

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Ambassador Ms Ma Jia of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The discussion took place and focused on the standing of China for Myanmar in the international landscape at a talk between State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepted the Credentials of Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, they frankly discussed the long-lasting history of friendly relations between Myanmar and China and good neighbouring ties and good friendship countries.

For years, both countries emphasized building a society that shared the same future in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence.

Myanmar, China to boost defence collaboration

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Ambassador Ms Ma Jia of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar cordially exchanged views on continued support and stand of China for Myanmar's Five-Point Roadmap.

They pledged to sincerely cooperate in bilateral trust and cooperation between the two countries. Moreover, they talked about the political progress of Myanmar and the successful implementation of the projects through collaboration for the development of both countries.

They exchanged views on the promotion of cooperation in the defence sector

and the situations for collaboration in security measures, forging peace and stability in border regions, and reopening of border trade routes.

Both sides also discussed plans to further promote cooperation in all sectors between the two countries, the standing of China for Myanmar in the international arena, and the situation on continued

support and stand of China for the implementation of the Five-Point Roadmap of Myanmar at the ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Director-General of the Protocol Department U Zaw Tun Oo. — MNA/TTA

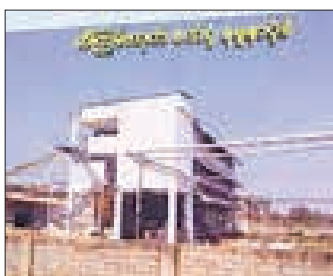
Article

Appreciation to Bagan of Myanmar for the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award

By Dr Than Lwin Tun, Ministry of Health **PAGE 8-9**

BUSINESS

PAGE 7



Crude bran oil exports expected by mid-2025 amid local refined oil supply

NATIONAL

PAGE 10

Property sales surge near Nyaungdon Street in Hlinethaya, home to garment workers

NATIONAL

PAGE 10

Flood warning issued as Sittoung River may rise in eastern Bago

NATIONAL

Prevention Measures for Mpox

THE World Health Organization declared Mpox a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) on 14 August 2024.

Possible transmission of Mpox:

- Having sexual relationship with someone who is infectious
- Skin-to-skin contact, kissing, and hugging with someone who has Mpox
- Proximity to an infected person (talking, breathing)
- Direct contact with sores and waste of an infected person
- Direct contact by touching the surface of materials of an infected person
- Contaminated needles and hospital utensils
- Direct contact with infected animals
- Transmitted during pregnancy or to the newborn by close contact during and after birth

Signs begin:

- Mpox causes signs and symptoms, which usually begin within a week but can start 1–21 days after exposure.

Symptoms:

- Rash and blister on face, mouth, hand and leg, body, anal and sexual organs
- Fever (more than 38.5°C)
- Swollen glands
- Sore throat
- Headache, muscle aches, back pain
- Low energy

(Returnees from the countries and regions in which Mpox cases were detected within the last 21 days must inform the health department if they suffer from the symptoms mentioned above).

Preventions:

- Avoid skin-to-skin contact, close face-to-face contact and sexual activities with the infected person

- Wear gloves and masks unless avoiding close contact
- Wear gloves and mask while touching materials of Mpox suspected patients
- Wash hands with water or hand sanitizers that contain at least 60 per cent alcohol systematically, and do not touch the mouth, nose and eyes without washing the hands
- Make sure personal hygiene and surrounding
- Use a handkerchief or inner elbow to cover sneeze or cough
- Wash utensils (bedsheet, towel, clothing, etc.) using water and soap systematically
- Do not touch animals without any protection gear, and cook the meat thoroughly

Go to the nearest health department for proper laboratory tests and medical treatments if someone has close contact with Mpox patients or suffer from symptoms.

Ministry of Health

Y Wine, Myo Gyi, and Zaw Paing to Perform with Iron Cross at Modern Radio

VOCALISTS Y Wine, Myo Gyi, and Zaw Paing will host a music concert with the Iron Cross Band at Modern Radio in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region, on 24 August, according to vocalist Zaw Paing.

Music lovers can enjoy popular hits from the well-known singers Y Wine, Myo Gyi, and Zaw Paing, who have a strong following. The concert will also

feature lead guitarist Chit San Maung from the Iron Cross Band.

“This is a special new programme by Modern Radio, showcasing the best in entertainment. The three artists will perform their popular songs in an acoustic style, making it a must-attend event,” said singer Zaw Paing.

The concert will take place at the Modern Radio Star Lounge at 7 pm on 24 August. — ASH/TKO



This photo showcases Buddha statues in the World-Famous Buddha Museum in Zayityogyi Village, Kyonpyaw Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Buddha Museum in Kyonpyaw Township attracts more pilgrims

THE World-Famous Buddha Museum in Zayityogyi Village, Kyonpyaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, is visited by pilgrims from every part of the country every day, according to the founder monk Dhammaduta Dr Ashin Nyana Lankara.

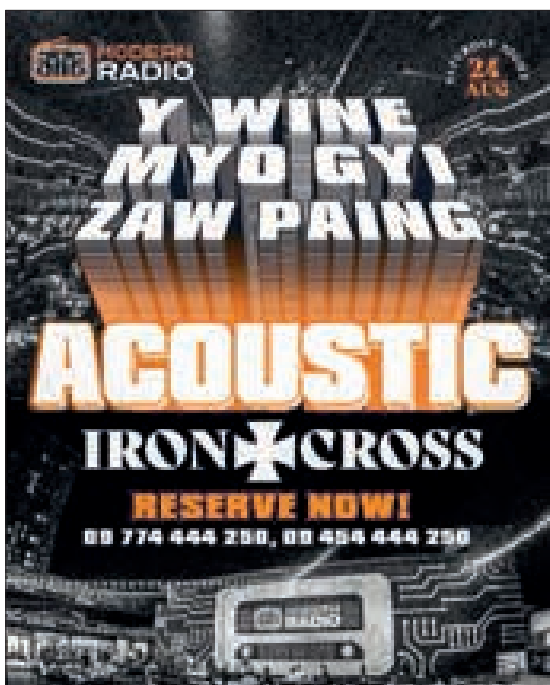
The museum is situated within the monastery compound where the founding monk resides.

“As a museum, it has been nearly three years since we

began receiving a large number of public visits. I have collected many things, including various Buddha statues and the enhanced replica of Buddha’s tooth relic, over the past 27 years. The collection spans from the earliest Nyaungyan and Konbaung periods to the present day. We have collected Buddha statues, paintings, and sculptures made with jewels as extensively as possible. Most of the people who visit the museum are from Yangon

and Ayeyawady regions,” said Dhammaduta Dr Ashin Nyana Lankara.

The museum is 190 feet long and 80 feet wide. Inside, it houses Buddha statues carved with jade and gems in various mudras, relics of the Buddha and Arahants, traditional sculptures, paintings, and an enhanced replica of the Buddha’s tooth relic brought from Sri Lanka, as well as other items related to Buddhism. — ASH/TH



A poster of famous vocalists Y Wine, Myo Gyi and Zaw Paing.

NATIONAL

Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering holds 1/2024 meeting

THE Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering held its first meeting yesterday.

Speaking at the event, State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, who is also chairman of the central body, said the central body completed implementing Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) national-level strategy (2019-2023) in December 2023 and the deputy minister-led national strategic review committee was organized to review the plan and draft national-level strategy (2024-2028). The drafted strategy will be approved during the meeting, and the relevant ministries and organizations should work together to achieve



State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and attendees pose for the documentary group photo during the 1/2024 meeting of Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering yesterday.

the missions mentioned in the strategy.

He then highlighted the efforts to amend the counter-terrorism law mentioned in the action plan of the FATF to report the progress to the FATF, as well as the need to amend the anti-money laundering law and enact the custody and disposal of exhibits law.

He also urged the departments to implement the recommendations stated in the Action Plan to be able to show off the signs of progress before October 2024.

