

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

MAI marks 31st Anniversary with 31% flight discount, lucky draws

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) is offering a 31-per-cent discount on domestic and international flight tickets, along with lucky draw programmes, to commemorate its 31st anniversary.

The discounted tickets will be available throughout August, marking the anniversary on 15 August. The promotional travel period extends until the end of December 2024, with tickets available via MAI's direct sales channels and authorized ticket dealers.

Additionally, there will be a Weekend Exclusive programme. Under this scheme, passengers who purchase tickets through the MAI website www.mai-air.com or MAI Xtra application using an MAI UAB Visa card on Saturdays and Sundays will receive discounts. Those buying international flight tickets with the MAI UABI promo code will enjoy a five per cent discount, while those purchasing domestic tickets with the MAI UABD promo code will receive a ten per cent discount.

Passengers who buy tickets in person at the MAI Yangon headquarters can participate in a lucky draw to win free flight tickets to destinations such as Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Kolkata, and Chiang Mai, as well as many other prizes.

Currently, MAI operates in 36 cities, including locations in Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, China, India, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The airline plans to expand its strategic network to include 41 domestic and international destinations, with new routes to Doha, Qatar, and Dhaka, Bangladesh. — TWA/MKKS



This image shows the promotion of MAI's 31st Anniversary Sale and Lucky Draw Programme.

Article

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

By **THAN HTUN**
(GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR) **PAGE 8-9**

NATIONAL

PAGE 5



Embassy lists eligible individuals for lost passport replacement



This photo shows a variety of rice packs on a supermarket shelf in Yangon.

MoC: Rice sales must adhere to set reasonable market prices

The Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce stated that reasonable market prices of rice for August were issued, and failing to do so is subject to legal action.

The Ministry of Commerce issued reasonable prices for all varieties; of non-premium rice (Aemahta, Ngasein, Sinthukha, Ngasein Yakyaw, Kayinma, Yadanatone, Tunpu, GW-11, 747, Theepu, Shweman, and Hanankauk, among others), locally consumed rice (Ayeyamin, Shwethwe, Hmawby-2,-33, 90-day short-matured rice, Manawthukha), mod-

erate quality rice including Magyantaw and premium Pawsan rice (Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan). The ministry announced that retailers are not to make a profit of more than eight per cent of the set reasonable market prices.

The ministry determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors: fair profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices and other commodity prices. There are separate prices for modern trade with consumer packaging

at mini-marts and supermarkets.

If individuals have difficulty buying rice, they are urged to contact the Myanmar Rice Federation. The buyers can complain about overpricing to the Consumer Affairs Department and MRF.

MRF warned that overpricing, sales with inaccurate measurement and quality and non-compliance with directives are subject to fines, taxation and prosecution under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. Thus, rice millers, rice shops, traders and merchants are encouraged to follow the rules. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The People's Pioneer Party, with its headquarters located at No 63, Latha Lower Block Street, Ward 3, Latha Township, Yangon Region, has already been allowed to register as a political party under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It has been submitted to the Union Election Commission that the party's logo be changed and used as described.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the following party logo to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



ပြည်သူ့ရှေ့ဆောင်ပါတီ (People's Pioneer Party) ၏ တံဆိပ်ပုံစံ

Union Election Commission

MoFA Director-General signs condolences book for demise of Indonesian Vice-President



DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Zaw Phyto Win signed the book of condolences for the demise of Mr Hamzah Haz, Indonesia's former vice-president, at the Indonesian Embassy in Yangon yesterday. — MNA/KZL

Director-General U Zaw Phyto Win of the Strategic Studies and Training Department signs the condolences book 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.

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာလူငယ်များနေ့
International Youth Day

“စဉ်ဆက်မပြတ် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေး လူငယ်များရဲ့ ဒစ်ဂျစ်တယ်ကျွမ်းကျင်မှုဖြင့် ဖော်ဆောင်ပေး”
“From Clicks To Progress: Youth Digital Pathways For Sustainable Development”

၁၂ - ၈ - ၂၀၂၄ ရက်နေ့ (တနင်္လာနေ့) ဝဏ္ဏသိဒ္ဓိအားကစားရုံ (A)

Opera series ‘Miyo Phala Yoe Yar Nat Myar’ to air on Channel K, Hey Play

ACCORDING to production director Padamyar Kay Khine, the opera series titled ‘Miyo Phala Yoe Yar Nat Myar’ (traditional spirits) will be broadcast by Channel K and the Hey Play application.

The series’ story and plot were written by Padamyar Kay Khine, with guidance from professional spirit dancers and spirit historians. Myanmar traditional dancer Tin Maung San Min Win is directing the series.

“The theatrical shows reflect traditional spirits. We aim to preserve this tradition, regardless of whether you believe in the spirits or not. We

are creating the series based on the most significant stories and histories from a range of sources. There are 37 internal Nats and 37 external Nats, as well as other famous Nats such as Shin Ma Aung Phyu, who is not among the 37 Mins (Nats),” said the production director.

The series will feature many theatrical dancers from the Myanmar Theatrical Association, led by senior dancers Tin Maung San Min Win, Nang Khin Hmwe, and Padamyar Kay Khine. Filming began on 23 July at Pyinsatheinkha Studio, located in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon. — ASH/TRKM



ASEAN Cyber Shield to enrol 10 Myanmar university students in online programme



Kangwon National University in Gangwon, South Korea, is selected as a facility to implement the student exchange programme for the ASEAN Cyber Shield (ACS).

A total of 10 university students from Myanmar can apply for a cybersecurity online course offered under the ‘ASEAN Cyber Shield Online Education Programme,’ according to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The training programme, which will award ten students from each ASEAN nation and is scheduled to run from 2

September 2024 to 31 January 2025, is a collaborative project between South Korea and ASEAN countries. Outstanding trainees will have the opportunity to participate in a boot camp in Seoul, as announced by the NCSC on 25 July.

Applicants must be citizens of ASEAN countries currently studying cybersecurity, computer engineering, or related fields at a univer-

sity. They should be familiar with areas such as network security, system security, web application security, forensics, cryptography, reverse engineering, vulnerability analysis, and penetration testing.

Interested candidates should fill out the application form available at <https://forms.gle/QEoyGcg-SLew9NY649> and submit it by 31 July. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Greedy businesspersons, terrorists commit illegal trade by trafficking narcotic drugs

State and regional governments, special task forces, and MPF need to conduct investigations and arrest them to be taken action under the law.



Deputy Prime Minister Union Planning & Finance Minister U Win Shein chairs the third meeting of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein highlighted that the Customs Department, as well as Mandalay Region, managed to seize the most enormous volumes of illegal and smuggled commodities in May and June 2024, followed by those of Sagaing Region and Shan State.

The Deputy Prime Minister delivered a speech at the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee meeting 3/2024 at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister, who is in the capacity of the Vice-Chairman of the Steering Committee, explained that under the leadership of the steering committee, commodities

of illegal trade worth K275.126 billion were seized in 13,550 cases up to June 2024.

He also clarified that most of the seized commodities were unregistered vehicles and vessels, raw materials, and consumer goods.

He continued that relevant departments and special task forces nabbed narcotic drugs valued at K303.814 billion from January to December 2023 and K127.978 billion from January to June 2024.

He noted that some countries, including Myanmar, are weak in exercising Non-Tariff Measure-NTMs to import quality products. A total of 26 standard scheming technological committees have issued 819 standards with the approvals of the National

Skill Standards Authority. However, these standards cannot be applied to controlling imported goods due to the lack of mandatory standards.

He emphasized that the Ministry of Commerce has formed a task force to exercise Non-Tariff Measure-NTMs in June 2024, urging all relevant departments to issue notifications for practising the standards of imported commodities.

The Deputy Prime Minister noted that due to information from responsible people, illegal commodities, including timbers, industrial goods, consumer goods and foodstuffs, as well as unregistered vehicles worth K5.376 billion, were seized in 168 cases in May and June 2024. He added that more than K1.168 billion

was awarded to informants in the 2023-24 financial year, and K569.132 million rewards will be allocated up to June 2024-25 FY.

