shwedagon Pagoda in July

MORE than 400,000 pilgrims, both local and international, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in July, according to U Bo Thin, a member of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees. In January, over 500,000 devotees visited the pagoda, with similar numbers in February. March saw over 800,000 visitors, April had 600,000, May had 570,000, and June had 540,000.

“In July, nearly 7,000 to 20,000 pilgrims visited the Shwedagon Pagoda daily, with the numbers rising to thousands on week-ends. The largest number of visitors came on the full moon day of 20 July, reaching over 100,000 travellers. There were over 430,000 local visitors and more than 5,000 foreign visitors,” said U Bo Thin.

“For the past ten years, we have been installing CCTV cameras to ensure that devotees can worship peacefully at the Shwedagon Pagoda. There are currently about 280 installed CCTV cameras. In 2018, we added approximately 300 more high-quality and upgraded CCTV cameras,” he added.

Due to the increasing number of pilgrims, the Shwedagon Pagoda has been open from 4 am to 10 pm to allow visitors to pay homage peacefully since 21 June. — ASH/MKKS



Devotees and well-wishers thronge on the platform of Shwedagon.

NATIONAL

Advanced cooking oil and agriculture to boost industries and services: SG



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the agriculture and livestock coordination meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

FROM PAGE 1

He said that farmers must be encouraged to grow sunflowers in a double cropping pattern with increasing sown acreage yearly in order to ensure oil sufficiency in the country.

On the other hand, he noted that crude palm oil is used as a raw industrial material and that efforts must be made to produce refined cooking oil.

The Senior General stressed the need to initiate a cotton-based industry as a reform process to generate employment for people, boost income for cotton farmers and enhance their socioeconomic lives.

He underlined that it is necessary to grow some 700,000 acres of cotton plantations nationwide to meet the past record.

He continued to say that, if necessary, the government would issue the funds for carrying out agricultural production. The manufacturing industry,

which operates with oil crops and cotton, can benefit the State, he added.

The Senior General instructed all to strive to increase the target production and expand the sown acreage of summer paddy and growing paddy in double cropping in order to benefit the nation.

Union ministers discussed the cultivation of cotton, production of quality cotton, expansion of sown acreage of sunflower, breeding dairy cows and producing dairy products, formation of cooperative societies in regions and states to grow cotton, provisions of cash assistance for inputs, implementation of collaborative and emerald green projects to develop livestock breeding tasks, location of cotton ginning, textile, looms and garment industries in the nation along the cotton production chain, holding of workshops to adopt the action plan to develop the value-added product chain of cotton, registration of oil mills

in regions and states, disbursement of loans from Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank to local farmers at a soft interest rate, and allocation of loans to ministries, regions and states for agriculture and livestock breeding industries from the State economic promotion fund.

Attendees also discussed industrial production using cotton, boosting cultivation and production of cotton, and improving the breeding of dairy cows.

In his response to discussions, the Senior General highlighted that a cooperative system based on agriculture is the most appropriate due to bilateral cooperation among groups.

He gave guidance that cooking oil from oil crops grown by the cooperative system should be sold to other regions and states, adding that the ratio of oil mills to raw materials must be appropriate in regions and states.

He highlighted that live-

stock breeding farms must be operated in a cooperative system to produce quality raw materials at the lowest cost.

In conclusion, the Senior General said that expansion of sown acreage of crops, extended cultivation of oil crops and cotton and development of dairy cow farming are important for the nation.

He stressed that the cultivation of sunflowers must be designated as a national vision.

He outlined that efforts to develop cooking oil and agricultural production can help improve industries and service sectors.

The Senior General urged officials at different levels to prioritize the distribution of quality strains of crops and animals, systematic cultivation and livestock breeding tasks to have success in relevant sectors. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the agriculture and livestock coordination meeting

- Expansion of sown acreage of crops, extended cultivation of oil crops and cotton and development of dairy cow farming are essential for the nation.
- The manufacturing industry, which operates with oil crops and cotton, can benefit the State.
- If necessary, the government will issue funds to carry out agricultural production.
- A cooperative system based on agriculture is the most appropriate due to bilateral cooperation among groups.

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NATIONAL

Country Director/ Representative of UNOPS Myanmar presents Credentials to DPM MoFA Union Minister



MS Sara Austin Netzer, Country Director and Representative of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Myanmar, presented her Credentials to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe receives the Letters of Credentials of the UNOPC Country Director and Representative yesterday.

MoIP Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Mr Mongkol Visittump, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides cordially exchanged views on matters of preparations for the national census in Myanmar next October, the security and transport conditions, the extension of the programme in some regions, Thailand's support for Myanmar's census work, plans for Myanmar workers in Thailand to work legally, the status of identi-

fying and assisting Thai nationals who are illegally present in Myanmar; the cooperation in legal entry and exit for citizens of the two countries at the borders, cooperation in immigration-related measures to effectively prevent from the people who engage in fraud through online games and human trafficking.

Deputy Minister U Htay Hlaing and Dr Myo Thant, Director-General U Ye Tun Oo from the Immigration Department and officials were present at the meeting. — MNA/TS



MoH Union Minister departs for ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting in Laos

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win departed for Vientiane, Laos, to attend the 16th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting and related conferences, yesterday.

Laos, the current chair of the ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting, will host the 16th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting and associated events. The meetings will take place from 8 to 10 August and include the 16th ASEAN Health Ministers' Meet-

ing, a Business Review Meeting, and an ASEAN Clean Air Region Award Ceremony on 8 August.

On 9 August, meetings will continue with the 2nd ASEAN-Korea Health Ministers' Meeting, the 10th ASEAN+3 Health Ministers' Meeting, the 9th ASEAN-China Health Ministers' Meeting, and a special ASEAN-American Health Ministers' Meeting.

Discussions will focus on regional healthcare development, including the prioritization of ASEAN 2025 health sectors, strengthening global pandemic response capabilities, and the advancement of digital technologies in healthcare. — MNA/KZL



The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

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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.

NATIONAL

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Statement 9/2024

1. Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”. The right to life is an essential fundamental right that all human beings are entitled to from birth, and it cannot be taken away under any circumstances.

2. In today’s world, numerous factors threaten the rights to life, liberty, and personal security of individuals, and Myanmar also faces not only natural disasters but also armed conflicts and terrorist attacks caused by various manipulations, undermining the rule of law and peace. As a result,
- residents have suffered losses of lives, homes, and property, and many were forced to flee. Some people reportedly remained behind.

3. In areas affected by terrorist attacks, both the people who remain and those who have fled their homes are experiencing losses of their fundamental rights, including the rights to life, food, health, education, and personal security.

4. It is essential not to attack hospitals and clinics that provide healthcare, schools that offer education, religious buildings, and residential homes. Terrorist attacks and armed conflicts are the opposite of
- the rule of law and peace.

5. In order to promote democracy and human rights, it is necessary to adhere to the provisions set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued by the United Nations, international humanitarian laws, international human rights treaties, and domestic laws. It is also urged that the right to life and security of the innocent public, including vulnerable groups, be prioritized and collectively protected.
- Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Date: 6 August 2024

Ministries donate foodstuffs to frontline Tatmadaw, security force members

PEOPLE and departmental personnel donate foodstuffs daily to members of Tatmadaw and security forces who are serving the state’s defence and security duties with sacrifices on the frontline.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance carried out the processing and packaging of foodstuffs with goodwill and loving-kindness for members of Tatmadaw and security forces on the frontline at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 August. They donated eight kinds of foodstuffs worth K30 million and K15 million in cash.