Afterwards, central body members and relevant officials discussed their duties and ongoing work plans and approved the national strategy (2024-2028) (draft). — MNA/KTZH

NSPCC holds talks with political parties working group



The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Coordination Committee (NSPCC) and the political parties' working group in progress at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Coordination Committee (NSPCC) met the political parties' working group at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Border Affairs and NSPCC Chair Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung,

NSPCC members, Dr Aye Maung, leader of the political parties' working group and Chairman of the Rakhine Party, along with other representatives, attended the meeting.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Dr Aye Maung delivered opening

remarks. Lt-Gen Min Naing, NSPCC Secretary, outlined the agenda, followed by discussions between the parties on proposed amendments to the 2008 Constitution. The first day of discussions concluded, with the next meeting scheduled for 22 August. — MNA/TS

National Complaint Mechanism (NCM) to deal with forced labour complaints

MYANMAR'S government has been dealing with forced labour complaints in cooperation with ILO and relevant ministries since 2007. Since 2020, forced labour complaints have been settled through the National Complaint Mechanism (NCM), which includes representatives of the National Human Rights Commission, employer organizations, employee organizations, and relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Labour.

Nowadays, it is reported that forced labour victims can safely contact and complain to the Office of the State Administration Council, Region and State governments, Nay Pyi Taw Council, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, ILO Liaison Office (Yangon) and other organizations or Ministry of Labour Office No 51, Nay Pyi Taw, in person or in writing via 067 3430184, 067 3430229, and 067 3430274 and director-general.dol@gmail.com, moloffice51@gamil.com, and research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com. — MNA

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NATIONAL

Radio Quiz on 2024 enumeration of population and housing census held



The Radio Quiz on 2024 enumeration of population and housing census, jointly initiated by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Immigration and Population and Ministry of Education, in progress at MRTV in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

THE Radio Quiz on 2024 enumeration of population and housing census, jointly initiated by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Immigration and Population and Ministry of Education, was held at MRTV in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing, Deputy Minister Dr Myo Thant, Deputy Minister for Education

Dr Zaw Myint, and relevant officials of three ministries, students, teachers and prize winners attended the event.

After the entertainment programme and four-round competitions, Central Census Commission Chairman Union Minister U Myint Kyaing remarked.

In his speech, he said the three ministries jointly organized quizzes, whereas the public awareness programmes on population enumeration and housing

census were conducted across the nation.

The census will be collected based on an estimated population of more than 56 million and 13 million households in 2024. The reference time of the census is set at midnight on 30 September 2024.

He then briefed the census plans, question formats, online census report system using mobile tablets, the release of the initial population, and supportive

action in piling exact voter lists for the coming general election.

In addition, he presented medals, cash prizes and certificates of honour to the students who won first, second and special prizes in quizzes.

Moreover, he gave certificates of honour to the officials of three ministries who participated in public awareness programmes for the 2024 enumeration of population and housing census.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Deputy Minister of Education Dr Zaw Myint presented awards to the winners of article competitions.

The Union ministers and party had lunch together with the attendees.

At noon, the students, prize recipients and staff of the Population Department observed the broadcasting programmes at the News Channel Studio and Farmer's Channel Studio and booths of MRTV Diamond Jubilee Museum.

Event 5 of the Radio Quiz on the enumeration of the 2024 population and housing census with five students, aged between 14 and 17, from the basic education schools was held from March to July in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. A total of 10 students who won first and second prizes participated in the Radio Quiz on 2024 enumeration of population and housing census.

The competitions were broadcast on MRTV HD Channel yesterday. — MNA/KTZH

MoFA Deputy Minister receives UNFPA Representative to Myanmar

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Lwin Oo received Mr Jaime Nadal Roig, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on matters pertaining to the existing cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and UNFPA, as well as future activities of UNFPA in Myanmar.

Senior officials of the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the meeting.

— MNA

UNFPA Representative to Myanmar Mr Jaime Nadal Roig calls on MoFA Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



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

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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NATIONAL

Efforts against illegal trade lead to K203.76M in seizures

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to tackle the illicit trade are ongoing and effectively in line with the law.

On 19 August, the Kachin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections at the 21-mile checkpoint in Myitkyina, seizing 4,220 kilogrammes of ammonium nitrate valued at K4.22 million. The operation was carried out under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On the same day, the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected several locations in Myeik Township. They seized 108 bags of charcoal valued at approximately K103,680 in Kyunsu Township; they confiscated 5.528 tonnes of illegal wood worth around K1.1 million and a wooden boat valued at K1.7 million; in Bokebyin, they seized an unregistered Suzuki Smash 125 motorbike worth approximately K800,000. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Import-Export Law, respectively. Additionally, on 20 August, the team seized 2,448 bottles of Thai-made Carabao energy drink valued at K2.1 million in Kawthoung Township, with the action being taken under Customs procedures.

On 20 August, the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected the Yadanabon (Mandalay) checkpoint and seized commodities worth K46.5 million, including 780.48 square metres of China-made granite tiles and a Mitsubishi Fuso tractor head worth approximately K53 million. The action was conducted according to Customs procedures.

On the same day, the Customs Department's combined team seized 12,000 kilogrammes of Thai-made iron pipe valued at K15 million and a Hino Profia truck worth K40 million at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was carried out as per Customs procedures.

On 21 August, the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized an unregistered Toyota Hilux Surf and an unregistered Honda Airwave, worth approximately K22 million, at the Yadanabon checkpoint, and an unregistered Toyota Crown valued at K17 million at the Kantalu checkpoint in Sagaing Township. The action was prosecuted under the Import-Export Law.

On 21 August, the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 0.362 tonnes of illegal timber valued at K150,000 within Bago District, with the action being taken under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 14 arrests on 19, 20, and 21 August, leading to the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K203.76 million. — MNA/TMT



Confiscated illegal iron pipes at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint.

Police seize stimulants worth K237.9 million in multiple townships

THE Myanmar Police Force reported the seizure of stimulant tablets valued at approximately K237.9 million in the townships of Chanayethazan, Taunggyi, and Nyaungshwe townships.

On 18 August, a combined team from the Mandalay Region Police Force searched the house of Than Tun Aung

in Aung Nang Avenue Ward, Chanayethazan Township. It confiscated a total of 42,705 stimulant tablets, 0.126 kilogrammes of Happy Water, 0.02 kilograms of ketamine, and 0.135 kilogrammes of ICE.

The following day, on 19 August, they searched a Toyota Caldina driven by Zaw Oo (aka

Thet Hein near Taunglaylone Village Tract, Nyaungshwe, Taunggyi Township, at 6:30 pm. They seized 7.4 kilogrammes of ketamine and 1.49 kilogrammes of Happy Water. Legal action was taken against offenders under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/TMT



An offender is seen alongside confiscated drugs.

Counter-argument to false information

False claims about Tatmadaw collecting women's military service lists denied

SUBVERSIVE media falsely reported that Tatmadaw is compiling a nationwide list of women eligible for military service.

An official from the People's Military Servants Central Committee stated that no such list was collected, and neither the State nor the People's Military

Servants Central Committee issued any announcement concerning women's military service.

Malicious media outlets and terrorists are merely spreading propaganda to intimidate people with misinformation about the People's Military Servants Law. — MNA/TKO



This screenshot of Khit Thit media validate fake news.

Security forces deny claims of property destruction in Myingyan Township

MALICIOUS media have been spreading false news, alleging that security forces seized and destroyed public properties in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, on 19 August.

A security official from Myingyan Township clarified that PDF terrorists attacked

several villages using both heavy and small arms, which led to arson and injuries among residents. In response, locals and security forces are working together to ensure the area's safety. There was no evidence of destruction or seizure of public properties.

Reports indicate that PDF terrorists are engaging in acts of terrorism in Myingyan Township, while subversive media are circulating misinformation to fabricate a false narrative against local people's cooperation with security forces. — MNA/TKO

NATIONAL

YGC invites tender for upgrading and leasing golf course for training

THE Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) announced that a tender is open for the upgrading and leasing of its golf practising facility in Insein Township.

The tender is available to any private Myanmar citizen or Myanmar citizen-owned company interested in upgrading the golf course for training at their own expense and subsequently renting it.