He stressed that it is necessary to reduce illegal trade measures and raise tax rates for imported goods in a set period to enable domestic industries to stand for long-term existence. He highlighted that officials need to continue the implementation of the e-Lock phase 2 process so as to control illegal trade measures.

Moreover, the Deputy Prime Minister urged all to allocate rewards for dutiful service personnel and responsible people as quickly as possible for their actions in the prevention of illegal trade.

Secretary of the Steering Committee Deputy Minister for

Commerce U Min Min reported on accomplishments in the minutes of the meeting 2/2024 and the undertaking of the steering committee.

Steering committee members Union Minister U Tun Ohn, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Ko Lay and Lt-Gen Ni Lin Aung discussed findings in reviewing the illegal trade measures, taking action against offenders for seizures of narcotic drugs, arms and ammunition, prohibited chemicals, unregistered vehicles, excise measures, fuel, foodstuffs, medicines and cosmetics, commodity flows at trade camps and illegal sales of commodities online.

The Deputy Prime Minister also coordinated discussions before concluding the meeting. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar's Union Minister calls on Cambodian Senate President and Prime Minister

UNION Minister of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office No 2 U Ko Ko Hlaing paid a working visit to Cambodia from 31 July to 2 August 2024 as a Special Envoy of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

While in Phnom Penh on 1 August 2024, the Special Envoy held a courtesy meeting with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, President of Senate of the Kingdom of Cam-

bodia, at the Senate Palace and paid a courtesy call on Samdech Moha Borvor Thapadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh.

During the meetings, the Special Envoy shared the recent developments in Myanmar, the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus in line with the Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council, as well as the preparation to hold a free and fair election in Myanmar. Besides, they

cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the existing ties of friendship between the two countries, prospects for the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation in various areas, including tourism, connectivity and culture, closer collaboration at both regional and multilateral arenas as well as the possible activities to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Cambodia diplomatic relations in 2025.

In the afternoon, the Myanmar



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing pays a courtesy call on Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Cambodian Senate President.

delegation led by the Special Envoy also attended the luncheon hosted by First Vice-Chair-

man Mr Park Sokhonn of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia. — MNA

NATIONAL

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister arrives back after attending Swearing-in Ceremony of Iran's new President

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe arrived back in Myanmar by air from Iran yesterday after attending the Swearing-in Ceremony of Mr Masoud Pezeshkian, new President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was held in Tehran on 30 July 2024. The dele-

gation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe is seen on his arrival back from Iran yesterday at the Yangon International Airport.



Myanmar hosts 'International Friendship Day' in New Delhi



Myanmar Ambassador U Moe Kyaw Aung (2L) is pictured at the International Friendship Day.

THE International Friendship Day 2024 was celebrated on 30 July at the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi, aiming to strengthen further friendship, understanding, and trust between the people of Myanmar and India.

The event was organized by the Embassy of Myanmar in New Delhi in collaboration with the Indo-Myanmar

Friendship Association and the Global Trade and Technology Council (India).

During the event, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung gave an opening speech. He expressed his pleasure at meeting the friendly communities from Myanmar and India on International Friendship Day, emphasized that Myanmar

and India are good neighbours, and highlighted the importance of maintaining lasting friendship between the two countries.

The event was attended by diplomats, members of the Indo-Myanmar Friendship Association, business organizations, entrepreneurs, friends, and families. — ASH/TMT

Successful finger replantation at Mandalay General Hospital

A 29-year-old man from Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, accidentally severed his right index finger on the evening of 15 May.

He was transferred from Sagaing General Hospital to Mandalay General Hospital (MGH) the same day. The replantation of his index finger was successfully performed by specialists and surgeons at MGH on 16 May.

Upon his arrival at MGH, the patient received necessary

emergency treatments from medical officers, nurses, and medical staff in the emergency ward. The successful operation was carried out by a team of surgeons, including Professor Dr Sithu, hand surgery specialist Dr Denial Ko Lay, Dr Phyo Swe Win Tin, anaesthetists, other specialists, and nurses at MGH.

The patient was discharged on 24 June, as his finger had shown good recovery with proper blood circulation. — MNA/TMT



Photos show the recovery from reattachment of the patient's severed right index finger on June 2024.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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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

MoI donates foodstuffs for Tatmadaw, security force members on frontline

DONORS and ministries concerned provide cash assistance and foodstuffs for Tatmadaw and security force members who are sacrificing for State defence and security duties on the frontline.

The Ministry of Information prepared food for them yesterday, and Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Deputy Minister U Ye Tint observed the cooking processes.

Donations from the Ministry of Information include K10 mil-

lion worth of foodstuffs, including instant noodles, vermicelli and cheroots. Moreover, officers and staff put their messages in the parcels.

Similarly, MRTV also arranged to transport K2 million worth of foodstuffs and ready-made foods yesterday.

Tatmadaw flights, helicopters and vessels will transport the donated foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members and security forces on frontline. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views round the preparation for donation yesterday.

7,000 acres in Shan State designated as Monghe protected public forest

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation announced that 7,000 acres in Mongphyat Township of Tachilek District in Shan State (East) have been designated as Monghe Protected Public Forest, effective

from 24 July 2024, under Section 6 (e) of the Forest Law enacted in 2018.

The ministry designates forest reserves and protected public forests with the aim of making forest conservation more effective, promoting

native wildlife, conserving biodiversity, sustaining local agriculture, and preserving natural water resources. Additionally, these efforts aim to reduce slash-and-burn agriculture. — MoNREC/TRKM



This photo showcases the Monghe protected public forest.

Embassy lists eligible individuals for lost passport replacement



The Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

FOR those who have applied to replace lost Myanmar passport in July 2024, the Myanmar Embassy to Thailand announced the list of approved persons.

According to the list announced on 31 July, 63 persons have been approved by the Myanmar passport issuing team.

The embassy stated applicants have to come in person to take out passports, along

with a copy of their citizenship scrutiny card, a copy of the passport's first page, a copy of the embassy's recommendation and a bank deposit slip for 4,900 baht.

According to previous announcements, ten persons in May and 13 persons in February were allowed for the replacement of lost passports.

— MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Tamway Township court sentences 69 offenders for online fraud targeting foreigners



Pictures show evidence of objects and initial arrest implementation.

ON 31 July, Tamway Township Court sentenced 69 offenders to various penalties for their role in fraudulently obtaining personal information of foreigners online.

Authorities discovered that Support Fix Company, located at 5-19 building in U Chit Maung Housing on U Chit Maung Street in Tamway Township, was fraudulently gathering personal information from foreigners to scam them online, using staff from Zhan Tu Company.

Lau Fa (aka Zhu Zhang),

along with six Chinese nationals, were charged under Sections 33(a)/38 of Electronic Transactions Law. Ma Moe Moe Kyi and others 63 were charged under Sections 66(c)/73. Offenders were sent to Tamway Township Court on 19 December 2023. Additionally, Lau Fa (aka Zhu Zhang) and Zhang Yui (aka Wu Kung) were charged under Sections 420 and 468 of the Penal Code.

Tamway Township Court sentenced six individuals, including Lau Fa (aka Zhu

Zhang), to seven years of imprisonment with labour under Sections 33(a)/38 of the Electronic Transactions Law. Sixty-three individuals, including Ma Moe Moe Kyi, were sentenced to three years of imprisonment with labour under Sections 66(c)/73 of the Electronic Transactions Law. Furthermore, two individuals, including Lau Fa (aka) Zhu Zhang, were sentenced to seven years of imprisonment with labour under Sections 420 and 468 of the Penal Code. — TWA/MKKS

Mandalay Min introduces exclusive VIP EV service between Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw

MANDALAY Min passenger bus line has become the first to use an electric vehicle, introducing a new VIP EV express bus for its Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw service.

Currently, it is operating with one vehicle, and the fare is K25,000 per person.

