

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives a delegation led by HE Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives HE Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by HE Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Minister at the Ministry 2 of the State Administration Council Chairman Office U Ko Ko Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Information Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun and officials. The Member of the Political

Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China was accompanied by Ambassador-designate of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar HE Ms Ma Jia, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Sun Weidong, Special Envoy for the Asian Affairs Mr Deng Xijun and delegation members.

At the meeting, the Senior General

extended greetings, saying that China and Myanmar are good neighbours and old and good friends. For years, both countries have built a society together to share the same future in accord with the five-point principles of peaceful co-existence. The present meeting will help promote friendly relations and further cooperation between the two countries.

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MGJEA to offer 2024 Gem Training Batch 5 for free in September

NATIONAL

Chinese delegation led by Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister HE Mr Wang Yi arrives in Nay Pyi Taw



HE Mr Wang Yi, a Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, is welcomed by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing at the Ministry 2 of the State Administration Council Chairman Office, on his arrival at Nay Pyi Taw Airport in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Chinese delegation led by HE Mr Wang Yi, a Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by a special flight yesterday.

They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Interna-

tional Airport by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing at the Ministry 2 of the State Administration Council Chairman Office, Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador-designate of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Central Bank of Myanmar adjusts interest rates

- The Central Bank of Myanmar has revised its interest rates to address inflation, offer better deposit returns, and boost economic growth by enhancing banks' loan capabilities:
 - The bank interest rate has increased from seven per cent to nine per cent.
 - The minimum deposit interest rate is seven per cent, while the maximum loan interest rate is 15 per cent.
 - Banks are required to set deposit and loan rates between seven per cent and 15 per cent, depending on their profitability and risk management.
- Special loan rates under State policy will remain unchanged.
- The new rates will take effect on 1 September 2024.

Central Bank of Myanmar
14 August 2024

Workers heading abroad must have OWIC

- The Law Relating to Overseas Employment sub-section (g) of Section 8 stated the duties and functions of the Supervisory Committee as "communicating and coordinating with the relevant government departments and organizations to prevent workers from taking up overseas employment without having registered under this Law; and sub-section (i) stated that "preventing workers who are found unsuitable for overseas employment by the Inspections Sub-Committees, from departing to take up such employment".
- Sub-section (a) of Section 9 stated, "Overseas employment seekers shall register themselves as overseas employment seekers at the Department for the type of overseas employment for which the Department requires compulsory registration".
- Sub-section (b) of Section 10 stated, "The department shall issue a certificate of registration to a worker prior to his departure".
- The following passports shall be applied for: -
 - Passport for Visit – PV
 - Passport for Job – PJ
 - Passport for Education – PE
 - Passport for Business – PB
 - Passport for Religious – PR
 - Passport for Dependent – PT
 - Passport for Seaman – PS
- Those who go abroad for job prospects are required to apply for a Passport for Job (PJ), and they must register at the Ministry of Labour.
- Currently, the Passport for Visit (PV) holders apply for employment visas to work in foreign countries, and it is hard to help if they face hardships overseas.
- Therefore, those intending to work abroad should register as overseas workers to get OWIC while applying for Passport for Job (PJ). This will help them avoid unnecessary restrictions at international airports and border camps as they travel with employment visas and hold a Passport for Visit (PV).

Ministry of Labour

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.

No fuel shortage expected based on current conditions

THERE is no such possibility of fuel shortage according to the remaining stocks and the incoming oil tankers from abroad. Authorities urged the public to buy fuel in petrol stations that have fewer queues, not only at the stations with crowded queues.

Excessive purchase of petrol than usual these days in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay cities happened some filling stations with crowded and very long queues. Furthermore, some stations ran out of fuel for some time before the subsequent arrival of oil bows-

ers. Therefore, fuel has been filled at the stations regularly, and additional stations have been reinforced as needed.

The Supervisory Committee on Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil also encouraged the public not to purchase panic fuel as there

is no such possibility of fuel shortages in the domestic market.

The committee urged the public not to buy excessively more than necessary, not to store, not to purchase for resale, and to buy only the essential amount. Authorities also

called for the public to acquire fuel in petrol stations that have fewer queues, not only at the stations with crowded queues. The committee is also taking action to ensure that the fuel stations do not refuse to sell oil unless out of stock. — MNA/TMT

NATIONAL



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with HE Mr Wang Yi and the delegation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

**SAC Chairman
Prime Minister
Senior General
Min Aung
Hlaing receives
a delegation led
by HE Mr Wang
Yi, Member of
the Political
Bureau of the
CPC Central
Committee and ...**

FROM PAGE 1

In his discussion, the member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China said that Myanmar is a good neighbour and an old and good friend of China. China firmly supports the independence and sovereignty of Myanmar. China supports the endeavours of the State Administration Council in implementing the five-point roadmap for ensuring peace and stability of the State and development and making preparations to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election. China emphasizes cooperation with Myanmar in its efforts to forge peace and stability measures. China opposes attacks of EAOs on towns and villages in Shan State (North).

Afterwards, they cordially exchanged views on measures of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, cooperation in the defence sector, internal peace measures of Myanmar and forging peace and stability in the border region, further cooperation in eradication of online gambling and scams, other monetary scams, and illicit measures, and preparations to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China exchanged gifts. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar and China hold bilateral talks

**Myanmar is emphasizing the restoration of peace and stability as Myanmar and China have initiated the five-point principles of peaceful co-existence: Myanmar's side
China calls for Myanmar to hold an all-inclusive election: Chinese side**

The Myanmar-China bilateral talks took place at the parlour of the Credentials Hall of the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Present at the talks together with Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Ministry 2 U Ko Ko Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Information Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun and officials. HE Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, was accompanied by Ambassador-designate of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Sun Weidong, Special Envoy for the Asian Affairs Mr Deng Xijun and delegation members.

At the talks, those from the Myanmar side discussed good neighbouring and good friends as well as the long-lasting and strengthening relation history between Myanmar and China, a situation

to turn the 75th anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) diplomatic relations in 2025, firm standing of Myanmar as a perpetual and full of trust country for China, emphasizing restoration of peace and stability as both countries have initiated the five principles of the peaceful co-existence, endeavours of the State Administration Council to forge peace and stability of the State and carry out building of the nation for development in accord with the constitution, participation of Myanmar in ASEAN and its undertakings in line with the ASEAN Charter, making necessary preparations to successfully hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election as the ultimate aim of the State Administration Council, plans to enumerate the population and household census in October this year to have the correct and accurate voter lists, arrangements for all parties to freely take part in the election under the Political Parties Registration Law, efforts being made to ensure a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, and promotion of further economic cooperation between the two countries.

In discussions, those on the Chinese side said that China is always supporting the ensuring of peace, stability, and

development in Myanmar. China values Myanmar's steadfast support and standing for the One China Policy. And China is always standing up for Myanmar in the international arena. Necessary technological assistance will be provided for Myanmar to conduct the census-taking process. Moreover, essential aid will be given for the election. China called for Myanmar to hold an all-inclusive election.