Tender forms, along with the terms and conditions, will be available for purchase from 22 August, and submissions must be made by 30 September. The Yangon Golf Club, established in 1909, is now 115 years old. — TWA/MKKS



A glimpse of the Yangon Golf Course (Danyingon).

Myanmar attends EXIM Conference: Navigating Global Trade Frontiers in India



Consul-General U Tin Moe of Myanmar in Kolkata is seen exchanging gifts at the event.

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that U Tin Moe, Myanmar's

Consul-General in Kolkata, attended and delivered a speech at the EXIM Confer-

ence – Navigating Global Trade Frontiers on 20 August in India.

The event, organized by CII Eastern Region, India, took place at the Taj Bengal Hotel. The conference aimed to provide valuable opportunities for interaction with officials from relevant sectors to explore potential investment and trade opportunities between India and its partner countries.

Also in attendance were the Consul General of Australia, the Consul General of Japan, the Honourable Minister of State for the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways of India, the Honourable Minister for Education, as well as the President, Vice President, and Managing Director of CII Eastern Region. — ASH/TMT

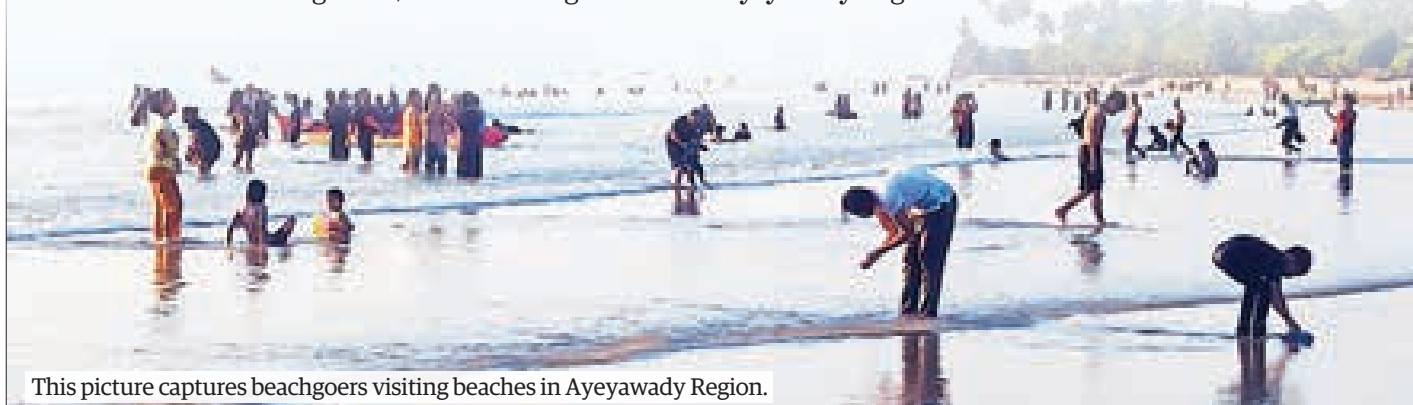
Land use for hotels on Ayeyawady beaches to be verified

THE use of land for constructing hotels and guesthouses on beaches in Ayeyawady Region will be verified according to the established procedures. This decision was made during the 2/2024

meeting of the Ayeyawady Region Tourism Committee, held on 19 August.

The verification process will apply not only to Ngwehsaung Beach and Chaungtha Beach in Ayeyawady Region

but also to the land use for building construction in Shwethaungyan, Ngwetaung, and Goyangyi beaches. — ASH/MKKS



This picture captures beachgoers visiting beaches in Ayeyawady Region.

New diploma courses announced at cooperative and lacquerware colleges

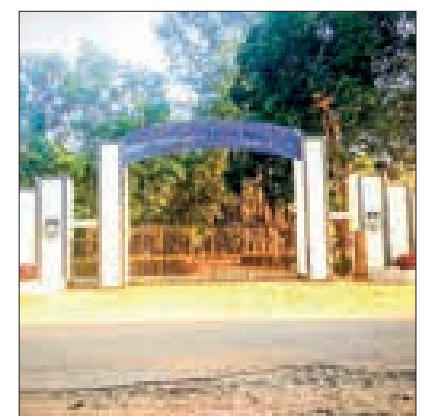
ACCORDING to the college sources, first-year courses will soon be available at the Cooperative and Lacquerware Colleges.

The first-year diploma courses at the Cooperative Colleges in Mandalay and Phaunggyi, as well as at the Lacquerware College in Bagan, will run for two years each. Successful students will then have the opportunity to attend a third-year course in their respective specializations at the Cooperative and Management University in Thanlyin or the Cooperative and Management University in Sagaing.

Students who pass their exams will receive diplomas in various fields: A Diploma in Social Enterprise Management (DipSEM), a Diploma in Regional Development (DipRD), a Diploma in Business Accounting (DipBAcct), a Diploma in Marketing Management (DipMM), and a Diploma in Applied Statistics (DipAS) from the Cooperative Colleges in Mandalay and Phaunggyi. Students at the Lacquerware College in Bagan will earn a Diploma in Lacquerware Technology (DipLT).

Applicants for these courses must be students who have passed the 2024 matriculation exam in any subject. Selection will be based on exam scores as assessed by the colleges.

Interested applicants can purchase the necessary documents and submit them to the relevant offices and departments, including the Cooperative Department (Director General's Office), until 30 September. — TWA/MKKS



This picture captures the Cooperative College (Phaunggyi).

Crude bran oil exports expected by mid-2025 amid local refined oil supply

BY the middle of 2025, Myanmar will be in a position to export crude bran oil, and refined oil produced domestically can be supplied to meet domestic edible oil demand, said Chairman U Ye Min Aung of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

He talked about bran oil at the press conference on the current agenda and forward programmes of the federation held at the MRF meeting room on 12 August.

Under the leadership of the MRF, the first crude and refined bran oil mill is under construction in the compound of MAPCO's rice mill in Pynmana, Nay Pyi Taw, and it plans to build 10 similar mills in four areas, including Nay Pyi Taw.

"In the case of bran oil, it

will be used to produce local palm oil. Some companies also export this crude bran oil to Vietnam and other countries. This can also be used for industries and other sectors. So, we are working to encourage these as well. Investors are also working on it. As for the rice bran oil mills, they are in a position to be able to export crude bran oil starting in the middle of 2025. After producing refined oil domestically, we will also supply to domestic oil demand in one way," he said.

In addition, he also said that the MRF will provide technical and financial assistance to those who want to produce electricity from rice husks in order further to develop the production of electricity from rice husks. — MT/ZN



The image shows Myanmar's first crude and refined bran oil mill, which will be built in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar nets nearly US\$1M from honey exports in 4 months



Beekeeper checks a honeycomb frame from a beehive box at an apiary.

MYANMAR earned almost US\$1 million from export of over 664.8 metric tonnes of honey in the first four months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, according to the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

The seaborne honey export hit 637.82 tonnes, while the border posts registered 27 tonnes of honey exports in the past four months.

Myanmar primarily exports honey to China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, the US and Singapore. Myanmar delivered over 2,200 metric tonnes of honey to foreign

trade partners in the last FY 2023-2024 (April-March), the Apiculture Division's data showed.

Sagaing and Mandalay regions are the leading producers of Myanmar's honey. Myanmar's beekeeping businesses are also found in the Yangon, Bago, and Magway regions, as well as the Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, and Shan states. Myanmar produces sesame honey, jujube honey, Niger honey, sunflower honey, lychee honey and flower honey.

Myanmar's honey production is estimated at over 4,000 metric tonnes annually. Sixty per cent went to foreign

markets, while the remaining was designated for domestic consumption. Honey is utilized as a traditional medicine in the country.

There are some state-owned beekeeping stations with 6,200 beehives in 31 townships and over 950 private beekeeping businesses operating with nearly 200,000 beehives.

Moreover, two million acres of crops yearly contribute to bee pollination every year. The beekeeping businesses near the crop fields contribute to the successful yield of the crop as well as quality honey production. — NN/KK

Fertilizer consumers can report overcharging: MFSPEA

FERTILIZER consumers can complain about those sellers who fail to follow the set reference prices of fertilizer for Yangon, according to the Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA).