Electric vehicles reduce rising temperatures, air pollution, and fuel consumption, thereby

protecting the natural environment. Additionally, they provide passengers with a comfortable and quiet travel experience, according to the bus line. — TWA/TKO



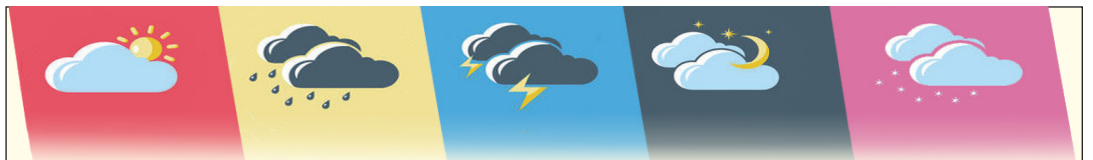
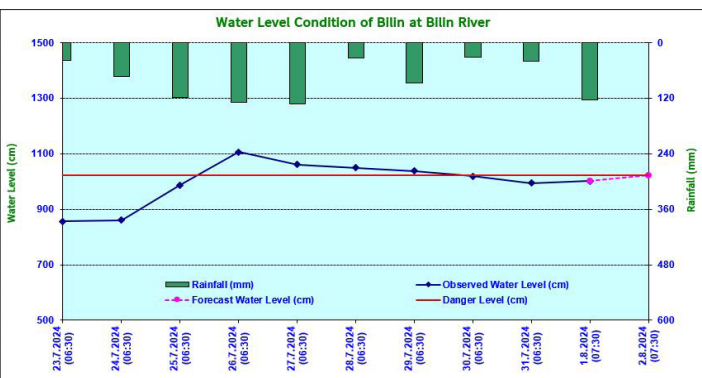
New EV express bus from Mandalay Min passenger bus line.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 8:30 hrs MST on 1-8-2024)

ACCORDING to the (7:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Bilin River at Bilin is observed as about more than 1/2 foot (20 centimetres) below its danger level 33.53 feet (1,022 cm). It may reach its danger level during the next one day.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Bilin Township, to take precaution measure.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 1 August 2024

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 2nd August 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and, Magway Regions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and Rakhine Regions, Kayin and, Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Ayeyawady and, Taninthayi Regions and Southern Shan and, Chin, States. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and, Taninthayi Regions and Eastern Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and, Mon States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 mph. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate to strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd August 2024: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd August 2024: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd August 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

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Rising chilli prices boost farmers' income

THE chilli trade is doing well now, and 692 Moehtaung red chillies are in high demand in the retail market, helping farmers enjoy rising income.

“Chilli price is fine now, so farmers are better off. At present, 692 red hot chillies are selling well. There are many retail orders as well as wholesale orders that are also increasing,” said an official from Toe chilli and crops trading from Wundwin Township, which is a chilli producer.

It is expected that chilli prices will change in the do-



This photo showcases Moehtaung chilli being packed at a wholesale trading centre before transporting to the market.

mestic market over the following months depending on foreign demand, and chilli plantations got damaged due to the weather this year.

“The price will go up in the domestic market if Thailand’s demand increases or will be steady if Thailand’s demand doesn’t rise. I think the price will change depending on current production and foreign demand. There are plantations, though, many plants were dead due to extreme weather,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

Ywangan's wet tea outperforms dry tea in July sales

ACCORDING to the data gathered by The Global New Light of Myanmar, local wet tea was sold better than dry tea in Ywangan’s market in July.

Since it is challenging to dry tea in the sun during this period at the Ywangan market in southern Shan State, farmers produce more wet tea, so it reportedly sells better.

“Tea is traded well now. Sales don’t fall even in the rainy season. People buy it. As it is difficult for sun-drying, people don’t dry it. They sold their stock and made wet tea. Wet tea sells better,” said a tea shopkeeper in Ywangan township.

As with the dry/wet tea market in 2023, there will be no change in the tea market in 2024, and there may be price changes when the rainy season is over.

“Last year, the tea market didn’t go down, and this year, it is the same. It doesn’t go down, and it doesn’t go up. Wet tea will have a higher price after the rain. It is the same for dry tea. The price should be a little better. This time, more people make wet tea, and it rains here every day,” he explained. — Thit Taw/ZN



Wet tea produced in Ywangan of southern Shan State.

FDA warns 48 unregistered hazardous cosmetics for safety risks

THE Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning against 48 unregistered cosmetics as it identified they contain hazardous substances and chemicals that are harmful to health.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, FDA has been supervising the market systematically to ensure the quality of cosmetics that are considered safe for use. According to the Post-Marketing Alert System (PMAS) Report, the 42 cosmetics made in the regional countries were found unregistered and containing toxic substances and prohibited chemicals that are unsafe for use.

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

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

CBM sells 69M baht, 9M yuan to importers on 1 August

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold 69 million Thai baht and nine million yuan for those importing edible oil, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals and medical devices on online trading platforms through authorized banks on 1 August, with a view to curbing instability in the foreign exchange market and stopping the currency devaluation.

According to CBM’s notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and

prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Thai banknotes are seen at the exchange counter.



OPINION

Build a nutritious and healthy society

THE Lord Buddha, in His preaching, emphasized the importance of nutrition for the physical well-being of living beings. His teachings remain relevant today as nutrition is crucial for human survival. Key health indicators such as maternal mortality rate, child mortality rate, and the mortality rate of children under five reflect the economic, social, and health status of a country.

Therefore, nations prioritize health measures for vulnerable groups, particularly mothers, children, and teenagers. Although global progress in maternal and child health has been notable over the past decade, malnutrition continues to be a pressing issue in developing countries.

Malnutrition results from insufficient consumption of essential nutrients or deficiencies in food intake. A significant factor contributing to malnutrition is the lack of knowledge about preparing nutritious meals. Even with access to healthy foods, improper cooking techniques can lead to nutrient loss, rendering meals less beneficial.

The consequences of malnutrition are severe, including immune deficiencies, susceptibility to infectious diseases, impaired brain development, general health deterioration, and a decline in overall quality of life. Nutritionists categorize malnutrition into four key areas: stunting (impaired growth and development), wasting (severe thinness), obesity, and deficiencies in vitamins and minerals. Myanmar has been grappling with child malnutrition for many years. Health records indicate that the maternal mortality rate in Myanmar is 282 per 100,000 pregnant women and births, the second-highest in Southeast Asia. This figure is double the regional average of 140 deaths per 100,000. Ensuring proper nutrition for pregnant and new mothers is crucial in reducing these mortality rates. Nutritional deficiencies during pregnancy can lead to life-threatening complications for both mothers and their babies.

Addressing malnutrition involves more than just providing access to food. It requires educating the public on the importance of balanced diets and proper food preparation methods. Health authorities must implement comprehensive programmes to improve nutritional knowledge and practices among the population. That includes community-based interventions, educational campaigns, and integrating nutrition education into the healthcare system.

Poverty and consumption processes not in harmony with health guidelines may cause malnutrition in children. Hence, health officials need to raise health awareness about the consumption of nutritious foods for students and arrange for school canteens to sell healthy and fresh foods to students. Moreover, the Ministry of Health and relevant ministries have to strive for the enhancement of nutritious food consumption among the people in cooperation with social organizations and the people so as to shape a healthy society.

Mergui Series

THIS article continues from Episode 39, titled 'The Geology of Mergui District,' contributed by Sethu Rama Rau in 1930.

Relationship of the Moulmein to the Mergui series

The isolation of the limestones of the Mergui series in an alluvium-filled valley has so far prevented the establishment of their relationship to the underlying Mergui. There is little doubt that they are unconformable, but the evidence is insufficient to establish this as a definite fact. The outcrop of the limestones at a source of Kyaukpya Chaung, north-west of Peinchaung village on the Mergui rocks, may perhaps be an obscure instance of an unconformable junction.

The Red Sandstones

It is familiar to everyone that biotite granite yields a reddish sandy soil by weathering, the red colour being due to iron oxides liberated by the decomposition of biotite. Many tin and wolfram mines worked in the Tavoy district on the Myitta road, exposing sections that show the weathering of granite on reddish soil. Some of the sandstones have a few concretions of oxide of iron, and the bedding planes of the sedimentary rocks are coated with a thin layer of limonite. The red colour of the sediments of 'The Red Sandstones' may have been caused by the oxide of iron carried in solution from the decomposition of biotite of the granite and from the ferruginous concretions and the limonitic layers of the sedimentary rocks.

The rocks of the Red Sandstone series are made up of the following in descending order:

- IV. Purple sandstones, shales, and conglomerates.
- III. Fine-grained pinkish sandstones and shales with patches of white clay.
- II. Calcareous sandstones.
- I. Conglomerates and grits.