The Myanmar side talked about how Myanmar does not totally accept any actions harming the interests of China through Myanmar. Myanmar places a special emphasis on peace and stability, development, and security measures in China.

In its response, the Chinese side said that China would help overall sectors, including trade, agriculture, and livestock breeding, for the development of Myanmar, with a firm plan to initiate economic cooperation. China supports the unity of all ASEAN countries and the existence of Myanmar as an ASEAN member State. Current meetings and discussions are firmly believed to beef up friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, and China pledges to be a perpetual friendship country for Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister receives Chinese Foreign Minister



Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe holds talks with Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

U THAN SWE, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, held Myanmar-China bilateral consultations with Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the bilateral meeting, the two sides cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further consolidation of the existing Pauk Phaw relations and the Chinese Government's consistent support towards Peace and sustainable

socioeconomic development of the people of Myanmar. They reaffirmed mutual support in regional and multilateral arenas and matters of common interests. The Deputy Prime Minister also apprised the Chinese Foreign Minister of the latest developments in Myanmar.

In the evening, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe hosted a dinner for the visiting Chinese delegation led by Mr Wang Yi, a Member of the Political Bureau of Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at the Horizon Lake View Hotel. — MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Legal Translation Commission Order 3/2024

10th Waxing of Wagoung 1386 ME
14 August 2024

1. According to Sub-Section (a) of Section 12, the Legal Translation Commission hereby announced that the Myanmar version laws translated from the following enacted English version laws were approved by the Legal Translation Commission under Sub-Section (a) of Section 9 of the Legal Translation Commission Law.

- (a) The Anand Marriage Act
- (b) The Caste Disabilities Removal Act
- (c) The Hindu Disposition of Property Act
- (d) The Hindu Inheritance (Removal of Disabilities) Act
- (e) The Hindu Law of Inheritance Amendment Act
- (f) The Hindu Gains of Learning Act
- (g) The Mussalman Wakf Act
- (h) The Mussalman Wakf Validating Act
- (i) The Kazis Act

2. These translated laws in Myanmar shall be effective, similar to the original scripts.

Dr Thida Oo
Chairperson
Legal Translation Commission



Myanmar War Veterans Organization holds VECONAC Commendation Ceremony yesterday.

VECONAC Commendation Ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

A ceremony to present commendation certificates from the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries (VECONAC) was held yesterday at the conference hall of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization's Central Headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw.

Senior officials, including the chairman and members of the Central Executive Committee of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, central council members, and recipients of the VECONAC commendation certificates, attended the event. Among the honourees were retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Lt-Gen San Oo, and retired Maj-Gen Zarni Win. Officials and staff from the central headquarters, along with guests, were

also present.

The VECONAC commendation certificates recognize individuals from ASEAN member countries who have made significant contributions to their respective veteran organizations. The awards are based on Resolution 23-4 from VECONAC's 23rd General Assembly.

During the ceremony, retired Lt-Gen Sein Win, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, delivered a speech. The commendation certificates were then presented, with retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo offering a vote of thanks on behalf of the recipients. — MNA/KZL



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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee holds 3rd coord meeting

THE State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee held its third coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Committee Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein discussed the granted loans and repayment of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, 14 region and state governments, six self-administered zones and division between 1 September 2022 and 30 June 2024, suspension of capital and interest payment for certain regional conditions and Mocha,

systematic inventory for loans in order to offer as per the financial procedures, work completions for 2022-2023 Financial Year of Union Auditor General Office and reports submitted to Union Auditor-General Office for 2023-2024 Financial Year.

The secretary of the committee and other attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister concluded the meeting after giving proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH

The third coordination meeting of the State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Myanmar attends SEACEN High-Level Seminar, 15th Meeting of Deputy Governors of Financial Stability and Supervision



Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Dr Lin Aung participates in the SEACEN High-Level Seminar and the 15th Meeting of the Deputy Governors of Financial Stability and Supervision virtually.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Governor Dr Lin Aung of the Central Bank of Myanmar virtually joined the SEACEN High-Level Seminar and the 15th Meeting of the Deputy Governors of Financial Stability and Supervision held in the Philippines on 13 and 14 August.

During the meeting, Hong Kong's Monetary Authority discussed Loss Absorbing Capacity-LAC, while the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) about "Bail-in" based on experiences of Credit Suisse of

Switzerland, Monetary Authority of Singapore and SEACEN Centre about crypto assets and stablecoins, World Bank, Bank Indonesia and Hong Kong Monetary Authority about financial resources in transforming into green economy and the Central Bank of Malaysia and BIS about drafting rules and regulations for response to climate changes.

On 14 August, Acting Executive Director Dr Srichander Ramswamy of SEACEN briefed the economic potentials and financial flows of

regional countries, and the officials of the Philippines, Thailand, and Nepal presented potential risks to financial stability and proper supervision of such situation.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation attended the 15th ASEAN Central Bank Deputies' closed-door meeting.

During the meeting, the attendees discussed financial stability and supervision training courses, research to be conducted in 2025, and assistance for SEACEN members. — MNA/KTZH

U Tin Yu presents Credentials to King of Bahrain

U Tin Yu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Bahrain, presented his Credentials to

His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Kingdom of Bahrain, on 13 August 2024, at the Al Sakhir Palace in Manama, Bahrain. — MNA



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NATIONAL



Gem traders evaluate Myanmar's South Sea pearls at the third day of the emporium in Nay Pyi Taw.

142nd Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium continues

THE 142nd Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium's third day was held yesterday morning at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the morning, local and international gem traders explored the displayed sets of pearls at their leisure. Following this, bids were placed for pearl sets ranging from Lot 231 to Lot 345 and from Lot 346 to Lot 460, with traders submitting their price offers into the designated bidding boxes.

In the afternoon, the Union

Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, who is chairman of the 142nd Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium's central committee and Vice-Chairman of the central committee U Min Thu, observed the auction process conducted through an open-bidding system at the gem hall.

Subsequently, bids from Lot 3 and Lot 4 were opened, revealing that 230 sets of pearls had been auctioned off, with 184 sets sold.

On the fourth day of the em-

porium, pearl sets from Lot 461 to Lot 580 total 120 sets, and from Lot 581 to Lot 700, totalling 120 sets, will continue to be auctioned to local and international traders.

Since its inception in 1964, the Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium has been successfully held alongside Myanmar's gem exhibitions. This year's pearl emporium, running from 12 to 15 August 2024, features open bidding for both local and international traders at the Maniyadana Gem Hall. — MNA/KZL

Academy awardee Sithu Myint Myint Khin donates K1M to MMPO on 90th birthday

ACCORDING to Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), a K1 million donation was made at the organization on 13 August, which is the 90th birthday of the Academy awardee Sithu Myint Myint Khin.

The donation is to commemorate the 90th birthday of the veteran actor, the winner of the Academy Awards Sithu Myint Myint Khin, which falls on 13 August, and the donation is for the 47th Pay Respect Ceremony to Aged Film Artistes to be held by MMPO.

"Academy awardee Sithu Myint Myint Khin donated K1 million for the ceremony to be held by the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization. It's donated as a 90th birthday gift," said U Aye Kyu Lay.