Under the guidance of the Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee, MFSPEA has instructed member companies to sell fertilizers that are in high demand in the domestic market, according to the set reference prices for Yangon from 16 August to 15 September. The reference prices are



Bags of imported fertilizers in the domestic market.

K83,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Urea fertilizer (large granular),

K115,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Rock phosphate and K128,000

per 50-kilogramme bag of Diammonium phosphate. Yet, the MFSPEA has not confirmed the reference price for complex fertilizer.

The prices may vary a bit depending on transportation charges in other regions and states as the prices mentioned above are set for the Yangon Region, MFSPEA stated.

Additionally, reference prices will be further announced as per rules and regulations. For overcharging, consumers can complain to the committee through contact numbers 067 410032 and

09 883353358.

At present, the Fertilizer Committee holds a quarterly meeting to ensure quality fertilizer for growers without facing shortages. Under the approval of the Fertilizer Technology Group, 11,573 fertilizer registrations have been granted after the 41st meeting of the Fertilizer Committee. With individuals' consent, 1,957 registrations were voluntarily cancelled. The department revoked 2,793 registrations for expiration of validity, and 6,823 registrations are still being processed. — NN/KK

OPINION

Don't fail to pay back loans to Covid-19 fund

IN Myanmar, the cultural expectation of repaying gratitude is deeply ingrained, with an emphasis on fulfilling obligations to those who have provided assistance. This principle extends to financial matters, where borrowers are expected to repay their debts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar faced severe challenges, resulting in numerous fatalities and widespread economic difficulties for businesses. To address these hardships, the government provided loans to business owners, aiming to help them revive and sustain their operations, thereby supporting the broader economy.

These loans were drawn from a COVID-19 fund established through a combination of government budget allocations and public donations. Initially intended to cover healthcare expenses related to the pandemic, the fund's focus shifted as the situation improved. With a reduced need for healthcare spending, the government

decided to redirect the funds to support businesses in need. Borrowers who received these loans were expected to repay them on time. However, many struggled to meet their obligations, prompting the government to offer an initial one-year extension. Recognizing the ongoing difficulties faced by businesses, the government granted two additional extensions, giving borrowers three years in total to repay their loans. Despite these accommodations, a significant number of businesses have still failed to repay their debts.

On 10 August, the Covid-19 Economic Impact Remedying Committee announced that it would take action against companies and businesses that have not fully repaid their loans, including both the principal and interest. The committee plans to publish the names of these delinquent borrowers in state-owned newspapers and pursue legal action under the government's regulatory framework.

This announcement serves as a reminder that, even in times of crisis, financial responsibilities must be honoured. Failing to repay these loans not only violates the cultural expectation of gratitude but also jeopardizes the collective effort to rebuild Myanmar's economy. The government's enforcement of repayment underscores the importance of fulfilling these obligations, both to maintain trust within the financial system and to ensure that resources are available to support future needs.

This announcement serves as a reminder that, even in times of crisis, financial responsibilities must be honoured. Failing to repay these loans not only violates the cultural expectation of gratitude but also jeopardizes the collective effort to rebuild Myanmar's economy. The government's enforcement of repayment underscores the importance of fulfilling these obligations, both to maintain trust within the financial system and to ensure that resources are available to support future needs.

The committee has set records on acknowledging the repaid businesses and companies and warned borrowers across the nation to pay back the loans as quickly as possible. If not, they will face legal action and some punishment for their failures. In fact, Myanmar's traditions have taught all Myanmar people not to forget the gratitude and debts of others since childhood.

Appreciation to Bagan of Myanmar for the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award

THE recognition of Bagan, Myanmar, with the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award, is a significant achievement. Bagan is the ancient city of Myanmar, and its historical significance is that it is known for its wonderful temples and ancient landscapes. The recent recognition of Bagan with the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award is not just an acknowledgement of the city's commitment to public health but also a testament to its dedication to preserving its cultural heritage.

The ASEAN Smoke-Free Award is a prestigious award given to cities and regions within Southeast Asia that demonstrate outstanding efforts in creating smoke-free environments. This initiative aligns with global public health goals and reflects the growing recognition of the importance of smoke-free spaces in enhancing quality of life. For Bagan, receiving this award is a significant milestone, especially given the city's unique challenges and responsibilities in balancing the needs of a growing tourism industry with the preservation of its ancient heritage.

Bagan, an ancient city located in the Mandalay Region of Myanmar, was officially inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2019. Known for its stunning temples, pagodas, stupas, and ruins, Bagan showcases magnificent architecture that has dramatically influenced Burmese temple design. The Bagan Archaeological Museum, housing numerous rare Bagan period artefacts, including



Bagan, the ancient city of Myanmar

the original Myazedi inscriptions (the Rosetta stone of Burma) and Anawrahta's Palace, are must-visit highlights. With a land area of 104 square kilometres and a population of over 150,000, Bagan offers a rich cultural experience and a glimpse into Myanmar's glorious past, all while being a smoke-free destination that enchants visitors with its timeless beauty and historical significance.

The recognition of Bagan with the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award also highlights the importance of community involvement in public health initiatives. The success of Bagan's smoke-free policy is likely due in large part to the support and cooperation of residents, business owners, and tourists. This collective effort underscores the importance of public awareness and education in the fight against

tobacco use, particularly in culturally sensitive areas.

The ASEAN Smoke-Free Award is an initiative by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to recognize and promote efforts towards creating smoke-free environments in the region. The award is given to cities, municipalities, and other entities that have implemented comprehensive smoke-free policies and have demonstrated significant progress in reducing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

The ASEAN Smoke-free Award (ASA) is a prestigious recognition celebrating cities, municipalities, provinces, and states across the ASEAN region that demonstrate exemplary commitment to implementing and maintaining smoke-free environments.

This award highlights the importance of effective smoke-free policies and their significant impact on public health, environmental quality, and overall well-being. The smoke-free places based on the Policy Guidelines of Establishment of Smoke-free Areas in the Bagan heritage zone: ancient monuments, Government offices, Hotels, NyaungU airport, Pagodas, Playgrounds/parks, Restaurants, Schools, Temples and Workplaces.

Political Will: The District Governor of Bagan, in coordination with related government departments and social organizations, demonstrates unwavering and sustained support for the smoke-free campaign. This commitment is evident through the official letters issued by the District Governor designating gov-

ernment offices, schools, hotels, restaurants, and pagodas as 100 per cent smoke-free places.

On 18 September 2023, during a briefing on the progress of the 'Smoke-Free Bagan Heritage Places Campaign' held at the Office of District General Administration, the District Administrator of Bagan NyaungU District pledged to the Director-General of the Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, that the District Administration Management Committee is firmly committed to establishing Smoke-free Heritage Places for Bagan, under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and the Mandalay Regional Government.

2023 accomplishments:

From 92 smoke-free places established on 12 June 2021, additional places were established, bringing the number of smoke-free places to 102 on 1 May 2023. A Supervisory Committee Meeting on the Review of the Implementation of the "Smoke-Free Heritage Places, Bagan" project was organized on 19 May 2023. A Review and Advocacy Meeting with members of the Supervisory Committee and community representatives on the implementation of "Smoke-Free Heritage Places, Bagan" project was organized on 30 May 2023 together with the PHF team and joined the National Review Workshop on Smoke-Free Places of All States/Regions held at Nay Pyi Taw from 25-26 July 2023, and submitted the plan and implementation of "Smoke-Free Heritage Places, Bagan" project.

Outdoor Advertisements:

There are no tobacco advertisements in the Smoke-free World Heritage Bagan. Instead, there are prominent 'No Smoking' signs, smoke-free posters, billboards, and graphic health warning posters in various public places. These visible signs are displayed at pagodas and other public areas to raise public awareness about Smoke-free World Heritage Bagan.

Key Messages- Bagan has smoke-free/tobacco control messages printed on posters and billboards placed in strategic areas of the city. In addition, it has a large, visible "SMOKE-FREE BAGAN OUR HERITAGE OUR PRIDE" billboard at the entrance of the city,



Smoke-Free Billboards at Pagodas.

which is a declaration that Bagan is a smoke-free city.

