

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Aid must be provided to flood victims facing loss of life, limbs, and homes



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the National Disaster Management Committee meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Although nobody can avoid natural disasters, they can strive to mitigate the impacts of disasters as much as possible and emphasize rapid rehabilitation.

The Senior General underscored that the disaster-ravaged regions had not experienced such severe conditions within 50 years. These regions suffered unprecedented loss and damage in heavy rains and flash floods at night.

He spotted that although nobody can avoid natural disasters, they can strive

to mitigate the impacts of disasters as much as possible and emphasize rapid rehabilitation. The recent incident might be the worst loss in central Myanmar in history. As such, it is necessary to take lessons from the event and address many issues, he added.

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SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted that it is necessary to take lessons from damage to bridges in flooding triggered by heavy rains to build bridges with resilience to momentum of water flow systematically.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the National Disaster Management Committee meeting at the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General recounted that Typhoon Yagi and a deep depression from the Bay of Bengal caused heavy rains in some townships of Shan State (South), Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and other regions and states recently.

He noted that **although weather warnings were issued, its forecast did not focus on unprecedented heavy rains in a short time.**

“It is necessary to categorize prioritized levels depending on volumes of loss and waste in rescue and relief measures, and all measures must be taken within six months.”

OPINION

Take lessons from traffic accidents to avoid more occurrences

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Indian govt, AHA centre relief supplies arrive in Myanmar

BUSINESS

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Singapore leads Myanmar investment in 5 months this FY

NATIONAL



Twelve (12) days remain until the National Census.



Flood Bulletin

Issued at 18:00 hours MST on 17- 9-2024

Flood condition of Thanlwin River
According to the 17:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about 3½ feet (100 centimetres) above its danger level 24.61 feet (750 centimetres). It may fall from the present water level by about two feet during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Flood conditions of Sittoung River
According to the 17:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Toungoo has exceeded by more than four feet (124 centimetres) above its danger level 19.69 feet (600 centimetres). It may fall from the present water level by about two feet during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 17:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about two feet (54 centimetres) above its danger level 35.10 feet (1,070 centimetres). It may continue to rise from the present water level by about four inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory
It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Hpa-an Township, Toungoo Township and Madauk to take precautionary measures. — DMH

Depression No 13/2024

Issued at 13:00 hours MST on 17- 9-2024

Depression Condition
According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the Deep Depression over Jharkhand (India) has moved West-North-westwards and weaken into a Depression and now lies over the Northeast Chhattisgarh and adjoining Jharkhand (India).

During next (12) hrs forecast
The Depression is likely to continue to move West-North-westwards and weaken into a Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area and may cross continue inland of India during next 12 hours.

General caution
Due to the Depression, rain or thundershowers will be scattered to fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin, Rakhine States from today morning to next (24) hrs. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

Advisory
Under the influence of depression, people should be awared of heavy rain with strong wind, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.
This is the last news for the Deep Depression.

Myanmar National Airlines carries relief supplies free of charge



The commemorative group photo of the welcome ceremony for MNA's free relief cargo transport.

THE Myanmar National Airlines carry relief materials and medicines free of charge for the flood-stricken people. To provide convenient transport and deliver support to flood victims, Myanmar National Airlines transported 479 kilogrammes and 197 kilogrammes of relief items on 15 and 16 September with the UB-002 Singapore-Yangon flight. Moreover, it also carried AHA Centre-provided 5,560 kilogrammes of relief goods from Thailand to Yangon on 17 September with Humanitarian Cargo Flight, Boeing 737-800F (9M-WCA), Bangkok-Yangon (UB-2020). The airlines will provide the necessary assistance in delivering relief supplies. — Arkar Lin/KTZH



Objectives of 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2024

- (a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- (b) To explore, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- (c) To explore and preserve the traditional cultural heritage for the young generation and further propagate the national spirit
- (d) To serve as a national cultural entity for State development, peace, and stability

Special Weather News

Issued at 18:30 hours MST on 17- 9-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 17:30 hrs MST today, the Tropical Depression over South China Sea may further intensified and crossing the inland areas of Vietnam on 20-9-2024 and start crossing to the eastern Myanmar on 21-9-2024. Due to the remnants of Tropical Depression's clouds and wave after crossing over Myanmar may re-initiate into a Low-Pressure Area over the Bay of Bengal. Due to the speed of wave, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and, Mon States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls and strong wind during from 21-9-2024 to 25-9-2024.

Advisory
People should be aware of the heavy rainfall with strong wind, the natural disasters such as flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Aid must be provided to flood victims facing loss ...

FROM PAGE 1

He gave guidance that forecasts and warnings on natural disasters must be easily understandable for the general public so as to follow their advice.

He retold that **this year, it rained heavily in the country for the whole monsoon period. These rainfalls cause humidity in the soil. The impacts of a recent typhoon caused heavy rains and flash flooding, consequently causing landslides, he added.**

The Senior General commented that floating timber logs stockpiled in the rafts caused more damage and loss in flooding.

As such, the Senior General highlighted that it is necessary to take lessons from damage of bridges in flooding brought about by heavy rains and to build bridges with resilience to momentum of water flow systematically.

The Senior General explained that **silting in rivers and creeks raises their bed levels, easily causing overflow of water and flooding.**

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With regard to rehabilitation, the Senior General noted that it is necessary to provide aid for families of the dead and injured and those who lost houses. A large number of houses were lost in the flooding, and rehabilitation must lead to the people who faced losses in the incident.

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He pointed out that gold panning and gemstone mining along Ayeyawady, Chindwin, and Thanlwin rivers lead to silting on the riverbed. Hence, it is necessary to dredge silt in parts of rivers and creeks.

He stressed the need to carry out maintenance of roads and bridges, as well as water outlet channels of dams and drains, without fail yearly.

With regard to rehabilitation, the Senior General noted that it is necessary to provide aid for families of the

dead and injured and those who lost houses. A large number of houses were lost in the flooding, and rehabilitation measures must be taken for the people who faced losses in the incident.

He emphasized that currently, priority must be given to the reopening of roads and bridges so as not to interrupt public transport and commodity flow.

The Senior General disclosed that a total of 226 people were dead, 47 injured, and 77 are still missing, with 12 persons

floating in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Kayah, Mon, Shan and Kayah states, Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions.

He added that a total of 1,915 houses were totally damaged and 201 partially damaged. A total of 158,343 homes were flooded. A total of 163,573 people are accommodated at the relief camps, and 234,535 people are staying at the houses of their relatives.

The Senior General underscored that the natural disaster triggered by the recent typhoon was a great lesson for Myanmar. Hence, all relevant ministries, region and state governments, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and all military commands have to harmoniously carry out rescue, relief and rehabilitation tasks, he noted.

He instructed that crops in the damaged fields need to be systematically grown again. Arrangements must be made to provide agricultural cash assistance and loans to farmers for regrowing the crops.

The Senior General also said that it is necessary to cat-

egorize prioritized levels depending on volumes of loss and waste in rescue and relief measures, and all measures must be taken within six months.

He stressed that all reports must be compiled as checklists for the progress of work, remaining processes must be scrutinized continuously, and officials need to check work progress and report back.

Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win explained occurrences of natural disasters in nine regions and states, damage of roads and bridges, including dams, broadcasting of such an event to the people in time, undertaking of rescue and relief measures at disaster-affected areas, distribution of relief aid to flood-stricken people, healthcare services and rehabilitation tasks being undertaken in water-ebbed areas.

The Vice-Chair 1 and Vice-Chair 2 of the management committee and officials reported the opening of relief camps for the flood-affected people, progress of rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures, distribution of relief aid and materials for reconstruction to affected areas, supply of electricity and safe water for the people, and releasing the weather forecast to the people in time, regrowing of crops, repairs of damaged roads and railways, running of flights, arrivals of humanitarian aid from AHA Centre and from India, donations to flood-affected monasteries and nunneries, reopening of schools in the flood-ebbed areas. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Well-wishers donate cash & kind for flood victims

THE cash donation ceremony for the victims of floods triggered by Typhoon Yagi was organized at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Soe Win received cash donations and gave certificates of honour after expressing gratitude.