Academy Awards recipient Myint Myint Khin is an outstanding film artiste who has won five Myanmar film excellence awards and the 2018 Lifetime Award for Film Achievement. — ASH/TKO



Sithu Myint Myint Khin is seen donating K1 million to the 47th Pay Respect Ceremony to Aged Film Artistes.

Youth programme, social welfare activities organized in Nay Pyi Taw



Youths visit the sports museum at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw operated by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, yesterday.

THE youth study programme and social benefit activities organized by the Myanmar Youth Affairs Central Committee commenced yesterday morning, with the aim of enabling young people to exchange experiences and knowledge in a friendly manner, to identify and promote traditional cultural heritage and national cultural characteristics, and to establish a harmonious community that develops steadily.

First, they teamed up and worshipped the great statue of Maravijaya Buddha in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. Officials followed up and explained the history of the pagoda to the members of the study.

After that, they went to the Garuna Kaba Home for the Aged and Child Care Centres and gave health-related words of encouragement and strength to the

grandparents, combed their hair, trimmed their toes/nails, painted, sang songs and sang poems with the children, played with balls and paint.

Then, the young people toured the National Library, National Museum and National Records Archive in Nay Pyi Taw to increase their regional knowledge. Officials from the study team explained all the questions asked by the young people, and the tour continued to the Ocean and Sinma Mall in Nay Pyi Taw to buy souvenirs.

Continuously, the youths visited the sports museum operated by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium, the morale enhancement hall, the photos of the athletes who won medals in the Southeast Asian Games competing and winning awards, and the portraits of the

country's famous former athletes who won many gold medals and continued to study the Wunna Theikdi football stadium.

In accordance with the slogan "We will bring the glory of the country with the power of youth", young people can increase their love for their country and participate as the leading forces in the development process of the country to improve their love for their country and culture and to better understand the rights and responsibilities of a good citizen. The programmes were carried out for the reasons mentioned above. The young people who participated in the study tour were the award-winning young people who attended the International Youth Day, and Myanmar Youth Forum held on 12 and 13 August, as well as youth representatives from the regions and states. — MNA/TKO

NATIONAL

Illegal goods seized in nationwide crackdown

UNDER the supervision of the Leading Committee for the Prevention of Illegal Trade, coordinated efforts by various task forces resulted in the seizure of illegal goods on 12 August.

At Myanmar Industrial Port, authorities discovered 16,000 kilogrammes of Ergotamine (mixture), valued at approximately K16.8 million, hidden in a container. Additionally, five containers at Thilawa Port were found to contain 81,590 kilogrammes of Metallurgical coke.

In another operation, authorities seized two vehicles carrying Thai LipoVitan-D energy drinks (1,500 bottles) and other goods without proper documentation. The total value of the seized items, including vehicles, was estimated at K24.9 million.

Further inspections on 12 August at the Ayeyawady Bridge checkpoint in Magway Region led to the capture of an unregistered Honda Fit valued at K10 million. The vehicle was detained under the Export-Import Law.

On the same day, authorities at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray checkpoint in Bago Region intercepted a shipment of Thai-made Cuizimate electric

stoves and other goods without proper documentation. The total value of the seized items, including the Golden Dragon bus used for transport, was estimated at K57.56 million.

Additionally, in Taungoo District, 1,299 tonnes of illegal timber, valued at K311,904, were seized under the Forest Law on 13 August.

In Mandalay Region, joint task forces discovered China-made Deer marble tiles and other items without legal documentation carried by a Man tractor head on 13 August. The total value of the seized goods, including the vehicle, was approximately K103 million. Another operation at the Tanywa checkpoint led to the confiscation of various goods, including China-made Hifly car tyres, totalling K340.982 million.

In Yangon Region, on 13 August, illegal timber weighing 3.61 tonnes and valued at K1.86 million was seized in Hlegu Township.

The combined efforts on 12 and 13 August resulted in the seizure of 15 cases of illegal goods, with an estimated total value of K659.77 million, according to the Leading Committee for the Prevention of Illegal Trade. — MNA/KZL



Confiscated illegal items and vehicles at the Mayanchaung checkpoint.

Myanmar and India discuss enhancing religious cooperation



A discussion in progress between Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and Venerable M Dhammalankara Thero, Bhikkhu-In-Charge of the Maha Bodhi Society of India.

A discussion on promoting religious cooperation between Myanmar and India took place at the Embassy of Myanmar in New Delhi on 13 August, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung

received Venerable M Dhammalankara Thero, Bhikkhu-In-Charge of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, to discuss and exchange views on further strengthening the existing Buddhist community links in India and promoting religious cooperation between Myanmar and India.

Ms Nirosha K Herath, Counsellor from the High Commission of Sri Lanka, and members of the Governing Body of the Maha Bodhi Society of India were also present at the meeting. — ASH/TH

Counter-argument to false information

Subversive media circulate misinformation alleging Tatmadaw

SUBVERSIVE media spread misinformation alleging Tatmadaw opened fire on the Htanaung village market in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region, killing 11 local people and injuring 10 on 13 August.

According to an official in Monywa Township and a resident, security forces who were carrying out security measures in Monywa Township were attacked by terrorists from a distance with hand-made weapons, drop-bombs, rockets, and heavy weapons. Malicious media that support terrorists are circulating false claims through social media to cover up terror acts and misrepresent the military.

Similarly, subversive media also fabricated stories claiming that security forces in KhinU Township, Sagaing Region, fired heavy weapons into villages in KhinU Township on 11 August, killing an elderly woman, and security forces in Longlon Township, Taninthayi Region, fired heavy weapons at villages in Longlon Township on 12 August. — MNA/TKO



The screenshot of Khit Thit media validates their fake news.

OPINION

Reuse, reduce, and recycle waste: A path to a sustainable society

RECENT international reports highlight innovative recycling efforts, such as the use of waste iron from the Eiffel Tower's renovation to create medals for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Similarly, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics produced 2,500 medals from over 78,000 tonnes of electronic waste, yielding 30.3 kilogrammes of gold, 4,100 kilogrammes of silver, and 2,700 kilogrammes of bronze. These examples underscore the potential of turning waste into valuable products, demonstrating how society can conserve natural resources and reduce pollution by reusing, reducing, and recycling.

In fact, recycling and reusing waste items to produce gold, silver and bronze medals for winners in the renowned Olympic Games spotted the value of waste in society. It showed that all waste should not be totally discarded in society, and it is necessary to initiate ways to produce valuable items from waste for the world.

Addressing these issues requires a concerted effort from both individuals and governments.

It is no longer sufficient to focus solely on the conservation of forests and trees in the fight against environmental degradation. Governments must also address air and water pollution, restrict the disposal of industrial and electronic waste, and protect wildlife. By promoting reuse and recycling, we can reduce the extraction of natural resources, saving energy, money, and the environment. Additionally, these practices help mitigate air pollution, which is often driven by the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas.

