

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Mount Popa seeks UNESCO global geopark recognition

Among several promising locations in Myanmar, Mount Popa was declared the country's first national geopark on 6 December 2023 due to its exceptional potential.



The image features the Mount Popa National Geopark, set against the backdrop of the iconic Mount Popa.

ACCORDING to the National-level Committee on Geoparks, new geosites are being identified for Mount Popa National Geopark, Myanmar's first national-level geopark, in order to gain recognition as a global geopark.

Among several promising locations

in Myanmar, Mount Popa was declared the country's first national geopark on 6 December 2023 due to its exceptional potential.

Efforts are underway to increase the number of proposed geosites from 15 to 30, as it is crucial to identify a diverse range of geological sites for Mount Popa

to qualify as a UNESCO global geopark.

Various organizations, academic institutions, and research groups will collaborate on this project, which, if successful, will raise international awareness of Myanmar's rich natural resources and cultural heritage. —ASH/MKKS

Manloiyang designated as protected public forest to preserve wildlife and ecosystem

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation announced with its Notification 79/2024 that 14,534

acres in Katha Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, have been designated as the "Manloiyang Protected Public For-

est" under Section 6 (e) of the Forest Law 2018, with effect from 6 September 2024.

The ministry designates protected and reserved forests to preserve water resources and watersheds, support a stable ecosystem, meet local needs for forest products like timber and bamboo, conserve biodiversity, and maintain favourable weather conditions for agriculture.

The establishment of the Manloiyang Protected Public Forest is expected to safeguard valuable timber species in the area, such as teak, ironwood, and gumkino. Additionally, it will help protect the habitats of wildlife such as barking deer, wild boars, wild cats, jungle fowls, protect the watershed areas of the Ayeyawady River, the life-blood of Myanmar, and help prevent siltation and erosion, increase forest cover and forest products, balance the climate, and improve the ecosystem. — MNA/TKO



A general view of the Manloiyang protected public forest.

Article Concept and Concept Formation

By Hu Wo

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Temporary relief camps opened in Nay Pyi Taw for flood victims

NATIONAL




Seventeen (17) days remain until the National Census.




Public Notice for Submitting Objection

- Socioeconomic Development Party, with its headquarters located in Aung Thaya Quarter, 28th Street (North), Pubbathiri Township, Zeyathiri District, Nay Pyi Taw, applied on 11 September 2024 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In such an application, the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described.
- Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



Flag of the Socioeconomic Development Party



Emblem of the Socioeconomic Development Party

Union Election Commission

Myanmar to introduce Toungoo prince attire in Asia Model Festival



FOR the Asia Model Festival, which South Korea will host, the costume of a young prince of the Toungoo era is under creation, said costume designer Myat Thinkha Nge, founder of Myat Tawwin.

“International models have to submit short videos of their traditional wearing styles and natural sceneries representing their traditional culture to South Korea. These videos will be part of the event, and they can catch the public attention. Not many people know about the Toungoo era. I organized a photo shoot for a Myanmar model in a young prince costume of the Toungoo era at Bago’s Kanbawzathadi Palace. I made the costume to look exactly like one of the Toungoo era,” he said.

He made sure the photo shoot featured Myanmar traditions and customs. “Hlainggyi Taungshay is Myanmar’s traditional wear, and the international circle accepts it as Myanmar’s own heritage. I recreated the royal dagger and shoes with a real original look of the Toungoo era,” he said.

He also painted Myanmar tattoos in detail on the model’s body. — Thit Taw/ZS

This photo showcases a young prince costume in the Toungoo era.

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.

Objectives of 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2024



<p>(a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics</p> <p>(b) To explore, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics</p>	<p>(c) To explore and preserve the traditional cultural heritage for the young generation and further propagate the national spirit</p> <p>(d) To serve as a national cultural entity for State development, peace, and stability</p>
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Leave no child behind

in the fight against human trafficking

2024 Anti-Trafficking in Person Day, 13 September.

2024 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day’s Objectives

- ❖ To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combatting trafficking in persons as a national duty;
- ❖ To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- ❖ To protect and care about trafficked victims with empathy; and
- ❖ To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders; government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

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)

Message by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, State Administration Council Member, Union Minister for Home Affairs and Chairperson of Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons to 12th Myanmar's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13 September 2024

I would like to extend my warm greetings and sincerely wish all esteemed people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar physical and mental well-being.

Myanmar has designated combating trafficking in persons as a national cause since 1997, and it has been carrying out activities of anti-trafficking in persons in accordance with the existing laws. In order to raise awareness of the entire people of Myanmar for preventing and combating trafficking in persons, Myanmar has marked 13 September, the day the country enacted the Anti-trafficking in Persons Law, as "Myanmar's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day", today is the 12th Anniversary of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day in Myanmar.

Human trafficking was exposed as a form of modern slavery in the late twentieth century and has become a global evolving issue. According to the estimates of international experts, trafficking in persons is the second most profitable business after narcotic drug trading.

Human trafficking not only poses a serious threat to the human rights and dignity of individuals but also creates negative impacts on societies. As the traffickers are making high profits, human trafficking is knocking not only in Myanmar but also in other countries.

Myanmar acceded to the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNC-TOC) and its protocols: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress

and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air on 30 March 2004. Moreover, it also ratified the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (ACTIP) on 6 January 2017.

Myanmar has concerted its best efforts to address the issues of trafficking in persons as a national cause by systematically forming four working committees and local bodies for the prevention of trafficking in persons at different levels under the guidance of the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (CBTIP).

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MoI Union Minister departs for BRICS Media Summit in Russia

A delegation led by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn left Yangon yesterday evening to attend the BRICS Media Summit in Moscow, Russia. The Union minister and his delegation were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov, and officials from the Ministry of Information.

BRICS, established in 2009, is an intergovernmental organization representing Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. In 2024, the group expanded to nine members, including Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the UAE. Saudi Arabia, although

not yet a member, is actively cooperating with the bloc. BRICS summits are held annually, with member countries rotating as hosts. The 16th BRICS Summit is scheduled for October 2024 in Kazan, Russia, under the leadership of the current president Vladimir Putin.

Initially focused on investment opportunities, BRICS has evolved into a geopolitical forum, emphasizing peace, security, development, and cooperation. The BRICS Media Summit, held annually, promotes information technology collaboration among member nations. This year's summit, organized by the Russian News Agency (TASS),



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn shakes hands with Russian Ambassador Mr Iskander Azizov before leaving for Russia yesterday.

will take place from 13 to 17 September 2024 at the World Trade Centre in Moscow.

Media heads from BRICS

nations and other countries interested in expanding cooperation will attend the event. MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing,

NPE Managing Director U Thet Swe, and Director U Han Win Aung accompanied the Union minister. — MNA/TS

NATIONAL

Message by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, State Administration Council Member, Union Minister for Home Affairs and ...

FROM PAGE 3

With the participation of the relevant ministries, the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (CBTIP) has been playing the leading role in developing and implementing the Five-year National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in accordance with three Strategies, four Tactics and four Thematic Areas for prevention of human trafficking, taking legal action against the crimes and protection of the victims.

Currently, relevant ministries have been strenuously implementing the activities of the 2024 Annual Work Plan, the third-year plan of the Fourth Five-year National Plan of Action (2022-2026) in a timely manner.

It is observed that human trafficking issues in Myanmar are linked to the market demand of neighbouring countries and some Middle East countries. According to the number of cases reported annually, the percentage of domestic trafficking in persons accounts for 56 per cent and trafficking in persons to other countries for 44 per cent. Domestic trafficking in persons is mostly found in forced prostitution and forced labour cases. The cases of being trafficked to foreign countries involve forced marriage, forced prostitution, forced labour, forced adoption, forced begging, selling children and debt bondage. Moreover, forced surrogacy was identified as the case of being trafficked to a neighbouring country in 2024.