At the event, Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay and the party donated K5 million, whereas K30 million from the Automotive Association of Myanmar and K11.5 million from Yangon Technological University civil students (1984), amounting to K46.5 million.

Similarly, the ministry donated 300 meal boxes for 300 flood victims in Pyinmana on behalf of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye (retired) and his wife Daw Mya Mya San. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Dr Soe Win receives cash donations from Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay yesterday.

MoI officials and comedians provide relief to flood victims in Pyinmana Township

ON the morning of 17 September, U Win Kyaw Aung, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, and his team visited temporary relief camps at Thukha Soe Hotel and Ohntaw Monastery in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. They donated food-

stuffs and other essentials to those battered by the floods.

At Thukha Soe Hotel, they provided food for 400 flood victims housed at the nursing home within the hotel compound. At the Ohntaw Monastery, they supplied food to 600 flood-stricken people.

During the donation ceremony, Dain Daung, Chairman of the Myanmar Comedian Association (Central), and Ohn Thee, an Academy Award-winning comedian, also contributed financial aid and offered words of encouragement to flood victims. — MNA/TMT



MoI relief donations are in progress yesterday in Pyinmana Township.

MNREC Union Minister to attend 2nd ASEAN-MRC Water Security Dialogue in Laos



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi is pictured before leaving for Laos yesterday.

THE Myanmar delegation, led by U Khin Maung Yi, Union Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, left Yangon for Laos yesterday morning to attend the second ASEAN-Mekong River Commission Water Security Dialogue to be held in Vientiane, Laos, on 18 September. Officials from the ministry saw off them at Yangon International Airport.

High-ranking officials from the ASEAN Secretariat, Coun-

try level representatives from ASEAN countries, Mekong River Commission Chairman and Officers, and a total of 250 water management experts from China, Korea, Canada, Switzerland, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States will attend the dialogue on water security in the Mekong and ASEAN region. They will discuss how to be resilient to environmental impacts and how to develop effective policies in the areas of cooperation. — MNA/TS

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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NATIONAL



The handing over and receiving ceremony of the Operation Sadbhav: India's Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief to Myanmar is in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw (top). AHA's relief supplies are also arriving in Myanmar yesterday (above).

Indian govt, AHA centre relief supplies arrive in Myanmar

THE Indian Government delivered 32 tonnes of emergency supplies to help typhoon-hit Myanmar.

The relief supplies carried by Indian Air Forces arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday, consisting of essential items like mosquito nets, MRE, kitchen utensils, solar lanterns, personal hygiene kits, tents, medicines and bleaching power.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Shri Abhay Thakur handed over the relief supplies to the Union Min-

ister for the Ministry of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office 2, and the Union Minister presented a certificate of honour in return.

Similarly, the Indian naval vessel carrying food, clothes, medicines, tarpaulin and tents arrived at Thilawa Port yesterday night.

Moreover, the Myanmar National Airlines and Myanmar Airways International carried US\$337,148.95 worth of 59,360 kilogrammes of relief supplies containing household items, tents, tarps, shelter re-

pair kits, water purifiers and other emergency kits provided by ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management-AHA Centre. They arrived at Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw international airports yesterday. The government conducted emergency response and rehabilitation measures for flood victims, leaving no one behind, and delivered relief goods to the flood-stricken areas as quickly as possible. — MNA/KTZH

AHA centre relief supplies arrive in Yangon for flood areas

THE relief materials donated by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) landed at Yangon International Airport on Myanmar National Airlines flight MNA UB-2020 at 1 am yesterday.

Emergency supplies were conveyed via the Thailand Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) Warehouse.

U Than Soe, Director of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, along with other officials, inspected and received the humanitarian items. The consignment includes 11 types of relief materials, such as family items, personal goods, kitchen utensils, shelter repair materials, family tents, water



This photo reveals relief aid arriving from the AHA Centre at Yangon International Airport.

buckets, tarps, mosquito nets, and water purifiers, with a total weight of 5,560 kilogrammes.

Assistance goods will reportedly be distributed to flood-stricken areas. — MNA/TRKM

Yangon to host two-day charity music busking show for flood relief

A two-day charity music busking show will be held to support flood victims, featuring performances by well-known singers Htoo El Lynn, Thar Dee Lu, Wa Na, and Wai Gyi, according to singer Thar Dee Lu.

The show will take place under the Myaynigon flyover in Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region, on 17 and 18 September.

"We musicians feel sympathy for those affected by the flooding across the country. That's why we're putting on a two-day charity show to raise funds to assist them. Our fans and friends are welcome to attend and donate money during the event. All cash donations will be given to those in need," Thar Dee Lu said.

In addition to Htoo El Lynn, Thar Dee Lu, and Wa Na, the charity show will also feature



This image showcases vocalist Thar Dee Lu performing at a music concert.

performances by Sitthu, Wai La, Naw Naw, Nyan Lynn Htet, Wai Gyi, Drone, Mariam-K, Sai Lay, and Aung Phy. The show will run from 3 pm to 8 pm each day. — ASH/TRKM

MGMA urges member factories to donate to flood-hit areas with K20M fund



Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA)'s logo

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) said it will provide funding worth K20 million and also urges its member factories and companies to donate what they want, either cash or items.

It said in a statement on fundraising for flood-affected areas issued on 16 September that MGMA urged its owner, managing director, director, and manager of all members and companies to donate.

The statement said some areas in Myanmar have suffered

natural disasters due to heavy rains and river flooding, and people in those areas have been in need of a lot of aid. And MGMA would offer a fund worth K20 million to the affected people.

MGMA urged its member factories and companies to donate what they desire, either cash, clothes or food (along with estimated value) by 18 September (Wednesday). The location for accepting donated money is MGMA office, 9th floor at UMFCCI office tower, No 29, Minye Kyawswa Road in Yangon's Lanmadaw Township and phone numbers are 01 2314829, 01 2300253 (extension 14) and 09 250001304 (Daw Htee Kyi Nu Aung). The location for accepting clothes is the Myanmar Garment Human Resource Development Centre (MGHRDC), No 400/B, Lower Mingaladon Road in Insein Township, with phone numbers 01 3645713 and 09 795405583 (Daw Mya Thida Soe). — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Water levels in Magway Region dams, lakes, and reservoirs decreasing



This photo shows the Kyeeohn Kyeewa Dam in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, on 14 September.

AS of the measurement taken at 6 am on 17 September, the water level of the dams, lakes, and reservoirs in Magway Region is gradually receding, according to the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management.

In addition, dam surveillance teams have been deployed to monitor the rainfall and water storage conditions of dams, lakes, and reservoirs in Magway Region around the clock, and the structures of the facilities are strong.

The water level at the Kyeeohn Kyeewa Dam in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, was 349.8 feet on 16 September, which was 9.5 feet above the allowable level. However, on 17 Sep-

tember, the water level had decreased to 348.4 feet, and the overflow level was only 8.4 feet, resulting in a reduction of 1.4 feet in one day.

Similarly, on 16 September, the water level at the Moanchaung Dam was 529.6 feet, with the overflow point at 7.9 feet. On 17 September, the water level was 527.9 feet, resulting in 6.2 feet of overflow – a reduction of 1.7 feet of overflow within a day.

On the morning of 17 September, the ECMWF model predicted that a depression would move west toward the coast of Vietnam and become a tropical storm by the evening of the same day.

Moving further westward, it

reached the level of a powerful tropical storm by the afternoon of 19 September. After crossing the coast of Vietnam, it will continue westward, entering Laos and Thailand as an inland depression or an eastern whirlwind.