Of these, the last occur on the Pataw and Patit islands, off the coast near Mergui town. The first three are exposed in the chain of islands, commencing with Gladys Island and Kyunzaung in the north of Panadaung Taung and Thityawa Islands in the south. The Dorcas, Kataungbyo, Kyun-

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

EPISODE: 40

bon, and Satkyun islands in the middle of the chain are made up of similar rocks.

Although the general strike of the rocks of the Mergui series is nearly 20° W of N - 20° E of S, the beds of the Red Sandstone series strike 20° E of N - 20° W of S and dip in a direction 20° S of E.

The grits and conglomerates of Patit Island were unsuccessfully searched for fossils. There are many infiltrations of silica in the joints of these rocks, which resemble fossil wood. A specimen under rock register Nos 34-734 of the Geological Survey of India is of such an infiltration. Dr Dudley Stamp has collected silicified fossil wood and impressions of partly carbonized wood. The quarries opened by the Public Works Department for the Mergui Port works have exposed many sections showing the sandstones and grits resting on the denuded edges of the argillites of the Mergui series, as seen in the southwest corner of the island.

It may be stated in this connection that similar 'Purple Sandstones' comprising soft sandstones, shales, and hardened clays of a dark brick-red or chocolate colour were observed by Mr Middlemiss in the Southern Shan States. Dr Noetling has described 'red sandstone of undetermined age', resting on the blue limestones in the Gokteik-Kunlong valley east of Thibaw; Mr Latouche refers to dark red sandstones, with a purplish tinge among the rocks of Namyau series in the Northern Shan States, which have been assigned to the Jurassic period. Dr Cotter has mapped red sandstones in the Amherst district and collected a few very poorly preserved fossils, mainly unidentified lamellibranchs. The 'Red Sandstones' of Kalaw and the coal measures of Loi-an were examined by Dr Cotter, and the plant fossils collected by him

probably belong to some part of the Jurassic or Rhaetic and are consequently Upper Gondwana in age. The 'Red Sandstones' have been given a Jurassic Age by Dr. Cotter. Similar rocks also occur in Tonkin, in Southern Siam.

The Tertiary Series

The Tertiary rocks were deposited in valleys corresponding to the present-day valleys of the Tenasserim, Lenya, and Pakchan rivers and carved out by sub-aerial denudation of the rocks of the Mergui and Moulmein series upon which consequently they lie unconformably. The Tertiaries dip at a low angle while underlying rocks are steeply inclined. Isolated islands made up of rocks of the Mergui series surrounded by Tertiary rocks of variable thickness are common features in the deposits of the Lenya River valley. Though the Tertiary deposits of the Tavoy and Mergui districts, extending over a length of more than 220 miles, appear as disconnected outcrops, they were originally a continuous belt, which has been broken up by the post-Tertiary crustal movements and denuded away by the rivers. The old river valleys correspond generally with the present courses of important rivers of the district, and these coincide with the general line of strike. The Theinkun valley, where Rao Bahadur M Vinayak Rao examined oil shales and Tertiary deposits, is situated a little east of the main line and possibly marks the limits of the original deposits.

The Tertiary rocks are chiefly composed of finely laminated shales, sandstones and conglomerates. The chief outcrops are restricted to the river valleys and may be grouped as follows: -

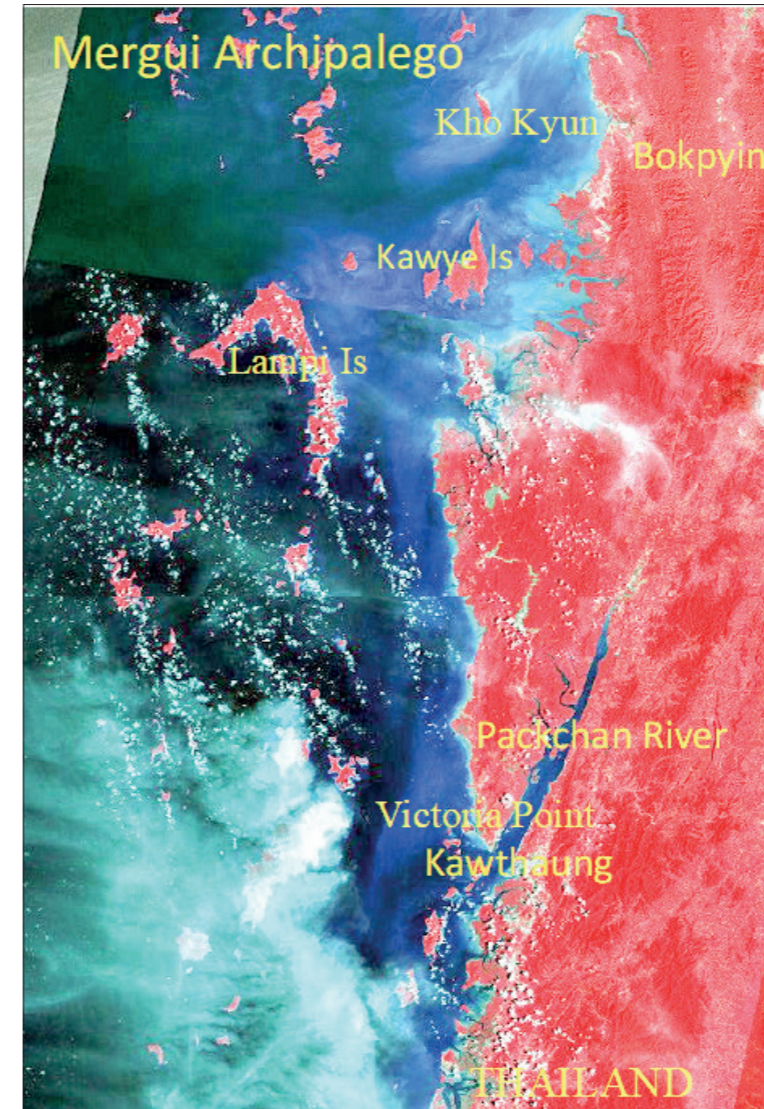
- I. The Tenasserim Valley deposits
- II. The Theinkun Valley deposits
- III. The Lenya Valley deposits

IV. The Pakchan Valley deposits

The formation may be divided into an upper and lower group. The lower group is made up of soft, sandy white shales with plant remains, ferruginous sandy shales with ripple marks at the base, and black carbonaceous shales with thin, irregular layers and lenses of lignite. Resinous lignitic coal is exposed at the top of the lower group. The upper group consists of white or grey, soft, friable sandstones, followed by a ferruginous brown variety. The topmost beds are gravels with white vein-quartz pebbles, associated with a ferruginous conglomerate containing boulders and pebbles of argillites of the Mergui series.

The Tertiary sediments of the Great Tenasserim Valley west of the Thabawleik have been eroded, leaving only a few isolated exposures. Recent and older alluvium has covered these eroded valleys.

In the Lenya River valley, the lower group is well-exposed near the confluence of the Palaw Chaung with the Lenya River and the higher one near the villages of Htawphan, Bonkun, and Nanka Hprao. The thickness of the Tertiary strata of this area may be roughly estimated at 500 feet. The beds strike generally in an N - S direction, changing to 30° W of N - 30° E of S corresponding more or less with the general strike of the country. They dip at low angles of from 3° to 5° in the centre of the valley, rising to nearly 30° on the flanks. The maximum dip of 35° is seen at Palaw and Wanke Hprao. The strata are folded, as can be seen from the varying dip directions. The junction of the Tertiary rocks with those of the Mergui Series is not well exposed, but the abrupt junction makes one suspect either a fault or an unconformity; the latter is more probable. The Pakchan River valley is another example of the



Landsat map of Kawthoung District

removal of the older deposits by denudation and the refilling of the valley with alluvium. This valley is situated along the line of strike of the Tertiary strata of the Lenya and Tenasserim valleys. Near the village of Pakchan, ferruginous sandstones and gravels with white quartz pebbles, resembling the gravel beds of the Lenya River, are well exposed. These are not horizontal but show gentle dips.