As part of establishing smoke-free areas in Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage, the Smoke-free Policy Guidelines include a directive to never negotiate with the tobacco industry. On behalf of the Chairman, the Deputy Director of the District Administration Council in NyaungU District issued this directive on 4 August 2023. Since then, there have been no reports of tobacco industry interference in the implementation and enforcement of the smoke-free policy in Bagan.

Government Support- All government offices in Bagan are smoke-free, and there is no opposition from government officials to the vigorous enforcement of the smoke-free law. However, there is no government budget/allocation to support the enforcement of the smoke-free law.

By Dr Than Lwin Tun, Ministry of Health

By implementing smoke-free policies in such a historically and culturally significant area, Bagan not only enhances the experience for visitors but also sets a positive example for other regions in ASEAN. The award highlights the city's efforts to create a cleaner, healthier environment, benefiting both residents and tourists while safeguarding the ancient city's legacy for future generations. Myanmar team received the ASEAN Smoke-free Award at the National Convention Centre, Vientiane Capital, Laos PDR, on 8 August 2024.

Bagan's smoke-free initiative is particularly commenda-

This aligns with the spiritual and cultural atmosphere that Bagan embodies, allowing visitors to fully immerse themselves in the beauty and history of the area.

Moreover, Bagan's achievement serves as an inspiration to other cities and regions within Myanmar and across the ASEAN community. It demonstrates that heritage sites can be effectively managed in a way that prioritizes both cultural preservation and public health. Bagan's success story is a powerful example of how local governments and communities can work together to implement

polices that have far-reaching positive effects.

In conclusion, the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award presented to Bagan is a well-deserved recognition of the city's efforts to create a healthier, cleaner, and more sustainable environment. It is an achievement that not only benefits the people of Bagan but also serves as a model for other heritage sites in the region. As Bagan continues to preserve its ancient wonders while embracing modern public health practices, it stands as a shining example of what can be accomplished when tradition and innovation work hand in hand. The award is a proud moment for Bagan, Myanmar, and the entire ASEAN community, showcasing the importance of smoke-free environments in protecting both people and heritage.



Myanmar Team headed by Union Minister for Health and ASEAN Smoke-Free Award (Bagan).



Myanmar Team received ASEAN Smoke-Free Award (Bagan)



NATIONAL

Music & Nature programme to feature in Mt Popa trek in late Aug

FOR those who want to enjoy the scenery of Mount Popa, explore and enjoy adventuring, exciting programmes, including Music and Nature, are scheduled to fea-

ture in trekking tours in the last week of August, according to Mahagiri.

Trekking tours are arranged for 24, 25 and 31 August. The tour will include lo-

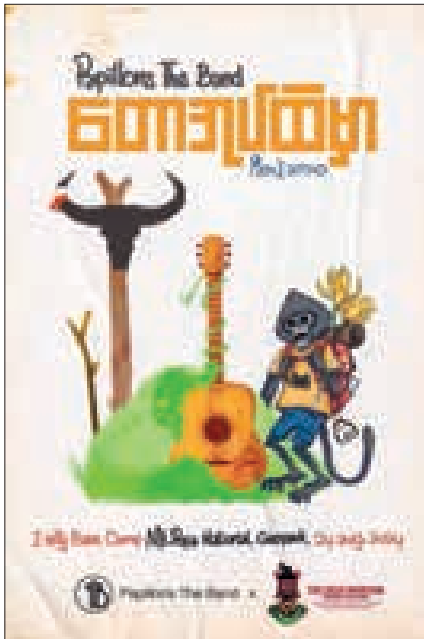
cal guides who will explain in detail about trees, flowers, and wild animals along the trek, share environmental conservation, enjoy local foods, and have a one-night

stay at I-nity Base Camp.

“There may be some challenges as it is monsoon season. But you will forget all the difficulties overcome along the journey when you see the beauty of monsoon at the mountaintop. You can enjoy the beauty of nature on the mountain, and it will help you forget struggles in your daily life for a while,” said Mahagiri.

Mount Popa trekking tour has become well-known, especially this year, and it attracts many visitors. Of them, Yangon residents account for 70 per cent. In order not to disturb the environment, there is a limit on the number of visitors. For more details about the tour, enquiry can be made to 09793003125 or page messenger.

Mahagiri provides Mount Popa trekking service and works on Mount Popa langur conservation as well as ecotourism expansion. It also works on the preservation of Popa flying geckos and Popa bent-toed geckos, which are listed as endangered species. — MT/ZS



A poster for the Music and Nature programme.



The photo showcases the Mount Popa trekking tour organized by Mahagiri.

Flood warning issued as Sittoung River may rise in eastern Bago

THERE is a possibility that the Sittoung River will rise again, and people in the eastern Bago Region will need to be cautious against a possible flood from 23 to 25 August, according to meteorologist U Win Naing.

“Ayeyawady River recedes now, so there is no possibility of returning to danger level. But we have a forecast that the Sittoung River is possible to return to danger level in the eastern Bago Region - from Yedashe through Phyu and Penwegon on 23,24 and 25 August. The first flood was over. It started in Myitkyina, Kachin State, and upper Sagaing. It

flooded along the Ayeyawady River, resulting in elevated rainwater levels in the lower part and some dams and sluice gates were almost flooded. So, if the rain continues like this, the second flood may happen,” he said.

Rain has been continuous in the eastern and western Bago Region, Yangon Region, and Ayeyawady Region, and it is forecast that the Hlaing River will go up again to a dangerous level on 25 August. If the rain continues in Gyopin-gauk, Minhla, and Thayawady townships, floods will possibly happen again. — Thit Taw/ZS



This photo depicts flooding in Toungoo District as a result of the rising Sittoung River.

Property sales surge near Nyaungdon Street in Hlinethaya, home to garment workers



Some houses and plots near Nyaungdon Street, Hlinethaya Township.

IN the neighbourhoods near Nyaungdon Street of Hline-thaya township, Yangon region, where most garment workers live, there have been many real estate transactions, according to market sources.

Despite the rainy season, the houses and plots in the above areas are being bought at a good price.

“Many people buy in Hlinethaya. It can be said to be

a good business in this period. There are more transactions on Nyaungdon Street, where YBS buses run. People buy plots in the neighbourhoods of that street. The prices are good. Some buyers are investors who want to resell in the future after waiting for a while. But most buyers coming to me are to live in them,” said a real estate agent in Hlinethaya township.

Real estate units in the

Hlinethaya township are getting better prices, and there are more buyers.

“The price of the last six months has changed a little bit. The price became better. The price differences in low-quality wards are not that great. But, in the wards near Nyaungdon Street, the price has improved. It depends on the condition of the house and land. A constant price cannot be set,” he said.

— Thit Taw/ZN

116-yr-old Japanese in line to be named world's oldest living person

Born on 23 May 1908, in Osaka, Itooka was the eldest of three siblings. She married at around 20 and had two daughters and two sons.

TOMIKO Itooka, a 116-year-old woman from the western Japan city of Ashiya, is in line to be declared the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records, a nonprofit organization that tracks supercentenarians said Wednesday.

Itooka became a candidate for the title after the previous holder, Maria Branyas Morera, a 117-year-old from Olot in Catalonia, Spain, died Monday, according to the Gerontology Research Group.

Born on 23 May 1908, in Osaka, Itooka is the eldest of three siblings, the Ashiya city government in Hyogo Prefecture said. She married around the age of 20 and gave birth to two daughters and two sons, the group said.

During the war, she took over from her husband to manage a textile factory in South Korea and later, after her husband died in 1979, she lived alone in Nara Prefecture, western Japan, where she became involved in mountain climbing.

She has climbed Mt Ontake twice, a mountain that straddles Nagano and Gifu prefectures in central Japan with a peak of about 3,000 meters, the nonprofit said.

At age 100, she was able to climb the stone steps of Ashiya Shrine without a cane, but after entering a nursing home in 2019, she began requiring a wheelchair to get around.