Deputy Ministers Daw Than Than Lin and U Min Htut observed the preparations for foodstuffs.

On 5 August, Union Minister U Win Shein, Deputy Ministers Daw Than Than Lin and U Min

Htut and departmental officials donated foodstuffs and cash at the Nay Pyi Taw Command.

Similarly, the Ministry of Immigration and Population family led by Union Minister U Myint Kyaing donated K25 million worth of 19 types of foodstuffs on that day.



The preparations for the donations to Tatmadaw and security force members are in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Science and Technology donated K8.4 million worth of foodstuffs, as well as K6 million was in cash, and K4 million worth of food and medicine was donated by the Union Auditor-General Office.

The staff also sent their messages of encouragement to



The Nay Pyi Taw Command commander accepts the donations.

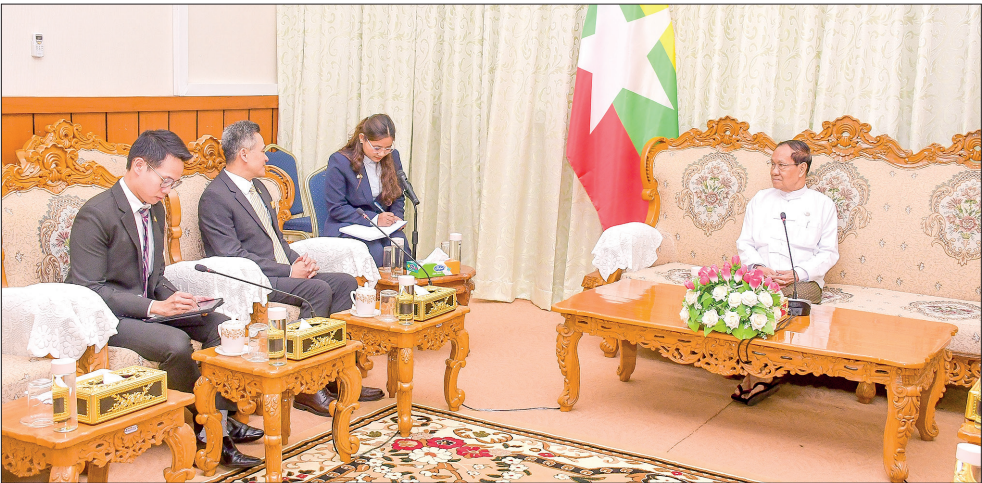
Tatmadaw members and security forces.

Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Min received donations and gave certificates of honour in return.

Family members from the Union Civil Service Board and

trainees of two civil service academies also processed and packaged foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and security forces on 4 and 5 August.

They will donate six types of foodstuffs worth K11 million. — MNA/KTZH



Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko receives Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitsump yesterday.

Thai Ambassador calls on UEC Chair

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko met Mr Mongkol Visitsump, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, at the Union Election Commission office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Thai ambassador to Myanmar discussed election preparations with the Union Election Commission, including political party activities, Thailand’s potential support, and future cooperation between the two countries.

The Union Election Commission chairman then outlined the requirements for a successful election, including adherence to election laws, political party registration, verification processes, and the use of Myanmar’s electronic voting machines.

Following this, they had an open discussion on potential collaboration with the Thai Election Commission and joint development efforts. — MNA/TS

NATIONAL

Protests against terrorists staged in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon

PROTESTS against MNDAА terrorists, who attacked the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, causing deaths and injuries to residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital, were staged in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon yesterday.

Protests took place in front of City Hall in Thabyaygon Ward of Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw and in front of City Hall in Kyauktada Township in Yangon.

Protestors, including monks, first took position at designated sites carrying plac-

ards bearing letters opposing MNDAА, TNLA, AA and PDF terrorists, and 'A Righteous War Must be Won to Eradicate all Subversives', among others.

They then saluted the national flag and sang the national anthem.

Representatives of those who do not want violence talked about inhumane attacks of MNDAА terrorists.

They altogether chanted slogans opposing MNDAА and their subordinates and concluded the demonstration. — MNA/KTZH



Photos show anti-terrorism protests are in action yesterday in Yangon (L) and in Nay Pyi Taw (R).

Video footage shows Bengalis killed, sexually assaulted by AA

AA terrorists fired at townships, wards and villages in Rakhine State using heavy weapons and drones and tortured the villagers.

AA terrorists massacred Bengalis, including children, who arranged to flee to other countries due to their attacks at a prawn pond west of Phawyazi village in Maungdaw (No 2) in Rakhine State on 5 August 2024.

Women and girls were raped and killed.

AA terrorists were anxious that the international community should know their terror acts, and so they brutally killed Bengalis who arranged to move to other countries. The video footage of AA's murder went viral on social networks. — MNA/KTZH



Images of the video footage showing AA's sexual assault and killing.

Counter-argument to false information

Clarification: No arson by Tatmadaw in Maungmelshaung Village

RECENT claims that Maungmelshaung Village in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region, was set on fire by Tatmadaw troops turned out to be false. Malicious news sources spread incorrect information about the situation.

Authorities clarified that security forces conducted operations to ensure that local people live peacefully. These

efforts focused on monitoring the activities of insurgents in the area. Certain media outlets circulate misinformation, intending to mislead the public and create confusion about the role of security forces.

Reports confirm that fire or damage in the area are the result of insurgent actions, not the activities of Tatmadaw troops. — MNA/KZL

Efforts against illicit trade seize goods worth K348 million

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat illegal trade continue effectively in accordance with the law.

On 2 August, a combined team managed by the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized 44 bags of monosodium glutamate, each weighing 25 kilograms and worth approximately K5.28 million, in Chaungtha, Patheingyi Township. The action was taken in accordance with rules and regulations.

On 4 August, a combined

team managed by the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. They seized 1,200 one-litre bottles of soybean oil valued at K9 million and 4,716 bottles of Lactasoy soybean milk and other commodities worth approximately K8.8 million in Kalwin village-tract in Myeik Township. The action was carried out in line with Customs procedures.

On 5 August, a combined team managed by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. They seized 4.956

tonnes of illegal timber worth approximately K8.9 million and one Mazda Canter truck worth K25 million near Taukkyan War Cemetery in Mingaladon Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On the same day, a combined team managed by the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. They seized one unregistered Honda Fit worth K8 million at the Yadanabon checkpoint in Sagaing Township. The action was taken under the Import-Export Law.

Also on 5 August, a combined team managed by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. They seized a total of 81,600 bottles of Thai-made Carabao energy drink worth K33 million and one Man tractor head and a trailer worth K130 million at Myitnge checkpoint. The team also seized 42,500 bottles of Thai-made Lipovitan-D and other commodities worth K14.94 million and one Mitsubishi Fuso truck worth approximately K32 million at Mile Post 386 on the old Yangon-Mandalay Road. Addi-

tionally, the team confiscated 390 kilogrammes of drinking water made in China, 1,550 women's clothing items, and 14 other commodities worth approximately K38 million, as well as one Nissan Diesel truck worth K35 million in Paleik Township. The action was taken in accordance with Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 12 arrests were made on 2, 4, and 5 August, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K348.38 million. — MNA/TMT

NATIONAL

Bagan visitors increasingly travel to Mt Popa, likely to be more crowded than last year

ACCORDING to Ko Tin Ko Min from the Mahagiri Group, which operates tourism and environmental protection based in Mt Popa, many people visit Mount Popa through the ancient cultural area of Bagan.