The Tenasserim Valley

Mr P N Bose examined the Tenasserim Valley and proposed the name of 'Tendau series' for the Tertiary deposits of the area (The village of Tendau (12° 6'; 99° 4') is situated 19 miles north-east of Tenasserim. These consist of shales and sandstones,

deposits are of shallow-water origin, that they were laid down in a lake-like expanse and derived from the disintegration of the adjoining rocks.

The strike of these rocks is N E - S W with dips ranging from 20° to 40°. The 'Tendau beds' have been disturbed to form a syncline, those on the western side of the river dipping eastward and those on the eastern side dipping westward. They rest unconformably on the Merguis, which dip at greater and more variable angles than the Tertiary beds. (A M Heron's unpublished note on coal written in 1919 has been omitted).

Oil Shales

The upper Tertiary beds exposed along the Lenya Valley resemble the 'Mepale' oil shales of the Amherst district in many respects. They are made up of greenish shales, buff sandstones, and sandy shales. Their origin is similar to that of the above shales; they are freshwater sediments deposited in a basin surrounded by argillites and quartzites. The strata are folded into anticlines and synclines, the topmost beds being gravels composed of white quartz pebbles. Plant fossils were observed in the greenish shales of the Lenya Valley but were not sufficiently well preserved for identification. Those collected by Dr J W Gregory in the Amherst district were identified by Mr W N Edwards, who assigned a later Tertiary age to the oil shales there. To the beds of the Lenya Valley may perhaps be ascribed an Upper Tertiary, most likely a Pliocene age. The shales exposed near Bonkun (11° 18'; 98° 57' 30") and Htawphan on the right bank burn with a bright flame, emitting odorous fumes when heated in a Bunsen burner; they cannot be ignited with a match. These shales would correspond to the low-grade oil shales, those approaching the 'barren shales' referred to by Dr Cotter; they could not be worked economically on ac-

count of the small extent of their outcrop and their poor quality.

Rao Bahadur M Vinayak Rao has examined the oil shale outcrop of the Theinkun Chaung. The oil shales exposed in this valley are of a laminated dark-coloured variety, passing down into light reddish shales. They dip about 15° in an N N E direction. The tertiary beds of Theinkun Valley are more than eight miles long, with a width of about a mile and a half. The valley is difficult to access, as one has to go from Letpanthaing to Theinkun in small canoes or dug-outs. In the event of a railway connection being established between Burma and Siam along this route, the oil shales could be worked. Dr Helfer has referred to this locality as one of the coal-mining areas.

Volcanic Rocks

Volcanic rocks are represented by fine-grained dark-coloured olivine basalt, well exposed on Medaw Island. Except for a narrow strip of sandstones and grits exposed near Tawbya, the major portion of the island is covered by olivine basalt with a thin cap of laterite. The basalt is in the form of a flow and lies on rocks of the Mergui Series. It consists of two portions, a main sheet and another smaller one to the east, and sandstones of the Mergui Series occupy the intervening area. Mineralogically, the basalt of the two exposures is identical. Although a careful search was made, nothing resembling volcanic vents or necks could be seen. Hand specimens of fresh rock show unaltered crystals of olivine. Two varieties of basalts are present on the island. The usual compact variety without amygdale is restricted to the outskirts of the flow, coinciding with the coastline, while the amygdaloidal type is found in the centre of the flow in the middle of the island. It is difficult to fix the age of these basalts, but they may be tentatively ascribed to the Tertiary period and associated with the volcanic outbursts of Upper Burma. They are the most southerly occurrence of volcanic rocks in Burma.

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By THAN HTUN
(GEOSCIENCE
MYANMAR)

NATIONAL

Illegal trade crackdown lead to seizures worth K457M in late July

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

On 30 July, a combined team managed by the Customs Department conducted inspections. It seized 1,407 kilogrammes of personal commodities and cosmetic products, 524.3 kilogrammes of teapot products, and 162 other items worth approximately K36.490 million at Myanma Industrial Port. The team also seized 745 pieces of China-made sanitary ware and 985.9 kilogrammes of electronic accessories worth approximately K85.753 million at Hteedan Port, along with 96 China-made Roadone car tyres, 4,800 packs of Thai-made Knorr chicken powder, and five other items valued at K31.11 million. Additionally, they confiscated one Hino Profia truck and one Yutong bus worth

approximately K75 million at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, a combined team managed by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections, seizing 470 pairs of long jeans, five sweaters made in China, and three other items valued at K7.9 million, along with one Toyota Hilux Surf worth K25 million at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint. The action was carried out according to Customs procedures.

Also, on 30 July, a combined team managed by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized 780 bottles of 5-litre palm oil of the Two Prawns brand, 35 buckets of 18-litre palm oil of the One Prawn brand, and other items valued at approximately K15.48 million at



Confiscated illegal items in various states and regions.

warehouse No B-4 in the Mawtin temporary market, Lanmadaw Township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 31 July, a combined team managed by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized six items, including 480 bottles of Thai-made 1-litre vegetable oil worth K4.84 million, and two Mitsubishi

Canter trucks worth K60 million at the Shwethanlwin checkpoint in Phayagyi. They also seized 600 bags of Thai-made Uncle Barns tempura flour worth K1.8 million, one Zhong Tong bus worth K40 million at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray machine checkpoint, and 2.898 tonnes of illegal hardwood and 1.508 tonnes of illegal wood worth K2.333 million in Bago District and Toungoo District. The

action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forestry Law.

On 31 July, a combined team managed by the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized unregistered vehicles, including three Honda Fits and one Toyota Crown worth approximately K42 million, and 2,880 gallons of illegal gasoline worth approximately K28.8 million at the Yadanabon checkpoint. They also seized an unregistered Kenbo 125 motorbike worth K300,000 in Khamti Township. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Product Law and Import-Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 22 arrests were made on 30 and 31 July, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K457 million. — MNA/TMT

Sodium cyanide seized in Nawnghkio

SODIUM cyanide, a prohibited chemical, was seized in Nawnghkio Township, as stated by the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team, including security personnel, conducted a search operation at the residence of Yan San in Kyaunggon Village, Bambway Village-tract, Nawnghkio

Township, at noon on 29 July. During the operation, they discovered 13,500 kilogrammes of sodium cyanide within a storage area. Following this seizure, Yan San, aged 39, and Yan En Chi, aged 41, have been taken into custody under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/KZL



Two arrestees are seen alongside banned chemicals.

Counter-argument to false information

False claims: Tatmadaw attack in Ngapali with 6 deaths, 1 injury

FALSE news was circulated on social media, alleging that Tatmadaw attacked Geiktaw Ward in Ngapali, Rakhine State, using heavy weapons, resulting in six deaths, including three children, and one injury.

According to an official from Ngapali, this news is entirely false and was deliberately spread by malicious media to incite public panic and misrepresent the acts of security forces. — MNA/TRKM



This screenshot reveals fabricated stories.

RFA Burmese accuses prison staff of beating female inmates

RFA Burmese spread false stories on its Facebook page, claiming that about 20 female prisoners were beaten at Insein Central Prison on 25 July.

According to the investigation, these four female inmates from women's prison Cell 1 did not sleep on 20 July, although

the prison fixed the sleep schedule at 9 pm. Therefore, the prison official told them to sleep, but they did not follow. Four prisoners slept after being warned many times.

Moreover, on 21 July, two out of four inmates treated the prison staff rudely and said they

did not follow the rules. Therefore, they were placed separately, and they were not beaten.

They are not suffering from certain diseases and are in good condition. The prison staff beat none of them, and the RFA Burmese attempted to mislead the people. — Wai Wai Phyto/KTZH

Jordan's Umm al-Jimal added to UNESCO heritage list

The site, located near the Jordanian-Syrian border, features ancient structures from the first century AD and inscriptions in multiple languages revealing its historical and religious evolution.



West Church arches and west wall in Umm al-Jimal archaeological site, some 86 kilometres (53 miles) north of the Jordanian capital Amman, which was added to World Heritage list by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 27 July 2024. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / JORDAN TOURISM BOARD / AFP**

JORDAN'S Umm al-Jimal village has been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List, in a move hailed on Sunday by the country's tourism and antiquities minister as a "great achievement".

UNESCO, which is hosting a meeting of its World Heritage Committee in New

Delhi, said on X on Friday that the earliest structures uncovered at Umm al-Jimal date back to the first century AD, "when the area formed part of the Nabataean Kingdom".