It is observed that traffickers deceived and recruited young women and girls from Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago regions and Nay Pyi Taw and trafficked them to neighbouring countries in the past and that nowadays, victims are being transferred to traffickers in border areas of Myanmar or brokers in neighbouring countries for trafficking.

The young women and girls from Rakhine State, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago regions and Nay Pyi Taw are deceived, recruited and transported to Muse, Laukkai, Mongpauk, and Tachilek in Northern and Eastern Shan State and trafficked for forced prostitution and forced labour.

It is also found that although only people with low levels of education were trafficked due to poverty and lack of job opportunities in Myanmar in the past, even educated people have become victims of human trafficking nowadays. Taking advantage of advanced technology, traffickers give incentives to people and persuade them through social media such as Facebook, WeChat, Telegram, and TikTok to commit online scams. It is observed that in connection with online scamming, they are committing exploitation, forced labour, forced marriage, and forced surrogacy through human trafficking, illegal recruitment and deception.

Online scamming and online gambling are being operated illegally in countries in the region, including Myanmar, and it is found that foreigners are being deceived online and forced to work. Such a trend has been named internationally as a new emerging trend of human trafficking.

The government of Myanmar has been putting its best efforts into suppressing online scams, and people who were forced to work in these online scams were rescued and repatriated to their place of origin. In such cases, it was observed that the individuals recruited also included foreigners from outside the region. Priority has been given to control such cases by making the best efforts to suppress them in cooperation with other countries. Awareness-raising activities are also being conducted

to educate people about online scamming.

The Supervisory Committee for Deportation and Repatriation of Foreign Nationals was established on 29 November 2023 to take action, deport and repatriate the detained foreigners who illegally entered Myanmar, in accordance with the law. The Committee, in cooperation with relevant organizations, has been conducting screening online scamming cases occurring in border areas, and potential victims have been handed over to respective countries for repatriation.

In addition, regarding the request received through foreign embassies in Myanmar and the National Central Bureau for the foreigners who arrived in Myanmar through border areas for different reasons and were facing difficulties, the repatriation activities for the rescued individuals to each respective country were also implemented.

Myanmar has been promoting cooperation with the United Nations, neighbouring countries, Mekong regional countries, BIMSTEC member countries and ASEAN member countries for activities related to combating trafficking in persons. Moreover, the BIMSTEC Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Terms of Reference (ToR) and BIMSTEC Plans of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, which will be implemented among BIMSTEC member countries, have been finalized and adopted.

The Ministerial Level Meetings, Senior Officials Level Meetings and the Meetings of COMMIT Regional Task Force under the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) were successfully organized, and Sub-Regional Plans of Action (SPAs) to effectively combat trafficking in persons in the region have been developed. The respective governments, including Myanmar, are currently implementing SPA-IV. Relevant ministries have been implementing the activities under this action plan and accelerating regional and international cooperation.

In 2023, Myanmar also hosted the Meetings on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons between the Myanmar Police Force and the Department of Special Investigation of Thailand, between the Myanmar Police Force and Royal Thai Police, and between the Myanmar Police Force and China's Police Force.

The meetings discussed the issues related to combating regional and transnational human trafficking, prevention of human trafficking, rescue of victims, investigation of cases, including those committed by using social media as well as offenders, and activities for combatting trafficking in persons are being extensively carried out.

As prevention is an effective measure, awareness related to human trafficking crimes, articles, poems, short stories, songs and educational dialogues/talks are being broadcast through public media and educational news about human trafficking crimes is being disseminated via SMS. In addition, hotline phones are extended to receive complaints related to human trafficking cases to investigate in a timely manner, take action and rescue the victims.

Moreover, talks on human trafficking, installing billboards, distribution of pamphlets and putting stickers at crowded places such as bus stations, seaports, airports and railway stations are being implemented not only in urban areas but also in rural ones in collaboration with relevant Ministries and departments.

Awareness raising on human trafficking and safe migration are being carried out, and as a prevention measure, WhatsApp QR code and Viber QR code that can

be used to report to the Anti-Trafficking Task Force for help are distributed to those who are leaving the country.

In Myanmar, awareness raising for the community who are at high risk of being trafficked, such as people with low income, manual labourers, street people, and teenagers being conducted as a prevention measure in close collaboration with community-based organizations, the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Rehabilitation, Women Affairs Associations and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and other relevant organizations,

Regarding Myanmar's combative actions against trafficking in persons, 64 cases were promptly taken actions against the offenders in accordance with the law in 2023. Out of the offenders of those 64 cases, 5 offenders were sentenced to life imprisonment, 2 to 40 years of imprisonment, 1 to 25 years of imprisonment, 20 to 20 years of imprisonment and 83 to 15 years imprisonment, respectively.

Awareness raising activities on the risks of trafficking related to illegal migration for jobs are being carried out for those who are planning to go abroad for seeking jobs. Such risks include potential of facing with trafficking, forced labour, difficulties in finding job, and violation of labour rights.

Through investigation, it has been found out that Myanmar nationals are given incentives and illegally recruited to Middle East countries including neighbouring countries. Measures have been taken against those illegal actors under the Overseas Employment Law and the victims have been lawfully assisted. In 2023, under the Overseas Employment Law, legal actions were taken against 199 cases in total, comprising 174 male offenders and 209 female offenders, which make 383 offenders in total.

In order to provide the best assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, the National Standard Operating Procedures (NSOPs) on Return/Repatriation, Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Trafficked Persons was adopted in 2020 and procedures under the NSOPs were acknowledged to be applied in providing services to victims at Anti trafficking bodies at Region/State/District levels.

Victims of human trafficking are being supported and assisted for securing their livelihoods, rehabilitation, counseling, reunification with family, vocational and skills training depending on individual's need. The victims are also provided with travel costs, food rations, medical expenses and further follow-up support needed for sustaining life during legal proceeding process. Furthermore, the provision of necessary assistance to victims of trafficking, referral and further follow-up support are also being provided, in coordination with relevant ministries.

For the development of a country, raising and nurturing children, who are the human resource of the future, respecting their dignity accordingly, avoiding discrimination and protecting them from physical and mental harm are being emphasized.

Therefore, in harmony with the motto of this year, the Twelfth Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day 2024, "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking", I believe that we can prevent the human trafficking of women and children by accelerating the activities of protecting the rights of victims of human trafficking, particularly the rights of women and children; prioritizing their safety and security and protecting them from physical, mental and social harm.

NATIONAL

MNHRC inspects Shwemyaya Labour Camp

THE inspection team, led by U Kyaw Soe and U Tin Aung, members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), inspected the Shwemyaya Labour Camp in Bago Township, Bago Region, yesterday under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law.

They inspected Shwemyaya Labour Camp under the Commission Law and established procedures to find out whether the prisoners enjoy fundamental rights, including appropriate food supply, access to healthcare and provision of adequate purified water. The inspection team enquired about prisoners, whether they received prison-issued items and items sent by their families, and whether they were allowed family visits. The team also looked into the conditions of physical activities in the workplace, including safety procedures, whether there was discrimination in the workplace and whether there were instances of human rights violations and torture. They also privately interviewed the prisoners who wanted to report freely and privately.

Moreover, the inspection team inspected the dormitories, clinic, library, kitchen, food storage, clean water tank and water sanitation system of the labour camp. Additionally, MNHRC donated general knowledge books for prisoners.

The MNHRC inspection team will inform the relevant departments of its findings and recommendations for the necessary actions under the MNHRC law. — MNA



MNHRC members are seen viewing inmates from the Shwemyaya Labour Camp.



This photo depicts awarded students and attendees at the CITIC Scholarship awarding ceremony.

CITIC Star Scholarship awarded to 240 Myanmar students of YUFL and MMU

THE CITIC Star Scholarship was awarded for the first time to 240 students from Myanmar Maritime University and Yangon University of Foreign Languages at a ceremony held yesterday at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel.

Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing for Ministry 2 at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, officials from CITIC Myanmar and the China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD), as well as staff and students from

the universities involved were present on the occasion.