Itooka has been Japan's oldest person since December 2023.— Kyodo



File photo shows Tomiko Itooka celebrating her 116th birthday on 23 May 2024, in Ashiya, Hyogo Prefecture. **PHOTO: THE ASHIYA MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT / KYODO**

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are reportedly set to part ways once again



Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are reportedly set to part ways once again, with Lopez filing for divorce after just over two years of marriage. **PHOTO: ANI**

LOPEZ, 55, filed for divorce from Affleck, 52, after a marriage that lasted just over two years. The news was first reported by TMZ and subsequently confirmed by multiple sources to People magazine.

Lopez reportedly filed the divorce papers herself in Los Angeles County Superior Court on 20 August listing 26 April 2024, as the date of separation, Variety reported.

The singer has chosen to represent herself in the legal proceedings. The couple's marriage

began with a surprise wedding in Las Vegas on 16 July 2022, followed by a larger ceremony in Georgia on 20 August 2022, marking the second anniversary of their traditional wedding celebration.

According to People magazine, there is no prenuptial agreement between the two.

"She tried really hard to make things work and is heartbroken. The kids are a top priority, as they always have been," according to People magazine.

Lopez and Affleck reignited their relationship in 2021, nearly 17 years after their initial engagement was called off in 2003.

Fondly referred to as Bennifer by their fans, the couple officially ended their first engagement in January 2004 but maintained a friendly relationship over the years.

The couple went public with their renewed romance in April 2021, following Lopez's split from former MLB star Alex Rodriguez.

They made their relationship official on social media in July 2021 and were seen together at the Venice Film Festival that same year.

Lopez and Affleck announced their engagement in April 2022, culminating in their surprise Las Vegas wedding.

They celebrated with a grander ceremony in Georgia, attended by celebrities such as Matt Damon, Kevin Smith, and Jason Mewes.

The ceremony was officiated by podcaster and life coach Jay Shetty, according to People magazine. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

City near Osaka asks foreigners to apply for warlord role in parade

A city near Osaka recently put out a call asking foreign residents in Japan to apply to play the role of a feudal warlord in a local festival.

The government of Daito in Osaka Prefecture said it is looking for someone to play the role of Miyoshi Nagayoshi, a lord who governed the region and the island of Shikoku near the end of Japan's "Sengoku" warring states period.

The person would play the role in the western Japan city's samurai procession festival in March.

The offer comes as the area gears up for the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, which opens in April next year.

Applications are open to any foreign resident aged 18 or older who is willing to commit to participating in the 1 March parade. The city said it will provide the successful candidate with traditional armor and other costume elements to wear. — Kyodo

Netflix and Ryan Murphy announce release date for 'Monster' season 2

NETFLIX has announced the release date for the highly anticipated second season of Ryan Murphy's true-crime anthology series, 'Monsters'.

As per the teaser trailer released on Netflix's official YouTube channel, the new season, titled 'Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story', will premiere on 19 September.

Following the success of 'Dahmer — Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story', which premiered in 2022 and became a major hit for the streaming platform, Netflix has expanded the 'Monsters' series into an anthology format.

This new season shifts focus to the infamous case of Lyle and Erik Menendez, two brothers convicted in 1996 for the murders of their parents, Jose and Mary Louise "Kitty" Menendez, according to Deadline.

The season delves into the dramatic case that captivated the public and media in the early 1990s.

Newcomers Nicholas Alexander Chavez and Cooper Koch will portray the Menendez brothers, with Javier Bardem and Chloe Sevigny cast as their parents. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Czech govt unveils economic strategy, aiming to become EU's top 10 economies

The strategy focuses on creating a favourable investment climate, prioritizing education, research, and innovation, and addressing bureaucratic inefficiencies.

THE Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic has introduced an economic strategy to enhance investment and foster international cooperation, aiming to lift the country's economic status into the top 10 among European Union (EU) members in the next 10-15 years.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Jozef Sikela said that the significant global trends such as decarbonization, digitalization, artificial intelligence, and electromobility represent "a major challenge



People pose for photos on the Petrin hill in Prague, the Czech Republic, 7 April 2024. PHOTO: DENG YAOMIN/XINHUA

but also an opportunity" for the country.

"Our strategy is intended to address these shortcomings and contribute to the development of the economy over the next 10 to 15 years, during which we want to achieve long-term and sustainable growth of the Czech economy based on competitiveness and high added value," he said.

To achieve this vision, Sikela said the Czech Republic needs to create a favourable investment environment at all levels, with a top priority on education, research, development

and innovation.

The strategy not only highlights the efficient functioning of the state and the reduction of bureaucratic barriers but also outlines plans for strategic infrastructure, business development and economic security.

Moreover, it emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in securing essential raw materials and attracting strategic foreign investment.

Currently, the Czech Republic ranks 14th in the 27-member bloc in terms of GDP per capita, measured in purchasing power parity. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel lowering barriers on importation of communications equipment

ISRAEL'S Ministry of Communications announced the removal of barriers for the importation of communications equipment, as part of an effort to open up the communications market to competition and lower the cost of living.

As a first step, a full commercial and personal import exemption will be granted to four items of wireless equipment: a home or office video projector, a gaming console, a wireless charger and a cochlear implant device to improve hearing.

The first three products will receive an exemption due to European standardization (CE) and the cochlear implant device will receive a blanket commercial exemption. In addition, a baby sensor with a camera (Baby Sense/Monitor) will be exempted from personal importation. — ANI

Research house raises Malaysia's full year exports growth forecast

A research house has revised up Malaysia's full year exports growth forecast to 7.6 per cent after the country achieved stronger-than-expected trade performance in July.

UOB Global Economics & Markets Research said in a note that year to date, Malaysia's export growth averaged 5.1 per cent in the first seven months, and has surpassed its full-year export growth projection of 3.5 per cent.

According to the research house, the revision also took into consideration the ongoing recovery in electrical and electronic exports along with global tech upcycle, resilient demand for commodity-based products (i.e. palm oil) as well as continuation of favourable base effects. — Xinhua

Canada July inflation cools to three-year low of 2.5%

CANADA'S inflation rate fell 0.2 percentage points in July to 2.5 per cent, its lowest level in more than three years, the national statistical agency said Tuesday.

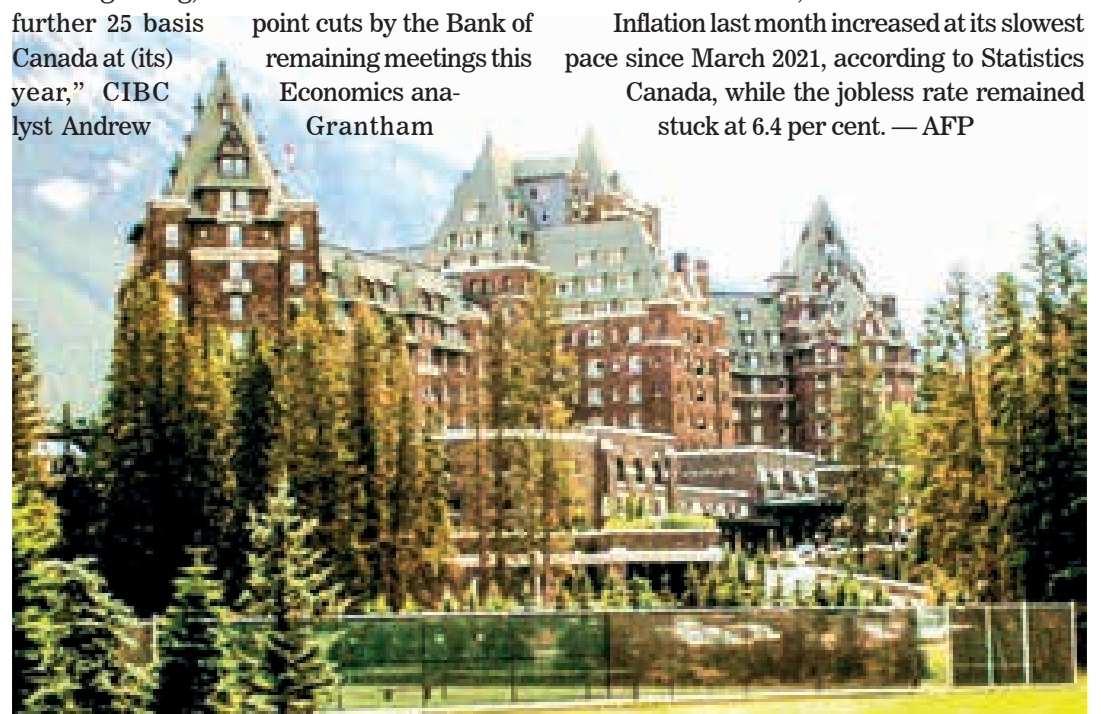
The drop, expected by economists to increase pressure on the Bank of Canada to further cut its key lending rate, was led by lower prices for travel tours, passenger vehicles and electricity.