It added that inscriptions in "Greek, Nabataean, Saffitic, Latin and Arabic uncovered on the site... sheds light

on the changes in its inhabitants' religious beliefs".

The village is near the Jordanian-Syrian border, 86 kilometres (53 miles) north of the capital Amman, and is known as "the black oasis" due to the prevalence of black volcanic rock in the area. — AFP

Covid-19 drives high mortality rate in Australia

COVID-19 is still driving Australia's above-average mortality rate, research showed on Monday, with experts predicting the disease's impact will continue to be felt for years to come.

The Australian Actuaries Institute found that five per cent more people died than would be expected in 2023, amounting to 8,400 excess deaths.

Experts measured the number of people who had died as a direct or indirect result of Covid and found the excess mortality rate was still higher than pre-pandemic levels.

About 4,600 deaths were directly attributed to Covid-19, the ninth leading cause of

death last year. Non-Covid-19 excess deaths, meanwhile, were "particularly apparent" in Australians over 75 years old — with previous infections

and interruptions in healthcare related to Covid increasing risks related to heart disease, stroke, diabetes and dementia. — AFP



Research shows Covid-19 continues to drive Australia's elevated mortality rate, with 8,400 excess deaths in 2023, 4,600 of which were directly due to the virus. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Indonesia's sea nomads turn to jobs on land

SOFYAN Sabi's sea-dwelling community has fished beneath the waves off the Indonesian coast for centuries, but climate change and overfishing have forced him and many of his contemporaries on land to make a living.

The Bajau tribe of fishermen led a nomadic life at sea for generations, spending days and nights on boats with thatched roofs in the waters between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Members of the tribe learn to dive from a young age, and their bodies have adapted over time to allow them to fish underwater for longer periods, researchers say.

But for the hundreds of Bajau people living on the tiny boardwalk island village of Pulau Papan in Indonesia, their ancestors' unique way of life has all but died out.

"We changed professions. We are fishermen who work at a farm. Farming gives better income because there are many crops I can plant," Sofyan said, adding that he owns a nearby two-hectare plot to grow corn and bananas.

"Sometimes we earn nothing by going to sea. Sometimes there are fish, sometimes there aren't any," the 39-year-old told AFP.

Trained to hold his breath between 10 and 15 metres (33 and 50 feet) deep since he was a child, Sofyan still scans the waters for sea cucumbers or an octopus that could earn him as much as 500,000 rupiah (\$31).

Researchers link the Bajau's exceptional diving skills to a genetic mutation for larger spleens, but overfishing and rising temperatures have led to unpredictable fish stocks and depleted marine resources. — AFP



Stilt houses in the village of the Bajau sea nomads in Pulau Papan in Sulawesi. **PHOTO: JACK MOORE / AFP**

Türkiye debates fate of millions of stray dogs

THE Turkish parliament on Sunday started an emotional debate on a law aiming to clamp down on millions of stray dogs that opponents say could lead to a vast animal euthanasia campaign.

The government estimates there are four million stray dogs and the law, which will be debated over several days, will allow the killing of sick animals and those with "negative behaviour".

The maximum fine for abandoning dogs would be increased 30-fold to 60,000 lira (\$1,800).

President Recep Tayyip Er-

dogan said ahead of the debate that Türkiye faces a problem "like no other civilized country" which was "growing exponentially". A growing number of rabies cases particularly worries the government. Authorities have denied however that they want a mass euthanasia. Erdogan said that people want "safe streets".

Animal rights groups have called for a mass sterilization campaign and opposition parties have vowed to fight the law, even if it is passed in its current state. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

WTO chief sees 'troubling times' for trade



WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE head of the World Trade Organization on Tuesday said global commerce was going through troubling times, with protectionism on the rise.

WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said the future of trade lay in services, digitalization and the green economy, in the global trade body's annual

report.

"These are troubling times for global trade. Amid geopolitical tensions and the backdrop of the climate crisis, we see increased protectionism and unilateral policy measures," she said.

"After years of talk of decoupling, trade may be starting to fragment along geopolitical lines."

Opportunities do remain, she added, pointing to the potential for growth and job creation through digitalisation.

Trade, she said, could also "enhance global food security and accelerate the push towards net-zero emissions".

The WTO's annual report looked back at the Geneva-based organisation's activities in 2023, and early 2024. — AFP

Oil crisis ends West's golden age when oil was cheaper than water



A general view shows Iraq's largest oil refinery in the northern town of Baiji 5 August 2003. **PHOTO: STAN HONDA/POOL/AFP/FILE**

THE mid-20th century saw a strong wave of anti-colonial struggles across Asia and Africa, leading to the independence of numerous countries. The British-controlled puppet regime of the Faisal dynasty began to falter as well.

"It was almost a destitute country at that time. Everyone lived in poverty and hunger. Against this backdrop, revolution erupted," Hussein Ali Saeed, a retired Iraqi oil worker recalled.

On 14 July 1958, gunfire rang out in Baghdad as Abdul Karim Qasim staged a coup and overthrew Faisal II, lead-

ing to the establishment of the Republic of Iraq and the end of British control.

"Taking back stolen wealth" became the new republic's rallying cry, with eliminating oil colonialism as a primary goal. In 1959, Iraq established its Ministry of Oil to manage national oil affairs. Despite these efforts, the Seven Sisters controlled over 80 per cent of the world's oil reserves, enabling them to manipulate oil prices.

In September 1960, Iraq helped establish OPEC with Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iran to safeguard oil

interests and stabilize prices.

On 1 June 1972, Iraq's nationalization of Iraq Petroleum Company sparked similar moves in other countries. The October 1973 oil embargo during the Yom Kippur War allowed OPEC to dramatically increase oil prices, ending the era of cheap oil. This crisis led to rapid development in Iraq, boosting per capita GDP from \$392 in 1972 to \$2,858 by 1979.

The period saw significant advancements in the economy, education, healthcare, and overall prosperity for Iraq. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore, US sign nuclear power deal

SINGAPORE and the United States on Wednesday inked an agreement to share nuclear power technology, expected to help the city-state diversify energy sources and achieve its climate goals by exploring the possibility of using nuclear power.

The pact was signed by Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on the second day of his two-day visit to the Southeast Asian country that remains undecided on the deployment of nuclear energy.

The Singapore government said in 2012 that nuclear power was unsuitable for the small city-state. However, a government panel on future energy policy said in a report in 2022 that it identified nuclear energy as a potential power source in the country's energy mix. — Kyodo



People react on the EDF Impact Bridge stand which welcomes its collaborating start-ups in the social and environmental fields, during the 8th edition of the Vivattech technology startups and innovation fair in Paris in this 23 May 2024. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AI startups swap independence for Big Tech's deep pockets

IT'S the case of the vanishing startup: some of Silicon Valley's most promising names in the fast-developing generative AI space are being gobbled up by or tied to the hip of US tech giants.

Short on funds, in the past few months promising companies like Inflection AI or Adept have seen founders and key executives quietly exit the stage to join the world's dominant tech companies through discrete

transactions.

Critics believe these deals are acquisitions in all but name and have been especially designed by Microsoft or Amazon to avoid the attention of competition regulators, which the companies strenuously deny.

Meanwhile, firms like Character AI are reported to be struggling to raise the cash needed to remain independent, and some, like French startup Mistral, are

thought to be especially vulnerable to being bought out by a tech giant.

Even ChatGPT's creator OpenAI is locked in a relationship with Microsoft, the world's biggest company by market capitalization.

Microsoft helps guarantee OpenAI's future with \$13 billion in investment in return for exclusive access to the startup's industry-leading models. — AFP

Finland sees record low electricity prices in July: media

JULY was marked by record-low prices on the electricity market in Finland, with customer prices dropping to their lowest levels since the early 2010s.

According to Finnish newspaper Helsingin Sanomat on Wednesday, this July will be remembered as one of the cheapest months for electricity in Finland in almost two decades. The last time prices were lower, adjusted for inflation, was in July 2000. Back then, market-priced electricity was not available to consumers, with market pricing only being introduced in the following decade.