The CITIC Star Scholarship programme, developed by CITIC Myanmar in partnership with the CFRD, aims to foster innovation and a global perspective among youths.

According to Ambassador Ms Ma Jia, the scholarship seeks to enhance cooperation between Myanmar and Chinese universities and to promote cultural and technological exchanges between the two countries. — MT/TMT

Myanmar marks 2024 World First Aid Day

THE 2024 World First Aid Day ceremony was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win said the Myanmar Red Cross Society provides first aid services to injured people based on humanitarian grounds and also participates in social assistance, rescue works amid natural disasters, healthcare services, operating blood donation and ambulances for emergency patients, COVID-19 prevention measures and responses to MOCHA.

Moreover, the Union minister highlighted its active partici-

pation in conducting awareness campaigns regarding the severe diarrhoea that broke out in Yangon and other areas, providing medicines, and also in preventive measures against Mpox.

He then urged the members of the Myanmar Red Cross Society to share the first aid techniques with the public, experiences received from the competition in respective regions and states and work with the relevant ministries for every person.

Then, Myanmar Red Cross Society President Prof Dr Myo Nyunt clarified the purpose of the ceremony. Head of Myanmar

Delegation Ms Nadia Christine Khoury of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), First Aid and Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Delegate Mr Andrew Mok Yuan Min of the International Committee of the Red Cross made remarks respectively.

During the awarding ceremony, the Union minister and relevant officials presented awards to the winners of the first aid contest (solo men) and trophies to prize-winning regions and states.

Next, the Union minister and party observed the displayed materials marking the 2024 World First Aid Day.



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win presents the trophy to the winning states and regions at yesterday's event.

There are 191 member states of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and World First Aid Day is celebrated on the second Saturday in September

every year. Myanmar Red Cross Society celebrated in 2003, and now it has reached 22nd events, and the theme of this year is "First Aid and Sports Ready, Set, Respond". — MNA/KTZH



NATIONAL

Classic film 'Dr Aung Kyaw Oo' recreated as 'Hnaung' for release



The image depicts the poster of the 'Dr Aung Kyaw Oo' film.

A popular Myanmar film from 1957, Dr Aung Kyaw Oo, has been recreated for modern audiences and retitled Hnaung. The film's introduction event took place at the Novotel Hotel on 10 September, according to actress Naw Phaw Eh Htar, one of the lead performers.

The recreated film is based on a novel by Shwe Done Be Aung, with the screenplay written by Lwin Min Anrt. Directed by Academy Award-winning director Aww Ratha, it was produced by Shwe Nadi Shwe Yee Film Production.

"I portrayed Thit Thit May. That is a serious drama focused on marriage, and I'm eager to see how the audience responds. I invite all my fans to support the film. We'll know if it meets the audience's expectations once it hits the cinemas," Naw Phaw Eh Htar said.

The film stars Academy Nay Toe, Phyo Ngwe Soe, Tin Maung San Min Win, Thuriya, Poe Mamhe Thar, Naw Phaw Eh Htar, and many other actors. — ASH/TRKM

Famous writer Ko Pike passes away

WRITER Ko Pike, renowned for his hunter novels, passed away from coronary artery disease at Insein General Hospital in Yangon at 3 am on 11 September, according to his daughter.

Ko Pike was (74) years old at the time of his death and had been residing in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region.

"My father had been suffering from coronary artery disease for a long time. He was admitted to the hospital on Sunday night, 8 September, and received life-saving injections. Sadly, he passed away at 3:10 am this morning. On behalf of my father, I want to thank everyone who donated money, including Saya John Lwin and those who supported us and prayed for him," said Ma Zin Mar Pike Pike Htwe, the daughter of Ko Pike. Ko Pike worked for the Forest Department for over 30 years, basing his stories on his hunting experiences during that time. He wrote more than 300 hunter novels throughout his career. — ASH/TKO



Writer Ko Pike.

Shan State's passion fruits receive orders from Yangon and Mandalay



This image shows passion fruit juice.



This image showcases Italian passion fruits being grown in Taunggyi.

ITALIAN passion fruits grown in Shan State's Taunggyi have received orders from Yangon and Mandalay, and the trading has been fine.

Italian passion fruits grown in Myanmar are one of the most consumed fruits, and they are mainly used in fresh juice shops.

"They are an Italian species that is grown in Myanmar. We can say it is local fruit as well. The trading is good. Passion fruits produced from Taunggyi are being placed orders mainly from Yangon and Mandalay. The market will be better when this monsoon ends. Many people enjoy

passion fruits, which are mainly used in fresh juice shops. Passion fruit juice can make people feel fresh and provide Vitamin C," said a passion fruit trader from Taunggyi.

Last year, packs of passion fruit puree were sold well in Taunggyi. — Thit Taw/ZS



New Day fuel station to donate fuel for ambulances in Nay Pyi Taw flood rescue

NEW Day fuel station located on old Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Pynmana will donate 10 gallons of fuel oil per each emergency vehicle that will undertake rescue and relief operations for

flood-affected communities in Tatkon, Lewe and Pynmana in Nay Pyi Taw council area.

The donation is aimed at covering 100 ambulances from various regions that will help flood victims in Nay Pyi Taw.

The station will take a documentary

photo of those vehicles to be uploaded on the Facebook page of New Day Energy Co Ltd.

Therefore, ambulances are informed that they can stop by and fill up fuel oil free of charge at the New Day station for flood rescue activities.

— NN/KK

A poster announcing fuel donations from New Day.

Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre offers affordable prices

WAHDAN Rice Wholesale Centre of the Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association commenced an affordable rice sales scheme on 10 September, along with brokers, millers and depot owners engaged in the centre.

This affordable rice sale is available from 10 am to 1 pm from Monday to Friday. The centre sells Shwebo Pawsan rice at K78,500 per 12-Pyi bag, K137,000 per large bag (24 Pyi) of Kyapyan Pawsan rice, K127,000 per large bag of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K93,000 per large bag of 90-day short matured rice and K82,000 per large bag of Aemahta rice (10 per cent broken).

The Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Commerce has issued reasonable market prices for September. Those who fail to follow the set reference price will face legal action.



Rice bags are neatly arranged in the Myanmar Rice Federation warehouse.

The reference prices are set for non-premium rice such as Aemahta, Ngasein, Sintukha, Yadanatone, Tunpu, Shweman, Hnankauk, Ziya, Ngwetoe, Min Ayeya, Manawthukha, moderate

quality rice such as 90-day short matured rice, Pakan, Anyatha, Magyantaw, Ayamin, Ayeya Pdaytha, and premium rice varieties like Kyapyan, Pawkywe, Ayeyawady Pawsan and Shwebo

Pawsan. The Ministry of Commerce stated that there is no right for retailers to set more than eight per cent higher than the set reference prices.

The ministry determined

reasonable market prices by considering the following factors: fair profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices and other commodities prices.

There are separate prices designated for modern trade with consumer packaging at mini-marts and supermarkets. If individuals have any difficulty buying the rice at reasonable market prices, they are asked to contact MRF. Consequently, MRF encouraged the affiliated associations, members of commodity depots, traders and rice companies to follow the price and abide by rules and regulations. Those failing to do so will be subjected to legal proceedings, fines and tax imposition under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. — NN/KK

PMI to offer free online diploma courses for HR, Business Management on 16 Sept

PROFESSIONAL Management Institute (PMI) will open free online Diploma courses for HR Management and Business Management on 16 September.

The maximum capacity of the class is 100 students.

It's a kind of video lecture in which video lessons will be uploaded five days a week. The other two

days are set for revision and exams. Students need to go through some form of assessment, assignment and mini-tests. Despite the free course, students need to pay for exams to obtain certificates.

Students must be 18-55 years old. No one is allowed to be absent from class to complete the course.