The reuse, reduce, and recycle model offers a practical solution to the growing waste problem. By adopting these practices on an individual and societal level, we can make significant strides towards environmental conservation. The examples set by the Paris and Tokyo Olympics show that with creativity and commitment, we can transform waste into something valuable, reducing our reliance on natural resources and protecting the planet for future generations.

In fact, recycling and reusing waste items to produce gold, silver and bronze medals for winners in the renowned Olympic Games spotted the value of waste in society. It showed that all waste should not be totally discarded in society, and it is necessary to initiate ways to produce valuable items from waste for the world.

Every year, more than two billion tonnes of waste are generated globally, with about 33 per cent of it not being disposed of safely. Improper disposal practices – dumping waste in nearby areas – contribute to environmental degradation and pollution. Soil pollution from waste can lead to declining agricultural productivity while burning waste results in harmful air pollution. These environmental issues are exacerbated by the growing global population and governments' inadequate waste management.

Pollution from waste is a pressing issue that demands urgent attention. The increasing volume of trash and weak management systems are leading to environmental degradation, which in turn causes serious health problems and even fatalities.

INDIA'S Neighbourhood First Policy is a reflection of the truism that neighbours are a primary foreign policy priority for any country.

India has historically committed its largest and best resources to its neighbourhood, be it economic, political or diplomatic. Today, India's Neighbourhood First Policy is the foundation of its global outreach.

Within the country, the Policy has helped to raise awareness about the importance of the neighbourhood, and above all, it has helped the government of India. Given the diverse nature of the country and cross-border linkages rooted in history and culture, the Policy is paying dividends by promoting regional integration and advancing peace and stability.

The decision by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to in-

vite the Heads of all neighbouring countries for his swearing-in ceremony on three successive occasions in 2014, 2019 and 2024 was unprecedented. It represented an altogether new way of engaging with neighbours. The presence of the Leaders was a celebration of a common sub-continental identity. It was also a celebration of democracy.

India, by virtue of its size and resource endowments, is the partner of choice for its neighbours. India's aid programmes amount to billions of dollars in highly concessional terms and extend to all walks of life and all sectors. These range from hard infrastructure to skilling and education to disaster preparedness. They have impacted millions of beneficiaries and transformed the remotest regions in a sustained manner. Over time, the Neighbourhood First Policy

Neighbourhood First Policy

Pankaj Saran

Member, National Security Advisory Board
Former Deputy National Security Adviser
Convenor, NatStrat, India

has evolved into a well-knit and integrated system.

The Policy is rooted in the philosophy of 'vasudaivikutumbakam', or the world is but one family and the policy of 'sab-kasaath, sab ka vikas sab ka vishvas'. It thereby embodies the principles of universality, equity and fairness. Apart from development, regional integration is a key objective. This is achieved by putting in place asymmetric and

resilient connectivities involving people-to-people movement, air, rail, road links, energy pipelines and supply and value chains. Neighbours are given the first right of access to the Indian market, Indian educational institutions and Indian medical facilities.

The growth of the Indian economy serves as the engine of regional growth. It commits India to share its economic successes and enable neighbours to bene-

fit from economies of scale. The Neighbourhood Policy is the embodiment of the principle of 'prosper thy neighbour'. The record shows that the economic performance of those who have moved faster with integration has been better than others. Conversely, those countries which have integrated more with India have better withstood external shocks.

India has come to the aid of its neighbours in times of diffi-

culty, such as during the COVID crisis, the energy and food price shocks after the Ukraine conflict, or even in times of natural disasters. Notable examples in the recent past include the provision of urgent humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, the economic bailout of Sri Lanka, the supply of vaccines and essential commodities to Bangladesh and budgetary support to the Maldives immediately after the pandemic. India is thus

not only a first responder but also a safety net for its neighbours.

The Policy is characterized by country-specific targeted interventions rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. Focus on building mutually beneficial bilateral partnerships lies at the heart of the Policy. Where necessary, mechanisms have been put in place to promote sub-regional cooperation. A sub-regional power grid is taking shape between Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, passing through Indian territory.

It is recognized that peace and security are indispensable conditions for progress. The Policy is geared to be sensitive to and respect each other's sovereignty and security concerns. The philosophy is that security is mutual and not a zero-sum game, whether it relates to terrorism or climate change. Capacity building

is a key means to achieving security for all.

In recent years, the vision of the neighbourhood has extended to regions beyond the sub-continent. These include the Indian Ocean Region, West Asia and the Gulf States, Central Asia and East Asia. These regions are given priority in the allocation of resources and attention so as to rebuild the linkages that existed in the pre-colonial era and to shape new ones. India's influence and imprint on this broader geography are growing rapidly.

India's Neighbourhood First Policy is ambitious and bold. It is neither dogmatic nor doctrinaire. It is successful because it is responsive and sensitive to the needs of the times.

(Views expressed in the article belong solely to the author).

Olympics: Technology, social media put Paris referees under scrutiny



Judoka Ryuju Nagayama (right) refuses to shake hands with Spain's Francisco Garrigos after their quarterfinal bout in the men's under 60-kilogramme event at the Paris Olympics on 27 July 2024. PHOTO: AFP

CLOSE decisions and controversies became big talking points at the Paris Olympics, where referees and officials came under more

scrutiny than ever in the face of improved technology and instant reactions shared on social media.

In judo, Japanese Shinichi Shinohara's disputed defeat to

Frenchman David Douillet in their 2000 Sydney Olympics final triggered the introduction of video reviews. The availability of video records and cutting-edge technol-

ogy is now allowing other sports to develop similar systems while developing better referee training.

In Paris' men's football quarterfinals, Mao Hosoya's first-half

equalizer for Japan against eventual champions Spain initially stood, before the video assistant referee found the forward's foot just barely offside, epitomizing how accurate and useful technology can be.

Meanwhile, Japan was denied a historic men's basketball group-stage win over France, after Yuki Kawamura was adjudged to have committed a foul with 10 seconds to go on Matthew Strazel's successful three-pointer. The ensuing free throw eventually sent the game to overtime.

The debate heated up on social media over whether Kawamura had actually touched Strazel on the play, which was not reviewed by video at the venue. Kawamura said after the match, "For me, it

was a harsh call."

Judoka Ryuju Nagayama was controversially knocked out in a men's 60-kilogramme bout, this time confirmed after a video review. Responding to a call by Mexican referee Elizabeth Gonzalez to stop the contest temporarily, he relaxed his grip, while Spaniard Francisco Garrigos continued to apply a chokehold before receiving a win by ippon.

Upon reviewing the video, the All Japan Judo Federation found Garrigos' chokehold continued some six seconds after the order to stop, and immediately filed a written complaint to the International Judo Federation but "did not receive a satisfying answer".

Artistic swimming has undergone frequent rule changes,

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- At the Paris Olympics, close decisions and controversies surrounding officiating drew significant attention, intensified by advancements in technology and social media scrutiny.
- Notable incidents included a disputed foul in men's basketball that denied Japan a win over France and a controversial judo bout where video reviews revealed procedural errors, prompting complaints to governing bodies.
- The ongoing debates highlighted inconsistencies in rule enforcement across various sports, leaving athletes like cyclist Kaiya Ota grappling with the impact of subjective judging on their performances.

which introduced confusion in Paris. In the technical routine, a protest resulted in a large points deduction against Japan being overruled, but the team's coach claimed some countries performed lifts that were supposed to have been banned and that "there had been a complete lack of information provided" heading into the games.