Throughout July, Finland had the lowest untaxed electricity prices in Europe, even cheaper than in northern Sweden and Norway. Such a situation is rare, noted Jukka Leskela, chief executive officer of the Energy Industry Association.

The primary reason for the low prices is a seasonal drop in electricity consumption combined with increased production. During the summer, less electricity is needed for heating, and many industries have maintenance shutdowns. Despite this reduced demand, Finland has produced a surplus of electricity, especially following the completion of the Olkiluoto 3 nuclear power plant. This summer also saw high production of hydroelectric power due to abundant water in reservoirs.

In addition, a significant increase in solar power generation has also kept prices low during the day across Europe. — Xinhua

S Korea's export grows for 10th month in July

This surplus marks the 14th consecutive month of positive trade balance. Notably, semiconductor exports surged 50.4 per cent, continuing their upward trend for the ninth month.

SOUTH Korea's export grew for the 10th successive month due to solid demand for locally-made tech products, government data showed Thursday.

Export, which accounts for around half of the export-driven economy, advanced 13.9 per cent from a year earlier to US\$57.49 billion in July, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

The outbound shipment kept an upward trend since October last year.

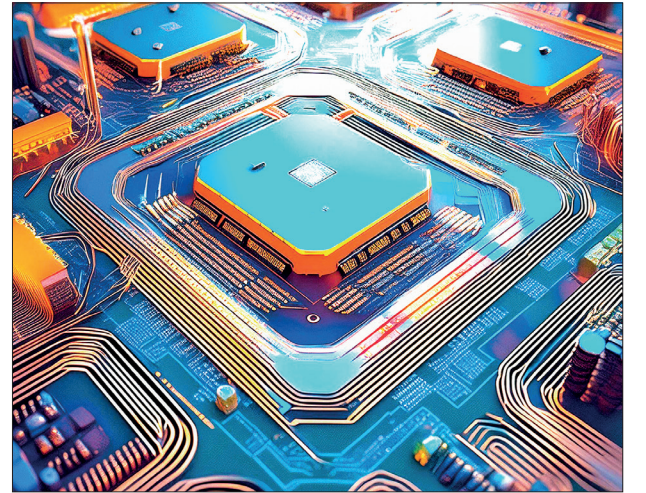
Import expanded 10.5

per cent over the year to \$53.88 billion in July, sending the trade surplus to \$3.62 billion. The trade balance stayed in black for the 14th consecutive month since June last year.

Of the country's 15 major export items, 11 products saw an increase in outbound shipment.

Semiconductor shipment soared 50.4 per cent from a year earlier to \$11.2 billion in July, continuing to rise for the ninth straight month.

The rapid expansion was attributed to chip demand relevant to artificial



Semiconductor shipment soared 50.4 per cent from a year earlier to 11.2 billion dollars in July, continuing to rise for the ninth straight month. **PHOTO: ADOBE**

intelligence (AI), higher memory chip prices, and the launch of new tech products.

Display panel export added 2.4 per cent to \$1.73 billion last month, maintaining an upward trend for the 12th consecutive month on the back of robust demand for flat screens used

for smartphones.

Mobile device shipment jumped 53.6 per cent to 1.46 billion dollars on higher replacement demand, while computer export surged 61.6 per cent to 1.17 billion dollars amid the continued demand for solid-state drive (SSD). — Xinhua



Flynas operates more than 1,800 weekly flights to more than 70 domestic and international destinations. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

Saudi Arabia's low-cost airline Flynas registers 47% growth in passenger numbers in H1

SAUDI Arabia's low-cost airline Flynas announced on Wednesday a significant increase in passenger numbers, with over seven million travellers flying on its flights during the first half of 2024.

The figure represents a 47-per cent increase in the number of passengers

and a 37-per-cent rise in seat capacity for both domestic and international routes, compared to the same period in 2023.

"Our record performance during the first half of 2024 is driven by our strategic growth plans as we continue to upgrade our fleet, increase capacity,

and expand our global network," Bander Almohanna, CEO and managing director of Flynas, was quoted as saying in a statement posted on the airline's website. Flynas operates more than 1,800 weekly flights to more than 70 domestic and international destinations. Since its launch in 2007, the

airline has served more than 78 million passengers, according to data published by the airline.

Over the past 18 months, Flynas has expanded its fleet with the addition of 25 new A320neo aircraft, bringing its total fleet size to 60 aircraft. — Xinhua

Notice for Change of Distributor

We, **Jiangsu Mindleader Crop Science Co.,Ltd.** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Myanmar Nicely Crop Science Co.,Ltd.** to **Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd.**, If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from here to next (2) weeks.

Sr.	The Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.	The New Distributor
1	Myanmar Nicely Crop Science Co.,Ltd.	Pilarbit	Deltamethrin 2.5% + Thiamethoxam 9.5% SC	Provisional	P2024-5415	Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd.

Address: SEINN LAE THWIN CO.,LTD. No.(525), First Floor, Corner of Merchant Street & 38th Street, Ward No.(6), Kyauktada T/S, Yangon. Tel 09-455188188

MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring 20.01 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of 6 August 2024. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Assassination of Hamas political chief hampers Gaza ceasefire talks

THE assassination of Hamas Politburo Chief Ismail Haniyeh early Wednesday has triggered widespread condemnation, jeopardizing the ongoing, fragile Gaza truce talks and putting the region at great risk of intensified violence.

Haniyeh, who was in the Iranian capital Tehran to attend the inauguration of Iran's new president, was killed together with his bodyguard in an airstrike before Wednesday dawn. The assassination was attributed to Israel by both Iran and Hamas, though Israel has not officially confirmed it yet.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei extended condolences to the Palestinian people, stressing that Israel has prepared the ground for a "harsh punishment" for itself. Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in a statement condemned the "criminal act" as being in defiance of international regulations and laws, saying Israel "will receive a harsh and painful response" from Iran.

The killing of Haniyeh, one of the key figures in the indirect ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas over the past months, would probably under-

Iran's Supreme Leader condemned the act, vowing a severe response, and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps criticized the strike as a violation of international laws.



File photo shows Hamas Politburo Chief Ismail Haniyeh (C) in Tehran, Iran, 30 July 2024. PHOTO: SHADATI/XINHUA

mine efforts to reach a truce deal in Gaza. Currently, mediators are waiting for a response from Hamas to a revised proposal that

Israel raised on Sunday.

A source close to Hamas told Xinhua that Haniyeh was expected to discuss the politi-

cal and field developments related to the conflict in the Gaza Strip with the Iranian president. — Xinhua

Italy fails to open disputed Albania migrant camp on time

The facility, central to a deal between Rome and Tirana, is intended to house migrants rescued at sea.



This aerial view shows a main compound of the Italian-run migrant centre in the port of Shengjin, on 29 July 2024. PHOTO: ADNAN BECI/AFP

ITALY and Albania failed to meet a deadline on Thursday to open a controversial camp to hold migrants in the Balkan country until their asylum applications are processed.

The facility is the cornerstone of a highly contested deal signed between Rome and Albania to sort migrants rescued at sea in Italian waters.

Those deemed the most vulnerable are due to be taken to Italy, with the rest sent back outside of the EU to the Albanian port of Shengjin.

Once there, the migrants will be taken to another centre at a former military base in Gjader while they wait for their claims to be processed. "The complex of the two centres will be operation-

al from 1 August," Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni vowed during a visit to Albania in early June. Despite the promises that they would be up and running by Thursday, the reality on the ground was very different.

AFP discovered that just a few housing units had been assembled in the Gjader camp after visiting the site this week, with little sign it would be finished anytime soon. Italian authorities — who are responsible for both building and running the camps — have been reluctant to provide a new date.

Asylum seekers sent to Gjader will live in small units surrounded by high walls until their requests are dealt with by the Italian courts. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Women drive ASEAN progress

CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Hun Manet said here on Thursday that women have played a pivotal role in socioeconomic development and poverty reduction in the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Pinnacle Entrepreneur Forum & 2024 ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network Award held in Phnom Penh, Hun Manet said women are at the heart of families, the soul of communities, and the conscience of the nations.