Those interested can register

through the Facebook page of the Professional Management Institute by sending a CV, and PMI will provide a Telegram group link. Additionally, PMI will conduct a free diploma course in leadership management soon. Individuals can enquire about details, including exam fees, through the PMI Facebook page during office hours. — NN/KK

Dawei dried shrimps gain market popularity



This photo shows Dawei dried shrimp - a marketable item.

DRIED shrimps produced from Dawei have gained in popularity, with loads of orders from central Myanmar in particular.

Prices of dried shrimp are pretty high, helping sellers enjoy more income. Wholesalers from Mandalay, Kyaukpadaung and Meiktila redistributed it to the market.

"Sale of dried shrimp is better than that of dried fish, at present. The dried fish trade slows a little during monsoon season. Based in Dawei, I sell them to other cities like Myawady, Mandalay, Kyaukpadaung and Meiktila, and they distribute again to other towns and

cities," said Ko Thiha Aung from the Aung dried shrimp and dried fish trading from Dawei Township.

Of the five categories, medium-sized dried shrimp is more marketable as its price is affordable and within reach for all classes.

"Dried fish will be available after September because monsoon will also be over at the end of September. For now, the sale is still low," he said. In 2023's monsoon season, the trade of dried fish was better than dried shrimp; however, in this year's monsoon season, dried shrimp sales have increased more than dried fish sales. — Thit Taw/ZS

Pumpkin prices rise slightly as sales increase



This photo depicts pumpkins being sold in the market.

THE sale of pumpkins has climbed up now, plus a slight increase in price.

Pumpkin is one of the marketable vegetables in the Yangon and Mandalay regions, and it has been re-distributed to other cities and towns. Restaurants also use pumpkin.

"Pumpkin is one of the marketable vegetables. Yangon is the major destination, and pumpkins are re-distributed to other towns by ship. Yangon's Thiri Mingala Market directly places orders to plantation owners, so it is profitable for wholesaling," said a trader from Shan State.

Most pumpkin consumers are middle-class, according to vegetable shops in Yangon.

"Pumpkin has many consumers, and the majority of them are middle-class families. It is a good dish for Myanmar people, and it is suitable to eat in the rainy season," said a vegetable seller from Kyimyindine night market. — Thit Taw/ZS

OPINION

Combat human traffickers to build a safe society

MYANMAR society firmly opposes the exploitation of human life, viewing human trafficking as a grave offence. Recognizing the severity of this issue, the government, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), has made it a national priority to eradicate human trafficking. These efforts also encourage all citizens to actively participate in combatting traffickers to ensure the safety of society.

Human trafficking creates an environment of fear and insecurity, as families constantly worry about the safety of their loved ones. Parents, guardians, and other family members live with the concern that their children might fall victim to traffickers, who often exploit vulnerabilities and weak points in the legal system. When faced with such crimes, families naturally look to law enforcement for protection and resolution. However, the prevention of trafficking is a collective responsibility that extends beyond law enforcement to include the entire community.

The fight against human trafficking requires the collective efforts of the government, NGOs, and the entire population. By working together and remaining vigilant, Myanmar can build a safer society where human dignity is upheld and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals is eradicated. All Myanmar citizens have to understand the severe acts of human traffickers who destroy the Myanmar society and protect the people against human trafficking. If so, parents, guardians and family members may breathe a sigh of relief as an occurrence free from victims of human traffickers.

Despite efforts to curb human trafficking, it continues to be a severe violation of human rights. Traffickers often prey on individuals in vulnerable situations, exploiting their hardships for profit. The persistence of these crimes underscores the need for ongoing vigilance and action. Myanmar has taken steps to address this issue on a broader scale by signing various agreements and protocols with neighbouring countries. These agreements are part of a cooperative effort to combat human trafficking across borders, with the goal of protecting not only Myanmar citizens but also individuals from neighbouring nations.

The fight against human trafficking requires the collective efforts of the government, NGOs, and the entire population. By working together and remaining vigilant, Myanmar can build a safer society where human dignity is upheld and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals is eradicated. All Myanmar citizens have to understand the severe acts of human traffickers who destroy the Myanmar society and protect the people against human trafficking. If so, parents, guardians and family members may breathe a sigh of relief as an occurrence free from victims of human traffickers.

Human trafficking creates an environment of fear and insecurity, as families constantly worry about the safety of their loved ones. Parents, guardians, and other family members live with the concern that their children might fall victim to traffickers, who often exploit vulnerabilities and weak points in the legal system. When faced with such crimes, families naturally look to law enforcement for protection and resolution. However, the prevention of trafficking is a collective responsibility that extends beyond law enforcement to include the entire community.

In Myanmar, trafficking in persons remains a significant issue. Lawbreakers continually seek ways to exploit legal loopholes, making it crucial for citizens to remain vigilant in protecting their families. Recognizing the ongoing threat, the government designated 13 September as Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day in 2013. This observance highlights the national responsibility of combatting trafficking and calls for the active participation of the entire country. Human trafficking is not just a legal issue; it is a humanitarian crisis that threatens the rights, dignity, and well-being of individuals and negatively impacts society as a whole.

IN EDUCATIONAL study, theory and practice often go together. Only if so will the study be meaningful. Here, concepts lay the foundation stones for the theory. Concepts involve the grouping or classification of things or items which possess the same attributes, features or characteristics. The process of forming a certain concept is called conceptualization. Concept formation, which is used as categorization by Bruner, is to use categories so as to distinguish or classify various types of things or objects according to their similar characteristics. Thus, concepts can be referred to as an understanding or opinion formed in the mind regarding a certain perception, thinking or idea. This understanding or opinion should be explained as a specific idea in relation to things, events, phenomenal objects or figures which contain unique characteristics.

Conceptualization is closely related to the perception process, which begins from external stimuli that have been perceived by human sensory organs and transmitted to the brain via the secondary nerves to see, hear, touch, smell or feel in order to analyze, explain, interpret, classify or summarize the information received, followed by the classification into categories based on their unique characteristics. According to Schunk, the function of the human brain is to convert the perceptual stimuli into a mental process which will then summarize overall information in the process of concept formation, whereas by Bruner, the most crucial function of concept formation is to categorize into general characteristics of a certain group of objects or idea with the aim to simplify various types of stimuli so as to become briefer, easier to understand, to learn and to remember.

The two important methods which are usually used to form new concepts are the inductive method and the deductive method. The inductive method typically involves the activity of collecting, analyzing and interpreting information grouped together and then arriving at a certain concept of generalization. Applying this method, a teacher mostly begins his lessons by introducing a few specific examples that contain common attributes or characteristics. Through the examples given, children will be guided to study, analyze, interpret, and abstract



Audio-Visual Aids: Employ charts, diagrams, and other aids based on children's prior experiences to highlight key attributes and concepts. **ILLUSTRATION: VIA CLASS**

Concept and Concept Formation

By Hu Wo
(Cuckoo's Song)

the general characteristics included in each of the specific examples and then derive some concepts. The formation of concepts using the deductive approach starts with the concepts already acquired to produce a new concept by means of logical reasoning, as well as to obtain new formulae, principles, laws, theorems, rules, conclusions or generalizations based on those which have been learned in order to comprehend, interpret or solve certain specific but related problems. Of course, concept formation is a complex learning process, and there are quite a number of factors that are closely related to the formation process, mainly cognitive development, mental intelligence, language ability, individual experience, learning transfer, its nature and characteristics or attributes.

According to Bruner, concepts can be sorted into three categories: conjunctive, disjunctive and relational. The conjunctive concept refers to a concept in which two or more integrated attributes cannot be lessened. For example, a pencil is made of lead

and used as a writing instrument. Without any one of these two attributes, the concept of pencil will be considered incomplete. The disjunctive concept refers to attributes that have been integrated into a concept so that they can be used in certain situations or other situations. For example, good service in a table tennis game is a player who can send the ball to his opponent, or his opponent is unable to return the ball right to him. In this case, the first situation or both can be grouped under the concept of good service. The relational concept is an attribute contained in a concept that possesses special relationships with one another. Most relational concepts are often made up of attributes with time and space. For example, animals can be classified with or without the backbone; amphibians, reptiles and mammals are vertebrates, while insects, spiders and millipedes are invertebrates. Such a method of classification will provide an easier way to identify, understand, learn or remember various types

of information. Bruner even stated that language is an important representative of human cognitive development for the simple reason that humans tend to use symbols and language to help think and solve problems by means of the formation of concepts and derivation of generalizations.