"Now they travel between Bagan and Popa. There are more visitors on holidays and religious occasions. Fewer people come on office days. Most people go to Taungkalat in Popa. As we provide services to Mount Popa, some come to hike. They spend one night at Bagan and a night camp here. The ordinary pilgrims go to Taungkalat. There is a direct bus from Yangon to Popa. Some visitors are from Mandalay, Magway and Pakok-



Vehicles with visitors on board are seen at the scenic backdrop of Mount Popa and its Taungkalat.

ku. This year, it's more crowded than in previous years. It used to be crowded only on religious

holidays before. However, it is not like that this year. There are also a lot of people coming during

normal holidays. Pilgrims come in buses," he said.

It could be more crowded in

the month of coming to Tawthalin because of the festival for "the day Bo Min Gaung left".

"Many people usually come for the festival of the day Bo Min Gaung left. I think there will be more this year as well. During this festival, there is no vacant room in all guesthouses. As monasteries are full, people have to stay at villagers' houses. Now, the organizing activities for pilgrim buses to this festival have already started in Yangon, Mandalay and Kyaukse," he said.

With more tourists likely to visit Bagan in the open season, Mount Popa can be more crowded as it is related to Bagan as a packaged tour, according to the locals. – MT/ZN

Airport screenings increased after workers found using visit passports

INSPECTIONS are underway at the airport for the sake of the nation because there are cases where PV holders went abroad to work, Permanent Secretary U Nyunt Win of the Ministry of Labour told The Global News Light of Myanmar (GLNM) when asked about increased screenings at the airport.

"Actually, PV is a passport for visiting and leaving for abroad. Some foreign countries allow such visits. Normally, this type of visa must be granted. However, Myanmar embassies abroad found that there are also work visas or job visas. So, according to the type of passport issued by the Myanmar passport issuing office, it was found that the entry visa doesn't match the passport," he said.

If the workers go abroad with PV passports, the Ministry of Labour won't be able to establish migrant workers' records, he added.

"When people go to Middle East countries as maids, they face problems. Another thing is that the Ministry of Labour hasn't allowed leaving for any country to work as maids. So, these problems arise. We can't get the data. Without data, our plan to transfer 25 per cent of the basic salary to a parent or relatives in the country, which started in September 2023, will be difficult. The Ministry of Finance and Revenue will also find it difficult to collect a two per cent withholding income tax. If people go abroad to work with PV passports, we can't

carry out remittance and tax matters," he explained.

If a person leaves with a passport for the job without being able to show an OWIC card, the airport or the border checkpoint will not allow the departure. Only those who can show their OWIC card, employment record, and PJ together are allowed to depart from the airport, jetty, or border post, he said.

"If we allow PV holders to leave to work, we will face many shortcomings in records, employment data, remittance, and income tax. So, we are screening with the coordination among the relevant ministries. This is for the benefit of the state," he said.

Regarding increased checks at the airport, "There is no issue for those who go abroad with all requirements such as visa, documents and necessary steps being taken. However, we are screening those who are leaving and do not comply with the procedures," Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, SAC's Information Team Leader, told the BBC.

PJ passport holders who are going abroad must have an employment contract, a letter of invitation, an air ticket and an Overseas Work Identity Card (OWIC). As a PV passport holder, a UID (Unique Identification) card, a return ticket, proof of hotel reservation or stay location, and a certain amount of cash to show are required. – Htet Oo Maung/ZN

World Tourism Day to feature article competition

AN article competition will be held in commemoration of World Tourism Day on 27 September, as announced by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Department of Hotels and Tourism Management.

The competition is aimed at celebrating the significance of the day and will invite entries under the theme "Travel and Peace: Collaborating for Mutual Benefits".

According to the department's Director-General U Zeya Htun, the competition will recognize outstanding essays with awards for first, second, and third places, as well as consolation prizes. "The upcoming essay competition is part of the events marking World Tourism Day. The best articles will be selected and awarded first, second, and

third prizes, as well as consolation prizes," he said.

Participants are required to write articles that reflect the integration of travel and peace initiatives. The winning entries will be announced, and cash prizes will be awarded during the World Tourism Day ceremony on 27 September. The first prize winner will receive K400,000, the second prize winner K300,000, and the third prize winner K200,000, whereas consolation prize winners will garner K100,000 each.

This competition aims to highlight the role of tourism in promoting peace and fostering global cooperation, aligning with World Tourism Day's celebration. — ASH/KZL



The photo commemorates the 2024 World Tourism Day. PHOTO:

OPINION

Maintain irrigation facilities for a safe society

FLOODING due to overflowing irrigation facilities, rivers, and flash floods from heavy rains is a regular occurrence in Myanmar, particularly in Kayin State, Bago, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions. These regions frequently face the adverse effects of floods, prompting local authorities and disaster management committees to engage in daily search, rescue, and relief operations for affected communities.

Floods pose a significant threat to the integrity of dams and reservoirs, with heavy rains often triggering flash floods and causing rivers and creeks to overflow, leading to water inundating residential areas. This can result in severe shortages of essential needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. Currently, many people in Myanmar are struggling with limited access to food, drinking water, and medicines due to these ongoing issues.

When heavy rains and river overflows occur, the collapse of embankments from dams and reservoirs can lead to catastrophic loss of life and property. Local authorities collaborate with volun-

teers, charity organizations, firefighters, rescue teams, and relevant departments to mitigate these risks and to evacuate residents from flood-affected areas to safer locations in a timely manner. As an agrarian country, Myanmar has relied on irrigation infrastructure to support its agriculture. Successful governments have constructed numerous dams, reservoirs, embankments, and hydropower facilities to irrigate farmlands and provide electricity. Currently, the country has 245 dams, 144 diversion weirs, 72 reservoirs, and 199 sluice gates, all of which play a crucial role in supplying agricultural water throughout the year. Ensuring the longevity and proper maintenance of these irrigation facilities is essential to sustain the nation's agricultural productivity. Amidst the current heavy rains and widespread flooding, it is vital for development committees to clear debris from drains to facilitate the proper flow of water and reduce inundation in public areas. This preventive measure can help minimize flood-related diseases. Public participation in these efforts, under the guidance of local authorities, is crucial for maintaining public health and ensuring a safe environment for all.

The maintenance of irrigation facilities is not just an agricultural necessity but a vital component in protecting communities from the devastating effects of floods. Collective efforts by authorities and citizens are required to safeguard lives, property, and public health. As Myanmar often faces natural disasters, it is necessary to take care of maintenance for dams and reservoirs at all times. Relevant departments need to regularly check the strengthening of embankments not to be broken down, and authorities need to emphasize safety and security measures for flood-victim people with provisions of accommodation, food, healthcare services and purified drinking water.

ONCE, there was a real story in which a young man in his twenties and a lady who seemed to be his mother were among the passengers on an express bus. The young man had remained silent on the way before he produced a book out of a little bag, slinging it over his shoulder and started to write something. He then signed his name below when he finished.

After that, he turned a page over, wrote something down, and signed it again when he finished off. He was doing this over and over again all along the journey. He seemed to live, so to speak, in a world of his own, which was absolutely detached from the real world. A man sitting next to him was watching what he was doing, and a sense of eccentricity in the young man's behaviour roused him to ask questions. "Are you writing poems?" asked the man.