"With inflationary pressures fading away but concerns about the weakening labour market growing, we continue to forecast three further 25 basis point cuts by the Bank of Canada at (its) remaining meetings this year," CIBC Economics analyst Andrew Grantham

said in a research note.

The inflation reading, echoed RBC economist Claire Fan, "should be enough to quell concerns about sticky inflation pressures in Canada after two marginal upside surprises in May and June." The inflation data was also welcomed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose liberal government has faced a backlash over high prices. "We've still got a lot more work to do to make sure Canadians feel that relief in their bank accounts. But inflation is cooling, and that's welcome news," he said on X.

Inflation last month increased at its slowest pace since March 2021, according to Statistics Canada, while the jobless rate remained stuck at 6.4 per cent. — AFP



Prices fell year-over-year for hotel accommodations and air transport. Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Alberta, Canada. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

New air route to link China's Haikou, US city Seattle

The new route aims to enhance travel and support the Hainan Free Trade Port's development.

HAINAN Airlines has announced the launch of a new air route connecting Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province, and Seattle in the United States via Chongqing, starting 26 September.

One round-trip flight per week will operate on this route, with flight HU445 departing Haikou

every Thursday. Both the outbound and inbound flights will include a stop-over in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.

This will be the first air route from Haikou to the United States operated by Hainan Airlines. It is expected to not only enhance air travel but also support the development

of the Hainan Free Trade Port.

In recent years, Hainan has ramped up efforts to resume and launch international air routes. As of May this year, the province had 46 overseas passenger routes in operation, with the number expected to reach 62 by the end of this year. — Xinhua



Hainan Airlines will launch its first direct route from Haikou to Seattle via Chongqing on 26 September with weekly round-trip flights to boost travel and support Hainan Free Trade Port's development. **PHOTO: PU XIAOXU/XINHUA /FILE**

Maldives records over 1.3 million tourists so far in 2024

THE Maldives has welcomed over 1.3 million tourists so far this year, according to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Tourism.

As of 19 August, a total of 1,304,236 tourists have visited the Maldives, marking a 10.4-per-cent increase compared to the same period last year, the ministry said.

China remains the Maldives' leading tourism market, contributing 184,000 tourists, followed

by Russia with 139,000 and Britain with 112,000, according to the ministry.

In August alone, the Maldives welcomed 121,179 tourists, the data showed.

The ministry said that there are currently 1,220 tourism establishments operating in the Maldives, including 174 resorts, 879 guesthouses, 153 safari vessels and 14 hotels.

In 2023, the Maldives recorded 1,878,543 tourist arrivals. — Xinhua



Aerial photo taken on 1 September 2019 shows the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge in Maldives. **PHOTO: WANG MINGLIANG/XINHUA**

S Korea's corporate bond sale grows in July

SOUTH Korea's corporate bond sale grew last month due to robust funding demand from financial companies, financial watchdog data showed Wednesday.

The issuance of corporate bonds expanded 9.4 per cent to 20.1 trillion won (US\$15.1 billion) in July compared to the previous month, according to the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS).

Financial companies-issued bonds soared 22.0 per cent to

16.34 trillion won (\$12.3 billion) last month, but the issuance of asset-backed securities (ABS) tumbled 58.2 per cent to 587.2 billion won (\$440.3 million).

Bonds, sold by industrial companies, shrank 11.0 per cent to 3.18 trillion won (\$2.4 billion) in the cited month. The country's central bank had left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 3.50 per cent since January last year. — Xinhua

Senegal 'agri-influencers' seek to shake up key sector

SENEGALESE farmer Mame Abdou Diop, 30, is leveraging social media to transform his agricultural business in West Africa. Diop, who manages a range of crops including mangoes, watermelon, onions, and beans, began using platforms like TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and LinkedIn two years ago.

Initially, he posted videos for fun, unaware of the significant impact so-

cial media would have. His online presence has since boosted his profits and doubled his client base, earning him nearly 14,000 TikTok followers and 2,000 on Instagram. This digital engagement has proven to be a powerful marketing tool. Agriculture is a critical sector in Senegal, contributing about 16 per cent to the nation's GDP. However, it struggles with underperformance and inefficiencies. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (1045E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (1045E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-8-2024** 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.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB432A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB432A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

PM Modi embarks on key visits to Poland, Ukraine to engage with top leaders



The visit underscores a mutual commitment to democracy and pluralism, setting the stage for enhanced bilateral cooperation in the coming years. **PHOTO: ANI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has embarked on a visit to Poland and Ukraine, marking a significant milestone as both nations celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations with India.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, embarked on a visit to Poland and Ukraine.

Ahead of emplaning from New Delhi for his key visits to the two countries, Prime Minister Modi said that he looks forward to help create the foundation for stronger and more vibrant relations

with the two countries in the years ahead.

The Prime Minister said that his visit to comes as both the countries mark 70 years of diplomatic relations.

“My visit to Poland comes as we mark 70 years of our diplomatic relations. Poland is a key economic partner in Central Europe. Our mutual

commitment to democracy and pluralism further reinforces our relationship. I look forward to meeting my friend Prime Minister Donald Tusk and President Andrzej Duda to further advance our partnership,” PM Modi said in a statement, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beyonce song features in new Democratic Party ad

WHILE the Democratic Party was hosting its national convention in Chicago, former US President and 2024 Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump held a campaign event in Michigan where he spoke to voters about law enforcement, border security and immigration.

A spokesperson for the Trump campaign took to his social media to post visuals of the former US President walking off his plane after it landed in Michigan. He was seen pumping his fists as he walked up to his waiting car.

Interestingly, the soundtrack of the song “Freedom” by Beyonce that is often used by Vice-President Kamala Harris’ team was heard in the background of the video posted on X platform of Steven Cheung, a spokesperson of the Trump campaign. — ANI

Philippines to process ‘limited number’ of Afghans seeking US visas

THE Philippines said Tuesday it has agreed to allow a “limited number” of Afghans to temporarily stay in the Philippines while being processed for eventual resettlement to the United States.

The foreign department announcement gave no timetable or the number of visa applicants to be allowed to transit through the Philippines, a longstanding US military ally.

Under the deal, Washington will support “necessary services” including food, housing, security, medical, and transport during their stay in the country.

“The agreement is currently undergoing the final domestic procedures required for effectivity,” a foreign department statement said.

Filipino ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel Romualdez said last year that there were about 50,000 such visa-seekers, including the families of those who had worked for the US-backed government that was toppled by the Taliban.

The US request met with domestic opposition on security and other grounds when it was made public last year.

A foreign department spokeswoman did not immediately provide further details of the agreement on Tuesday. — AFP



An aerial picture shows flood waters surrounding and submerging homes in Ben Voi village on the outskirts of Hanoi on 28 July 2024. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Thousands of children cut off from school by north Vietnam floods

THOUSANDS of children in northern Vietnam will struggle to return to school after flash floods and landslides damaged homes, destroyed crops and cut off several communities in the region, a charity warned Tuesday.

The country’s north suffered through an extremely wet summer, with mountainous areas in the northwest particularly badly hit by heavy downpours and flash floods since early July.

Nearly 29,000 houses have been damaged and 90,000 hectares of crops destroyed, Viet-

nam’s General Statistic Office said late last month.

In Son La province, about 1.3 million people have been affected, according to Save the Children, who said floods had left the countryside strewn with broken bridges and heavily damaged roads.