According to Piaget, concept learning is closely connected with a child's age level. Children's cognitive development typically undergoes four different stages: the sensory-motor stage (0-2 years), pre-operational stage (2-7 years), concrete operational stage (7-12 years), and formal operational stage (after 12 years). The cognitive development in each stage importantly influences the formation of concrete or abstract concepts.

During the pre-operational stage, children commence to use language as well as symbols to explain a certain concept, but they are still unable to make classifications, relationships or comparisons between objects. Additionally, their thinking is solely influenced by what they just per-

ceive. Children around the age of seven commence sustaining the concept of matching one with the other between two sets. Also, they begin understanding the simple concept of inverse operation in abstract terms and can learn more than one thing at a time, as well as master the conservation concept. Other than this, children even possess the ability to classify, arrange and differentiate objects. However, their effectiveness in learning still depends upon concrete objects and direct experiences related to abstract concepts.

According to Bruner, the stages of cognitive development which normal children have to go through are not four but three: the enactive stage (0-2 years), iconic stage (2-4 years) and symbolic stage (5-7 years). In the first stage, many activities performed by children rely on their physical movements. In the second stage, they can even use their brain to think and figure out certain images in the mind. In the third stage, they start thinking and using language to express ideas. As the age

increases, the use of language to describe concepts starts to develop. Bruner was firmly of the opinion that the above-mentioned three stages of cognitive development are interrelated and are also life-long processes, contrary to Piaget's.

Finally, the ways teachers can improve conceptualization skills will herein be described as far as I can see.

- 1) Guide children to use the approach from an acquired concept to the next and from a concrete concept to an abstract one.
- 2) Make use of concrete materials to relate symbolic language.
- 3) Start the lesson with simple and explicit attributes which can be easily identified.
- 4) Allow children to use the inductive method to provide sufficient examples forming a new concept.
- 5) Also, make children use the deductive method to form any new concept or principle.
- 6) Arrange the contents of learning materials into stages founded on the principle from acquired to new knowledge, from nearby to distant environments, and from simple to complex concepts.
- 7) Assist children in mastering language skills to formulate a new concept or principle.
- 8) Use audio-visual aids and concrete examples based on the former experiences of children in teaching and learning activities. Charts or diagrams are commonly used to highlight the main attributes only so it is easier for children to perceive the relevant concepts in accordance with the explicit principle that influences concept formation. Thus, teachers should use relevant charts or diagrams first before involving learning in the actual situation.
- 9) Apply the inquiry-discovery method to form a higher level of concept, principle, law, generalization or formula included. Through the process of inquiry-discovery, children will better understand the concepts related to that principle, law, generalization or formula rather than directly explain the meaning underlying these concepts.

Weight loss drug safe, effective for under-12 kids: study

Childhood obesity has quadrupled since 1990, but there are currently no commonly prescribed drugs for treating it in children.

A WEIGHT loss drug has been found to be broadly safe and effective for children under 12 with obesity, according to a small study on Wednesday that was cautiously welcomed by outside experts.

A new class of weight loss drugs called GLP-1 agonists have become hugely popular across the world in the last couple of years, sparking stock shortages and widespread off-label use despite steep prices.

But little research has been conducted on how these new drugs work on young children.

Obesity in children and adolescents has quadrupled since 1990, according to the World Health Organization. Yet there are no regularly prescribed drugs which treat obesity in children.

The study looked at an older GLP-1 agonist called liraglutide, sold under the brand name Saxenda by Danish pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk, which also makes the blockbuster

semaglutide drugs Ozempic and Wegovy.

The US-based phase 3 trial, which was funded by Novo Nordisk, was the first to investigate liraglutide's effect on under 12s.

It involved 82 children aged six to 12 with obesity, some of whom were randomly assigned a daily injection of liraglutide, while others received a placebo. The children were also encouraged to exercise and eat healthily.

After a little over a year, 46 percent of the children receiving the drug saw their body mass index (BMI) shrink by at least five percent, according to the study. Only nine percent of the placebo group had such a reduction in BMI, which also takes into account height and was used because children at these ages grow quickly.

Some children taking the drug also reported side effects such as vomiting and nausea, which was in line with those experienced by adults, the researchers said.

SOURCE: AFP



Children with obesity are typically advised to focus on diet and exercise, but this drug may offer an additional option.

ILLUSTRATION: KNEWZ

NATIONAL

Temporary relief camps opened in Nay Pyi Taw for flood victims

WATER levels in rivers and creeks in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory are increasing due to heavy rain. Floods were caused in wards and villages located in Pynmana, Tatkon, Zeyathiri and Pobbathiri townships. Therefore, temporary flood relief camps are opened in the areas, and rescue works are carried out.

Flood victims are rescued and evacuated by Tatmadaw personnel, police, firefighters, personnel from executive bodies, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, civic organizations and the public with boats.

Department of Medical Services of the Ministry of Health is providing medical care and treatments to the flood victims who are arriving at the temporary relief camps, especially for minor injuries and wounds, sneezing, coughing, and sicknesses, while some patients with multiple injuries were sent to the hospital.

Moreover, the flood victims were donated necessary items such as rice boxes, drinking water, fried noodles, foodstuff, clothing, blankets, mosquito nets and other goods by Tatmadaw families, staff, associations and donors.

Water levels were getting

high in Ngalaik Creek, Sinthay Creek and Paunglaung Creek within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory due to Typhoon Yagi, causing flooding, landsliding, tearing down of electricity towers, buildings, roads, bridges, and houses. Additionally, flood-affected areas, townships and villages are encountering electricity blackouts. Schools have to be closed.

In Lewe, Dekkhinathiri and Zabuthiri townships, wards

and villages were not flooded, although water levels are increasing in Yaaung Creek, Palwe Creek and Ngalaik Creek. However, water is entering houses



Photos capture rescue and relief efforts during the flood in Nay Pyi Taw.

located in the surrounding areas of Tagundaing Creek, Taungnyo Creek, and Ngalaik Creek in Ot-tarathiri Township without a critical situation. There are 16

temporary relief camps in the surrounding areas to evacuate the flooded households.

A total of 35 temporary relief camps for flood victims have al-

ready been developed to host and are providing medical care for the flood victims from 43 village tracts in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/TMT

Myanmar govt facilitates safe return of citizen from Dubai

THE Myanmar government has consistently prioritized the welfare of its citizens, making concerted efforts to assist those facing difficulties abroad. By collaborating with the Myanmar Consulate-General and relevant embassies, the government works to ensure their safe return to Myanmar.

In a recent case, the Myanmar Consulate-General

facilitated the repatriation of Ma Thwe Thwe Win, a Myanmar national who encountered hardships in Dubai. The consulate worked with the UAE Ministry of Immigration and Human Resources and other relevant departments to secure an exit permit. Ma Thwe Thwe Win arrived back in Yangon at 10:40 pm on 11 September.

Both the returnee and her family expressed their gratitude to the government, the Myanmar Embassy, and the Myanmar Consulate-General for their support. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TRKM

The photo shows Ma Thwe Thwe Win, who was repatriated from Dubai. PHOTO:KANU



Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Mawlamyine-Yangon train maintains regular schedule despite nationwide flood

FLOODS have happened nationwide as a result of continual heavy rains; however, No 82-down Mawlamyine-Yangon train departed from Mawlamyine on the morning of 12 September, according to its regular timetable.

The train departed Mawlamyine at the regular schedule 8:30 am, with a total of 290 passengers onboard, according to Mawlamyine railway station.