Diving is at the other end of the spectrum, with former judges with a wealth of international competition experience evaluating the Olympics judges from behind the scenes. Those giving out scores well outside the ranges set by the ex-judges are relieved of their duties.

In sport climbing's boulder and lead category, Ai Mori came

first in lead but missed the women's podium after scoring zero points in the first of her four boulder problems.

The starting holds were placed beyond the 154-centimetre climber's ability to reach even with a running jump, leaving Britain's Daily Mail to run a story picking up social media posts questioning the fairness of those setting up the problems.

"Part of me is not satisfied with the decisions," cyclist Kaiya Ota said after the Japanese medal hopeful was relegated in the men's sprint and disqualified in keirin. "But I have to accept that where I am in terms of ability leaves my fate in the judges' hands."

SOURCE: Kyodo

NATIONAL



This photo showcases Shwedagon Pagoda in August 2024. **PHOTO: HTUN HTUN**

2025 Shwedagon Pagoda calendar to be published

THE Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees invited individuals to send photos to publish a calendar for 2025 of Shwedagon Pagoda.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees invites enthusiasts and professional

photographers to send beautiful (Portrait and Landscape) photos of the scenery of the pagoda and the Buddha Images in 2024 for the 2025 Shwedagon Pagoda Calendar.

Individuals can take a 10-inch by 15-inch photo on glossy

paper and send it by 4 pm on 26 August.

Selected photos will be given an appropriate reward, and details can be requested by contacting the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees office. — TWA/MKKS



A glimpse of the façade of the Ministry of Planning and Finance Office Building.

IRD to hold written exam for 250 Deputy Staff-Officer positions

THE Internal Revenue Department (IRD) will conduct a written examination for 250 Deputy Staff-Officer positions with a salary scale of K216,000-K2,000-K226,000. The exam is scheduled to commence on 1 September, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Applications for the 250 positions must be submitted by 31 July, as previously announced in the 1 July and 15 July editions of the Kyemon newspaper.

The eligibility exam will be held at No 11 Basic Education

High School in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. Candidates will be tested on three subjects: Myanmar, English and General Knowledge.

Applicants must present their original national scrutiny card, household registration list, matriculation certificate, and degree certificate at the Internal Revenue Department office in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 and 28 August during office hours to collect their exam admission cards. Only those with valid exam admission cards will be permitted to take the test. — TWA/KZL

900+ petrol stations to be inspected for fuel quality

THE Ministry of Energy will inspect over 900 petrol stations to make sure that the quality of fuel is correct after inspecting 345 stations to ensure compliance with quality standards and accurate measurements, according to the Petroleum Products Supervision and Inspection Department.

In carrying out this inspection, the department's Mobile Fuel Lab vehicles made surprise checks at the 261 filling stations in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region during the

2023-2024 financial year.

The Petroleum Products Supervision and Inspection Department under the Ministry of Energy is responsible for the supply chain of petroleum products. The specification inspections will be carried out more effectively at petrol stations in relevant regions and states to ensure the continued development of a responsible supply chain for petroleum products and ensure compliance with quality standards and accurate measurements. — TWA/MKKS



This photo shows petrol stations under inspection to ensure compliance with quality standards and accurate measurements.

Oil mills task force disburses K3.5B loan to 31 oil millers

OIL Mills Development Loan Management Task Force provided a K3.5 billion loan for 31 oil millers.

The State allocated a K50 billion development fund for oil mills. The loans are being disbursed at low interest rates to install advanced machines at oil mills, upgrade machines

and meet working capital requirements.

Oil millers can apply for loans under two categories. For working capital requirements, K10 to K300 million loans are provided with one-year loan terms. Oil millers can apply for a K20 to 30 million loan to purchase equipment and con-

struct buildings with three-year loan terms.

The oil millers must hold a valid licence and are currently running operations. They must present real property, assets and farm ownership certificate Form 7 as collateral. Those who have already received loans from the respective state-owned banks and private banks need to provide separate collateral to apply for oil mill development loans.

The oil mills from regions and states can apply for that loan at Myanma Economic Bank branches and Myanma Agricultural Development Bank branches.

The loan scheme started in 2022. Those millers who met loan criteria have already been received. — TWA/KK



This photo shows a domestic oil mill operating.

Over 1,600 food companies, factories apply for GACC so far

A total of 1,604 Myanmar food processing companies and factories have submitted over 3,249 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) so far, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization's GACC office team.

According to GACC Decree 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022.

Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and livestock animal businesses need to apply for GACC license in order to place their goods in China's market. The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the



The photo shows shrimp being processed for export markets.

Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration.

Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> by creating accounts for those food

groups that are not listed in the 18 groups mentioned above.

Between 1 December 2021 and 9 August 2024, 3,249 applications by 1,604 factories have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (3,092 applications), the Fisheries Department (134), the Livestock Breeding and Veteri-

nary Department (14) and the Food and Drug Administration Department (nine).

Regarding the registration of the importing companies, the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine under the GACC will check quarantine access for the following imported grains (raw coffee beans, cocoa beans,

fresh and dehydrated vegetables, spices, edible grain, dried beans and pulses, oil crops and herbal animal products and plant to be used in Chinese traditional medicine for their origins.

Companies cannot manually proceed with registration, and they need to carry out this step through competent authorities and departments concerned by sending an email to dapq@customs.gov.cn or submitting a letter to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar or the Myanmar Embassy to China.

As of 5 August 2024, a total of 1,050 applications have been successful in registering with the GACC with the approval of the competent authority. Additionally, a manual registration list of overseas manufacturers of imported foods with the GACC as of 27 July 2024 has been uploaded on <http://dzs.customs.gov.cn/>. Individuals can enquire further information through the contact numbers of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization: 067 3408605, 067 3408617 and email myantrade.domestic@gmail.com. — NN/KK

BIMSTEC Young Gen Forum invites Myanmar entrepreneurs

"BIMSTEC Young Gen Forum: Where the Future Meets" will be held from 28 to 31 August 2024 in Bangkok and invited Myanmar entrepreneurs, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

This forum aims to exchange ideas with the young entrepreneurs of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) member states, enhance innovation, and forge mutual understanding. BIMSTEC member states are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The representatives of member states will discuss one of the main seven sectors in the cooperation of the BIMSTEC to effectuate economic growth for their countries. They will make ten ten-minute-TED Talk presentations. Representatives will be provided with flight round trips (economy class), accommodation for a three-day stay and transport to and from airports.

Myanmar entrepreneurs can register to participate in the forum through the contact number of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 or email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

MGJEA to offer 2024 Gem Training Batch 5 for free in September

MYANMAR Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association is planning to conduct 2024 Gem Training (Batch 5) for free in September at Shwekyapin Gems and Jewellery Vocational School in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar citizens aged 18-30 years who must complete elementary school, must be healthy and be committed to finishing the class are eligible to attend the training.