"Our region has become the fifth-largest economy in the world because ASEAN women have played a pivotal role, not just as the very bedrock of her communities and national economies, contributing to job creation, reducing poverty, and promoting inclusive economy, but also in economic integration through regional and international platforms driving growth and foster innovation across borders," he said. — Xinhua

Steinmeier seeks forgiveness in Poland

GERMAN President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Wednesday met Warsaw Uprising veterans and asked for their "forgiveness" during a visit to Poland on the eve of the revolt's 80th anniversary.

The armed insurgency against occupying Nazi German forces broke out on 1 August, 1944 and lasted for two months before it was crushed.

Nearly 200,000 people, mostly civilians, died over the course of 63 days of battle, and the Polish capital was reduced to a pile of rubble.

"There are no words that do justice to this horror... I ask, here and now, for forgiveness," Steinmeier said addressing the veterans gathered at the Warsaw square that saw one of the uprising's first battles. — AFP

SPORTS



China's Yang wins women's 20km race walk gold at Paris 2024 with huge advantage



Yang Jiayu (C) of China competes during the women's 20-kilometre race walk of athletics at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, 1 August 2024.

PHOTO: LI GANG/XINHUA

WORLD record holder Yang Jiayu claimed the first athletics gold for China at the Paris Olympics, winning the women's 20-kilometre race walk in one hour, 25 minutes and 54 seconds on Thursday.

Yang, who finished 12th at Tokyo

2020, crossed the line with a 25-second advantage over second-placed Maria Perez of Spain. The bronze medal was grabbed by Jemima Montag from Australia.

It is China's fourth Olympic gold

medal in women's 20km race walk. Yang's best performance this season also earned China its 11th gold medal in Paris.

"It is an exciting moment for me. I have been waiting for this gold medal for eight years," said 28-year-old Yang after the game.

"I started my Olympic journey as a substitute in 2016," she added. "At that moment, I started to dream of being a regular athlete to compete at this stage even to fight for the gold."

Yang, who has set the world record in 2021 with 1:23:49, led the race almost from the start. She had already established a 34-second advantage after 10 kilometres.

Perez's had narrowed the gap to 15 seconds with two laps to go, but Yang still gritted her teeth to keep the Spaniard at bay. Perez improved on her fourth finish from Tokyo with 1:26:19, six seconds ahead of Australia's Montag.

Yang disclosed she initially planned to follow the group in the first-half, but she changed tactics before the kick-off.

"My coach told me to rise to the occasion, so it's my own decision on the field. I felt really nervous in the last three or four laps when Perez was trying to catch me, but my coach kept telling me to relax, and eventually I held my nerve to win." — Xinhua

Four boxers secure medal places at Paris 2024

WITH the quarterfinals for women's 60kg boxing having concluded on Wednesday, four boxers are now assured of medals, including China's Yang Wenlu, Tokyo 2020 gold medalist Kellie Harrington of Ireland and silver medalist Beatriz Ferreira of Brazil.

Unlike most Olympic sports, the podium for boxing is slightly bigger, with two bronze medal winners instead of one, which means that every contestant reaching the semifinals is assured of at least a bronze medal.

"Today I became a double Olympic medalist and that's more history. I just know I have people up above looking down on me, and they're with me every step of the way," said Harrington. "I'm happy in what I'm doing, and I've said it from day one - whatever happens, happens."

China's Yang had a hard-fought showdown with the eighth-seeded Natalia Shadrina of Serbia, winning the match 3-2.

"In general, I was a little anxious and did not play very well. Shadrina's overall ability is very strong, and her techniques are also very comprehensive. I also learned a lot from the competition against her," Yang noted. — Xinhua

Narvaez leaves Ineos to join Pogacar's UAE team

ECUADORIAN cyclist Jhonatan Narvaez is to leave Ineos after six years in the saddle in order to join Tadej Pogacar's UAE Team, the Tour de France winner's outfit announced on Thursday.

The 27-year-old puncheur holds 11 professional victories to his name, most notably two stage wins in the Giro d'Italia in 2020 and 2024 alongside a gold medal in the Pan American Championships road race in 2023.

"Since the beginning of my career I've always wanted to be involved at the highest level of cycling and we can say that UAE Team Emirates is the best team in the world in the last years so it's an honour to be moving there," said Narvaez who is in his sixth season at Ineos.

"I feel I've taken big steps at Ineos but I think I still have margin to take another step in the coming years."

As the transfer window opened on Thursday, two other deals were announced with Australian Ben O'Connor and Frenchman Axel Zingle both on the move.

O'Connor, who was fourth in the Tour de France in 2021, is leaving Deceathlon-AG2R after four seasons to return home to Australia with the Jayco-AlUla team. "It's an idea I have always loved, to race as an Aussie and win on an Aussie team," O'Connor, 28, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Zingle has signed a minimum two-year deal with Visma-Lease a bike, the team of double Tour de France winner Jonas Vingegaard and Wout van Aert.

The 25-year-old rider, who Visma described as "a great talent for the classics", leaves the Cofidis team, which has also announced the arrival of the Belgian Dylan Teuns. — AFP



UAE Team Emirates team's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey cycles ahead of Team Visma - Lease a Bike team's Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard in the ascent of Col du Noyer during the 17th stage of the 111th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 177.8 kilometres between Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux and Superdevoluy, in the French Alps, on 17 July 2024. PHOTO: THOMAS SAMSON / AFP



Vietnam important partner in India's Act East policy, Indo-Pacific vision: PM Modi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi has called Vietnam an "important partner" in Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific vision. He stated that the two nations have good coordination regarding the Indo-Pacific and support "evolution and not expansionism".

While delivering a joint statement with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh at Hyderabad House on Thursday, PM Modi said, "Vietnam is our important partner in our Act East Policy and our Indo-Pacific vision. There is good coordination between our views regarding the Indo-Pacific. We support evolution, not expansionism. We will continue our cooperation for a free, open, rules-based and prosperous Indo-Pacific."

PM Modi extended a warm welcome to Pham Minh Chinh and his delegation. He offered condolences over the demise of General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.

He said, "I warmly welcome Prime Minister Pham Ming Ching and his delegation to India. First of all, on behalf of all Indians, I express my deepest condolences on the demise of General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong. He was India's good friend and under his leadership, India-Vietnam relations also got a strategic direction."

Stressing that ties between India and Vietnam have strengthened in the past 10 years, PM Modi stated, "In the past decade, our relations have expanded and deepened. Over the last 10 years, we have elevated our ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Our bilateral trade has increased by 85 per cent. Our cooperation has flourished in areas such as energy, technology, and development partnerships. Defence and security have got a new direction. In the last decade, our connectivity has increased and now we have over 50 direct flights." — ANI

Modi extended a warm welcome to Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and expressed condolences for the recent passing of General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, praising his role in strengthening India-Vietnam relations.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnam PM Pham Minh Chinh at Hyderabad House on Thursday jointly inaugurated the Army Software Park at the Tele-Communications University in Nha Trang, Vietnam. **PHOTO: ANI**

Australia disappointed by Japan's decision to expand whaling target list: minister



The Australian government has condemned Japan's decision to expand its commercial whaling to include fin whales. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/KYODO**

THE Australian government has denounced Japan's decision to expand its commercial whaling.

Tanya Plibersek, minister for the environment and water, on Thursday condemned Japan's

move to add fin whales to its list of commercial whalers will target.

"Australia is deeply disappointed by Japan's decision to expand its commercial whaling programme by adding fin whales," she said in a statement.

Fin whales are the second-largest whale species in the world and are listed as vulnerable to extinction on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.

Japan's Fisheries Agency in May proposed expanding commercial whaling in the country's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone to include fin whales. — Xinhua

HIV IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Cameroon launches nationwide survey to determine HIV/AIDS prevalence

CAMEROON'S Minister of Public Health Manaouda Malachie on Wednesday unveiled a nationwide survey to ascertain the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and the impact of preventive measures in the country.

The survey, dubbed Cameroon Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (CAMPHIA), will run from August to February 2025.

"It aims to comprehensively explore the situation

of HIV infection within the population aged 15 and over based on a nationally representative sample. The primary objective of CAMPHIA 2024 is to estimate the national and regional prevalence of HIV viral suppression, while the secondary objectives are to estimate the incidence and prevalence of HIV at the national level," Manaouda said in a statement made public Wednesday afternoon. — Xinhua