“Due to these conditions, starting on 20 September, heavy rain may occur in Kayah, Rakhine, Chin, and eastern and southern Shan states, as well as in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, southern Mandalay (below Mandalay City), and southern Sagaing regions. Meanwhile, Kayin and Mon states, along with Taninthayi, Ayeyawady, Yangon, and Bago regions, will experience moderate rain,” meteorologist U Win Naing said. — Htun Htun/TH

Film artistes offer financial aid and emotional support to flood victims

THE cast of the film ‘Hnaung’, including actor Academy Nay Toe, visited flood victims staying at Ngwetaung Tawya Monastery in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on the evening of 14 September. They offered words of encouragement and donated food, essential supplies, and money to those affected.

Similarly, on the morning of 15 September, Academy award winning actors Khant Si Thu, Wah Wah Aung, Aung Khine, and actor Moe Satt also provided food and cash donations to flood victims at temporary relief camps at Chanmyaemyaing and Mahazanaka monasteries in Tatkon.

— MNA/TRKM



Movie stars are seen gathering relief goods for distribution to flood victims.

Actress Soe Pyae Thazin’s family provides relief aid to flood victims in Toungoo, Pyinmana



This photo showcases actress Soe Pyae Thazin and her family offering donations and foodstuffs to flood victims.

ACADEMY award-winning actress Soe Pyae Thazin and her family donated cash to flood-stricken communities in Taungoo Township, Bago Region, and Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 16 September, sources close to the family confirmed.

The donations were directed to the flood relief camps set up at No 2 Basic Education High School in Toungoo Township and to the village of Kyanphosu in Pyinmana, where victims have been recovering from the recent floods. The family contributed

K50 million to the relief camp in Toungoo and another K50 million to aid ongoing relief efforts in the area.

Additionally, they offered K30 million to the abbot of the Ohntaw Monastery, who provides shelter for displaced flood victims. The abbot expressed his intent to use the funds to rebuild homes and restore the livelihoods of the flood-battered families. “May all celestial beings and human beings praise our donation,” Soe Pyae Thazin remarked, extending her heartfelt wishes for the well-being of

flood victims. In addition to this, Soe Pyae Thazin and her family, along with other benevolent donors, had previously contributed K50 million to the Toungoo Social Relief Association on 14 September.

Furthermore, on 16 September, they donated another K50 million to the flood relief camp at No 2 Basic Education High School in Toungoo and K30 million to the flood-hit village of Kyanphosu in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, for rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. — ASH/KZL

Singapore leads Myanmar investment in 5 months this FY

SINGAPORE was ranked as the biggest investor in Myanmar in the first five months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, with an estimated capital of US\$87.7 billion, including the expansion of capital by existing enterprises, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's statistics showed.

Singapore companies mainly invest in urban development, real estate, power, and manufacturing sectors.

Thailand stood as the second largest investor this FY, with an estimated capital of over \$44 million made by one enterprise. China is ranked third in the line-up with more than \$35 million from 14 businesses and the existing ones.



A panoramic view of Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Thanlyin, Yangon Region.

Three enterprises from Indonesia, two each from India, Chinese Taipei, the Republic of Korea and Hong Kong SAR invested in Myanmar. The existing enterprises from China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, India,

Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and the UK also increased investments.

Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to 26 foreign projects from seven countries (China, Chinese Taipei,

Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand) to make investments of \$207.6 million in the past five months this FY 2024-2025, including expansions of capital by existing enterprises.

The transport and communications sector found capital expansion to be \$82.66 million. The manufacturing sector drew \$75.6 million, and the services sector received \$44 million. One enterprise put FDI of \$3.7 million into the power sector, while one business made investments of less than one million in the agriculture sector, respectively.

Singapore stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar in the previous years, pulling in the FDI of \$345 million in the 2023-2024 FY, \$1.158 billion in the 2022-2023 FY and \$297 million in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period (October-March). Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone after Japan. — KK

CBM injects US\$5 mln into financial market on 16 Sept

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$5 million on 16 September after injecting \$230,000, over 1.5 million yuan and over 956,000 Thai baht into the financial market on 13 September.

The CBM announced on 12 September that it would pump \$10 million into the fuel oil sector and \$7 million into the edible oil sector through the foreign exchange trading platform. It sold \$12.4 million and 80 million baht on 4 September, \$90,000 on 5 September and \$100,000 on 6 September, respectively.

Following CBM's notification dated 14 August about contribution of \$100 million towards the fuel oil sector, it sold over \$9.498 million at exchange rate of K3,400 on 15 August, over \$89.975 million

at exchange rate of K3,410 on 19 August, \$31 million at exchange rate of K3,440 on 22 August, over \$35 million at exchange rate of K3,460 on 26 August and \$16.9 million at exchange rate of K3,472 on 28 August respectively.

CBM announced on 9 August that it would sell \$6 million, five million yuan and 10 million baht into the edible oil, fuel oil and pharmaceutical sectors through online foreign exchange trading platforms in the coming weeks.

CBM sold \$5 million and five million yuan for the fuel oil, edible oil and pharmaceutical sectors on 2 August, after selling 69 million baht and nine million yuan for those importing edible oil, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and medical

devices on 1 August.

Therefore, CBM injected over \$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million baht in August.

This move is to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

MMFA to open Loan Officer Training (Batch 17) on 15 Oct

MYANMAR Micro Finance Association (MMFA) will offer Loan Officer Online Training (Batch-17) on 5-7 October from 9 am to 12 pm.

This training is tailored to loan officers, senior loan officers and those involved in the microfinance sector.

Loan Officer Training will cover the concept of microfinance, lending methods, client identification and group formation, understanding credit risk, marketing and selling skills, loan assessment, measuring credit risk, loan monitoring and client retention, communication skills, and client protection principles (CPP).

Trainers are U Naw Sai from the Microfinance Professional Myanmar (MPM), Certified Trainer-Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and MMFA and Daw Myat Noe Lin of the Microfinance Professional Myanmar (MPM), Certified Trainer-Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and MMFA. The course fee is K45,000, and members get a discount of K35,000. Those interested can register by 29 September through <https://shorturl.at/ehDL>. Trainees can receive electronic certificates upon completion of the training. Individuals can enquire about details through the contact number of MMFA 09 965209010 during office hours. — NN/KK

Agriculture Dept strives for farm recovery post-flood

THE Agriculture Department will make concerted efforts with farmers to replant flood-hit paddy fields and mitigate flood impacts on production, said Dr Ye Tint Tun, director-general of the Agriculture Department.

He made that remark at the work coordination meeting on replanting flood-damaged fields and maintaining yield, held at Nay Pyi Taw's headquarters on 16 September.

He instructed the guidelines for repairing and replanting damaged farmlands and not reducing yield. He revealed the condition of seed reserve and replanting plans in Nay Pyi Taw council area, supporting fertilizer inputs

and conducting awareness campaigns for farmers. The department also went on field tours to some townships and elaborated on future plans.

The Agriculture Department encouraged growers to grow monsoon paddy, wheat and other crops again in flood-stricken regions before the season ends. Some monsoon paddy, wheat and other crops were battered by extreme rainfall and strong winds. As the season of monsoon paddy and late monsoon long-staple wheat has not ended, staff are requested to entice growers to re-cultivate them. Therefore, the department has reserved seeds. It is willing to cooperate with growers. It has issued guidelines to redevelop



A stack of greenbacks is displayed at the foreign exchange counter.

damaged farmland triggered by floods.

Additionally, the Myanmar Rice Federation, in cooperation with affiliated associations, will support pedigree seeds and cultivation inputs to help farmers who suffered damage recover from flood damage, its notification released on 14 September. — NN/KK

OPINION

Take lessons from traffic accidents to avoid more occurrences

TRAFFIC rules are essential for the safety of both road users and non-road users. Everyone, from vehicle operators to pedestrians and those living near roads, must fully understand and follow traffic regulations. Adhering to these rules is crucial to preventing traffic accidents, which can have devastating consequences.