They must also present a CV form, citizenship scrutiny card, education certificate or recommendation, three passport-sized photos taken within three months, health certificate, recommendation letter from the ward administrator or village administrator and parent or guardian approval.



The file photo shows gem merchants appraising uncut jade stones.

The training will last eight months, including two months of on-the-job training from September 2024 to February 2025. The maximum number of trainees is 60, and they can study one specialized subject on practical and theoretical approaches.

The subjects include lapidary art for gemstone cutting and polishing jade bracelets and beads, CNC jade carving and polishing using the computer system, jade carving arts, gemstone-related subjects, gemstone cutting, gems and jewellery arts, 2D Sketch Jewellery Design & 3D CAD/CAM, wax moulding, micro-setting and goldsmith.

Those qualified from other re-

gions and states will be provided accommodation as well. They can order food at the school canteen.

Interested and qualified individuals can send the entrance application to the principal of Gem Institute in Nay Pyi Taw personally or through email: gemtraining-skp3@gmail.com or Viber phone 09 753216412 by 23 August 2024 within office hours.

Enrollment and personal interviews will be decided upon when filing early applications. Individuals can enquire about details through the Facebook page Shwekyapin Gems & Jewellery Vocational School and phone 067 8102047. — NN/KK

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan picked as No 1 country travellers wish to revisit: survey

The survey, conducted from January to March among 7,460 respondents aged 20 to 59 across 15 countries, found that 34.6 per cent of participants chose Japan, citing its food, culture, and natural landscapes.

JAPAN was chosen by international travellers as the country they most wish to revisit due to its food, culture and natural landscapes, according to a recent survey by Japanese ad agency Dentsu Inc.

In a multiple-response question of the online survey, conducted in 15 countries and areas from January to March, Japan topped the list at 34.6 per

cent, followed by Singapore at 14.7 per cent and the United States at 13.0 per cent.

South Korea ranked fourth at 10.5 per cent and Britain fifth at 10.4 per cent, according to the survey that collected responses from 7,460 people aged 20 to 59.

The 15 countries and areas surveyed were the United States, Australia, Britain,

China, Germany, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Singapore, South Korea, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam. Asked what respondents looked for in their visit to Japan, 28.6 per cent cited the diverse food scene, while 27.9 per cent were drawn to the country's culture and 25.6 per cent to unique natural landscapes. — Kyodo



A tourist at the Chureito Pagoda near Japan's Mount Fuji. New services have been launched and regulations eased to encourage wealthy visitors to the country to go off the beaten track as regions look to recover following the Covid-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

Three years after Taliban return, economic woes loom large

DESPITE three years of improved security following the end of the Taliban's insurgency, Afghanistan's economy remains stagnant and its population is in the grips of a worsening humanitarian crisis.

A third of Afghanistan's roughly 40 million people live on bread and tea, according to the United Nations, there is massive unemployment, and the World Bank warns of zero growth over the next three years.

But there have been some positive changes since the Taliban takeover in 2021 — even if their government remains

unrecognised by any other country. The currency has been resilient, corruption is no longer ubiquitous, and tax collection has improved.

Authorities have also built "economic, commercial, transit and investment" ties in the region, according to Ahmad Zahid, deputy commerce and industry minister.

Afghanistan has great mineral and agricultural potential, which the Taliban government is attempting to exploit, but they are impeded by poor infrastructure and a lack of domestic and foreign expertise and capital. — AFP



Afghan people buy dry fruits at a local market in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, 20 April 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Singapore records 2.9% economic growth in Q2



This photo taken on 13 August 2024 shows the business district at Singapore's Marina Bay. **PHOTO: THEN CHIH WEY/XINHUA**

THE Singapore economy expanded 2.9 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of

this year, and its GDP growth averaged 3.0 per cent in the first half, according to the quarterly

economic survey issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) on Tuesday.

The growth in the second quarter was primarily driven by the wholesale trade, finance and insurance, and information and communications sectors.

Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector shrank one per cent year-on-year in the second quarter due to a contraction in the biomedical manufacturing cluster. The electronics cluster returned to growth, supported by strong demand for smartphones, personal computers, and AI-related chips, even as demand for automotive and industrial chips remained weak. — Xinhua

UN body downgrades 2024 Latin American economic growth projection

ECONOMIC growth in Latin America and the Caribbean will come in at a low 1.8 per cent for 2024, a United Nations body said Tuesday, after it had previously forecast a figure of 2.1 per cent.

The region remained stuck "in a trap of low growth accompanied by poor investment per-

formance and low labour productivity," said the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Labor productivity was expected to come in below 1980 levels, it said, and while employment figures have grown, these

were mostly in the informal sector.

To address these problems in the context of global economic uncertainty, the region needed to strengthen macroeconomic and labour policies for "a reactivation", said the ECLAC report. — AFP

Cambodia welcomes interest of Chinese businesspeople in investing in agriculture, tourism: PM

CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Hun Manet on Tuesday welcomed the interest of Chinese businesspeople in investing in the Southeast Asian country, according to a news release from the prime minister's spokesperson unit.

He made the remarks when meeting with a visiting Chinese business delegation from Shantou City in south China's Guangdong Province.

During the meeting in Phnom Penh, the prime minister welcomed the interest shown by the Chinese businesspeople in investing in Cambodia's sectors with potential to tap, such as agriculture, industry, and tourism, the

news release said.

While stressing Cambodia's long-standing relations and iron-clad friendship with China, the prime minister also said that the delegation's visit would contribute to expanding cooperation between the two countries in economy, trade, and people-to-people exchanges, according to the news release.

Ky Sereyvath, director-general of the Institute of China Studies at the Royal Academy of Cambodia, told Xinhua: "The unbreakable iron-clad friendship between the two countries has provided tremendous benefits to Cambodia's socio-economic development and poverty alleviation."

He said China is the largest official development assistance provider, investor, and trading partner of Cambodia.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative, a number of Chinese-built mega projects such as national roads, river bridges, expressways, ports, airports, hydropower plants, special economic zones, and a national stadium have been carried out in Cambodia, he added.

"These projects have played and will continue to play a crucial role in supporting Cambodia's socioeconomic development and generating jobs for local people," Sereyvath said. — Xinhua

Cambodia's strong ties with China significantly enhance economic cooperation and exchanges between the two nations.



Cambodian Bokator martial artists perform at the northern part of Bayon Temple in the complex of the Angkor Archaeological Park in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, 24 April 2024. PHOTO: SAO KHUTH/XINHUA

Dutch bankruptcies surge 43% in 2024

THE Netherlands saw a sharp rise in company bankruptcies in the first seven months of 2024, up 43 per cent year-on-year, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) reported on Monday. The increase is part of an upward trend that has persisted for over two years, CBS highlighted.

In July, bankruptcies reached 453, marking a six per cent increase from June. The trade sector was particularly affected, with 108 companies going bankrupt.