The young man replied, "Yes", "Which type of poem do you write?" "There are many types of poems, so one can write whichever way one likes." "You write poems of your own then. How many poems have you ever written?" The young man hesitated for a split second and then said, "About a million which I keep in wooden boxes at home". (At this point, I would say even the renowned poet Saya Tin Moe, who passed away at the age of 73, wrote about 2,000 poems throughout his career of six decades. Now, this young man in his twenties claimed to have written one million poems. This is too untypical, I suppose.)

The conversation went on. "A million? That's too many. But what makes you keep your poems at home? Why don't you send them to publishing houses to share with others?" "I want to, but I haven't engaged any publisher yet. And my friends are copying my poems in their names. One day, I will go to Yangon and try to get my poems published." At this point, his mother, who had made no comment from the start of this conversation, waved a hand to the man and spoke under her breath. "That's why he dropped out of the university before he finished his second year. He didn't attend his classes regularly, nor did he learn the lessons well. All he did was write poems day in and day out and finally dropped out of school."

"Whilst other mammals



Credited to Honey Soe

match their water intake to their output, human beings match their output to their intake." In a classroom at the University of Traditional Medicine, Mandalay, Lecturer Dr Myo Soe was giving a lecture on physiology to his second-year students. It was about the intake and output balance under the renal handling of water; that is to say, human beings, not like other mammals, excrete water according to the amount of water they take, while others take water according to their output. That means water output is directly proportional to the intake in humans; for instance, if the intake is 2500 ml per day, we should note that the output is going to be the same. In short, one may remain on typical water intake and output in a state of fluid balance. If this mechanism is interrupted by something irregular, the intake and output regulation will lose its balance; for example, a pure water deficit is seen where the intake is low.

"There are only two things you need to do if you want to write. Read and write. To write is to read and write", Stephen King said in a public lecture.

Supposing that the body fluid balance can be used as a metaphor for Stephen King's advice for young people, what

Finding Balance in Creativity

By Min Zan

we read is like intake and what we write, output. Is it also true that Stephen King is saying one cannot write unless he reads and writes? If it can be said so, output literally cannot be produced with no intake, just like the body fluid mechanism carried out in our body, where the output is directly proportional to the intake.

What if there is little or no intake at all? What will happen then?

As it goes in physiology, pure water deficit is said to be seen.

That young man on the bus was doing nothing but writing poems all the time, in as much that he could not perform his own duty of being a student, let alone reading. He would have been so obsessed with writing poems that he could not think of anything else. Obsession is, as it were, a state of walking a thin

line between sanity and insanity. If he overuses the resources out of his brain when there is little or almost no reserve, what will happen to him, then? There is one thing for sure: that he will lose his balance, which would disturb the state of sanity. Of course, he could not be said to be totally insane, nor could he be said to be perfectly sane.

After repeating his conversation with the young man on the bus, my dad made fun of me because I also wrote verses like the young man. "Well, you too, my pet! It is better not to write too many poems. I don't want my only child to go crazy," Dad teased me. "Come on, Daddy! You don't need to worry about that. I know exactly what keeps me sane", I retorted with a laugh.

We have to read before

we write if we are desperate to write. Suppose we do not match our output to our intake. As physiology says, we make no difference, if I may say so, from other mammals like goats, sheep, cows, etc. Then, it would necessitate reading in order to widen the gap between those animals and humans since there is no living thing other than humans.

As writers, we often find ourselves caught in a delicate dance between input and output. On one hand, we absorb information – reading books, articles, and poems – immersing ourselves in the rich tapestry of language and ideas. On the other hand, we create, weaving our own words, constructing narratives, and giving life to characters. This interplay between input (reading) and output (writing) is essential for our growth as writers.

Reading widely is the gateway to inspiration. When we read widely, we expose ourselves to diverse perspectives, styles, and genres. Consider a poet who immerses herself in classic sonnets, contemporary free verse, and ancient haikus. Each poem she reads becomes a brushstroke on her mental canvas, adding depth and nuance to her own work.

Beyond content, reading teaches us techniques. A novelist might study how Margaret Atwood builds suspense or how Hemingway crafts concise dialogue. These techniques seep into our subconscious, influencing our writing style. Think of it as a chef tasting various cuisines to refine their own recipes.

Imagine a novice writer named Alex. Alex devours fantasy novels, science articles, and historical biographies. With each book, Alex absorbs new vocabulary, sentence structures, and storytelling devices. Alex's input phase is like gathering ingredients for a grand feast.

Writing is alchemy. We take raw elements – ideas, emotions, and experiences – and transform them into sentences, paragraphs, and chapters. This act of transmutation requires focus and discipline. It's where the magic happens.

Writers rarely get it right on the first try. We revise, rewrite, and polish. Our initial output is like a lump of clay; subsequent drafts mould it into shape. The more we write, the better we become at this sculpting process.

Our poet friend, let's call her Maya, sits by the window with her notebook. She writes haikus inspired by cherry blossoms, elegies for lost love, and odes to moonlight. Each poem is an output – an offering to the world. But Maya knows that her poems improve when she revisits them, chiselling away excess words, refining metaphors, and finding the perfect rhythm.

Just as too much sugar leads to a toothache, excessive input can overwhelm us. We risk becoming perpetual readers, forever postponing our own creations. Set boundaries: allocate time for both reading and writing.

The blank page is intimidating, but it's also an invitation. When we shift from input to output, we step onto the dance floor. We waltz with our ideas, twirl with our characters, and let our words pirouette. The more we dance, the more graceful our steps become.

Input and output are symbiotic. Like inhaling and exhaling, they sustain our creative lungs. So, dear writer, read voraciously, write fearlessly, and find your balance. Remember, the dance awaits.

Relaxed visa rules boost China-Europe travel industry in summer

A recent study by the Spanish Tourism Institute identified big growth potential in tourism from faraway locations like China. This trend is facilitated by the operation of direct flights between the two countries.

THIS summer, European countries have recorded an influx of Chinese tourists, thanks in part to the continuous opening up of China and multiple new direct flights launched lately linking European and Chinese cities.

At the same time, more relaxed visa policies introduced by the Chinese government since the end of last year have prompted more Europeans to travel to China.

This trending two-way tourism will lift Europe's tourism sector to pre-pandemic levels, thereby advancing China-Europe cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

EUROPE IN CHINESE EYES

More and more Chinese tourists opt for private trips instead of package tours, exploring Europe in diversified ways.

For the first half of the year, the Spanish Statistical Office recorded 337,446 Chinese tourists, compared with 382,207 for last year's total.

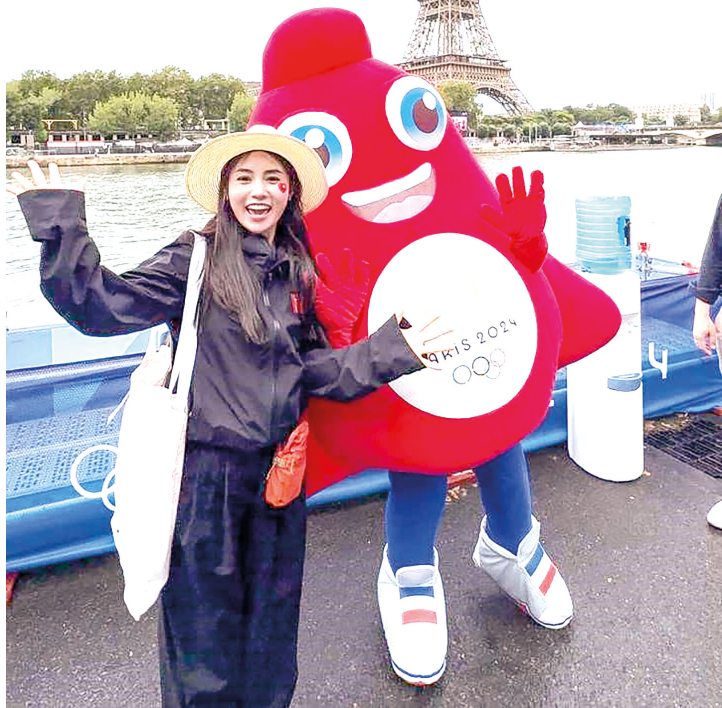
A recent study by the Spanish Tourism Institute identified big growth potential in tourism from faraway locations like China. This trend is facilitated by the operation of direct flights between the two countries.