Traffic accidents can occur for various reasons, and they are not always predictable. Some common causes include road conditions, loss of control of vehicles, irregularities in traffic flow, weather conditions, malfunctioning traffic lights, unexpected road events, careless

pedestrian crossings, reckless driving, and impaired driving due to mental health issues or substance abuse.

Other factors that lead to traffic accidents include vehicle design flaws, traffic congestion, pedestrians crowding the roads, lack of driving skills, failure to wear seat belts, distractions like mobile phone use, and drug abuse while driving. Additionally, narrow traffic lanes due to roadside vendors, sudden road collapses, and debris from collapsed buildings can create hazardous conditions that result in accidents.

Traffic accidents almost always result in some form of loss, whether it be injuries, fatalities, or property damage. Therefore, it is crucial not to underestimate the potential dangers of traffic accidents. Worldwide statistics reveal that 22.8 per cent of casualties occur in traffic accidents, compared to 10.8 per cent in acts of terrorism and violence, 18.1 per cent from other causes, and 3.4 per cent from armed conflicts. These numbers highlight that traffic accidents account for the highest percentage of casualties globally.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) 2022 global road safety report, approximately 1.35 million people die each year in traffic accidents worldwide. Notably, traffic accidents are the leading cause of death among children and young people aged 5 to 29. In Myanmar, the Directorate of Road Transport Administration reported that over 2,000 people died in traffic accidents across the country, including on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway.

Traffic accidents are not just unfortunate events; they are life-threatening situations that require serious attention from everyone on the road. By taking lessons from past accidents, individuals can better understand the risks and make informed decisions to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

Traffic accidents bring different losses to the victims and their families, as well as to the socioeconomy of the nation. In fact, traffic accidents are based on the careless acts of all road users. Harmful consequences will be loss of life and limbs for victims, as well as punishment for offenders. Hence, everybody needs to take care as well as follow traffic rules without fail.

AROUND 1972-73, when I was a tenth-grade student, there was a classmate of mine to whom I felt like a hair was pricking my eyes when I looked at him. I only knew him as one of the students attending school in a village. I didn't know which village he was from, and since we didn't interact much, we never became close friends. He was living with his uncle and attending the same high school as us in the tenth grade. He had fair skin, was of medium height, and had a slim build – that was his natural appearance.

At that time, I was also a tenth-grade student. Like him, I was attending the same class. In March 1973, we took the exams, and after that, I didn't see him anymore; I guess he went back to his village. In July, when the exam results came out, only 14 students passed the 'A' list, and both he and I were among them. In September, we started college, and I enrolled in Patheingyi Degree College, majoring in Zoology. To my surprise, I ran into him at Patheingyi College, where he had also enrolled.

While in town, I didn't pay much attention to him, but now that we were both in the same college and from the same high school, we started interacting. I then found out that he was also majoring in Zoology, just like me. To my further amazement, we were assigned to the same dormitory block. He was in room 6, and I was in room 3 of A Block, so our rooms were quite close to each other.

Since we were living in the same dormitory and studying the same major, we began to interact more often. Sometimes, we would meet on the way to school or eat together in the dining hall. We would even share food that our families had sent us. By the end of the first semester, I had learned a lot about him, and we became quite close. He was a cheerful person, and since his father owned a rice mill, he could afford to spend more money than I could. I, on the other hand, was studying on a government scholarship of 75 kyats, so our financial situations were quite different.

Despite this, I noticed that he never treated anyone differently based on social class. He was friendly with everyone, and we got along very well. It was funny how, back in tenth grade, we didn't get

along at all. I used to think of him as just a boy, and it felt like his hair was pricking my eyes when I looked at it, but now that we were studying together, I realized how wrong I was about him.

We spent four years together at Patheingyi College, from our first year to our final year. We participated in many dormitories and major activities together. I was happy to have found a good friend who shared my interests. His family was from Kyonpyaw Township, not far from my hometown, but it was a difficult journey to get there. I went to his village once, starting from my town Kyaung-



gon. We took a motorboat to Wet Chaung village, which was about six miles away. From Wet Chaung, we walked about twenty minutes to A Suu Gyi village and then continued on foot to Za Yat Su village.

Even when we reached Za Yat Su, we weren't close to his village yet. We had to walk further to Phoe Laing Kwin village, which was visible from outside Za Yat Su, but since it was the rainy season, the whole journey was muddy, and it took us about an hour to get through the mud between the two villages. After passing Phoe Laing Kwin, the path improved, and we finally arrived at his village, called 'Eain Ma.' The journey was exhausting. This story takes place after we finish school and visit his village.

He was better off than I was. Not only did his father own many farms, but at that time, he also owned a rice mill. Because of this, he led a life where he could spend freely. Later, his father bought him a rice mill in a small village near Yegyi called 'Padautchaung.'

Could It Be Called as A Revenge?

By Min Zan

However, once we entered the workforce, he became a rice mill owner while I was just a lower-division clerk. The gap between us became apparent. However, this didn't change our friendship. Just like in our student days, we still hung out together, joked around,

in the matriculation exams. More students joined my classes, and it got to the point where there weren't enough chairs for everyone.

However, while my business was doing well, the political situation in the country was at its worst. As we all know, schools were closed, and I became unemployed. Everyone predicted that the school closures could last for

The plan was good, but I wondered who would accept the house as collateral. The house was old, but it was a two-story zinc-roofed house in the town centre, so it should be desirable. While thinking this through, I remembered my friend... "He's a rice mill owner. If I pawn my house to him, he could probably help me out," I thought. That gave me a sense of relief. Since mobile phones weren't common back then, I had to find out where he was and go to meet him directly.

Although this person's rice mill was located in Padautchaung village, he lived in the town of Yay Kyi, which was about a mile away from Padautchaung. Without delaying much, I decided to head to Yegyi, where he lived. At that time, I heard he was serving as the chairman of the Rice Mill Owners' Association of Yegyi. With high hopes, I prepared to visit him.

One morning, I set out early on a cool day, riding a small bicycle to Yegyi, where he was staying. The distance between Yegyi and Kyaunggon was over 20 miles. The farthest I had ever cycled was about 10 miles, so with over 20 miles to cover, I had to take breaks along the way. I left Kyaunggon at around 7 a.m., and after stopping at three or four places, I arrived at Yegyi around 9 am. When I reached his house in Bahtuu Ward, 4th Street, I found him quite busy. Without wasting any time, I explained my situation to him. I told him that due to my circumstances, I was out of work and had no capital, so I

at least two years. At that time, my tutoring business was doing okay, but I didn't have any significant savings. I started to wonder how I would survive for two years without work and no extra money. I lived alone, and my adoptive mother, who had raised me, had passed away about two years ago.

While I was in this difficult situation, an idea came to me. I thought of opening a small shop to make a living by selling goods. However, I didn't have any capital, nor did I have gold to pawn. Even if I sold the old house my adoptive mother had left me, it might take some time to find a buyer, and in the meantime, I would struggle to cover my living expenses. So, I thought of pawning the house to get some initial capital.

had come to him for help. I didn't want to borrow money but instead wanted to pawn my house to borrow 200,000 kyats. I even brought along the necessary documents to prove it.

He didn't say anything good or bad about my proposal. Instead, he informed me that he had to leave for Hinthada as his wife was working at the Audit Office there, and a train was arriving soon, so he needed to leave immediately. While he was getting ready, I sat in his living room, watching him prepare for his journey. After a short while, he headed to the station. I followed him, pushing my bike alongside him to the Yegyi station. Along the way, I mentioned again about pawning my house and borrowing K200,000.

However, he didn't discuss my request at all. When we reached the station, the train had already arrived. He boarded the train, and within two minutes of him getting on, it departed. I was left standing on the platform, watching the train leave, thinking about how I had cycled over 20 miles, full of hope, relying on a wealthy rice mill owner friend for help. I'm sure, dear readers, you can imagine how those hopes ended. All of these happened in early November 1988.