Myanmar Railways' staff have inspected railway bridges between Donwun station and Hninpale station, which often flood in the rainy season, and so far, it is safe for trains to travel, said the railway station.

It said that the No 82-down train would arrive at Yangon Railway Station at 5:45 pm.

So far, Mawlamyine-Yangon trains run on a daily basis, and upper-class tickets are sold

one to three days in advance and ordinary class tickets are sold a day in advance at the booking ticket counter, from 7 am to 3 pm.

Yangon-Mawlamyine railway is used by many rail passengers, and trains are always packed. — MT/ZS

The Mawlamyine-Yangon train is on its way.



Significant illegal goods seizures across Myanmar

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee oversaw a series of operations in Kayin State on 10 September. During these operations, an enforcement team inspected 29 vehicles at the Maebaung-Nawngplein junction near Maebaung village in Hpa-an.

They seized 24 types of unregistered busi-



Confiscated illegal items and vehicles in Kayin State.

ness goods, three types of food products, and 29 vehicles, with a total estimated value of around K1.548 billion. These items were confiscated under legal proceedings in line with Customs procedures.

Additionally, on 11 September, the special task force in the Yangon Region searched the Bahan Township, seizing an unregistered Toyota Probox valued at approximately K4.5 million in accordance with the import-export law.

On 12 September, the task force in the Magway Region confiscated an unregistered Toyota Voxy valued at about K10 million near Abya Ngatchaywin village in Waw Township. This action is also being pursued according to Customs procedures. Overall, from 10 to 12 September, these operations resulted in the seizure of 91 cases of illegal goods, with a total estimated value of K1.584 billion, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZL

Seven arrested for robbery

THE police arrested seven suspects for robbery in Mandalay on 11 September.

These offenders arrived at the house of U Ye Lin Shwe, 47, between 115th and 116th streets, 61st (A) street (d) ward by an Alphard in Pyigyidagun Township of Mandalay. Four out of seven raided the house, holding knives and guns, and they beat Ma Htet Nay Yi Maung, 4, and destroyed one motorcycle and one umbrella, and robbed one Suzuki and one iPhone 10XR.

After the investigation, the security force members arrested seven suspects in



Seven arrestees are seen alongside robbery-related items.

Ngwetaw Kyikon ward in Pyigyidagun township on the same night together with weapons, a plastic gun, one Alphard and one Suzuki.

Legal action was taken against these offenders under the law thank to cooperation of duty conscientions people. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Media falsely claims security forces torched houses

THE malicious media spread fake news on social networks, claiming that the security forces torched Kanpya village and that 25 houses were destroyed near Debayin Township in Sagaing Region.

According to a security official, the security forces conducted security measures after receiving the report from locals that the PDF terrorists arrived near Kanpya village. During the security operations, a clash between security forces and terrorists broke out, and the terrorists burned down the houses while retreating.

Due to public participation, destructive actions by PDF ter-

rorists were blocked in time, and the malicious media circulated the fake news. — MNA/KTZH



This screenshot reveals false claims.

False claims of forced recruitment in Bogale Township dismissed by officials

SUBVERSIVE media outlets are spreading false information that more than 40 youths from Bogale Township in the Ayeyawady Region have been forcefully recruited for military service.

However, an officer from the Bogale Township recruitment office has dismissed this claim as fake news. He stated that these malicious reports are designed to instil fear and deceive the public.

The officer also noted that state-owned media are providing information about the People's Military Services Law, and local authorities are explaining the law in their respective townships.



This screenshot validates misinformation.

Contact numbers for the township recruitment offices have been published in the dailies so that people can inquire if they have any questions. — MNA/TMT

ECONOMY WORLD



Brunei Shell Petroleum Company, a major player in the oil and gas industry, has been pivotal in Brunei's energy sector for decades. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

Brunei Sultan urges major energy companies to stay competitive

As of 2023, Brunei's proven oil reserves are 1.4 billion barrels, and its natural gas reserves total approximately 300 billion cubic metres.

BRUNEI'S Sultan Haji Hasanal Bolkiah chaired the board meeting of Brunei's energy companies and stressed the importance of remaining competitive in the future, according to an official media report on Wednesday. According to the official media Pelita Brunei, the Sultan chaired the board meetings of the Brunei Shell

Petroleum Company and the Brunei Shell Marketing Company on Tuesday, emphasizing the importance of Brunei's major energy companies collaborating in planning, enhancing returns, and fostering business growth to stay competitive in the future.

The Sultan stated that there is a need for cooperation with relevant agencies to uphold

high integrity in all activities, considering the extensive operations of Brunei's major energy companies with vendors and contractors. Brunei is located in Southeast Asia, and the country's proven oil reserves stood at 1.4 billion barrels in 2023, while natural gas reserves were about 300 billion cubic metres. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore GDP expected to grow

THE Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said Wednesday that economists and analysts polled in the quarterly Survey of Professional Forecasters expected the country's gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 2.6 per cent in 2024.

The number was 0.2 points higher than the 2.4 per cent GDP forecast in the previous survey report.

Respondents lifted the growth forecast for finance and insurance, construction, wholesale and retail trade sectors, but lowered the expectation for manufacturing, as well as accommodation and food services.

A slowdown in external growth was the most cited downside risk to Singapore's growth, according to the survey of opinions from 21 economists and analysts. Meanwhile, robust growth in China and faster-than-expected tech cycle recovery would contribute to a positive economic outcome. — Xinhua

Amazon to invest £8 bln in UK

US tech giant Amazon is to invest £8 billion (\$10.5 billion) in Britain over the next five years, creating thousands of jobs via its web services arm, the company and UK government announced Wednesday.

The announcement is a welcome boon for Britain's recently elected Labour government, which has put firing economic growth at the heart of its pledge to "rebuild" the country.

The investment — to build, operate and maintain data centres in the UK — could contribute £14 billion to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and "support" more than 14,000 jobs annually across the supply chain, Amazon said.

It is the firm's latest announcement of a large investment in a European country by its AWS cloud computing division, and comes amid debate within the European Union about "cloud" computing services.

"This £8 billion investment marks the start of the economic revival and shows Britain is a place to do business," UK finance minister Rachel Reeves said in a statement.

"I am determined to go further so we can deliver on our mandate to create jobs, unlock investment and make every part of Britain better off.

"The hard work to fix the foundations of our economy has only just begun." Amazon said the money will be spent expanding the operations of its Amazon Web Services (AWS) subsidiary.

The e-commerce behemoth is seeking to capitalise on the rising demand for cloud computing capacity such as server space. — AFP



In August, employment increased in health and social welfare services (63,000 jobs), information and communications (101,000 jobs), and transport and warehousing (94,000 jobs). **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

S Korea's employment rises 123,000 on year in August

SOUTH Korea's employment growth stayed above 100,000 for the second straight month due to a fast increase in elderly jobs, statistical office data showed Wednesday.

The number of employed people aged 15 or older increased 123,000 from a year earlier to 28,801,000 in August after growing 172,000 in the previous

month, according to Statistics Korea.

The overall job expansion was driven by the elderly people. The number of jobs for those aged 60 or older advanced 231,000 in August on a yearly basis, while the figures for those in their 30s and 50s climbed 99,000 and 3,000 each.

Employment among those

aged 15-29 dived 142,000 last month, and jobs for those in their 40s reduced by 68,000.

The number of jobs in the health and social welfare service, the information and communications, and the transport and warehousing industries picked up 63,000, 101,000 and 94,000, respectively.

— Xinhua

New Zealand supports AI development in business

AI is expected to contribute 76 billion NZ dollars (US\$46.69 billion) to New Zealand's GDP by 2038.

THE New Zealand government announced on Wednesday support to drive Artificial Intelligence (AI) uptake among New Zealand businesses.