The study found that Chinese tourists have a strong interest in Spain and tend to have a thorough knowledge of Spanish destinations and tourism services.

While countries like France and Italy remain popular destinations, Chinese tourists have also started to frequent Central-Eastern European countries, including Croatia and Slovenia.

Thanks to the visa-free agreement between China and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mrs Liang from Guangzhou was able to visit the Western Balkan country with her family in July.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Xu Yan, a travel blogger from China's Xingtai, poses for a photo before the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, 26 July 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

ARTICLE

NATIONAL

ME Singapore invites Myanmar children to enrol for 2024-25AY

THE Myanmar Embassy to Singapore announced that Myanmar children abroad who want to enrol in the basic education programme for the 2024-2025 Academic Year (AY) can apply at the embassy from 9 am to 2 pm on 17 August (Saturday) and 18 August (Sunday).

The application forms can be downloaded from the embassy's website, and they must bring three copies of the completed application form, five passport-sized photos, passport copies of the student and the guardian, and copies of the stay permit page.



The photo shows some students learning in Singapore.

A child registering for KG class must be five years old on 31 May 2024, and if they are six years old, they will be allowed to attend Grade 1. KG and Grade 1 students must present authentic birth certificate.

For other classes, the school leaving certificate (original) for the

highest grade passed before the 2024-25 academic year must be submitted. Applicants for the tenth grade (Grade 10) must indicate in full the combination they choose from STEAMS 1, STEAMS 2, and STEAMS. Applicants for Grades 11 and 12 must attend only the subject

combination they passed in the previous lower grade, which must be described.

For the applicants after the mid-term of the 2024-2025 academic year, the original school leaving certificate and valid copies of the monthly academic progress records showing the

subject scores taken in Myanmar must also be submitted together.

The examination result will be released only for those who take and pass the mid-term and final tests among the students who have been admitted to the relevant class, the embassy said.

— MT/ZN

JLPT scheduled for 1 Dec in YGN and MDY

THE Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) has announced that the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) will take place on 1 December.

For online applications in Yangon and Mandalay, N1 and N2 levels will be accepted on 14, 15, and 26 August. N3-level applications will be accepted on 16, 19, and 27 August. N4 level applications will be accepted on 20, 21, and 28 August, while N5 level applications will be accepted on 22 and 23 August.

Each training school in Yangon will sell a maximum of 100 application

forms, and each training school in Mandalay will sell a maximum of 50 application forms. Application forms for the test centres in Yangon and Mandalay will be available on 12 and 13 August. Forms for Yangon test centres will be accepted on 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 August, while forms for Mandalay test centres will be accepted on 14 and 15 August.

Application forms for novices, monks, nuns, and children under ten years old will be available for all levels on 12 and 13 August. Further detailed information will be announced later. — TWA/MKKS



This photo shows students sitting for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) last year.

Compensation for 3 Myanmar sailors who died on MV Tung Sung expected soon



The picture captures the real-time condition of the sinking MV Tung Sung.

THE life compensation for three Myanmar sailors who died in the sinking of MV Tung Sung is likely to be quickly received, according to the Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF).

Out of the four Myanmar sailors who died on board in Malaysia, the body of one sailor has yet to be found, and since then, with the help of the Department of Marine Administration and the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur has completed filling the necessary forms for the compensation of these three sailors whose bodies were recovered, and they expect to receive life compensation soon, the MSF said on 5 August.

MSF, on behalf of the families, thanked the various organizations and individuals, the Department of Marine Administration and the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, that have worked together to obtain compensation for these three sailors. The bodies of Engine Rating

Hla Win Tun (SIRB - 122455), Deck Rating Ye Lin Htet (SIRB - 121583) and Engine Rating Tun Lin Oo (SIRB - 121462) were recovered. As they had life and personal injury insurance under the Malaysian social security system, MSF was able to claim compensation for their losses of lives.

Due to bad weather, MV Tung Sung, owned by a Malaysia-based company, sank approximately four nautical miles northwest of Burung Island at 1:30 am local time on 20 July 2023 while sailing from Kuching to Sarikei Port. — MT/ZN

MMPO donates foodstuffs to MWDA (Yangon)

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) donated rice, oil, and foodstuffs to the Myanmar Women's Development Association (Yangon) at their office in Bahan Township, Yangon, on 5 August, according to MMPO Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay.

MMPO supports its bodies and other close associations by partnering with other donors to provide these types of foodstuffs.

"We donated five bags of rice, five visses of oil, five visses of onions, 50 tins of canned fish, and five visses of chickpeas to the Myanmar Women's Development Association (Yangon) every year," said U Aye Kyu Lay.

MMPO provided food donations to different groups or levels within its organization between 29 July and 1 August. — ASH/TRKM

FDA issues 127
unregistered
cosmetics in 7
months

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued warnings against 127 unregistered cosmetics as it identified they contain hazardous substances and chemicals that are harmful to health.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, the FDA has been supervising the market systematically to ensure the quality of cosmetics that are considered safe for use. According to the Post-Marketing Alert System (PMAS) Report, the 127 cosmetics made in the regional countries were found unregistered and containing toxic substances and prohibited chemicals that are unsafe for use.

Those prohibited chemicals can cause skin irritation, swelling, rash, numbness, muscle cramps, fatigue, headaches, dizziness and depression. Long-term exposure to those substances can also result in kidney failure and other chronic diseases.

Thus, cosmetic importing companies, distributors, wholesalers and retailers should not distribute unregistered cosmetics that are declared unsafe for use. The relevant authorities will take legal action against them under Section 3, sub-section 3(D) of the Public Health Law for non-compliance. — NN/KK

DICA report: 11,500 companies fail to
submit AR in Jan-July



The signage of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) office in Yangon.

A total of 11,500 companies were struck off the register in the past seven months (January-July) of 2024 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA's statistics indicated that 750 companies in January 2024, 600 in February, 1,650 in March, 2,000 each in April, May and June and 2,500 in July did not file the AR.

A total of 6,400 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2023. The DICA notified those companies which failed to file

its AR on the MyCO were struck off the register from the date of directive, under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK



Myanmar exports over 87,800 tonnes of
fish internationally (April-July)

MYANMAR shipped over 87,800 tonnes of various fish to international markets in the past four months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, bagging US\$98.48 million, according to the Fisheries Department.

The value of fish exports through maritime trade was estimated at \$65.75 million, while exports through land borders amounted to \$32.736 million.

Myanmar exports fishery products to Japan, European countries, China and Thailand through maritime trade channels and also delivers fish, shrimp, prawn and other seafood to neighbouring countries via land borders (Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik and Maungdaw).