One day in 2016, while I was at a computer shop in Kyaunggon, I received a phone call from an unfamiliar number. When I answered, I heard a voice I hadn't heard in years calling my name and speaking in a familiar tone. It

was him – the rice mill owner. He told me that he had diabetes and that his condition was quite serious. He also mentioned that he was out of work and that his wife was now working as an economics tutor at a private high school in Yangon. He had lost one of his toes due to the diabetes.

Without asking anything about me, he continued talking about himself, explaining that he was in financial trouble and needed K50,000 transferred to him from a bank. I didn't respond to his request right away, but he didn't ask about my situation either. He kept insisting that I transfer the money immediately. In the end, I told him I was currently outside and couldn't go to the bank right then. His tone made it seem like he expected the money from me as if I had to send it as I had borrowed it from him.

When I returned home, I called a mutual friend, someone who knew him well. That's when I learned the truth. The rice mill owner's son had also become a rice mill owner, but the father's business had collapsed. He had to pay the government over K600 million for damaged rice stocks. His health had deteriorated, and his life had fallen apart. He had already borrowed money from many of his friends, including the K50,000 he was asking me for. My friend also told me that it was he who had given him my phone number.

During the thirty years when we lost touch, his life had become quite tragic. I never transferred him the money. Was my decision an act of revenge? Later on, I found his Facebook account, and a few months later, I saw a post from his son announcing that he had passed away.

(A True Story)

“While I was in this difficult situation, an idea came to me. I thought of opening a small shop to make a living by selling goods. However, I didn't have any capital, nor did I have gold to pawn. Even if I sold the old house my adoptive mother had left me, it might take some time to find a buyer, and in the meantime, I would struggle to cover my living expenses. So, I thought of pawning the house to get some initial capital.”

NATIONAL



The Myanmar delegation led by Union Constitutional Tribunal Chair U Aung Zaw Thein (L) is seen before leaving for Thailand yesterday.

UCT Chair-led delegation to attend 6th AACC, BoMM in Thailand

THE Myanmar delegation led by U Aung Zaw Thein, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, left for Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday to participate in the sixth Congress of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions Congress (AACC) and Board of Members Meeting (BoMM) at the invitation of Thai Constitutional Court Chairman

Mr Nakharin Mektrairat.

The sixth AACC and BoMM will be held under the theme of 'The Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions in Strengthening Constitutional Justice for Sustainable Society' this year.

Three members accompanied the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar delegation to attend MGMAC, AMF 2024 in Laos

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Mayor U Maung Maung of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee yesterday left for Laos to participate in the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC 2024) and ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF 2024) to be held from 18 to 19 September.

The event aims to strengthen regional cooperation and foster collective action for sustainable city development.

The governors of ASEAN countries, the mayor of Dili of Timor Leste will attend the event as observers, and relevant officials of UN agencies, NGOs, strategic partner countries, ASEAN ambassadors, representatives from the ASEAN Secretary-General office, Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN and international organizations. — MNA/KTZH



Myanmar delegates are seen yesterday before departing for Laos.

MoALI Deputy Minister engages with Myanmar consulate staff, families in St Petersburg



The meeting between Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi and staff members of the Myanmar Consulate-General progression 16 September in St Petersburg.

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi, who is attending the seventh Global Fishery Forum and Seafood Expo Russia in Saint Petersburg, met staff and families of the Myanmar Consulate-General in the city on 16 September.

During the meeting, Dr Aung Gyi provided insights into the current state of national progress and urged the staff to maintain their dedication and discipline in fulfilling their responsibilities to the nation. He also encouraged them to safeguard the nation's reputation through their service abroad. The deputy minister then toured the consulate office and presented gifts to the staff and their families. — MNA/KZL

Housemaid jobs lured through social media

BROKERS have offered unofficial job vacancies for housemaids mostly on social networks, according to activists on labour affairs.

Illegally going abroad to work as a housemaid is high risk, and the government has helped to repatriate those who got into trouble in foreign countries working illegally as housemaids.

"TikTok is mainly used. Housemaids are sent to Middle Eastern countries like the UAE and Jordan the most. Brokers lure saying how much they are paid. There are some official job recruitments, but most are unofficial, so it is unsafe and don't have no guarantee," said a labour activist.

Their employers abuse some, and some are sent to a country that isn't

the destination they have promised.

"Illegal migration doesn't have a guarantee, and some are sent to other countries that are contrary to the contract. Many labour rights are also violated. For example- they have to work more than eight hours a day. So, I would like to suggest you not going abroad illegally," he said.

With the help of coordination between the Myanmar embassies and Myanmar consulates-general, the government has worked on the repatriation of Myanmar nationals who have difficulties while working abroad.

The Myanmar Embassy in Cairo helped repatriate a Chin woman Lal Lawm Tluangi, and a Rakhine woman Ma Sandi Lin, who got into trouble in



This photo shows Chin woman Lal Lawm Tluangi (R) and Rakhine woman Ma Sandi Lin arriving back at Yangon airport.

Irbil, Iraq, through negotiation with the Kurdistan Region government and SEED Organization. The two women arrived back in Yangon at 11:30 am on 14 September. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

NATIONAL

12 dead, 3 injured in Kywelpone shooting by PDF terrorists

IN a recent attack in Kywelpone village, located in the Shwebo District of Sagaing Region, twelve locals were killed, and three others sustained injuries after being targeted by PDF terrorists. The attack occurred on the morning of 20 September, as villagers were travelling for agricultural work.

The terrorists, armed with both heavy and small firearms, ambushed the villagers approximately 1,300 metres north of the village, indiscriminately shooting at them. The victims were women, with twelve confirmed dead and three injured.

The injured individuals were transported to the Shwe-

bo People's Hospital by security forces for medical treatment. Measures are underway to continue tracking and combating the militant groups responsible.

PDF and its colluding groups, such as NUG and CRPH, have been involved in similar violent acts across various regions, targeting civilians with bombings, shootings, and arson attacks.

In April 2023, PDF terrorists also targeted Kywelpone village with bombings, resulting in eight deaths, including five children and thirty-one injuries. Additionally, on 16 September, a monk travelling



The shooting incident location map in Kywelpone Village, Sagaing Township.

from Kayutode village in Mandalay Region was attacked by PDF militants who stole his motorcycle, phone, and money, leading to the monk's death from injuries sustained during the attack. Another incident in

Myaing Township involved the killing of a woman in her home by PDF militants.

These acts of violence against innocent civilians are considered war crimes and have been widely condemned

by the locals. The military continues its counter-terrorism operations in response to these extremist activities, with ongoing efforts to curb the violence and support affected communities. — MNA/KZL

Counter-argument to false information

Media accuses security forces of torching two villages in Pulaw

MALICIOUS media outlets spread fake news, claiming that security forces torched Thithlataw and Phaw villages in Pulaw Township, Taninthayi Region.

According to a security official, PDF terrorists launched the attack first using heavy and small weapons when security forces arrived near Thithlataw village on 14 September. Terrorists retreated, and they attacked again from Phaw village on 16 September. Security forces blocked the ways and conducted security operations, and terrorists fled to the south-west direction.

Security forces did not set fire and arrest the villagers, but terrorists raided villages and detained villagers. Therefore, subversive media circulate misinformation. — MNA/KTZH



This screenshot validates false claims.

Pakkoku official denies false media claims about hostage incident

THE misleading media reported a false story claiming that officials had taken a paralysed woman from Pakkoku Township in Magway Region as a hostage because her son was fleeing to evade military service.

In response to these claims, an official from the Pakkoku Township administrative body for summoning people's

military servants clarified that the story about the woman being held as a hostage is untrue. They confirmed that no one by the name of the youth mentioned in the media resided at the given address and that all actions taken by the officials have been in accordance with the military service law since its implementation. — MNA/TMT

Seizure of illegal timber and goods ongoing

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, effective measures are being taken to combat illegal trade in accordance with the law.