The government also launched the pilot of GovGPT, part of a vision of a "digital front door" to facilitate businesses and

people wishing to interact with government agencies, and make it easier to access reliable government information, said Science, Innovation and Technology Minister Judith Collins.

The potential of AI will be unlocked for New Zealand businesses through a range of support, including

access to AI research experts, technical assistance, AI tools and resources, as well as options for funding and grants, Collins said.

The minister said AI is predicted to contribute 76 billion NZ dollars (US\$46.69 billion) to New Zealand's annual GDP by 2038. — Xinhua



Businesses will receive help through AI research experts, technical assistance, tools, resources, and funding options. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

BMW recalls 1.5 mln cars over bad brake, cuts outlook



A BMW i5 electric car is displayed during the press preview of the 2023 International Motor Show (IAA) in Munich, Germany, 4 September 2023. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ REN PENGFEI/XINHUA/FILE

BMW said Tuesday it was recalling about 1.5 million vehicles due to problems

with their brakes and cut its outlook for the year, sending the German lux-

ury carmaker's shares tumbling.

BMW said Tuesday it was recalling about 1.5 million vehicles due to problems with their brakes and cut its outlook for the year, sending the German luxury carmaker's shares tumbling. The development will hit revenues in the second half of the year, said the group, which also includes the Rolls-Royce and Mini brands. The financial impact in the three months to the end of September will be in the "high three-digit million" euro range, it said.

It was further bad news for BMW, which has

been hit by weakening demand in China, and for the broader German auto sector after Volkswagen said last week it was mulling the unprecedented step of closing factories in Germany.

The braking system behind the problems was supplied by Continental. The German auto supplier said the affected component would be replaced if problems were detected.

But it added that, even in cases where the fault is detected, the "braking performance is not compromised and brakes can always be applied". — AFP

Stellantis announces \$400 mln EV-related investments in Michigan

MULTINATIONAL auto giant Stellantis announced on Wednesday plans to invest over \$400 million in three Michigan plants related to the company's transition to electric vehicle and battery production.

The investments in the northern US state would support Stellantis's "multi-energy strategy" that aims to prepare for "a wide variety of electrification adoption scenarios", the Amsterdam-headquartered company said in a statement.

The move is part of the company's "Dare Forward 2030" plan to invest more than 50 billion euros (\$55 billion) in electrification, with the aim of making all sales by 2030 to be of fully electric vehicles for private customers in Europe, and 50 per cent of sales for electric cars and light-duty trucks in the United States.

In Michigan, the historic heart of US auto-manufacturing, Stellantis said it would invest \$235.5 million in its Sterling Heights plant, which is to produce the Ram brand's first all-electric pickup truck. The Ram 1500 REV is due to go on sale by the end of the year. — AFP

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MCL 17 VOY.NO. (04)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCL 17 VOY. NO. (04) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-9-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301928</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S UNIVERSE LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL CO LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV9IS1NC)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV9IS1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-9-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.035N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.035N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-9-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES</p>
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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Tourism ministers of China, Japan, S Korea discuss cooperation

The meeting, established in 2006, serves as a key intergovernmental platform for tourism policy communication and cooperation among the three countries.



Chinese Vice-Minister of Culture and Tourism Zhang Zheng (1st L), Japanese Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Tetsuo Saito (3rd L) and South Korean Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Yu In-chon (2nd R) sign a joint statement after the 10th China-Japan-South Korea Tourism Ministers' Meeting in Kobe, Japan, 11 September 2024. **PHOTO: ZHANG XIAOYU/XINHUA**

THE 10th China-Japan-South Korea Tourism Ministers' Meeting was held on Wednesday in the western Japanese city of Kobe.

Chinese Vice-Minister of Culture and Tourism Zhang Zheng, Japanese Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Tetsuo Saito and South Korean Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Yu In-chon attended the meeting.

The three ministers ex-

changed views on promoting tourism exchanges and cooperation among China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK), and signed a joint statement after their meeting.

Bilateral talks were also held on the sidelines of the meeting, as well as exchange events among the local and tourism sectors of China, Japan and the ROK.

The China-Japan-South Korea Tourism Ministers' Meeting, established in 2006,

is an important intergovernmental exchange mechanism for the three countries to enhance communication on tourism policies and promote practical cooperation.

The trilateral ministerial gathering is held by the three countries on a rotating basis and has played a positive role in strengthening and deepening tourism exchanges and cooperation among the three countries and enhancing people-to-people bonds. — Xinhua

Bangladesh's interim govt unveils plan to reform key sectors

The reforms aim to ensure a free and fair election and to establish a people-owned, accountable, and welfare-oriented state system.

BANGLADESHI interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has taken action to protect the rule of law and bolster the crisis-ridden economy since he took office.

As part of his bids to reform Bangladesh, Yunus Wednesday announced that the government has decided to form six commissions to reform the judiciary, election system, administration, police, anti-corruption commission, and the constitution.

He made the announcement in a television speech to the nation on Wednesday night, marking the first month of the interim government's formation since 8

August after then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India on 5 August. According to Yunus, these commissions are expected to start their work on 1 October and finish within the next three months. Yunus said reforming the police administration, public administration, judiciary, and anti-corruption commission, along with the election commission, is essential for holding the next election in a free and fair manner.

"This is a responsibility for all of us. Bring reform in your own world. A nation's reform cannot only be the government's reform," the chief adviser added. — Xinhua



Yunus has announced the formation of six commissions to reform the judiciary, election system, administration, police, anti-corruption commission, and constitution. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



Le Maire said he wanted to return to teaching. **PHOTO: LUDOVIC MARIN/AFP**

Long-serving Macron finance minister bows out of French politics

FRENCH Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, the longest serving senior member of President Emmanuel Macron's government, Thursday announced he was quitting politics ahead of the expected naming of a new cabinet next week.

Some ministers are expected to stay on under right-wing Prime

Minister Michel Barnier but Le Maire's departure leaves a major post to fill in the new government.

Le Maire has served as finance and economy minister in a powerful super-ministry since Macron became president in May 2017, the only senior minister to have stayed on for that duration.

At a farewell ceremony in

Paris, French Minister Le Maire announced his departure from politics to return to teaching, his original vocation.

He reflected positively on his tenure, citing achievements in making France more attractive despite significant challenges, including a high budget deficit of 5.5 per cent of GDP in 2023. — AFP



That's why I decided to organize this auction," said Tun Tun Min.

He also mentioned that the highest bidder will not only secure the belt but also have the opportunity to contribute to the flood relief efforts. Those interested in participating can contact 09-77888833, with the auction winner receiving the championship belt as a token

Tun Tun Min to auction off Myanmar Lethwei World Champion Belt for flood victims

Lethwei Champion Tun Tun Min with the Myanmar Lethwei World Champion Belt to be auctioned off. **PHOTO: TUN TUN MIN FB**

LETHWEI Champion Tun Tun Min has announced that he will auction off the Myanmar Lethwei World Champion Belt he first won in his career, with all proceeds going to aid flood victims.

The champion made this declaration in front of the me-

dia, stating his intention to donate all the money raised to those affected by the floods. "I fought with everything I had to win this belt. It holds immense value to me, but when I compare it to the suffering of the flood victims, I can no longer bear to hold onto it.

of their generosity, according to his social media post on 12 September.

Tun Tun Min, a renowned Myanmar Lethwei fighter, is set to face Kyaw Swa Win in the special challenge fight of MLWC-9 on 22 September at 1 pm, broadcast live on Skynet Sports 4 and Skynet Sports HD. — KZL

Ahead of Champions League warm-up, PSG are soaring and Brest slumping

PARIS Saint-Germain, already galloping away at the top of Ligue 1, take on last season's surprise team Brest in the fourth round, with French police on alert as fans protest the league's broadcast deal. PSG are the only team to have won their first three games and are two points clear of Marseille at the head of the table.