More than 20 fish species, including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass are shipped to foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Myanmar exports fishery products to over 40 countries, mainly to Thailand and China. — NN/KK

Ye Township's mangosteen
sells well in PyinOoLwin

MANGOSTEEN produced from Mon State's Ye Township has gained popularity in the PyinOoLwin fruit market.

Fruit production is not as good as in the same period in 2023. However, the consumption has risen.

"Fruit production has been limited during this period, and fruit size has shrunk. These fruits are produced from Ye Township. Fruit size was big last month. Mangosteen is a seasonal fruit, so consumption is high, and people buy it no matter how much it costs. It is one of the most consumed fruits, so the trade is doing well. But the price is much higher than last year's. I am selling it in PyinOoLwin. Fruit production is not as large as last year," said an owner of the mangosteen shop in PyinOoLwin.

Mangosteen is a medicinal fruit and is rich in antioxidants. It is one of the most consumed fruits in Myanmar, and some people enjoy small-sized fruits.

"It has many health benefits. Both big and small-sized fruits are being sold. Some people enjoy small-sized fruits more because they are seedless and can be eaten all flesh," she said.

In April this year, the trading of Mon State-produced mangosteen was satisfactory, and the price was also reasonable, according to farmers. — Thit Taw/ZS

ECONOMY

WORLD

S Korea's agri-food products export rises 9.2% in Jan-July

SOUTH Korea's export of agricultural and food products rose in the first seven months of this year due to strong demand from the United States and Europe, government data showed Tuesday.

Outbound shipment of locally-made food and farm goods gained 9.2 per cent to US\$5.67 billion during the January-July period compared with the same period of last year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

The agri-food products export to the United States advanced 23.0 per cent to \$886 million, while shipment to Europe surged 33.3 per cent to \$407 million. Shipment to Japan shrank 6.7 per cent to \$794 million in the seven-month period, but export to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) grew 5.5 per cent to \$1.1 billion.

By item, instant noodle shipment spiked 34.0 per cent to \$699 million, and export for tobacco products added 9.0 per cent to \$636 million. Export for confectionery and beverage increased in double digits to \$424 million and \$388 million each.

Shipment for processed coffee and coffee additives climbed 3.2 per cent to \$197 million, and ginseng export expanded 5.0 per cent to \$179 million.

Export for processed rice products such as pre-cooked rice and seaweed rice rolls soared 45.7 per cent to \$165 million in the seven-month period. — Xinhua

Nikkei closes with record point gain after historic loss



A financial data screen in Tokyo shows the Nikkei stock index soaring over 3,200 points to close at 34,675.46 on 6 August 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

THE Nikkei stock index closed with its largest single-day point gain in history on Tuesday, soaring over 3,200 points as shares drew widespread buying after the previous day's record plunge.

The sharp rebound, also helped by a weaker yen, came after global stock markets plunged Monday as US recession fears grew due to a recent batch of disappointing economic data, prompting investors to seek safe-haven bonds.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 3,217.04 points, or 10.23 per cent, from Monday at 34,675.46, exceeding the previous day-on-day point gain record of 2,676.55 registered on 2 October 1990.

The broader Topix index finished 207.06 points, or 9.30 per cent, higher at 2,434.21.

Every industry category on the top-tier Prime Market gained ground, led by marine transportation, rubber product and consumer credit shares.

The US dollar briefly rose to the lower 146 yen range in Tokyo, after better-than-expected US service sector data for July eased concerns about a recession and helped lift US Treasury yields.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 145.29-31 yen compared with 144.14-24 yen in New York and 143.47-52 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Monday. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Laos' trade value exceeds US\$1.2 bln in June

LAOS' imports and exports amounted to US\$1.227 billion in June, according to the latest figures from the Lao Trade Portal website.

The value of exports in June was recorded at 547 million dollars and imports at 680 million dollars, resulting in a trade deficit of about 133 million dollars, the data showed.

Laos' main export products included salt, mixed gold, paper, rubber, copper ore, wasted wood, sugar, cassava flour, banana and cassava.

The country's main imports included diesel, land vehicles, mechanical equipment, electrical appliances and equipment, steel and steel products, finished chemical products, plastic products, gasoline, vehicle spare parts and aluminium products. — Xinhua

Over half of Russia's foreign tourists in H1 comes from China

CHINESE travellers accounted for more than half of Russia's foreign tourists during the first half of 2024, the Association of Tour Operators of Russia said on Monday, citing data from the Russian border agency.

In the first six months, 584,600 foreign nationals visited Russia for tourism purpose, with 301,900 coming from China.

Chinese travellers also dominated the inbound tourism to Russia before the COVID-19 pandemic. During the same period of 2019, 592,000 Chinese tourists arrived in Russia, accounting for less than one-third of all entry. Despite the decrease in numbers, the share of Chinese tourists increased significantly this year. — Xinhua

First rise in six months for German industrial orders

GERMAN factory orders rose more strongly than expected in June, official data showed Tuesday, boosting hopes that a recovery in Europe's top economy could be gaining momentum.

Orders in the country's crucial manufacturing sector rose 3.9 per cent from a month earlier, according to federal statistics agency Destatis, an uptick that followed five consecutive months of falls.

That was higher than an increase of one per cent forecast by analysts surveyed by financial data firm FactSet.

But the order data, closely watched as an indicator of future business activity, was 11.8 per cent lower from the same month a year earlier, according



Employees work on the production line of the 100% electric Ford Explorer at the Ford Electric Centre Factory in Cologne, western Germany, 4 June 2024. PHOTO: AFP

to Destatis. June's month-on-month rise was driven by domestic orders, which rose by 1.2 per cent, while demand from abroad continued to fall and was down by 3.1 per cent. — AFP

Chinese contractor achieves breakthrough of last tunnel of Nepal's major fast-track package 2 project



Participants pose for a group photo at the construction site of Nepal's major fast-track package 2 project in Makwanpur district of Nepal, 5 August 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE last tunnel was broken through on Monday for the package 2 project contracted by a Chinese company under the Kathmandu-Terai/Madhesh fast track project, which

After the prime minister pressed the button, the final blast was detonated to break through the last section of the Dhedre left tunnel. "Witnessing the breakthrough of yet another tunnel is a matter of happiness," Oli spoke at the breakthrough ceremony held at the construction

site in Makwanpur district. The Dhedre tunnel and the Lanedanda tunnel are part of the package 2 project under the fast track project, which also involves the construction of two large bridges, among others. In May 2021, Poly Changda Engineering Co Ltd of China signed

a contracting agreement with Nepal Army over the package 2 project, which has a total length of 4.62 kilometres.

Both tunnels consist of a left and a right tunnel, with Lanedanda's two tunnels completed in May and July, and Dhedre's right tunnel broken through in May.

Addressing the breakthrough ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song spoke of the introduction of advanced automated tunnel construction equipment like three-arms rock drilling jumbo machine and wet spraying robotic arms for the project. "Large-scale mold flipping construction of high-pier bridges in mountainous areas and cantilever casting of travelling formwork and other advanced technologies have been used for the first time in Nepal," he said. — Xinhua

Saudi Aramco quarterly profit dips as output stays low

SAUDI oil giant Aramco on Tuesday reported net profit of \$29.07 billion in the second quarter, a slight drop from the same period last year as output remained subdued.

The decrease of 3.4 per cent "mainly reflects the impact of lower crude oil volumes sold and weakening refining margins", the company said in a statement posted to the Saudi stock exchange.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter, is currently producing roughly nine million barrels per day (bpd), well below its capacity of 12 million bpd.