On 16 September, inspections led by the Customs Department's management revealed several illegal items. At the Asia World Port Terminal's container checkpoint, enforcement teams seized one container containing illicit equipment valued at approximately K125.75 million. Additionally, consumer goods valued at about K223.96 million were confiscated at Yangon International Airport. The total estimated value of seized goods amounts to K349.71 million. The action was pursued in line with Customs procedures.

Further, on 16 September, the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized one unregistered vehicle and six motorbikes, with a combined estimated value of K6.25 million. The action was taken under the Import and Export Law. In Mandalay Region, inspections led to the seizure of two types of industrial equipment valued at K44.62 million and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck valued at K30 million. Additionally, at the Paletwa checkpoint, nine types of motorcycle spare parts valued at K62.69 million and a Nissan Diesel truck valued at K55 million were confiscated. The total estimated value of the seized items

is K192.31 million, with the action being taken as per Customs regulations.

In Ayeyawady Region, five unregistered motorbikes were seized, and the total estimated value was K22.5 million. The action was taken under the relevant laws. In Shan State, enforcement teams seized six types of industrial equipment valued at K2.12 million and an Isuzu Giga truck valued at K80 million. Additionally, four types of industrial equipment and three types of consumer goods valued at K21.64 million were confiscated near Kengtung. The total estimated value of these items is K103.76 million, with the action being taken according to Customs procedures.

On 17 September, further inspections by the Bago Region team at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray checkpoint led to the seizure of three types of consumer goods and two types of industrial equipment valued at K8.44 million. An Isuzu Giga tractor head, a Nissan Diesel tractor head, and two trailers valued at K140 million were also confiscated. Additionally, 2.23 tonnes of illegal timber valued at K1.96 million were seized. The total estimated value of all seized items is K150.40 million.

Overall, seizures on 16 and 17 September resulted in 26 cases with a total estimated value of K824.92 million, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZL

ECONOMY WORLD



This photo taken on 29 June 2023 shows dried wild anchovy products from Kenya displayed at the third edition of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

In a bustling supermarket in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, a woman surnamed Li was choosing snacks for her son and daughter.

She picked up two boxes of dried deep-sea anchovies. "I would like to have my children eat healthily, so every time I buy food for them, I read the ingredients and nutrient list carefully," she

told Xinhua. "In these deep-sea anchovies the protein content is very high, and they taste good." A box of the dried anchovies,

with 10 packages inside, sells for 25 yuan (about US\$3.5). Li said she buys this product regularly. The anchovies, from the

eastern coastal area of Kenya, can be seen in many supermarkets in Changsha. "Sales of our dried deep-sea anchovies have topped 1 billion yuan a year, for which we need to import tens of thousands of tonnes of the fish," said Zhou Jinsong, chairman of Jinzai Food Group Co Ltd.

In 2018, the company set up a factory in Kenya, where locally purchased fish were processed before delivering to China. The popularity of dried deep-sea anchovies exemplifies the thriving economic and trade exchanges between China and Africa. Pineapples from Benin, citrus from South Africa, dried chili pepper from Rwanda, coffee from Ethiopia, sesame from Tanzania and

from Madagascar, the shipment of which was cleared at Changsha Customs, marking China's first mutton imports from Africa and an important breakthrough in the China-Africa meat trade. The 900 kilogrammes of mutton was shipped by air, with the entire delivery period taking approximately 36 hours.

China has remained Africa's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years, recent customs data showed. China-Africa trade reached a record high of US\$282.1 billion in 2023 – up 1.5 per cent year on year, showing strong resilience. China's 2023 imports of African nuts, vegetables, flowers and fruits had increased by 130 per cent, 32 per cent, 14 per cent and seven per cent, respectively, compared to the previous year.

In the first seven months of 2024, Hunan imported African agricultural products valued at approximately 240 million yuan, up 10.6 per cent year on year.

Such trade has benefited from China's unceasing efforts to establish "green channels" to promote fast market access for African fresh imports, such as soybeans, coffee beans and avocados. — Xinhua

African food landing on Chinese dinner tables

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia earns over US\$328 mln from rubber exports in 8 months, up 15.5%

CAMBODIA made US\$328.3 million in revenue from exports of natural rubber latex in the first eight months of 2024, up 15.5 per cent from \$284.1 million over the same period 2023, an official report showed on Tuesday.

The kingdom exported 209,733 tonnes of the commodity during the January-August period this year, up 2.22 per cent from 205,168 tonnes over the same period 2023, said the report of the General Directorate of Rubber. "A tonne of rubber latex averagely cost \$1,565 during the first eight months of 2024, about \$180 higher than that of the same period last year," Khun Kakada, acting-director general of the General Directorate of Rubber, said in the report. — Xinhua

Foreign tourist arrivals to Mongolia in Jan-Aug surge 23%

MONGOLIA welcomed a total of 576,283 foreign tourists in the first eight months of 2024, marking a 23 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, according to a statement from the country's Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth on Monday.

From January to August, Russia, China, and South Korea were the top sources of foreign tourists to Mongolia, as reported by the ministry.

In a bid to diversify its mining-dependent economy, Mongolia has been actively promoting tourism. The country has designated 2023-2025 as the "Years to Visit Mongolia", with a goal of attracting at least 1 million foreign tourists annually. — Xinhua

Russia ready to offer Indonesia nuclear power plants of large, small capacity – Rosatom



People gather at the stand of Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom during the 2023 Russian Energy Week international forum at the Manezh Central Exhibition Hall in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

RUSSIA is ready to offer Indonesia Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) of both large and small capacity, Boris Arseev, Division Deputy Head — International Business Director of the Rosatom State

Corporation, said in an interview with Sputnik.

According to Arseev, Rosatom is already actively sharing its experience with Indonesian colleagues responsible for the develop-

ment of the energy sector in the country.

At the same time, there are a number of organizations and government agencies in Indonesia that can act as qualified customers and partners in the construction of nuclear capacity in the country.

According to Arseev, in terms of large capacity, Rosatom's flagship product is Generation III+ power units with VVER-1200 reactors.

Arseev also emphasized that Rosatom holds the "palm of victory" in the technology of small-capacity nuclear power plants (SMP).

"Today, there are more than 90 small modular reactor projects in the world, but only we have moved from words to deeds," the top manager noted. — Sputnik

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia, UAE reach agreement on free trade deal

AUSTRALIA and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have reached a deal on a free trade agreement.

Don Farrell, Australia's minister for Trade and Tourism, on Tuesday announced that negotiations on the Australia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement have concluded.

He said at a press conference in Canberra that the deal would eliminate tariffs on more than 99 per cent of Australian products entering the UAE.

"This is the first trade agreement with the Middle East," Farrell said. "The UAE is not only our largest trade and investment partner in the Middle East, but it is always one of our most important strategic diplomatic and defence partners in the region."

According to the government, Australian exports to the UAE are expected to increase by 678 million Australian dollars (US\$457.3 million) per year under the trade agreement. Additionally, Farrell said it would open up investment from the UAE's sovereign wealth funds in Australia's critical minerals sector. —Xinhua

Nigeria's inflation rate down to 32.15% in August

NIGERIA'S headline inflation rate declined to 32.15 per cent in August, the second consecutive time of drop after a persistent rise in almost two years, the latest report released by the country's statistics bureau showed. The consumer price index, a main inflation gauge, fell 1.25 percentage points compared to the 33.40 per cent recorded in July, according to the report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) obtained Tuesday by Xinhua in Abuja, the Nigerian capital.

On a month-on-month basis, the headline inflation rate in August was 2.22 per cent, which was 0.06 percentage points lower than the rate recorded in July, at 2.28 per cent, said the report. On a year-on-year basis, however, the headline inflation rate in August 2024 was 6.35 percentage points higher than the rate recorded in August 2023, at 25.80 per cent.