Notably, the international fashion brand Esprit announced the closure of

more than 10 of its Dutch stores in July.

Nevertheless, experts have anticipated this trend of bankruptcies. A May report by Rabobank showed that more than half of Dutch entrepreneurs perceived a decline in the business environment over the past five years.

The bank predicted a bleak outlook for investment and the overall business climate in the Netherlands driven by macroeconomic pressures, with bankruptcies expected to keep rising through the end of 2024. — Xinhua

Workers at world's biggest copper mine in Chile go on strike

WORKERS at the world's largest copper mine in northern Chile went on strike on Tuesday after failing to reach a labour agreement with Australian group BHP, their union said.

Unions have long demanded that one per cent of shareholder dividends

for the Escondida mine, which produces 5.4 per cent of the world's copper, be distributed among workers.

On Tuesday, their union said in a statement that "a legal strike started today" over unmet demands that also include shorter work days, bigger bonuses

and compensation for total years worked.

Media reports in Chile said the company had offered the 2,400 union workers a one-off bonus of nearly \$29,000, lower than the \$36,000 demanded.

Chile is the world's largest copper producer with annual production of

more than five million metric tons, nearly a quarter of global output.

When workers at the mine went on a 44-day strike in 2017—the longest in Chile's mining history—BHP lost \$740 million, contributing to a 1.3 per cent decline in the country's GDP. — AFP



The Netherlands saw a sharp rise in company bankruptcies in the first seven months of 2024. PHOTO: PEXELS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV92S1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV92S1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-8-2024 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.

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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB431A)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB431A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-8-2024 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

Kishida's departure as Japan PM stems from failure to dissolve Diet

Kishida aimed to bolster his political standing and secure a long-term government for his conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), but a series of scandals, including undisclosed income from fundraising parties, led to a significant drop in his approval ratings to around 20 per cent.



Fumio Kishida, Japan's prime minister, is set to resign at the end of his ruling party's presidential term in September, largely due to his failure to dissolve the House of Representatives at a strategic moment. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

A major miscalculation by Fumio Kishida, who will resign as Japan's prime minister at the

end of his ruling party's presidential term in September, was his failure to find an opportunity

to dissolve the House of Representatives.

Shortly after hosting the Group of Seven summit in his home constituency of Hiroshima in May 2023, which included an appearance by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, speculation surged that Kishida would call a snap election in the near future.

Kishida tried to boost his political standing to establish a long-running government by leading his conservative Liberal Democratic Party to victory in a general election, but a series of scandals eventually prevented him from taking that gamble.

Since late last year, the LDP has faced intense scrutiny after some of its factions failed to report portions of their

income from fundraising parties and created slush funds, driving approval ratings for Kishida's Cabinet down to the 20 per cent range.

His unpopularity sparked concerns within the LDP that the ruling camp would experience a significant setback if the next lower house election were to be held under Kishida, who took office in October 2021, prompting some lawmakers to seek his ouster from power.

Kishida became the eighth premier since 1945 to reach 1,000 days in office in June, but he "has many problems as a leader" as he "lacks coordination skills without conceiving a long-term vision", said Koji Nakakita, a professor in politics at Chuo University. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel pounds Gaza ahead of ceasefire talks

ISRAELI air strikes targeted Gaza on Wednesday ahead of ceasefire talks that the United States hopes will stop Iran striking Israel in retaliation for the killing of a Hamas leader.

Iran and its allies blamed Israel for the 31 July killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran during a visit for the inauguration of President Masoud Pezeshkian. Israel has not commented.

The West has urged Iran to stand down its threat to avenge his death, which came hours after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed a senior commander of Hezbollah, the powerful Iran-backed militant group in Lebanon. The escalation has raised fears of a wider conflict after more than 10 months of war in Gaza, which has claimed nearly 40,000 lives, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run Palestinian territory. — AFP

IAEA currently unable to determine cause of Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant fire

The IAEA will continue its analysis of the situation.



The IAEA noted that the fire's primary source likely did not originate at the base of the cooling tower and that the damage appeared concentrated inside the tower, specifically around the water nozzle distribution level about 10 metres high. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said late Monday that its experts visited a damaged cooling tower of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP) earlier that day but have not been able to determine the cause of a fire there on Sunday.

Russia and Ukraine have blamed each other for the incident. Russia accused Ukraine of a drone attack, while Ukraine said Russian "negligence" or arson could have sparked the fire.

The IAEA said in a statement

late Monday night that its experts stationed at ZNPP, following their observations at the site of the damaged cooling tower, assessed that "it was unlikely that the primary source of the fire began at the base of the cooling tower".

According to the statement,

the experts "determined that the damage was most likely concentrated on the interior of the tower at the water nozzle distribution level, located at roughly 10 metres high," but they have not been granted access to the level. — Xinhua

India, Australia intensifying maritime cooperation in Indian Ocean region

AUSTRALIA and India are intensifying their maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region, Australia's envoy to India Philip Green said the day the 6th Australia-India Maritime Dialogue was held in Canberra.

The Australian envoy, taking to X, said this Dialogue will present an opportunity for its foreign and defence ministry to discuss the shared priorities.

The 6th India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue was held on Tuesday in Canberra. As per a Ministry of External Affairs statement, the two sides conferred on ways to sustain a safe and secure maritime environment conducive for inclusive growth and global well-being.

They exchanged views on various topics of mutual inter-

est, including the maritime security environment in the Indo-Pacific region, maritime domain awareness, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) coordination, regional and multilateral engagements and sustainable use of marine resources. — ANI



India's blue economy initiative aims to sustainably harness ocean resources, fostering economic growth while protecting marine ecosystems. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

SPORTS

Long weekend as first round of LaLiga games gives first view of Mbappe and Flick's Barca

THE first 'weekend' of the new LaLiga season is a very long weekend indeed as the first round of matches kicks off on Thursday night, with the last games played on Monday.

The coming days should give us the first chance to see Kylian Mbappe wearing a Real Madrid shirt in a competitive game in Spain, while it will be fascinating to see how Hansi Flick starts his time as Barcelona coach and while new Atletico Madrid signings Alexander Sorloth and Julian Alvarez travel to play in Villarreal - which is familiar ground for the former of those two.

Athletic Club Bilbao and Getafe have the honour of getting the ball rolling on Thursday evening, with the home side buoyed by Nico Williams' decision to stay for another season.

The Basque side who finished fifth last season, and won the Copa del Rey, haven't had a great pre-season and will hope not to miss Spain keeper Unai Simon, who is out for three months after a wrist operation, while understudy Julen Agirrezabala is a doubt with a back problem, meaning third choice Alex Padilla is likely to make his league debut. — Xinhua

Refugee Olympic Team inspires as it makes history

FROM the team's first-ever medal to its final appearances and some personal bests, refugee athletes at the Paris Olympics showcased their determination and the power of sport to transform lives.