Eleven people have died in the area, and around 2,670 houses and 29 school buildings were damaged, according to Vietnam’s disaster officials.

Save the Children said 4,500 children would face “safety challenges” as they try to return

to school at the beginning of September. “The recovery will take many months and without immediate intervention, these children could face numerous dangers,” Le Thi Thanh Huong, Country Director of Save the Children Vietnam, said in a statement.

According to the charity, Ha Cong Minh, the principal of a school in Son La province, said “the road to school is very rough with landslides and broken bridges making it hard to travel. Children must cross streams to get to school.” — AFP

SPORTS

Villarreal spend 12 million euros on Brazilian goalkeeper Luiz Junior

Luiz Junior has signed a six-year contract with Villarreal.
PHOTO: VILLARREAL



Junior has made 140 first-team appearances at Famalicao and is recognized for his penalty-saving prowess. On his debut night, he was seen in the stands as Villarreal kicked off their season with a 2-2 draw against Atletico Madrid.

VILLARREAL have signed Brazilian-born goalkeeper, Luiz Junior from Portuguese side Famalicao for 12 million euros (US\$13.3 million).

The arrival of 23-year-old Junior helps Villarreal replace Filip Jorgensen, who they sold to Chelsea earlier in the

summer. He will compete with another new arrival, Diego Conde to be the first choice for coach Marcelino Garcia Toral.

Junior, who has a Portuguese passport, has agreed a contract until the end of June 2030 and moves to Spain after 140 first-team appearances at his former

club, where he has been the goalkeeper who has made the most penalty saves in recent years.

On Monday night, he was in the stands as Villarreal began the new season with a 2-2 draw at home to Atletico Madrid. — Xinhua



The match between the Myanmar U-12 team and FC Zero is in action at the 32-team fixture.

Myanmar U-12 team to face Japanese Dragon Kashiwa FC for ranking

THE U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2024 final match of group stage and knockout matches took place in Chiba, Japan, yesterday.

Myanmar's U-12 team won first in the group stage, securing a higher level, but it lost at the 32-team level.

Myanmar U-12 team beat Japanese Basara FC 2-0 in the final match of the group fixture. Therefore, the Myanmar U-12 team won two games and one draw out of three matches, achieved seven marks and reached another level as a group first.

The Myanmar team faced FC Zero at the 32-team knockout stage and lost 2-1. Team Myanmar lost the chance to reach a further stage and will have to face Japanese Dragon Kashiwa FC on 22 August for ranking. — Ko Nyi Lay/KTZH

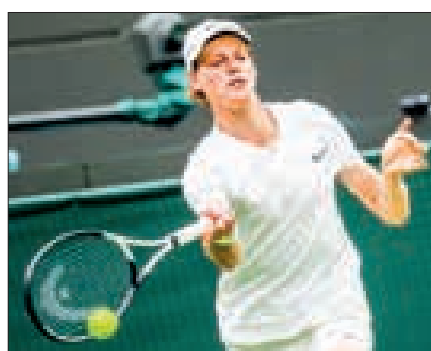
World No 1 Sinner avoids suspension after two failed doping tests

ITALIAN tennis star and current men's world No 1, Jannik Sinner, has avoided suspension after testing positive twice for the banned substance clostebol in March 2024, citing transdermal contamination.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) released a statement Tuesday, confirming the player "bears No Fault or Negligence" after it accepted the player's explanation that the substance entered Sinner's system through inadvertent contact with a physiotherapist who used an over-the-counter spray containing clostebol to treat a wound.

Sinner tested positive for metabolite clostebol in an in-competition sample at the ATP Masters 1,000 event in Indian Wells, United States, on 10 March and a further sample, conducted out of competition eight days later, also tested positive for the same metabolite.

He explained that the substance had entered their system as a result of contamination from a support team member, who had been applying an over-the-counter spray (available in Italy) containing clostebol to their own skin to treat a small wound. That support team member applied the spray be-



Jannik Sinner hits a return during his Wimbledon men's singles quarterfinal against Roman Safiullin. **PHOTO: LI YING/XINHUA/FILE**

tween 5 and 13 March, during which time they also provided daily massages and sports therapy to Sinner, resulting in unknowing transdermal contamination. — Xinhua



Maung Soe Pay (3R) is seen before leaving for Paris yesterday.

Myanmar athlete departs for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

ATHLETE Maung Soe Pay from the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation, manager U Min Naing Oo and coach Dr Htet Zeya departed Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon to compete in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, which will be held in Paris from 28 August to 8 September 2024.

They were seen off by

Maj-Gen Hla Moe, President of the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation, along with the head of staff, executives, and representatives from the Department of Sports and Physical Education.

In the games, Maung Soe Pay will compete in the men's 100-metre and 200-metre events in the T64 classification (below the knee).

Over the past four years, Maung Soe Pay has won a total of nine medals in international competitions, including three golds, one silver, and five bronze. As a result of his achievements, he has been invited by the World Paralympic Federation to participate in this summer's Paralympic Games. — Akar Lin/TKO

PM Modi embarks on key visits to Poland, Ukraine to engage with top leaders

PAGE 14



WORLD

SEARCH UNDERWAY

Divers search Sicily yacht wreck with UK tech boss among missing

DIVERS and an underwater drone searched Tuesday for six people, including a British tech tycoon and international banker, believed trapped when a luxury yacht sank off Sicily.

The 56-metre (185 feet) yacht “Bayesian” was anchored with 10 crew and 12 passengers on board when it was struck by a waterspout mini-tornado, before dawn on Monday.

Fifteen people, including a woman and her one-year-old baby, were rescued. The body of one man — reported to be the yacht’s chef — was found.

Among the six missing were UK tech entrepreneur Mike Lynch and his 18-year-old daughter Hannah, and Jonathan Bloomer, the chair of Morgan Stanley International, and his wife Judy.

The passengers were guests of Lynch — sometimes referred to as Britain’s Bill Gates — to celebrate his acquittal in a massive US fraud case.

While Italy’s coastguard said the search continued without a break, Captain Vincenzo Zagarola said it was “difficult to imagine” it would end well. — AFP



Chinese Premier Li Qiang, accompanied by senior Russian government officials, reviews the honour guard during a grand welcome ceremony at Vnukovo Airport in Moscow, Russia, 20 August 2024. PHOTO: RAO AIMIN/XINHUA

Chinese premier in Moscow to promote ties

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang arrived here Tuesday for the 29th regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of government and an official visit to Russia at the invitation of Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

Li arrived at Moscow’s Vnukovo Airport, where a grand welcome ceremony for him was held. The premier reviewed the honour guard accompanied by senior

Russian government officials.

During his stay, Li will meet Mishustin to exchange in-depth views on bilateral relations, practical cooperation and key issues of common interest.

The regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of government, held every year since its inception in 1996, is an important mechanism for implementing the consensus reached by

the two countries’ heads of state and promoting bilateral cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

In a statement released upon arrival, Li said that under the strategic guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, China and Russia set a model for a new type of international relations and relations between neighbouring major countries. — Xinhua



Australia greenlights world’s ‘largest’ solar hub

It will generate four gigawatts of energy per hour for domestic use and export two gigawatts to Singapore via an undersea cable, covering about 15% of Singapore’s energy needs.

AUSTRALIA on Wednesday approved plans for a massive solar and battery farm that would export energy to Singapore, a project it calls the “largest solar precinct in the world”.

Authorities announced environmental approvals for SunCable’s US\$24 billion project in Australia’s remote north that

is slated to power three million homes.

The project, which will include an array of panels, batteries and, eventually, a cable linking Australia with Singapore, is backed by tech billionaire and green activist Mike Cannon-Brookes.

“It will be the largest solar

precinct in the world — and heralds Australia as the world leader in green energy,” said Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek.

It is hoped that energy production will begin in 2030.

The 12,000-hectare (29,650-acre) project will provide four gigawatts of energy per hour for domestic use. — AFP

The project will include an array of panels, batteries and, eventually, a cable linking Australia with Singapore. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SHUTTERSTOCK