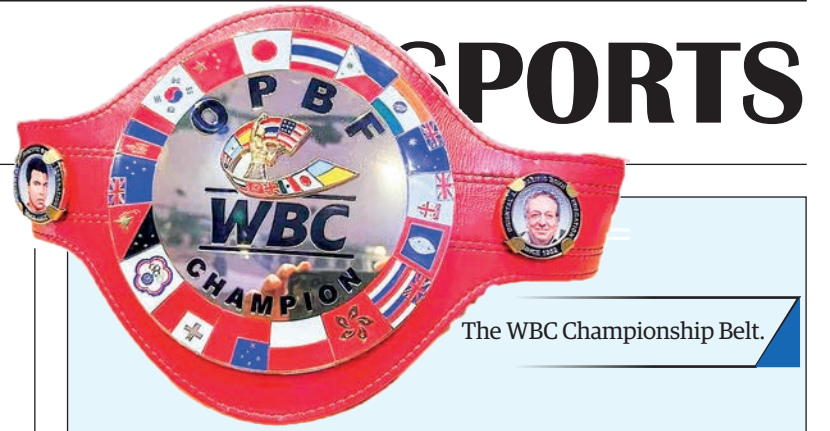
Brest, who finished third last season to qualify for the Champions League for the first

time, started this season in disastrous fashion.

They were thrashed 5-1 at home by Marseille on opening day and then went down 2-0 to 10-man Lens. Brest rebounded with a 4-0 won over promoted Saint-Etienne in their last match. The international break might have robbed them of any momentum ahead of their visit to Parc des Princes on Saturday and their Champions League debut against Austrians Sturm Graz on Thursday. — AFP



PM Modi interacted with the Paralympians who represented India in the recently concluded para multi-sport event. **PHOTO: ANI**



The WBC Championship Belt.

Myanmar Flag aiming for spot on WBC Championship Belts

THE Myanmar Boxing Commission (MBC) has revealed its efforts to have Myanmar's national flag featured on World Boxing Council (WBC) championship belts. At present, these prestigious belts display the flags of 18 nations, and Myanmar aims to join this group.

The MBC is striving to secure Myanmar's membership in the WBC by the end of 2025 or 2026, which would allow the Myanmar flag to be included on these globally recognized belts. Additionally, the MBC is organizing for its boxers to compete in international tournaments, with one scheduled for this September. The commission is also preparing its athletes for participation in Japan Boxing Commission (JBC) events in 2025. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Team Myanmar to face Singapore and Lebanon in November friendlies

THE Myanmar national football team is set to play two international friendly matches in November as part of their final preparations before the ASEAN Cup later this year.

In November, Myanmar will compete against Singapore and Lebanon. The team will first face Singapore on 14 November, followed by a match against Lebanon on 19 November in Yangon. Myanmar last played Singapore in a friendly game in June 2019, where Myanmar secured a 2-1 victory. That will be the first time the Myanmar squad has played against Lebanon since their previous encounter in the World Cup qualifiers.

The Myanmar Football Federation has appointed U Myo Hlaing Win as the new head coach of the national team. The friendlies in October and November will be the first international matches under his management. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

PM Modi meets Indian Paralympics contingent at his residence

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi met the Indian contingent of the Paris Paralympics at his residence 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in the national capital on Thursday.

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse, and Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president Devendra Jhajharia were also present during the meeting.

PM Modi interacted with the Paralympians who represented India in the recently concluded para multi-sport event.

During the meet, Paralympic gold medallist Avani Lekhara gifted PM Modi a signed Indian jersey.

The Indian contingent concluded its Paralympics campaign in Paris on Sunday with a record haul of 29 medals, including seven golds, nine silvers, and 13 bronzes.

The 29-medal tally is the most by India in the history of the Paralympics. Following the conclusion of the landmark campaign, India surpassed its record medal tally of 19, which was achieved at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. — ANI



WORLD

Total of 34 countries express desire to join BRICS in one form or another: Putin

A TOTAL of 34 countries expressed a desire to join BRICS in one form or another, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

“Today, more than three dozen countries, precisely more than 34 states, have already expressed a desire to join the activities of our association [BRICS] in one form or another,” Putin said during a meeting with high representatives of the BRICS states on security issues.

The plan of Russia’s BRICS presidency has already been fulfilled by more than 70 per cent, Vladimir Putin said.

“As of now, the chairmanship plan has been fulfilled by more than 70 per cent, about 150 events, meetings, industry forums have been held, most expert and ministerial meetings have been held,” Putin said at a meeting with high representatives of the BRICS and BRICS Plus states in charge of security issues.

Russia’s activity as BRICS 2024 chair focused on the swift integration of new members of the association, Putin added.

“As the current chair of BRICS, this year Russia has approached the organization of joint activities within the framework of the association with great responsibility. Our chairmanship has been entrusted



A man walks past an installation with the logo of BRICS during the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE

with a special mission — to do everything possible to facilitate the fastest and most organic integration of new member coun-

tries into all BRICS mechanisms,” Putin explained.

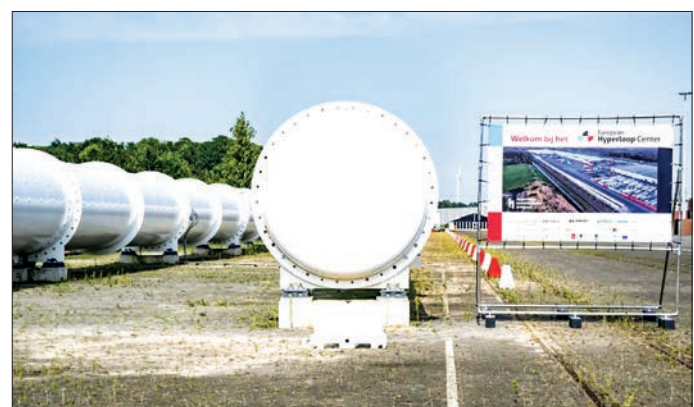
BRICS has accumulated significant

experience in responding to security challenges, including in cybercrime and fight against terrorism, Putin said.— SPUTNIK

President Vladimir Putin highlighted that Russia’s BRICS presidency has achieved over 70 per cent of its plan, with around 150 events completed.

First step for Europe’s hyperloop vehicles with test launch

THE dream of hurtling between European cities at speeds of more than 700 kilometres per hour moved a step closer Monday with the first successful vehicle tests at the



The view depicts the end of a Y-shaped tunnel measuring 420 metres (1,377 feet) at the European Hyperloop Centre in Veendam, highlighting advancements in Hyperloop technology. PHOTO: AFP

European Hyperloop Centre.

Hovering inside a sleek 420-metre (1,377-foot) white tunnel, a dark and light grey striped pod levitates at the order from the mission control centre, before powering away using magnetic propulsion and with no one aboard. For the moment, the speed is relatively slow at 30 kilometres (18.6 miles) per hour but operators hope to reach 100 kilometres per hour (62 miles per hour) by the end of the year as they race towards rolling out a system by 2030.

Roel van de Pas, commercial director of Hardt

Hyperloop, predicts that by 2030, passengers could be transported at speeds transforming European travel, with routes such as Amsterdam to Berlin in 90 minutes and Milan in two hours.

The concept, popularized by Elon Musk in 2013, aims to revolutionize transportation but has faced setbacks, including failed attempts by Richard Branson. Despite skepticism, Van de Pas insists the technology will integrate Europe and potentially replace short-haul flights and long drives at costs similar to low-cost airlines.— AFP

Pope says migrant workers need ‘a fair wage’

Pope Francis made a plea for migrant workers to be paid fairly on Thursday, as he visited the affluent city-state of Singapore on the last stop of his marathon Asia-Pacific tour.

The 87-year-old pope said “special attention” should be paid to “protecting the dignity of migrant workers”, in an address to local political leaders and dignitaries. “These workers contribute a great deal to society and should be guaranteed a fair wage,” he said. There are an estimated 170 million migrant workers around the world — about five per cent of the global workforce — according to the International Labour Organization.

Most live in the Americas, Europe and Central Asia.— AFP