The increase in the headline index for August 2024 on a year-on-year basis was attributed to the rise in the prices of some items in the basket of goods and services at the divisional level, the NBS report said. These increases were observed in food and non-alcoholic beverages, housing, water, electricity, gas, other fuel, clothing and footwear, and transport, to mention a few. — Xinhua

Electric cars overtake petrol cars in Norway: road federation



(FILES) Electric cars are being charged on a street in the Norwegian capital Oslo on 30 April 2019. Electric cars outnumber petrol cars in Norway for the first time ever, the Norwegian Road Federation (OFV) said on 17 September 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

ELECTRIC cars outnumber petrol cars in Norway for the first time ever, an industry organization said on Tuesday.

Of the 2.8 million private cars registered in the Scandinavian country, 754,303 are all-electric, compared to 753,905 that run on petrol, the Norwegian Road Federation (OFV) said in a statement.

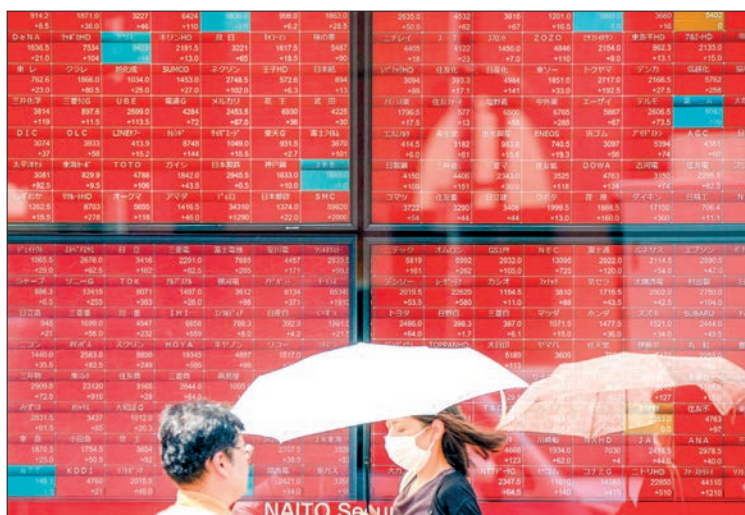
Diesel models remain most numerous at just under one million, but their sales are falling rapidly. "This is historic. A milestone few saw

coming 10 years ago," OFV director Oyvind Solberg Thorsen said in a statement. "The electrification of the fleet of passenger cars is going quickly, and Norway is thereby rapidly moving towards becoming the first country in the world with a passenger car fleet dominated by electric cars," OFV director Oyvind Solberg Thorsen said. Norway, paradoxically a major oil and gas producer, has set a target to sell only zero-emission vehicles -- mostly EVs since the share

of hydrogen cars is so small -- by 2025, 10 years ahead of the EU's goal.

In August, all-electric vehicles made up a record 94.3 per cent of new car registrations in Norway, boosted by sales of the Tesla Model Y.

In a bid to electrify road transport to help meet Norway's climate commitments, Norwegian authorities have offered generous tax rebates on EVs, making them competitively priced compared to fuel, diesel and hybrid cars. — AFP



Pedestrians walk in front of an electronic quotation board displaying stock prices of Nikkei 225 on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 12 September 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

European stocks rally on eve of Fed rate decision

EUROPEAN stock markets rose solidly Tuesday, the eve of an expected cut in interest rates from the US Federal Reserve that has been long-awaited by investors.

Tokyo closed down one per cent as a strong yen weighed on Japanese exporters.

As the Fed began its two-day meeting, attention turned to US retail sales data due Tuesday that could shed light on the

potential size of the rate cut.

Fed boss Jerome Powell has already signalled a rate cut was coming, but debate has focused on whether officials will go for 25 basis points or 50, with some warning that the bigger option could signal there is some concern about the economy.

"Coming at a time where the Fed appear to be more data dependent than ever, a worsen-

ing level of consumption could yet help secure a 50-basis point cut given how reliant the US economy is on domestic demand," said Joshua Mahony, chief market analyst at Scope Markets.

Bets on the US central bank opting for a super-sized cut have jumped in recent days, with observers suggesting officials want to go big before a series of smaller reductions. — AFP

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Sanctions on Russia led to increase in trade with BRICS — Ministry of Economic Development

SANCTIONS against Russia have led to an increase in the share of BRICS countries in Russian trade, Ekaterina Mayorova, the director of the trade negotiations department at the Russian Ministry of Economic Development, told Sputnik.

“Sanctions against Russia are leading to us curtailing our

trade with the West, while, on the contrary, we are increasing it with the BRICS countries. If we look at the dynamics of our trade relations with BRICS, the share of trade with them has clearly increased. Yes, there are difficulties, but we are working,” she said on the sidelines of the session “Re-BRICSing: Expec-

tations from Trade,” organized by the Russian WTO Expertise Centre as part of the WTO Public Forum.

Russia has repeatedly stated that it would cope with the sanctions pressure that the West had begun to exert on Russia several years ago and continued to increase. Moscow noted that the West lacked the courage to admit the failure of sanctions against Russia. In the West, opinions have repeatedly been voiced that anti-Russian sanctions were ineffective. Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that the policy of containing and weakening Russia was a long-term strategy of the West, and the sanctions had dealt a serious blow to the entire global economy. According to Putin, the main goal of the West is to worsen the lives of millions of people. — Sputnik



The emblem of BRICS. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Over 60% in Japan read no books each month, majority for 1st time

A record 62.6 per cent of respondents reported not reading a single book per month, making up the majority for the first time, a national language survey by the Cultural Affairs Agency showed Tuesday.

The all-time high figure in a survey asking people how many books they read a month, including e-books but not magazines

and comics, marks a 15.3 percentage point increase from the last survey conducted in fiscal 2018.

But the poll also found that 75.3 per cent of those who do not read books regularly still obtain information from other sources, such as social media posts and online articles, “almost every day.” An agency official stressed the value of written content,

whether in paper or electronic form, saying, “It is important to maintain or increase the chance to lay eyes on words by utilizing both.”

The survey, conducted every five years since fiscal 2008, covered 6,000 individuals aged 16 or older, with valid responses from 3,559 between January and March 2024. — Kyodo



File photo taken in August 2024 shows a bookstore in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO



Photo shows a meteorite from Mars discovered by the National Institute of Polar Research. (Photo courtesy of the National Institute of Polar Research). PHOTO: KYODO

Mars meteorite found in Antarctica to feature at 2025 Osaka Expo

A “Mars rock” discovered in Antarctica by a Japanese research team will be displayed to the public for the first time at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, the government said Tuesday.

Found in 2000 by Japan’s National Institute of Polar Research, the meteorite was determined to have been thrown into space by an asteroid impact on the Martian surface.

The meteorite is among

the largest of its kind found on Earth, measuring 29 centimetres in length, 22 centimetres in width, 16 centimetres in height, and weighing around 13 kilogrammes. An analysis of the gas trapped within showed its origins.

The rock includes minerals that form in reaction to water, providing evidence that there was once water on Mars and potentially serving as a clue to understanding the origins of life. — Kyodo

News in brief

Indian to conduct census soon: home minister

INDIA’S federal home minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday the periodic governmental count of the country’s population, or the census, will be conducted soon after years of delay.

India’s census was due in 2021. The once-in-a-decade population count, however, was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and technical and logistical hurdles.

The minister did not give an exact date when the mammoth exercise would be undertaken.

The census of India is a decadal exercise to enumerate the country’s population. It is one of the largest administrative and statistical exercises in the world. — Xinhua

Kremlin says Meta’s ban on Russian media “unacceptable”

US social media giant Meta’s move to block Russian media outlets RT and Rossiya Segodnya from its platforms is unacceptable, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday.

Peskov said that Moscow views this decision “very negatively” and has raised concerns about the company’s credibility.

“Meta has discredited itself by taking these actions, and of course, such selective measures against Russian media are unacceptable,” Peskov said, adding this complicates the prospects for normalizing relations with Meta. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Bonmati signs new Barcelona contract, becomes highest-paid female footballer

FC Barcelona have extended the contract of Spain international Aitana Bonmati until 2028, the club has confirmed.