A fortnight-long celebration of sports in Paris that began with smiles in the rain on the Seine ended with joy and pride for the Refugee Olympic Team, including its first-ever Olympic medal. The Refugee Olympic Team, which made its inaugural appearance at Rio 2016, was established by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and

the Olympic Refugee Foundation (ORF) - with support from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency - to give forcibly displaced athletes the chance to showcase their talents on the highest sporting stage. "These refugee athletes have overcome immense challenges, but their success is a reminder to the world of what can be achieved when refugees are given a helping hand to pursue their dreams," said Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, Kelly T Clements, who watched the team take part in the Paris 2024 closing ceremony on Sunday. — Xinhua



This file photo shows a competitor completing a sequence of jumps and flips at the Tianmen Mountain National Forest Park in Zhangjiajie, central China's Hunan Province. **PHOTO: TIANMEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST PARK/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA/FILE**

Parkour traceurs to challenge 999-step course in China's Tianmen Mountain

The event will include individual speed runs, skills challenges, team races, and two fun races designed to enhance enjoyment and interaction among participants.

PARKOUR runners home and abroad will compete at the Tianmen Mountain National Forest Park in Zhangjiajie, central China's Hunan Province from 21 to 23 July.

Competitors will challenge to complete a sequence of jumps and flips down a nearly 300-metre-long slope with a 150-metre vertical drop from the top of the 999-step staircase leading up to the iconic Tianmen Cave. The course is

known as one of the most difficult parkour courses due to its high complexity.

According to the organizers, 108 sets of props are placed along the steps as obstacles, and competitors need to maintain their balance while performing skilful actions at full speed.

The competition features the individual speed run, individual skills challenge, and team race. They are accom-

panied by two fun races to increase the enjoyment of the competition, in which the parkour traceurs will compete in a more interactive and fun manner within specific rules.

The competition also includes a track specific for children to compete.

The organizers said the competition has attracted over 200 enthusiasts to register, and international runners are also invited to compete. — Xinhua



Philippines' Carlos Yulo (C), Paris 2024 Olympic Games double gold medalist in gymnastics, and other Philippine athletes wave during a homecoming parade in Manila. **PHOTO: AFP**

Philippines holds victory parade for two-gold Olympic gymnast Yulo

THOUSANDS of shrieking fans jammed the streets of the Philippine capital Manila on Wednesday in a celebratory homecoming parade for Paris Olympics double gold medallist Carlos Yulo.

The 24-year-old gymnast rode a float with other Filipino Olympians through major Manila streets, having given his

country its grandest Games result in 100 years.

By winning the men's floor exercises and vault, the diminutive Yulo tripled the country's overall Olympic gold medal haul to three.

With his medals hanging proudly on his neck, a beaming Yulo flashed victory signs to the adoring crowd who waved Philip-

pine flags and took selfies using the float, adorned with the five Olympic rings, as backdrop.

Giant posters bearing Yulo's image hung from electric posts on the side of the streets.

Yulo's Olympic feat reignited hope for the 115 million Filipinos, many of whose lives are blighted by poverty, natural disasters and corruption. — AFP



UN General Assembly proclaims 2025-2034 as decade of action for cryospheric sciences

This initiative aims to tackle challenges related to melting glaciers and changes in the cryosphere by promoting scientific research and monitoring.



Cryospheric sciences study the Earth's ice and snow systems, including glaciers, ice caps, and sea ice. This field examines their impact on climate, sea level rise, and ecosystems. PHOTO: NASA/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

THE UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on Tuesday proclaiming 2025-2034 as the decade of action for cryospheric sciences.

The resolution, titled "Decade of action for cryospheric sciences, 2025-2034" and adopted without a vote, was aimed at addressing the challenges associated with melting glaciers and changes to the cryosphere by advancing related scientific research and monitoring.

Introducing text of the draft resolution, the representative of France spotlighted the vulnerability of glaciers and poles to climate change and their role

in regulating climate, ocean levels and preserving biodiversity.

"This UN Decade will provide a political impetus needed to make this issue a priority on the multilateral agenda," she said, describing the cryosphere, the frozen components of the Earth's system, as "an essential resource for our planet's equilibrium".

Also on Tuesday, the General Assem-

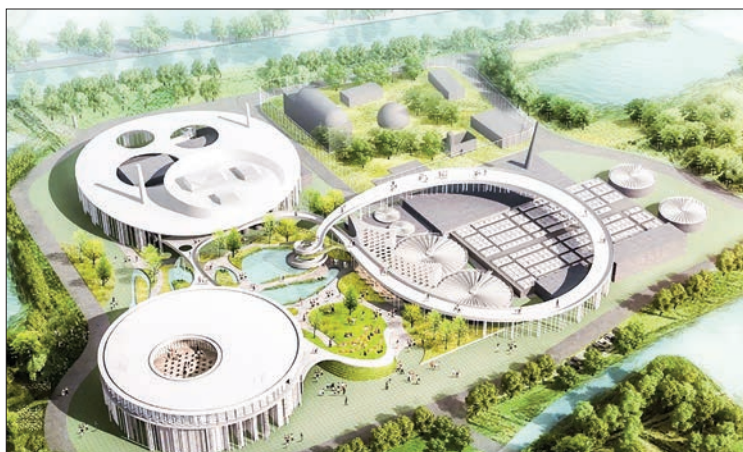
bly adopted a resolution on "Fostering sustainable forest management, including afforestation and reforestation, in degraded lands, including drylands, as an effective solution to environmental challenges".

Sustainable forest management, including afforestation and reforestation, can have economic, social and environmental benefits inter alia by contributing

substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation, said the resolution, which also emphasized the importance of strengthening international cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships to promote sustainable forest management.

Meanwhile, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, a resolution titled "Multidimensional vulnerability index" on Tuesday. — Xinhua

Chinese wastewater treatment project wins global innovation top prize



The China Concept WWTP is oriented to 2030-40, practising low-carbon concepts, and intensively applying and demonstrating global advanced technologies. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/THE SOURCE MAGAZINE.ORG

A Chinese wastewater treatment project has won the global innovation top prize from the International Water Association (IWA).

The project "Stimulating Technology and Market Transformation: China's Sewage Resource Concept Plant," stood out to win the IWA's overall Global Grand Innovation Award for 2024 during the World Water Congress & Exhibition held from Sunday to Thursday in Toronto.

The overall Global Grand Innovation Award winners were the Committee of China Concept Wastewater Treatment Plant and CSD Water Service Co Ltd.

The committee's goal to address climate change, resource scarcity, and sustainable living challenges took shape at the Yixing Concept Water Resource Reclamation Facility, which handles 20,000 cubic metres of wastewater daily. — Xinhua

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Thai court removes PM Srettha over cabinet appointment

THAILAND'S Constitutional Court on Wednesday removed Srettha Thavisin from the prime minister's post, ruling his nomination of a ministerial candidate with a prison record during the cabinet reshuffle in April violated the constitution.

The judges voted by 5 to 4 to order the removal, effective on 14 August 2024, as Srettha's appointment of Pichit Chuenban as minister of the Prime Minister's Office violated Thai constitution which stipulates that ministers must be "of evident integrity" and their behaviour must comply with ethical standards. — Xinhua