Production averaged 8.8 million bpd in June, Riyadh-based firm Jadwa Investment said last week. The relatively low figure reflects cuts dating back to October 2022, when the OPEC+ bloc of oil producers that Riyadh co-leads with Moscow announced it would reduce output by two million bpd to boost prices. In April 2023, several OPEC+ members announced they would further slash production by more than one million bpd, and in June 2023, Riyadh announced an additional voluntary cut of one million bpd. — AFP



(FILES) This picture shows Aramco tower (C) at the King Abdullah Financial District (KAJD) in Riyadh on 16 April 2023. PHOTO: AFP

US judge rules Google is monopoly in key anti-trust case

A US judge on Monday handed Google a major legal blow, ruling in a landmark anti-trust case that it has maintained a monopoly with its dominant search engine. The court decision against a "big tech" giant could alter how the sector operates in future. District Court Judge Amit Mehta found that Google had a monopoly for search and for text ads through exclusive distribution agreements that made it the "default" option that people were likely to use on devices. "After having carefully considered and weighed the witness testimony and

evidence, the court reaches the following conclusion: Google is a monopolist, and it has acted as one to maintain its monopoly," Mehta wrote in his ruling. The internet behemoth "has a major, largely unseen advantage over its rivals: default distribution," he wrote. The anti-trust trial pitting US prosecutors and nearly a dozen states against Google ended in May. "This victory against Google is an historic win for the American people," said US Attorney-General Merrick Garland. "No company — no matter how large or influential — is above the law." — AFP

BioNTech reports over 1 bln euros losses in H1

GERMAN pharmaceutical company BioNTech announced on Monday that it incurred a net loss of 1.12 billion euros (US\$1.23 billion) in the first half of this year, as the company shifts its focus toward cancer treatments following a decline in COVID-19 vaccine sales. In the second quarter alone, the deficit amounted to 807.8 million euros, significantly higher than the 190.4 million euros loss recorded in the same quarter last year. Despite the decrease in sales, BioNTech continued to invest heavily in research and development (R&D), with expenses

reaching 584.6 million euros for the second quarter, up from 373.4 million euros during the same period last year. Approximately 90 per cent of these investments were dedicated to "non-COVID-19-related activities", focusing primarily on oncology and mRNA. BioNTech aims to launch its first cancer immunotherapy treatment in 2026. The company projects total revenues for 2024 to be between 2.5 billion euros and 3.1 billion euros. The majority of revenues are expected to occur in the fourth quarter: (1 euro = US\$1.1) — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (911N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (911N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-8-2024** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

UN says nine employees ‘may have been involved’ in 7 Oct Hamas attack

THE United Nations said Monday that nine employees of its agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) “may have been involved” in the 7 October attack on southern Israel by Hamas, which sparked war in Gaza, and have been fired.

“We have sufficient information in order to take the actions that we’re taking – which is to say, the termination of these nine individuals,” UN spokesman Farhan Haq said.

Haq said the organization will need to evaluate any further steps to “fully corroborate”.

Haq was speaking after the UN’s oversight body completed its investigation into the allegations earlier this year by Israel that a total of 19 UNRWA employees may have been involved in the attack.

That prompted many governments, including top donor the United States, to abruptly suspend funding to the agency, threatening its efforts to deliver aid in Gaza. Several countries have since resumed payments.

Israel has vowed to destroy



People walk on rubble as they inspect the damage at the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) building complex in western Gaza City’s Al-Sinaa neighbourhood on 12 July 2024, following the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the area amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the militant Hamas group in the besieged Palestinian territory. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hamas in retaliation for the 7 October attack, which resulted in the deaths of 1,197 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures. Militants also seized 251 hostages, 111 of whom are still held captive in Gaza, including 39 the military says are dead. — AFP

Iran says assassination of Hamas chief undermines regional, intl stability

IRAN’S Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani said Monday that Israel’s assassination of Hamas Politburo Chief Ismail Haniyeh had undermined regional and international stability and



People take part in a march called by Palestinian and Lebanese youth organizations in the southern Lebanese city of Saida on 5 August 2024 to protest against the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh (portrait) and a Hezbollah military commander. **PHOTO: AFP**

security.

At a meeting with foreign ambassadors and diplomats, Bagheri Kani said that Israel saw the sole way in “war-mongering and expansion of conflict among regional countries and among Palestinians”, according to a statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

He emphasized that the assassinations of Haniyeh and the senior Hezbollah commander Fouad Shokor a few hours earlier in Beirut, Lebanon, should not be regarded as unrelated to the developments in the occupied Palestinian territories and regions and that these events were in line with Israel’s numerous “terrorist actions” in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Syria. — Xinhua

Olympic venue among 40 museums hit by ransomware attack: French police source

THE Grand Palais, which is hosting Olympic events in Paris, and around 40 other museums in France were victims of a ransomware attack at the weekend, police sources told AFP Monday.

Cybercriminals targeted the system used to “centralize financial data” for brands located at the various institutions on Saturday night, the source said.

The attackers had demanded a ransom and threatened to release financial data.

France’s national cybersecurity agency ANSSI confirmed that it had been alerted about an “incident”, adding that the hacked systems were not involved in the Olympic games. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four killed after Storm Debby hits Florida coast

TROPICAL Storm Debby drenched Florida on Monday, killing at least four people and threatening southeastern US states with heavy rainfall and catastrophic flooding.

A 13-year-old boy died when a tree was blown onto a mobile home in Levy County, the sheriff’s office there said, after Debby made landfall on Florida’s Gulf Coast earlier Monday as a Category One hurricane.

Authorities said a truck driver was killed after his 18-wheeler plunged into a canal in Hillsborough County, while a 38-year-old woman and 12-year-old boy died in a car crash in Dixie County.

The storm moved into Georgia overnight and is expected to go offshore before approaching the South Carolina coast on Thursday, according to the National Hurricane Centre (NHC). — AFP

At least 32 killed, 107 wounded due to heavy rains, floods in Sudan

AT least 32 people were killed and 107 others wounded due to the recent torrential rains and floods that hit several Sudanese states, Sudan’s Health Ministry announced on Monday.

“Seven states were affected by the rains and floods, and 5,575 homes were damaged,” Al-Fadil Mohamed Mahmoud, director of the general directorate of health emergencies at the ministry, said in a statement.

He said that the heavy rains and floods led to a number of watery diarrhea cases, with 102 cases reported in Kassala state, four in Khartoum state, and 16 in Gezira state.

The health conditions in other states were stable, he said, noting that the ministry is concerned with adopting necessary measures to combat rainy season epidemics. In an earlier report, the Sudanese Meteorological Authority had expected a rise in the water levels of the Gash River, which flows through Kassala city, the capital of Kassala state. Citizens were urged to be alert and stay away from the banks of the seasonal river. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Team Myanmar departs for 56th ABPS Championship

THE Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation, led by Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Than, departed for the 56th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports (ABPS) Championship. The event will take place from 6 to 12 August on Batam Island, Indonesia.

The Myanmar team, which left Yangon International Airport by air yesterday morning, will compete in various categories.

Representing Myanmar in the 75-kilogramme Bodybuilding category is Ye Htun Naung, while Hein Htet Kyaw will compete in the 85-kg

category. In the Men's Athletic Physique up to 175-centimetre category, competitors include Htet Lin Ko Ko and Ko Ko Kyaw Phyo. For the Men's Sports Physique up to 170 cm, Than Htike Oo will be the representative. In the Women's Model Physique up to 160 cm category, Ma Ni Ni Aung will compete, and in the Women's Athletic Physique up to 165 cm, Ma Thae Wah will be the representative.

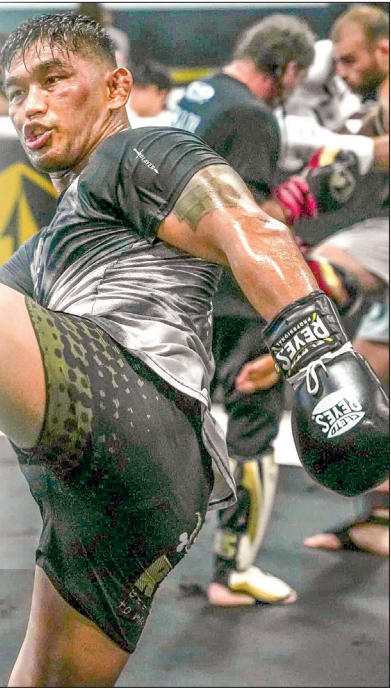
The Myanmar team will showcase their skills and represent the country in this prestigious regional competition. — Arka Lin/KZL



Myanmar bodybuilders pose for a group photo.

ONE Championship features 12 thrillers, including Aung La Nsang

Myanmar's MMA star Aung La Nsang trains hard ahead of ONE 168: Denver bout. PHOTO: ALNS



ONE Championship will bring an action-packed lineup to ONE 168: Denver, featuring a total of 12 thrilling bouts in the early morning of 7 September.

Headlining the event is the renowned Myanmar fighter Aung La Nsang, who will square off against Turkey's Shamil Erdogan in a middleweight bout. The event will showcase ten high-stakes challenge matches, along with two championship bouts.

The Main Event will feature a bantamweight title clash between Britain's Jonathan and Thailand's Superlek. The

Co-Main Event will see the lightweight submission grappling World Championship, with American fighters Ruotolo and Mikey facing off.

Aung La Nsang's match against Erdogan is set as Fight 9 on the card. This bout marks Aung La Nsang's return to action after more than a year away from MMA competition. It is a significant fight for him as he aims to secure a strong comeback. This fight also celebrates a milestone, being his 20th bout and the first since his 10th anniversary with ONE Championship. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



France beat Egypt to set up Olympic men's football final against Spain

JEAN-PHILIPPE Mateta scored twice and Michael Olise added a third as France came from behind to beat Egypt 3-1 after extra time on Monday and set up an Olympic men's football final showdown with Spain.

Thierry Henry's France looked to be heading for defeat in the semifinal in Lyon after Mahmoud Saber put Egypt ahead just after the hour mark.

But Mateta, the Crystal Palace striker, levelled from Olise's assist with seven minutes of the 90 remaining.

Egypt were reduced to 10 men at the start of extra time when centre-back Omar Fayed was sent off, and the hosts made their numerical superiority count as Mateta headed in.

Olise then sealed the win on 108 minutes and France, looking for their second Olympic men's football gold medal and first since 1984, now face Spain in the final at the Parc des Princes in Paris on Friday. Spain, gold medallists in 1992 and silver medallists three years ago in Tokyo, qualified earlier Monday after coming from behind to beat Morocco 2-1 in Marseille. — AFP

Britain break world record to win gold in women's cycling team sprint



Gold medallists team Britain react during the victory ceremony of women's team sprint of cycling track events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, on 5 August 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

BRITAIN set a new world record of 45.186 seconds in winning the gold medal in the women's team sprint at the Paris Olympics on Monday.

The trio of Katy Marchant, Sophie Capewell and Emma Finucane beat the New Zealand team of Rebecca Petch, Shaane Fulton and Ellesse Andrews, who finished in 45.659 seconds.

In an incredible evening of racing, the British team set a new World record in each of their three runs, bringing down the best in each race.

In the bronze medal race, reigning world champions Germany pipped the Netherlands into third place in 45.400 against the Dutch time of 45.690 seconds.

The team sprint sees teams of three riders race a distance of 750 metres (three laps) around the track with one rider dropping out after each lap, leaving one rider from each team to race over the line.

The Chinese trio, who came to Paris as world record holders, eventually finished in disappointing sixth. — Xinhua

UN says nine employees
'may have been involved'
in 7 Oct Hamas attack

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WORLD

China to build "new electricity system" for green growth, energy security

CHINA unveiled an action plan on Tuesday to build a "new electricity system" as part of the country's efforts to pursue green development and ensure energy security. The plan, jointly issued by the National Development and Reform Commission, the National Energy Administration and the National Data Administration, outlines steps to be taken in nine areas between 2024 and 2027.

Chinese authorities will work to increase the transmission of clean electricity through the grid, upgrade coal-fired power plants and expand charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. — Xinhua

Vietnam's capital reports first human death of pig-related disease this year

VIETNAM'S capital Hanoi reported the first death of streptococcus suis so far this year, a bacterium that comes from pigs, local media reported Tuesday. An 86-year-old woman in Quoc Oai district reportedly died of the infection. She was sent for a health check-up at 103 Military Hospital on Monday after having high fever, headache and feeling drowsy. The source of infection has not been identified. Since early this year, the city reported seven human cases of streptococcus suis including one death. — Xinhua



People pray in front of the cenotaph at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, western Japan, on 6 August 2024, the 79th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the city. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Hiroshima urges shift from nuclear deterrence on 79th A-bomb anniversary

HIROSHIMA marked the 79th anniversary on Tuesday of its atomic bombing by the United States, with its mayor urging people to unite in prompting world leaders to shift away from nuclear deterrence amid global conflicts including Russia's conflict with Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war in the Middle East.

In the Peace Declaration, read during the annual ceremony in the Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said such global tragedies seem to be "deepening distrust and fear among

nations, reinforcing the public assumption that, to solve international problems, we have to rely on military force, which we should be rejecting".

"Policymakers can overcome even critical situations through resolute commitment to dialogue," the mayor said, noting that the Cold War was brought to an end through dialogue between Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, and then US President Ronald Reagan.

"To extinguish the suspicion and doubt that creates conflicts, civil society

must foster a circle of trust through exchange and dialogue with consideration for others," Matsui said.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who represents a constituency in Hiroshima, cautioned in his speech at the ceremony that the momentum toward a world without nuclear weapons is on the verge of reversal for the first time since the height of the Cold War. "It is our duty as the sole country to have experienced the use of nuclear weapons in war to steadily work towards realizing a world without nuclear weapons," he said. — Kyodo



US Vice-President and 2024 Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris delivers the eulogy for US Representative Sheila Jackson Lee at Fallbrook Church in Houston, Texas, on 1 August 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Harris becomes Democratic presidential nominee to challenge Trump in November election

US Vice-President Kamala Harris, the daughter of immigrants, has officially clinched the Democratic nomination for the presidency, becoming the first woman of colour to lead a major party ticket in the country.

Harris, previously unsuccessful in her presidential bid,

has now secured the Democratic nomination, a significant moment for the party. This follows President Joe Biden's underwhelming debate performance in June, sparking internal conflicts within the party. The lead-up to Harris' nomination has been marked by intense discussions and tur-

bulence among Democrats regarding their party's future and Biden's chances of reelection.

Following a five-day online balloting process by delegates of the Democratic National Convention, Harris's nomination was officially confirmed on Monday night. — Xinhua