The move means Barcelona have ensured the future of the 26-year-old, who is considered the best female player in the world after winning the 2023 Ballon d'Or. Bonmati began her career playing in a boys' league and joined Barcelona at 11 years old. She has now made 275 appearances for the club, scoring a club-record 96 goals in all competitions.

The attacking midfielder, who led Spain to victory in the 2023 World Cup, would have been out of contract next summer and was attracting interest from other clubs. In order to fend off that interest, Barcelona have reportedly made her the best-paid women footballer in the world. Bonmati has been vital to Barcelona winning the last five women's league titles in Spain, and scored the opening goal as they won last season's Champions League 2-0 against Lyon. — Xinhua



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Thway Thit Win Hlaing to face Kazakh Fighter at ONE Friday Fights 80

MYANMAR fighter Thway Thit Win Hlaing is set to compete at ONE Friday Fights 80, scheduled for 20 September in Bangkok, Thailand. He will face Uzbekistan's Kakhkhorov in a Muay Thai featherweight contest, marking his second appearance with ONE Championship. Thway Thit Win Hlaing last fought on 7 June, where he fell short against Thai fighter Khunsuek via decision, unable to showcase his usual aggressive style fully.

This upcoming bout presents a

pivotal opportunity for Thway Thit to bounce back and demonstrate his capabilities on the global stage, particularly in a weight division known for its relentless pace and technical precision.

The event will feature 12 bouts in total, with Thway Thit's contest scheduled as the fifth on the card. The headliner will see a clash between Thai fighters Rak and Yodnumchai, promising an intense showcase of Muay Thai skills. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

AL Nassr struggled in Cristiano Ronaldo's absence on Monday, when the Saudi club kicked off the revamped Asian Champions League with a 1-1 draw against Al Shorta in Iraq.

Al Nassr captain Ronaldo did not travel with the squad for the match in Baghdad, with the club issuing a state-



Ronaldo misses Al Nassr draw in Asian Champions League opener

ment a day before stating that the Portuguese superstar had been diagnosed with a viral infection.

Al Nassr, who were knocked out of last season's Asian Champions League in the quarter-finals by eventual champions Al Ain, were given a dream start in the Iraqi capital, when full-back Sultan Al Ghannam met Otavio's astute, first-time pass on 14 minutes to finish low past Al Shorta goalkeeper Ahmed Basil. However, the hosts drew level 10 minutes later.

A mix-up at the back between new signings Salem Al Najdi and former RB Leipzig defender Mohamed Simakan allowed Al Shorta forward Mo-

Nassr's Brazilian midfielder (80) Wesley is marked by Shorta's Iraqi midfielder (25) Abdul-Razzaq Qasim during the AFC Champions League Elite West Region football match between Iraq's Al-Shorta and Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr at the Al-Madina Stadium in Baghdad's Sadr City on 16 September 2024. PHOTO: AFP

ammed Dawood to steal in and send a superb effort high past Bento in the Al Nassr goal.

Meanwhile, fellow Saudi side Al Ahli eked to a 1-0 victory at home to Iran's Persepolis in Jeddah, with new recruit Ivan Toney making his Asian football debut. Ivory Coast international Franck Kessie set the home side on their way in the second minute, rifling home from Riyadh Mahrez's assist.

Persepolis were awarded a penalty four minutes before half-time, when Merih Demiral was deemed to have committed a foul inside the area, however the decision was overturned following a VAR review.

In the second half, Toney won Al Ahli a spot-kick of their own — he was felled by rival defender Hossein Kanani — only for Mahrez's penalty to be saved well by Persepolis goalkeeper Alexis Guendouz. — AFP

Emblematic start as Girona make history with Champions League debut

GIRONA become the 14th Spanish club to play in the Champions League when they make their debut in the competition on Wednesday.

The side coached by Michel Sanchez, who last season led them to a stunning third place in La Liga, could hardly have picked a more emblematic start to their campaign, as they play away to Paris Saint-Germain.

Around 900 fans will travel to

Paris to witness the historic moment, although at the moment, Girona's domestic form is a cause for concern.

They were outplayed by FC Barcelona on Sunday, crashing to a 4-1 home defeat, engineered by Lamine Yamal.

Although PSG don't have Lamine, they will have former Barcelona winger Ousmane Dembele leading their attack, and despite Kylian Mbappe's move to Real Madrid, they, like Barcelona, have enjoyed a perfect start to the campaign, with four wins from four in Ligue 1. — Xinhua



Girona's Spanish coach Michel leads a training session with Girona's Dutch midfielder (6) Donny Van de Beek on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match between Girona FC and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), at La Vinya training ground in Girona on 17 September 2024. PHOTO: AFP



A robot poses during the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) at the China National Convention Centre in Beijing, capital of China, 12 September 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

AI technology injects new momentum into e-commerce

UNBELIEVABLE! I thought she was a real person!" A visitor exclaimed in amazement after finding out that the livestreamer selling beauty products on a large screen was a digital person.

The digital livestreamer named Yanxi has completed over 400,000 hours of livestreaming for more than 5,000 brands, attracting at least 100 million views, said a staff member at the booth of Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com at the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), which ran from 12 to 16 September in Beijing.

With the help of Yanxi, merchants can set up an e-commerce livestreaming room within just two hours, at a cost only one-tenth of that required for a human livestreamer, providing consumers with 24/7 services.

JD.com also launched an AI-generated content (AIGC) platform, which assists merchants in making product images, marketing copy, and short product videos with a simple click. This innovation helps increase efficiency by more than 90 per cent.

It is evident at the CIFTIS that AI, with its diverse array of products, is

bringing new vitality and momentum to e-commerce. Alibaba.com, a Chinese cross-border e-commerce giant, announced at the CIFTIS the launch of comprehensive AI application in foreign trade. Every step of cross-border trade, including procurement, search, product launch, reception, logistics, is now connected to AI technology.

When a product is sold in different countries and regions on Alibaba.com, the priorities of the display models and prices provided to sellers are different, said Jiang Lin, head of capital brand of Alibaba.com. — Xinhua

Chinese envoy urges US to push Israel to cease military operations in Gaza

A Chinese envoy on Monday urged the United States to take tangible actions to push Israel to cease its military operations in the Gaza Strip without delay.

"We urge the United States to show a responsible attitude, use the significant influence it holds over the party, and take tangible actions to push Israel to cease its military operations without delay, as demanded by the Council resolutions, to give the long-suffering Palestinian people a chance to live," Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

Geng noted that over the past year, despite strong joint international calls for a ceasefire and the cessation of killings, Israel has not halted its military operations in Gaza, which have led to the death of over 41,000 Palestinian civilians.

"This is alarming. This is past belief," the ambassador stressed.

Geng pointed out that as the analysis point out, had the United States not stood in the way on all those occasions, the Security Council could have adopted a resolution demanding a ceasefire early on after the conflict erupted, and had the United States not shielded one side time and again, multiple resolutions of the Security Council would not have been flagrantly rejected and defied.

"China supports further actions on the part of this Council to put out the flames of war, mitigate the humanitarian disaster, and bring peace to the region as soon as possible," he said. — Xinhua

Iranian president denies nuclear weapons ambitions after UN alarm on Iran's uranium enrichment

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian asserted on Monday that his country has no intention of developing nuclear weapons, pushing back against international concerns over its uranium enrichment programme.

"We have repeatedly emphasized that we do not seek nuclear weapons," Pezeshkian said at a press conference in Tehran. "Our goal is

to meet our technical and scientific needs."

His remarks came in response to a recent alarm from the International Atomic Energy Agency over Iran's enrichment of uranium to 60 per cent purity. Pezeshkian maintained that Iran remains committed to the framework established by the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as

the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). However, he warned that Iran's continued adherence depends on other signatories honouring their obligations.

"If the United States and certain European countries fulfill their commitments, we will do the same," he said. "If they do not, neither will we." — Xinhua



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian attends a press conference in Tehran, Iran, on 16 September 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA