

Health staff must serve with loyalty, earning public trust

Necessary hospitals will be upgraded and extended, as will other hospitals in Shan State, depending on the population of the hospital area.

THE government is fulfilling the needs of the hospital as much as possible to improve the health sector and arrange for the convenience of health staff's accommodation.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so on his inspection tour of Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi, Shan State (South), and met health staff yesterday afternoon.

On arrival at the hospital, the Senior General comforted local people receiving medical treatment at the emergency ward, asked about their health conditions and comforted them with gifts of foodstuffs.

At the meeting hall of the hospital, Medical Superintendent Dr Win Maw Oo reported on the construction of buildings and new patient wards, the process of providing cancer treatment, the monthly medical treatment process, undertakings of special care treatment, X-ray process, radiation treatment, and more requirements for providing cancer



State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing reviews logged records on hospital facilities and medical equipment during his inspection tour at Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi yesterday.

treatment.

In his response, the Senior General said that it is necessary to conduct treatment systematically using machinery.

He promised that necessary hospitals would be upgraded and extended, as well as other hospitals in Shan State, depending on the population of the hospital area.

SEE PAGE 4

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General during his inspection tour of Sao San Tun Hospital

1. Necessary hospitals will be upgraded and extended, as well as other hospitals in Shan State, depending on the population of the hospital area.
2. Officials have to manage the health sector systematically, and efforts must be made for hospitals to be reliable for the people.
3. Health staff must serve duty with loyalty to the State, and they have to strive to increase the reliance of the people.

NATIONAL

PAGE 2



Ancient volcano's rock formations, tropical beauty draw visitors

NATIONAL

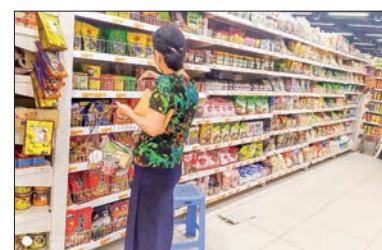
PAGE 5



6th coord meeting of Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants held

BUSINESS

PAGE 7



Over 1,600 food companies, factories apply for GACC

NATIONAL



Twenty-six (26) days remain until the National Census.



Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (14:00) hours MST on 3-9-2024

According to the observations at (13:30) hrs MST today, a low-pressure area may form over Westcentral Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal around 5-9-2024.

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.



၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုင်ငံတကာစာတတ်မြောက်ရေးနေ့
International Literacy Day 2024



အပြန်အလှန်နားလည်မှုနှင့် ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးအတွက် စာတတ်မြောက်ရန်အပ်လို့ ဘာသာစကားစုံပညာရေးကို မြှင့်တင်ကြပါစို့

Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace



၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလ ၈ ရက်

THE Mount Popa National Geopark near the Mont Popa in Kyaukpadaung township of Mandalay Region boasts minerals of an old volcano some 320,000 years ago and natural beauty in tropical regions to attract local and foreign travellers in monsoon and dry seasons.

The Mount Popa and Mount Popa National Park seem to be decorated with picturesque scenes in every season, and the visitors can observe the herbs, sandalwood, golden deer, dusky leaf monkey, bird species and wildlife in Indaing and deciduous forests in the rainy season.

The Mount Popa National Geopark was established on 20 March 2024, and it is a national-level geopark to conserve ancient geological heritages, biodiversity, culture and ancient heritages, and history and conduct educating programmes to value the local products and natural beauty and sustainable development plans for the



A panoramic aerial view of scenic beauty of the Mount Popa National Geopark.

Ancient volcano's rock formations, tropical beauty draw visitors

development of research and locals. The government makes efforts to establish 10 per cent of the country's total land as protected areas. There are 59

natural protected areas covering 6.42 per cent of total land areas.

The Mount Papa National Geopark is organized with 15

geosites and is also the first national-level geopark in Myanmar.

"The Mount Popa National Geopark is in a tropical zone

with cool mountains and ancient geological features that always welcome visitors. It has various biodiversity and rare wild animals. The visitors can study the mineral resources of old volcanoes and enjoy the natural beauty of mountains, villages and local products. It lies on the way to the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, and so we arrange for the visitors to tour 15 geosites," said an official of the geopark.

The visitors to Mount Popa National Geopark can visit such geosites as the peak of Mount Popa, volcanic basalt and Ayeyawady sandstone layer, three-layered basalt volcanic stone, Ayeyawady stone layer, Taungnitaung Chalcedony and clay mineral, herbal garden and educating booth, sandalwood and Myanmar Golden Deer, bird nest cliff, landscape, basaltic lava flow site, Taungpawya, fossil wood, Taungnataung site, crater and Gamo Lake. — Nye-in Thu (MNA)/KTZH



Mount Popa.



A signage (R) displaying the Mount Popa geosite location map and National Geopark.



Myanmar Myanmar Golden Deer.

NATIONAL

Education and guidance needed to enhance legal understanding : SG

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing stressed that the foundation of the law is discipline, and it is vital to provide education programmes and guidance to improve understanding of the basics of law.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister discussed regional development undertakings with the members of the Shan State government and regional-level departmental officials in Taunggyi yesterday.

Speaking at the occasion, the Senior General underlined the current situation and security affairs of the country, saying that voting frauds occurred in the 2020 multiparty democracy general election and that officials did not resolve the case. Therefore, Tatmadaw had to declare a State of Emergency in accordance with the 2008 Constitution and assign duties to suitable persons from the military and civilians to support the State Administration Council in serving the interests of the country.

He continued that some of the armed ethnic groups tried to expand the land of their control, taking advantage of the political crisis. Due to their terrorist attacks, locals fled to other regions temporarily. Currently, the armed insurgents used the administrative buildings and innocent civilians as human shields in towns and villages where they raided, aiming to defend against the counterattacks of Tatmadaw, and they also persuaded the replaced people to return to their land of origin and recruited new members. Tatmadaw will protect the sovereignty of the country and launch counterattacks depending on the tip-off and situation regarding these terrorist groups. Therefore, the people residing in towns and villages where the terrorists unlawfully occupied should be aware of security so as not to face exploitation.

With regard to the economic



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with Shan State cabinet members and region's departmental personnel in Taunggyi yesterday.

sector, the Senior General underscored that the economy is related to political affairs. Political affairs will be in good condition only when there is good financial condition. As the country is weak in the production sector during the terms of previous governments, the import volume is higher than the export volume, leading to a shortage of foreign currency. In reviewing

“Tatmadaw will protect the sovereignty of the country and deliver counterattacks depending on the tip-off and situation regarding these terrorist groups.”

the foreign income, I found that they are loans, financial assistance, and foreign investments. The natural resources are sold to earn foreign income in addition to trading. During the term of our government, the products from agriculture and livestock are mainly exported reduced

the export of natural resources as much as possible.

He then urged officials to adopt the modern methods and practices being used by other foreign countries in order to boost the production and export of agricultural products and materials, to promote the production sector to increase the income of farmers, to grab chances to enhance forest prod-

uct-based industries as Shan State boasts plenty of wood and bamboos, to prevent deforestation and produce coal and iron.

In the education and health sectors, he disclosed that the education sector is being prioritized to promote educated human resources in running

booming local manufacturing industries. Some of the schools, universities and colleges in Shan State are being closed due to the attacks of terrorists. All school-age children must complete the KG+9 scheme, and if they complete the basic middle-school level, they can keep learning for life development. Moreover, opportunities should be created for students who pass the matriculation examination to pursue higher education. The government expands libraries and conducts reading habit campaigns across the nation to enhance the knowledge and critical thinking skills of those with poor education.

He also mentioned that law subjects are being taught at universities so that students can understand the law, and basic facts of law should be added for the KG+11 and KG+12 students.

In the health sector, he underlined that the hospitals are being upgraded, and arrangements are being made to assign doctors to all hospitals. Moreover, the medical equipment is fully provided. One can work if

he is in good health, and one can learn if he is in good health. Therefore, everyone should carry out health-related matters carefully.

In the security sector, he added that the public security system should be conducted in collaboration with those who want to serve duties for the sake of the region, including police and administrative members. The step-by-step reporting system can bring stability to wards and villages. Government servants should follow ethics and discipline and serve duties showing loyalty to the country.

He then urged all the attendees to make efforts for the development of the country from their respective regions.

The Senior General visited Shwephonepint pagoda on the same evening. He then enjoyed the picturesque views of Taunggyi from the viewpoint of the pagoda and instructed officials to conserve the natural resources.

He also donated cash to the board of trustees for the all-round development of the pagoda. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

MNDAA, TNLA, and AA armed groups declared as terrorists

Those who contact the aforesaid terrorists are also committing terror acts.



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds a meeting during his inspection tour on peace and stability in the Eastern Command area yesterday.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing stressed that local peace and stability measures must be taken systematically to ensure the safety of life and property of the people.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and union-level dignitaries, yesterday morning said so in his inspection tour of peace and stability measures in the Eastern Command area.

In his response, the Senior General underlined that information about security measures must be gathered to restore

peace and stability in the region and security measures.

He added that all measures must be taken not to damage roads and bridges being used

been joining hands with the government to restore peace and stability in the region for many years.

Hence, he continued to say

“

The Senior General explained that as the State declared MNDAA, TNLA and AA armed groups as terrorists on 2 September, those who contact these terrorists are also committing terror acts.

”

by the people.

The Senior General stressed that the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone has restored peace over the years and has

that emphasis must be placed on stabilizing the areas terrorists enter.

The Senior General explained that as the State de-

clared MNDAA, TNLA and AA armed groups as terrorists on 2 September, those who contact these terrorists are also committing terror acts.

He highlighted that MPF members and administrative officials need to serve the interest of the people without making burdens.

The Senior General's guidance was that concerted efforts must be made to successfully enumerate the population and household census with solid security measures.

Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Min Latt of the Eastern Command reported on local security duties being carried out by Tatmadaw members, MPF members and people's militia in the Eastern Command area, rehabilitation of Loikaw and oth-

er towns damaged in attacks by KNPP, KNDF and PDF terrorists, and seizures of arms and ammunition, returning of PDF terrorists into legal fold and seizures of illegal timber.

At the local Tatmadaw hospital in Aungban, the Senior General comforted Tatmadaw member patients receiving medical treatment for their injuries sustained while serving the defence and security duties of the State and fulfilled their needs.

The Senior General also presented cash awards and gifts to Tatmadaw member patients.

The Senior General inspected preparations to build a stadium facilitated with a 400-metre track in the compound of the hospital and gave necessary guidance to officials. — MNA/TTA

Health staff must serve with loyalty, earning public trust

FROM PAGE 1

He instructed officials to build housing for health staff and pledged to appoint necessary specialists for hospitals.

Moreover, the Senior General urged officials to manage the health sector systematically, adding efforts must be made for hospitals to be reliable for the people.

He stressed the need for health staff to have systematic measures in relations and treatments for the patients.

The Senior General underlined that health staff have to improve themselves to enhance the reliance of patients. He noted that the government is fulfilling the needs of the hospital as much as possible to improve the

health sector and arrange for the convenience of health staff for their accommodation. Health staff must serve duty with loyalty to the State, and they have to strive to boost the people's reliance, he added. The Senior General viewed round the hospital building, machinery and relevant record books and gave guidance to officials to systematically log

documentary records.

Sao San Tun Hospital was built, through economic and expertise cooperation of the Soviet Union, by Commander Brig-Gen Maung Lwin (BSc Engineering) of Rehabilitation Brigade No 1 in 1957. It aimed to ensure Russia-Myanmar friendly ties. Construction of all buildings cost K4 million. In June 1961, the hospital

was commissioned into service. The first-ever medical superintendent of the hospital was Dr Sao Naw Kham, and it was the only general hospital in Shan State. At the time of its establishment, the hospital accommodated 200 beds. On 16 December 2015, the hospital was upgraded to a 500-bed general hospital. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

6th coord meeting of Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants held

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants, attended the 6/2024 coordination meeting of the central body in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, he talked about the seventh draft version of the People's Military Service Rule received after several discussions and suggestions from relevant ministries and work committees, the strict supervision not to summon those with disabilities, illegible persons and those exempted, suspended and relieved under the People's Military Service Law, transport of trainees by



The sixth coordination meeting of the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants is in progress yesterday, chaired by SAC Member Deputy PM MoD Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San.

aircraft, helicopters, vessels to respective training sites, and the needs to review the good

points and weak points after opening Training 4. Then, Vice-Chairman of

the central body Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye

also discussed exemption, relief and suspension of military training, and the central body members about public awareness programmes, advantages and weaknesses in summoning trainees and other matters.

In conclusion, the Admiral said the relevant ministries should cooperate with the work groups while the National Service Information Management System (NSIMS) is under implementation.

Training 5/2024 will be opened soon, and Nay Pyi Taw Council, region/state committees for summoning people's military servants should make efforts in accordance with the procedures considering the previous strong and weak points. — MNA/KTZH

Joint Statement of 25 Political Parties

1st Waxing of Tawthalin 1386 ME
3 September 2024

1. The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exercising authority in accord with Subsection (e) of Section 6 and Subsection (b) of Section 72 of the Counter-Terrorism Law declared the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) armed groups as terrorist groups under Notifications 1/2024 and 2/2024 dated 2 September with the approval of the Union government.
2. These terrorist groups committed terror acts by firing at security forces, lives and properties of the people, vital infrastructures, State-owned buildings, vehicles, machinery, accessories, roads, bridges, electric towers and densely populated towns and villages to face severe loss and damage, blowing up mines, firing heavy weapons from far distance, dropping bombs, killing innocent people and members of the Sangha and recruiting new members by force.
3. Moreover, they destroyed universities, colleges, and schools. They abducted teachers and students with intimidation and murder in order to break down the future of the State and deprive them of human resources.
4. Our political parties issued this joint statement and steadfastly oppose and condemn terror acts that cause social problems for non-military target innocent people, intentionally.
5. As such, our political parties, on behalf of millions of people, fully supported the declaration against MNDAA, TNLA and AA armed groups as terrorist groups, and we will oppose their terror acts forever by signing the joint statement. — MNA/TTA

Ongoing delivery of rehabilitation supplies to Rakhine State

UNDER the guidance of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee and the supervision of the Transport and Communications Committee, rehabilitation materials are being transported to Rakhine State by boats, aircraft, and motor vehicles.

Last night, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement sent 7,591 sacks of rice, as well as various food items, consumer goods, household items, electrical appliances,

medicines, and related supplies, totalling 869.32 tonnes from Yangon to Sittway.

Since 16 May 2023 to date, a total of 49 transport vehicles, including military naval vessels, have delivered 71,099.43 tonnes of construction materials, electrical goods, medicines, health supplies, consumer goods, and food items, along with 249,762 gallons of diesel and 199,886 gallons of Octane 92 to Sittway, Rakhine State. — MNA/KZL



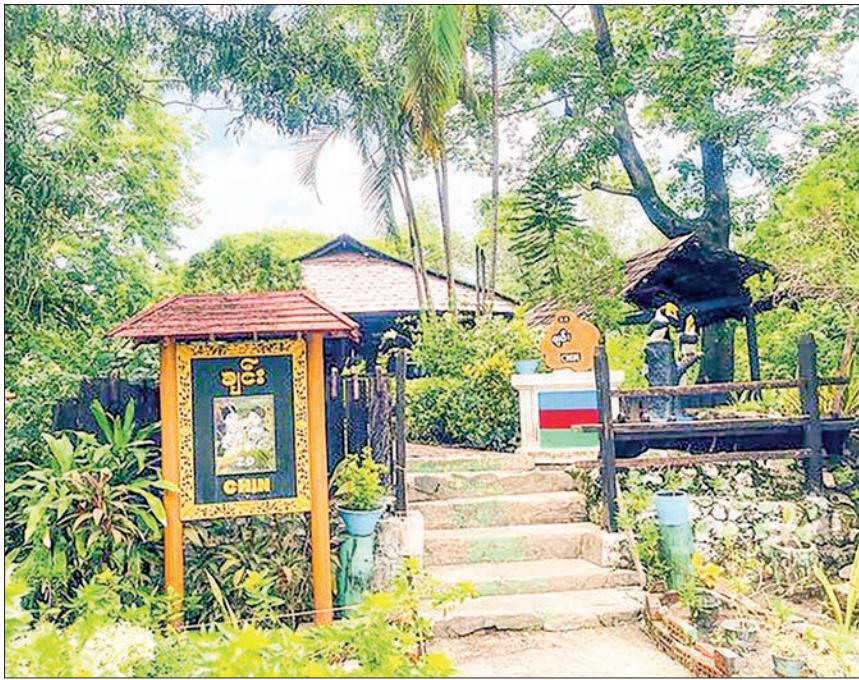
Rehabilitation supplies are arranged in the cargo holds of the vessel to transport them to Rakhine State.

Corrigendum

PLEASE read the headline of the story "MoALI aims to expand sunflower plantations by 14,700 acres this winter" instead of "MoALI aims to expand sunflower plantations by 147,000 acres this winter" on page 5 of this newspaper issued on 3 September 2024. Error is regretted. — Ed.

NATIONAL

Renovation of traditional ethnic houses underway at Yangon's National Races Village



This picture captures some ethnic houses and their landscapes in the National Races Village (Yangon).

ACCORDING to U Saw Jacob Htoo, Minister for Yangon Region Ethnic Affairs, traditional houses of ethnic groups in the National Races Village in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, are undergoing renovation.

Tenders are invited to maintain the traditional houses of various ethnic groups, such as the Kachin, Kayin, Kayah, Chin, and Rakhine, during this financial year, ensuring they remain sustainable and retain their original style.

The maintenance work will be completed within the specified timeframe and meet quality standards.

The National Races Village showcases the cultures, traditions, and customs of Myanmar's ethnic groups. It hosts New Year celebrations for these national races each year, fostering unity and friendship among the people. Efforts are also underway to develop the village into a tourist attraction. — ASH/MKKS



This photo displays the Buddha tooth relic.

127th Buddha tooth relic procession to be held in Paungde

THE pagoda board of trustees has announced that the procession of the Buddha tooth relic will be convened in Paungde for the 127th time. The public will have the opportunity to pay homage to the Buddha tooth relic at the Thakymuni Moekaung Pagoda for three days, from the 13th to the 15th Waning of Tawthalin. The sacred tooth relic will be on display at the Golden Hall from 8 am to 4 pm each day. — TWA/TRKM

Meteorologist forecasts widespread rain in Myanmar from typhoon and low-pressure area

DUE to a likely typhoon in the South China Sea and a low-pressure area that may develop in the Bay of Bengal, there may be more rain in all parts of Myanmar, including Taninthayi Region, around 7 September.

Within the next two days, more than two inches of rain may fall in all parts of Myanmar, causing landslides and floods, according to meteorologists.

"A low-pressure area may develop in the Bay of Bengal from 5 to 7 September, according to all models. It will rain in central Myanmar, and there will be heavy rain in Taninthayi. It can be more than two inches in 24, 36, and 48 hours. There may be landslides and floods," said meteorologist U Win Naing.

Near-shore fishermen were warned of 30 mph wind and 7 feet waves.

"I warned the fishermen in near-shore fishing blocks for the period from 7 to 10 September that it could be windy with 30 miles per hour [mph] and seven-foot waves," he said.

In addition, due to a likely typhoon in the South China Sea, it may be windy with heavy rains in eastern Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Taninthayi and other areas.

"A typhoon is possible above Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong. It can be a severe storm with a speed of 125 mph. It may cause rains in eastern Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Taninthayi and other areas. Due to a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal, it may rain heavily in Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago, and Nay Pyi Taw. It may not rain very heavily in Rakhine State, but there may be a little more rain in southern Chin and northern Rakhine," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

Myanmar to handle forced labour complaints via National Complaint Mechanism

MYANMAR has officially declared that all forced labour complaints will now be managed through the National Complaint Mechanism (NCM).

Since 2007, Myanmar has been working alongside the International Labour Organization (ILO) and various government ministries to address forced labour issues.

In 2020, the National Complaint Mechanism was formally established, comprising representatives from relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Labour, the Myanmar National Human Rights

Commission, employer groups, and labour organizations. This national-level mechanism aims to provide a more transparent and accountable process for handling forced labour complaints.

Citizens can report forced labour complaints through several avenues, including the State Administration Council Office, regional and state government offices, the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, and the ILO Liaison Office in Yangon.

Additionally, complaints can be

submitted directly to Office No 51 of the Ministry of Labour in Nay Pyi Taw in person, or by mail, phone, or email. The official email addresses for submitting complaints are direct-orgeneral.dol@gmail.com, moloffice51@gmail.com, and research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com.

The Ministry of Labour and the National Complaint Mechanism office have assured the public that all complaints will be handled with strict confidentiality, providing a secure environment for complainants and victims of forced labour to come forward. — TWA/KZL



Office 51 of the Ministry of Labour in Nay Pyi Taw is designated for handling forced labour complaints under the NCM.

MRBO to produce 9,000 tonnes of crude rice bran oil, 6,300 tonnes of edible oil yearly

MYANMAR Rice Bran Oil Company Limited (MRBO) will manufacture 9,000 tonnes of crude rice bran oil and 6,300 tonnes of edible oil annually with solvent extraction methods and Indian-made equipment.

MRBO has been constructing a 200-tonne crude rice bran oil processing plant and a 50-tonne refinery plant. The by-product (defatted bran) of the rice bran oil factory will be used as raw materials by the feedstuff processing factory.

According to the project of MRBO, rice bran oil, sunflower oil, and soybean oil produced from oil refinery plants will be distributed to domestic markets, contributing to domestic edible oil requirements and substitute imports. Upon the government's approval, it will be exported as well.

Under the guidance of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), Myanmar Agribusiness Public Company has been analyzing the production of rice bran oil since 2014.

MRBO was separately established under the support of the government and MRF to execute rice bran oil and edible oil production businesses in Mezaligon village-tract, Pyinmana Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

MRBO received company registration from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) on 9 March 2022, an import licence on 1 June 2023 and a permit from Myanmar Investment Commission 261/2024 according to a decision of MIC meeting dated 5 January 2024.

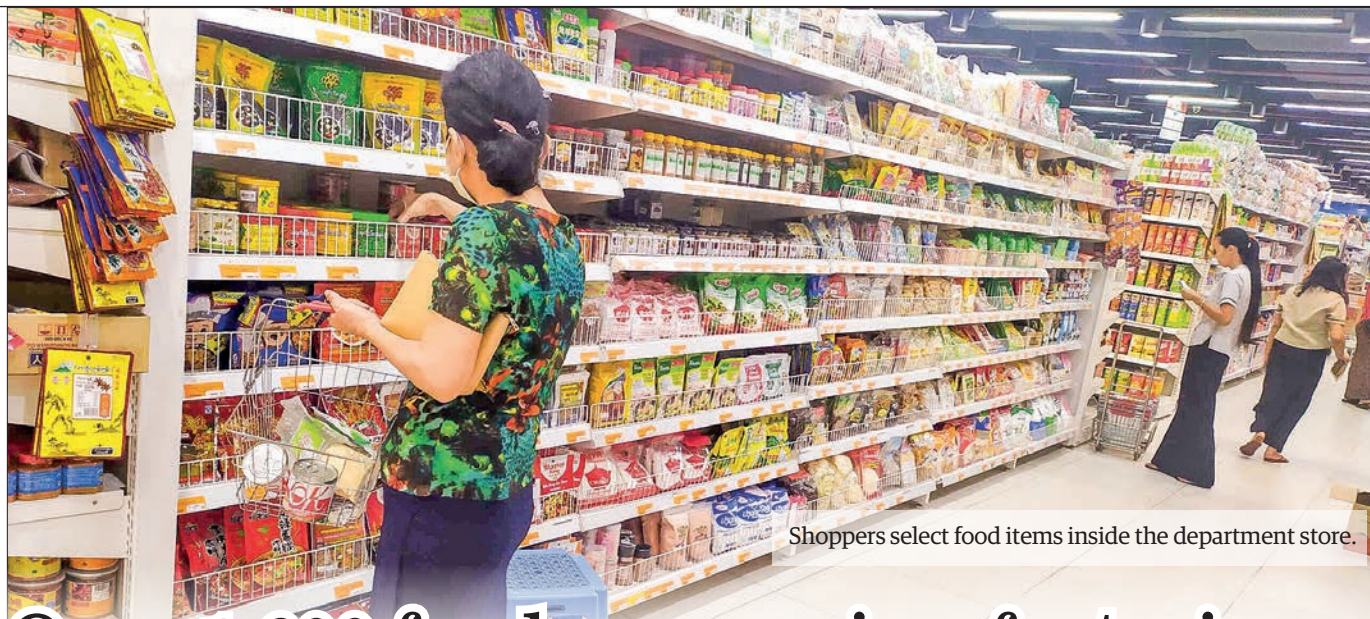
Value-added rice bran oil will be produced with the by-product of surrounding rice mills and parboiled rice mills owned by MAPCO.

Under the guidance of MRF, MRBO held the groundbreaking ceremony of the construction project at the MAPCO rice mill complex located in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on 7 February.

This plant will become the first-ever refinery for edible oil. MRF will also accelerate rice bran oil and cooking oil production plans. — NN/KK



MRBO was separately established under the support of the government and MRF to execute rice bran oil and edible oil production businesses in Mezaligon village-tract, Pyinmana Township in Nay Pyi Taw.



Shoppers select food items inside the department store.

Over 1,600 food companies, factories apply for GACC

A total of 1,608 Myanmar food processing companies and factories have submitted over 3,253 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, exceptional 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 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 earlier.

Between 1 December 2021 and 2 September 2024, 3,253 applications by 1,608 factories have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (3,092 applications), the Fisheries Department (138), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary 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 in Myanmar or the Myanmar Embassy in China.

As of 22 August 2024, a total of 1,056 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

MAEX to pay share dividends for 2023-2024 FY

MYANMAR Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) will disburse K200 share dividends per unit to its security holders for the 2023-2024 financial year starting from 6 September 2024, MAEX declared.

The board of directors' meeting resolved the dividend amount held on 23 August 2024.

The share dividend payment was announced at the eighth Annual General Meeting that was held on 27 August 2024.

The eligible shareholders for the upcoming share dividends will be identified as per the YSX record date (25 July 2024).

MAEX will directly transfer divi-

dend payments to those shareholders who have opened security accounts. For those who bought 3rd Right Issue shares and have not processed into a Dematerialized account (DEMAT), their share dividends will be transferred simultaneously as well. Those shareholders who do not have security accounts are asked to submit photos of their share certificate (both front and back views), citizenship scrutiny card photo (front and back), bank account of shareholders or mobile wallet pay number and name to Email of MAEX's share department share@maex.com.mm or Viber contact numbers 09 88995485

and 09 883016868 through the contact number (Viber) and email address of the shareholders. The dividends will be transferred to their bank account or mobile pay number. Those who hold a small share volume (from one to 10,000 units) can also withdraw money at the MAEX office, presenting a share certificate and citizenship scrutiny card of the shareholder. Shareholders are notified that possible delays in bank transfers might occur. Furthermore, MAEX's board of directors announced that there is no need to pay income tax on share dividends under the existing tax law. — NN/KK

OPINION

Help boost MSME production to develop the State economy

MICRO-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are critical to the economic development of both developing and developed countries. These enterprises play a crucial role in strengthening the state economy, often surpassing the contributions of heavy industries. As the backbone of the country, MSMEs are being actively promoted in Myanmar to stimulate economic growth.

MSMEs have the ability to create jobs, reduce poverty, and improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population. For these businesses to thrive, a supportive business environment is essential, enabling them to expand their manufacturing operations and contribute more effectively to the economy.

Many countries around the world are reaping the benefits of advancements in global politics, economics, and technology. These

countries are providing their MSMEs with the resources they need to succeed, including capital, digital technology, skilled technicians, modern machinery, and market information. These resources help MSMEs penetrate international markets and increase their market share.

In Myanmar, the government is committed to supporting MSMEs through various initiatives, including the State Economic Promotion Fund. This fund helps MSMEs grow and implement other development projects. Additionally, the government is focusing on vocational training for students in different regions, equipping them with the skills needed to run MSMEs. Capital, technology, and human resources are also being provided to boost these industries.

Entrepreneurs operating MSMEs in Myanmar are encouraged to focus on producing value-added products, particularly those derived from agricultural and livestock raw materials.

This approach aims to improve manufacturing processes, strengthen the state economy, and reduce the country's reliance on imports. Increasing export volumes and attracting foreign investment are also key objectives in the promotion of MSMEs and heavy industries. By generating employment opportunities, these efforts contribute to improving the lives of Myanmar's citizens.

In addition to these initiatives, it is essential to help MSMEs adopt digital technology to drive reforms and facilitate the transition to a digital economy. This will enable Myanmar's MSMEs to remain competitive with those in other ASEAN member countries.

The development of agriculture and livestock sectors is crucial for supporting MSMEs. This, in turn, will lead to economic growth, improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population, and contribute to peace and prosperity in the country. MSMEs in Myanmar's suburban areas benefit from lower operating costs, such as cheaper labour and services, compared to their counterparts in urban areas. With 98 per cent of Myanmar's businesses being MSMEs, both the government and entrepreneurs must work together to achieve success and improve the socioeconomic lives of the people.

IF YOU are asked to state one unique profession within Myanmar, fortune tellers might come to mind. People here consult them whenever fortunes do not favour their circumstances. Yet most are simply prying on the misfortunes of the people to earn themselves a living. For how would Myanmar look in ten years' time, we will not seek the answers inside these soothsayers' parlours at the base of pagodas. Instead, we will look at the current state of affairs objectively and rationally to come up with a possible outcome on the path that the country would most likely proceed.

As Xi Jinping has stated in his book Governance of China, development is like a boat. Once you miss it, the boat is never going to come back for you. Myanmar has missed the boat to an enormous opportunity to progress from 2016 until now. After the stellar growth years of 2012-2015,

the people chose an incompetent leader who spoke well on stage and committed economic suicide by focusing on nonsense and lack of focus on things that matter for economic development. Myanmar became the poorest country in ASEAN in 2017 (World Bank data) and has never recovered from that infamous standing. It is now doing even worse than in 2017, economically and militarily at least. It has fallen even behind the hyper-populated Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, because of the economic mismanagement of the Su Kyi era, instead of credible investments in infrastructure, Myanmar was left to dwell on the remains of the past infrastructure, a significant portion of which was built before the 1960s. Her administration's most visible infrastructure projects are not railways, highways, bridges or roads, but 'Welcome to XX City' signs put up in every town and city across the country.

What will Myanmar be Like in 10 years?

By U AC

FDI has fallen well short of what other ASEAN countries of similar populations are garnering. Vietnam and Thailand are receiving inward investments in billions of \$, while the FDIs in Myanmar are still at miserable double-digit millions on average for the past four years.

Short of employment opportunities, most educated and capable have gone abroad. Think of the 5-10 million strong Myanmar diaspora in Thailand. You can go into almost all the shops in Bangkok and speak Burmese, and they will bring out one staff member who can communicate with you. Because of a lack of investment in infrastructure and diminishing

FDI, Myanmar workers are deprived of the skills needed to earn increased wages in a competitive global environment. They have no experience with the latest technologies, nor are they well-versed in productivity in an office environment. The route learning that the universities taught them only prepares them to memorize. They had not learned how to self-learn or even google search, let alone use AI or programming. Even their word-processing skills are elementary.

Years of not focusing on production and exports have led to continuous budget deficits that added to the national debt burdens. If you are not producing

anything, you cannot become rich. If you think of the products that Myanmar produces, other than natural resources, not many things will come to your mind. CMP perhaps. Agriculture products in unprocessed form. That's it. How can we possibly come out of the poverty trap?

Recent attempts at price controls over foreign currency, gold, rice, edible oil, etc., are not fulfilling their intended purpose. Inflation has not gone down. Due to political instability and losses on the military front, local business confidence is in the trenches. No one is opening new shops or renting new premises, but just buying gold and \$ and amassing

them, adding no value to economic growth. Hence, stagflation sets in. It will not go out of fashion any time soon.

People are scared. All the cash the rich in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw have is being directed towards the great escape to a foreign land. The well-to-do in the second-tier towns have used up their buffer funds to relocate whole families into the safe heavens of Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. Who would have thought that Lashio would fall, with the most prominent regional military command (RMC) centre as well as an air force? Who would then give the definite assurance that nothing will happen to whatever you own

in Mandalay? Who would guarantee that Mandalay would not experience what has happened to Lashio? Once the artillery shells started to rain down upon the city, it would be too late to move out of the city in an orderly manner by then.

With losses of major territories in most states and some divisions, this civil conflict is not likely to end in the foreseeable future. That would commit a lot of national income, resources, and personnel into the war efforts, depriving other much-needed areas of their budget allocations and further downgrading the education system, public healthcare, and infrastructure development.

Which country are we starting to look like?

A country where the local wages a country still at civil ent its national income and the survival of fellow relatives. A country with poor infrastructure, slums and a bad safety record. A country where their diaspora was doing most menial jobs overseas, ranging from maids to cleaners to factory workers to construction workers.

Can you imagine that country? Its name starts with 'P'.

Myanmar is not there yet in totality, but it is on the verge of becoming one. But unless we shake up and shape up quickly, we will be that country with all the above characteristics in less than half a decade.

Consider yourself warned, my fellow citizens!

Healthy Development of Adolescent Morals

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

MORAL development, together with other human development, is also of great importance. I should believe. Why on earth? The main reason is that little or no moral development will cause another development in humans to break down. Of course, the very first moral development often starts to improve even in childhood, particularly at home. In the main, moral development refers to changes in the capacity to reason about actions' rightness or wrongness that comes about with age. Cognitive development and reasoning are related to the development of social competence, and one aspect of this social competence that has received extensive attention is moral issues. The individual can feel tension when in contact with other people who have slightly higher levels of moral reasoning. Hence, moral development in adolescence will herein be studied in depth, especially for school-age children.

According to Piaget, moral

development is broken into two stages. The first stage is called the stage of moral realism or heteronomous morality. During this period of moral realism, what is predominant from early childhood until late childhood or early adolescence is that the child views actions as either right or wrong in accordance with the standards set by law. Thus, if an action is illegal, then no matter what the intention or circumstance is, the action is wrong. On the other hand, an action that is not punishable by law cannot be wrong. Such morally wrong actions will always be punished by an external force. Except for stories about military action and civil wars, the world is supposed to comprise Good Guys and Bad Guys at this stage. Adults and adolescents will likely appreciate the ambiguities, complexities and subtleties involved. As children develop cognitively, become less intellectually ego-centric, and have a greater range of experiences, they begin to improve their appreciation of how complex feelings, motives, and

right and wrong really are. This growth sets the stage for Piaget's second period of moral development, autonomous morality. In this stage, the child views actions as distinct from the law and its consequences, whether punishable or not and is able to judge actions in his own right with respect to the intentions involved and the consequences for others. That subjectively, but as empathy rather than egocentrism, instead of objectively, dominates the child's moral reasoning.

Based on Piaget's ideas, Kohlberg's six stages of moral reasoning are derived from his examination of the subject's responses to several hypothetical moral dilemmas. There are three general levels of moral reasoning in Kohlberg's approach and two stages within each.

1) Pre-conventional moral reasoning

Basically, the child's moral standards are based upon his wish to avoid punishable actions and perform acts that bring re-

wards so as to conform to the rules of society.

Stage I: punishment-obedience orientation

Behaviours that are punishable by an external authority are wrong, whereas actions that are obedient to the demands and laws of external authority are judged to be right.

Stage II: instrumental hedonism and concrete reciprocity

Actions that satisfy one's needs and are personally rewarding are considered to be right. Reciprocity is present only in the sense that one who receives a reward or favour for a particular action will repay that reward or favour at a later date.

2) Conventional moral reasoning

This reflects the individual's desire to conform to the roles that society dictates. Actions are believed to be wrong when they transgress the established

boundaries.

Stage III: good boy/ good girl orientation

One conforms to rules in order to avoid the dislike or disapproval of significant others. Accordingly, actions are wrong when they result in censure by parents, peers, teachers or someone like these, and actions are right if they are approved by them.

Stage IV: authority maintenance orientation

Actions are right if they maintain the social order prescribed by superior authorities. One gains respect by doing one's duty and being a good law-abiding citizen. The aim is to avoid the guilt and shame resulting from criticism by learning authorities.

3) Post-conventional moral reasoning

Under this level, the individual is able to see that laws are relative and flexible, but rules of society are not always founded on inherent rightness or wrongness apart from being established subjectively. Consequently, some rules may really conflict with the needs or rights of certain members of society, and the individual may recognize those conflicts. They must seek to conform to what reason says the right involved in a given situation.

Stage V: social-contract orientation

Actions that are right are held up as those actions that have been examined and evaluated by the whole society as the right ones. General standards of behaviour are set up, but these standards may change if change is needed. In other words, the standards are not necessarily right in and of themselves. Personal opinions and values about standards are acceptable, too.

Stage VI: universal principle orientation

Actions are right if they conform to universal principles of virtue and justice that transcend rules developed by the peer group, the community, and even the nation.

According to Kohlberg, stage I and II behaviour become less frequent as age increases; stage IV, V and VI behaviour increases during the same span. In spite of this, such environmental factors as the level of education, child-rearing practices of parents, and cultural traditions influence the individual's development.

The key factors in moral development include the amount

This highest stage reflects the individual's belief in the value of equality and respect for human rights. As a result, the rules and roles represent abstract and ethical principles that should be followed. The individual forms moral standards based on univer-

sal principles of virtue and justice that transcend rules developed by the peer group, the community, and even the nation.

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“The teacher's very job is to present the case material in a systematic and provocative way by asking questions, mainly in literature, history, social studies or even religious teachings, in order to promote a flow of ideas about what actions might be proposed.”

This highest stage reflects the individual's belief in the value of equality and respect for human rights. As a result, the rules and roles represent abstract and ethical principles that should be followed. The individual forms moral standards based on univer-

and quality of peer interaction. Peer relationship experience is thought to prepare the pathway to higher and more complex forms of judgement. Within children's groups, there is greater equality, give and take, and the need for consensus in reaching decisions.

In peers, the concept of kindness means nothing but acting socially, helping and caring for others. Also, at this age, difficulties, spats and disagreements are brief; arguments are relatively short-lived, and differences are easily repaired. In that connection, the give and take occurs in a rather safe atmosphere. There are hurt feelings during adolescence, to be sure, but friendships remain intact. The probability of continued interaction, discussion, and compromise increases during this period, and the peer group becomes a training ground for later growth. Nothing can substitute for the child's actual confrontations in real-life peer engagements, for certain.

Families who use the codes of focus, challenge but not conflict, and sharing promote child growth. Despite this, families employing distraction, distortion, and rejection codes inhibit child development. The emotional atmosphere of a family is extremely crucial. Atmospheres of praise, encouragement, and non-competitive humour provide participation. Sarcasm, hostility, threats, and devaluing contributions lead to tension and conflict. If we want adolescents to improve their ability to reason and participate, support and clarifying discussion are central.

SEE PAGE 11

NATIONAL

Myanmar awards religious title to Cambodian citizen for contributions to Buddhism

A conferring ceremony for the religious title Saddhammajotikadhaja and insignia, offered by the State Administration Council of Myanmar to Mr Som Vannk, Vice-Chancellor and founder of the Buddhist Sakyaputta International Institute of Cambodia, took place on 1 September 2024 at the Buddhist Sakyaputta International Institute in Phnom Penh, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This event was held in conjunction with the conferment of Honorary Doctorates and Honorary Doctoral Degrees

by Pannasastra University of Cambodia.

Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Kyaw Soe Min first delivered a remark highlighting that Mr Som Vannk had received well-deserved recognition for his exceptional contributions and dedication to promoting and strengthening Buddhism. His efforts included translating the Tripitaka and other Buddhist scriptures into the Khmer language. According to the agenda, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Kyaw Soe Min presented the



This photo depicts Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Kyaw Soe Min awarding the Saddhammajotikadhaja title and insignia for the year 2024 to Mr Som Vannk.

Saddhammajotikadhaja title and insignia to Mr Som Vannk. Following this, U Kyaw Soe Min and his wife donated offer-

ings to the Chief Abbot of Wat Langka Kosomaram, Venerable Samdech Preah Dhammalikhita Dr Sao Chanthol, who received the titles Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja in 2013 and Maha Ganthavacakapandita in 2022, as well as to Venerable Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tipitakadhara Vasettha Lankara, who is temporarily residing in Phnom Penh.

The ceremony was also attended by Myanmar military attache Brig-Gen Tin Aung Swe (Army, Naval, and Air), staff of the Myanmar Embassy, Bhikkhus from the Institute, and Buddhist devotees. — ASH/TH

Myanmar Consulate-General organizes AWCLA Fashion Show & Cultural Event in LA



Myanmar designer Min Thet San and models.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar Consulate-General in Los Angeles organized the AWCLA Fashion Show and Cultural Event, which showcased traditional costumes from Myanmar, Thailand, and the Philippines. The event took place at the Courtyard by Marriott in Monrovia, California, on 24 August.

During the event, designs by Min Thet San, a renowned designer from Myanmar Sweet & Smart Fashion Collection, The Phukaw, a celebrated designer from Thailand, and Amiel Noble, a famous designer from the Philippines, were featured alongside cultural performances from the participating countries.

Daw Hnin Ngu Wah, the spouse of the Myanmar Consul-General and the alternate President of the ASEAN Women Circle of Los Angeles (AWCLA),

U Tony Chan, the main sponsor from the Myanmar Community in Los Angeles, and Dr Judy Chu, the representative for California's 28th congressional district, each gave opening remarks.

Funds raised by the event will be donated to the American Cancer Society. Ms Lisa Erickson, Development Manager of the American Cancer Society, highlighted the importance of cancer awareness.

The event was attended by approximately 250 guests, including Dr Judy Chu, Mrs Lourdes Sabb, Chief of Protocol of Los Angeles County, the Consuls-General of Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines, as well as the Honorary Consul of Switzerland and his spouse, along with members of the ASEAN consulates and their families. — ASH/TMT

Illegal trade crackdown yields K667.698M in early Sept

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, ongoing efforts to combat illicit trade are being carried out in accordance with the law.

On 1 September, combined duty teams managed by the Customs Department conducted inspections. They seized three types of industrial materials worth K108.35 million without official documents from 13 containers at the Asia World Port container checkpoint. Additionally, industrial materials valued at K26.989 million, differing from the Import Declaration (ID), were confiscated from two containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. Further, eight types of industrial materials worth K20.07 million were found in the luggage of two passengers at Yangon International Airport without proper documentation. A Hino tractor head with a trailer (valued at approximately K105 million) en route from Mawlamyine to Yangon was also seized at the Ywathagy Dry Port, carrying industrial materials worth K30.13 million without official documents. All actions were taken in accordance with Customs procedures.

On 2 September, the combined teams intercepted two Toyota Hilux vehicles (estimated value of K42 million) carrying three types of consumer goods worth K9.961 million without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint. They also seized a Nissan Diesel truck (valued at approximately K50 million) carrying industrial materials worth K5.869 million without official documents at the Yadanabon Bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint, as well as four types of consumer goods and industrial materials worth K7.68 million that were smuggled and found by the roadside between the Kyweltatsone checkpoint and Phayangasu village. A Mitsubishi Fuso truck (valued at approximately K30 million) carrying industrial materials worth K7.68 million was also

confiscated in Kyaukse Township. The action was taken in line with Customs procedures.

Additionally, on 2 September, combined on-duty teams seized two unregistered vehicles and an unregistered motorbike (valued at approximately K43.3 million) in Dekkhinathiri and Lewe Townships, as well as two unregistered vehicles (valued at approximately K9 million) in Hlegu and Tamway Townships. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 3 September, under the management of the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, combined teams conducted inspections, resulting in the seizure of illegal timber weighing 4.949 tonnes and valued at K2.277 million in Kanbalu Township, an unregistered three-wheel motorbike (valued at approximately K1 million) in Monywa Township, and a restricted chemical worth K6.3 million without official documents at the Wanbawdek checkpoint in Indakaw Township. The action was executed under the Export and Import Law and the Prevention of Hazard from Chemical and Related Substances Law.

Furthermore, on the same day, combined teams conducted inspections resulting in the seizure of a Nissan Condor (valued at approximately K25 million) carrying five types of industrial materials worth K15.12 million without official documents in Hpa-an Township and a Sino truck (valued at approximately K18 million) carrying four types of industrial materials valued at K83.56 million near the Hpa-an-Hlaingbwe road. The action was also conducted according to Customs procedures.

In total, from 1 to 3 September, 41 cases were recorded, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods valued at approximately K667.698 million, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Healthy Development of Adolescent Morals

FROM PAGE 9

Conflict and tension with the father are actually associated with lower levels of moral judgement. Mothers at high levels of moral judgement are more supportive and more able to tolerate clarifying differing opinions, i.e. they are less defensive and hostile to teenagers who initially take a different point of view from theirs. Seemingly, fathers want to hammer their children into compliance whilst mothers can listen and extend dialogues between them and their children.

Special classroom teaching techniques can affect the level of adolescent moral maturity. Before elementary school age, to start discussing moral dilemmas makes little sense due to the limits imposed by developmental stages, except that the idea of choosing alternatives in everyday situations

to gain a sense of the reasons behind actions is possible. Since the process of moral reasoning is closely related to age, the stage of cognitive development, the level of experience, and the ability to reflect from different points of view, such a reasoning process cannot be changed overnight. Running such discussions is the slow rate of growth in that students will generally maintain their own model level in dealing with difficult dilemmas in particular. So, teachers had better expect moral discussions to be at a slow pace. The teacher's very job is to present the case material in a systematic and provocative way by asking questions, mainly in literature, history, social studies or even religious teachings, in order to promote a flow of ideas about what actions might be proposed.



Art forger Beltracchi believes many of his works are in Japan

GERMAN art forger Wolfgang Beltracchi, who created nearly 300 paintings falsely attributed to some 120 renowned artists, said he believes many of his works are in Japan, including two that stirred controversy at prefectural museums earlier this year.

Apart from the pieces owned by the art museums in Tokushima and Kochi prefectures, Beltracchi, 73, told Kyodo News about a portrait he painted that is privately owned in the country, adding, "There must be more in Japan."

Beltracchi, who outwitted international art experts for about 40 years before landing in prison in Germany over the scheme in 2011, said he does not regret making the paintings, as they are considered "wonderful" and "masterpieces for these painters." But he said he felt sorry for having used the



German art forger Wolfgang Beltracchi speaks to Kyodo News in Lucerne, Switzerland, in August 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

artists' techniques without identifying himself as the creator of the works.

On 12 July, the Tokushima Modern Art Museum said it decided not to display a "Bicycle Rider" piece attributed to French artist Jean Metzinger, suspecting it was made by Beltracchi instead. The museum bought it in 1999 for 67.2 million yen (\$460,000). — Kyodo

Plan to keep Olympic rings on Eiffel Tower sparks criticism



(FILES) This photograph shows the Olympic Rings on the Eiffel Tower ahead of the traditional fireworks marking the annual Bastille Day in Paris on 14 July 2024. PHOTO: AFP

PLANS by Paris's mayor to keep the Olympic rings on the Eiffel Tower have been condemned by designer Gustave Eiffel's descendants and provoked a backlash from some Parisians.

The giant logo was a popular backdrop for selfies by visitors to Paris during the 28 July - 11 August Olympic Games in the French capital, which were widely hailed as a triumph.

Mayor Anne Hidalgo announced on Saturday that she intended to take down the interlocking rings, which are too heavy to remain on the beloved monument, and replace them with new lighter versions.

"It does not seem appropriate to us that the Eiffel Tower, which has become the symbol of Paris and the whole of France since its construction 135 years

ago, has the symbol of an outside organization added to it in a permanent way, whatever its prestige," a statement from the Association of Gustave Eiffel's Descendants said.

The association's chairman Olivier Berthelot-Eiffel, a great-great-grandson of Eiffel, told AFP the family did not see any problem with the rings staying longer than the Paralympic Games which wrap up on 8 September.

"But the Eiffel Tower should not become an advertising outpost. Anne Hidalgo should have said that she wanted to keep the Olympic rings, not that she had decided it, and then discussed the idea with the Paris council and relevant individuals," he explained.

Culture Minister Rachi-

da Dati, a long-time critic and opponent of Hidalgo, also cast doubt over the idea, saying the Socialist city leader would need to follow procedures protecting historic buildings.

"The Eiffel Tower is a protected monument, the work of an immense engineer and designer," Dati said in a statement.

Reaction on social media was mixed, but many Parisians appeared dubious about modifying the symbol of the city that is also a UNESCO world heritage site.

"The Eiffel Tower has a history of 135 years and surpasses a sports and media event of 17 days," commented the SOS Paris group, which campaigns to protect Paris's landmarks and environment. — AFP

3,000-yr-old cedar toppled on typhoon-hit island in southwest Japan

AN iconic 3,000-year-old cedar on Yakushima Island in southwestern Japan has been toppled, likely due to strong winds brought by Typhoon Shanshan, local tour guides said Tuesday.

The 26-metre-high cedar, named "Yayoisugi," with a trunk circumference of about

eight metres, was a key feature of the tourist site Shiratani Unsuikyo Ravine. The guides found it collapsed on Saturday.

Typhoon Shanshan neared the island between on 27 and 29 August with wind speeds of up to 168.48 kilometres per hour at around 8 pm last Wednesday,

according to the local weather observatory.

The island, known for its more than 1,000-years-old "Yakusugi" cedars, was designated as a World Natural Heritage site in 1993 by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. — Kyodo

ECONOMY WORLD

Harbin rises as hub for global tourists amid summer tourism boom



The live-action performance "Encounter Harbin" is staged at Sun Island scenic spot in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 10 June 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AFTER feeding Siberian tigers from up close on a safari bus, Alistair, a British tourist, ran after his two daughters who wandered off to another spot, where people can see breeders taking care of fluffy tiger cubs in the Siberian Tiger Park in Harbin City, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

"We are having a great time here. The weather is cool

and there are lots of delicious food," said Alistair, adding that he would recommend the park to his friends in the UK.

He said he had visited China before, but this time he came with his family to visit multiple attractions in Heilongjiang and north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, as China's visa-free policy has made it easier for foreign travellers

to enter the country.

Last winter, Harbin's ice and snow attractions ignited Chinese social media, attracting tourists from both home and abroad to the "ice city".

This summer, with China's 144-hour visa-free transit policy, the city has witnessed an influx of foreign tourists, making it another popular destination for "China Travel" goers. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam exports over 6 mln tonnes of rice in 8 months

VIETNAM exported 6.16 million tonnes of rice in the first eight months of this year, up 5.9 per cent year on year, Vietnam News has reported, citing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Rice export brought revenue of nearly US\$3.85 billion in the cited period, a year-on-year growth of 21.7 per cent, said the report.

Along with an output increase, the Southeast Asian country's average rice export price rose about 14.8 per cent during the first eight months, reaching \$625 per tonne.

Vietnam aims to export over 8 million tonnes of rice worth \$5 billion in 2024, the ministry said. — Xinhua

S Korea's agri-food products export rises in January-August

South Korea's export of agricultural and food products rose for the first eight months of this year due to strong demand from the United States and Europe, government data showed Tuesday.

Outbound shipment of locally-made food and farm goods gained 8.7 per cent to US\$6.48 billion during the January-August period compared with the same period of last year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

The agri-food products export to the United States advanced 22.8 per cent to \$1.02 billion in the cited period, and shipment to Europe surged 30.5 per cent to \$459 million.

Export to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) grew 5.9 per cent to \$1.26 billion, but shipment to Japan shrank 7.4 per cent to \$900 million in the eight-month period.

By item, instant noodles shipment spiked 31.7 per cent to \$800 million, while exports for tobacco products added 7.0 per cent to \$729 million.

Confectionery and beverage exports increased in double digits to \$494 million and \$449 million each. — Xinhua

Thailand's business sentiment edges up in August

THAILAND'S business sentiment edged up in August, thanks to improved confidence in the manufacturing sector, the central bank said on Monday.

According to the Bank of Thailand, the Southeast Asian country's business sentiment index (BSI) was recorded at 47.1 last month, up from 46.9 in July, mainly due to increases in production and total order book components despite a decline in employment.

The manufacturing index increased, led by improved sentiment in the automotive, rubber and plastic sectors as production and performance sub-indices grew following a significant fall in the previous month, the central

bank said in a statement.

However, respondents in other businesses expressed reduced confidence, given that most indices fell below the 50-threshold, signalling an uneven recovery within the manufacturing sector.

Meanwhile, the non-manufacturing index dipped across various businesses, primarily owing to worsening sentiment in the automotive and fast-moving consumer goods retail sectors as customers became more cautious about spending.

The three-month expected BSI dropped to 49.8 in August from 50.1 a month earlier, being below the 50-threshold for the first time in three years. — Xinhua

Turkish inflation slows to 52% in August: official data

TÜRKIYE'S annual inflation rate slowed further in August to 52 per cent after reaching 61.8 per cent in July, official data showed on Tuesday.

The central bank began to raise interest rates last year in an effort to battle soaring prices, after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dropped his opposition to orthodox monetary policy.

Türkiye's annual inflation rate reached a decades-long high of 85 per cent in October 2022.

It fell to 38.2 per cent in June 2023 before rising again. It reached 75 per cent in May this year but started to fall in June.

The biggest price rises in



A teller counts US dollar bills at an exchange office in Ankara on 20 July 2023. Türkiye's annual inflation rate slowed further in August to 52 per cent after reaching 61.8 per cent in July, official data showed on 3 September 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

August were in education, at 120.8 per cent, housing at 101.5 per cent, and hotels and restaurants at 67.7 per cent, according to the Turkish statistics institute. — AFP

Laos to host fair to promote local products

LAOS is preparing to hold the Made in Laos fair to encourage Lao people to use more local products and mobilize people to increase the manufacturing of products, as well as help to add value to export goods.

The fair is scheduled to take place from 28 September to 7 October in Lao capital Vientiane, Lao National Radio reported on Tuesday.

The event will showcase locally made products, such as handicrafts, cotton and silk clothes, furniture and home decoration, agricultural items, food and drink products, industrial and electronic equipment, beauty products, and One District One Product items. — Xinhua

Chinese companies accelerate green development of power battery industry

THE latest advancements and strategic directions of China's power battery industry have been highlighted at the 2024 World Power Battery Conference held in the city of Yibin, southwest China's Sichuan Province.

As the global shift towards electrification and green energy accelerates, China has been increasingly focusing on technological innovation, sustainability, and enhanced safety standards to strengthen its position in the global power battery market while exploring new application opportunities.

Range and charging efficiency remain key concerns for electric vehicle (EV) users. During the conference, major Chinese battery manufacturers such as CATL and BYD showcased their next-generation battery technologies.



This photo taken on 1 September 2024 shows a dual-motor drive system for the new energy vehicle (NEV) in Yibin, southwest China's Sichuan Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

CATL's "Shenxing Plus" battery drew attention for its high energy density and fast-charging capabilities, capable of achieving a 600-kilometre range with just a 10-minute

charge, and maintaining an efficient performance even at minus 20 degrees Celsius, which marks a significant breakthrough in lithium iron phosphate battery technology.

CATL Chairman Zeng Yuqun stressed the balance between design and chemical composition when addressing the development of battery technology, so as to achieve high perfor-

mance and high safety.

"We have developed a more energy-dense, lighter, and smaller battery system by combining large cylindrical cell designs with innovative silicon-based anode materials," said Mei Ao, general manager of Guangzhou Leadinx Energy Technology Co Ltd. This innovation has extended the flight time of large industrial electric drones by over 35 per cent with the same weight and volume, making it suitable for high-performance scenarios such as agricultural protection, inspection, and security, as well as manned electric aerial vehicles.

Zhong Zhicheng, general manager of Novo Setsail New Energy Technology Zhuhai Company, highlighted China's exploration in the field of electric ships. — Xinhua

Volkswagen considering plant closures in Germany to cut costs



A Volkswagen ID.4 GTX is on display during Germany's International Motor Show (IAA) in Munich, Germany, 7 September 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA

GERMAN automotive giant Volkswagen is considering closing its production plants in Germany to cope with rising costs, said the company on Monday.

Vehicle plant and component factory closures can no longer be ruled out in the current situation, barring rapid countermeasures, German Press Agency quoted the carmaker as saying.

Alongside these potential closures, the company has also hinted at possible layoffs. — Xinhua

Malaysia's crude oil, condensate production rebounds 1.3% in Q2

MALAYSIA'S crude oil and condensate production rebounded 1.3 per cent year on year to 46.1 million barrels in the second quarter, after two consecutive quarters of decline, official data showed Tues-

day. The Department of Statistics Malaysia said in a statement that the improvement was attributable to the turnaround in crude oil which grew by 0.1 per cent, and condensate which expanded by 4.2 per

cent. Meanwhile, natural gas production increased three per cent year on year to 696.8 billion cubic feet in the second quarter, slower than the 9.1 per cent growth recorded in the previous quarter. — Xinhua

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Zhejiang Xinan Chemical Industrial Group Co.,Ltd have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "Friends' Helper Co.,Ltd", to new distributor name "Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HE LE VOY. NO. (0UV9ES1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-9-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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.

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Thailand nets 1.3M kilogrammes of invasive fish

THAILAND has netted more than 1.3 million kilogrammes of highly destructive blackchin tilapia fish, the government said Tuesday, as it battles to stamp out the invasive species.

Shoals of blackchin tilapia, which can produce up to 500 young at a time, have been found in 19 Thai provinces, damaging ecosystems in rivers, swamps and canals by preying on small fish, shrimp and snail larvae.

As well as the ecological impact, the government is worried about the effect on the kingdom's crucial fish-farming industry.

Fishing authorities caught 1,332,000 kilogrammes of blackchin tilapia between February and 28 August, according to Nattacha Boonchaiinsawat, vice-president of a parliamentary committee set up to tackle



This photograph taken on 15 July 2024 shows a man catching blackchin tilapia fish in a canal in Bangkok. **PHOTO: AFP**

the spread of the fish.

"We talked to local residents

and found out that the spread of tilapia has got worse — they

found them in small canals, which was not the case before,"

he told AFP.

The outbreak of tilapia will cost the Thai economy at least 10 billion baht (\$293 million), Nattacha said.

The fish, native to West Africa, were first discovered in Thailand's rivers in 2010 before spreading rapidly in 2018, and are now also found in the US state of Florida and in the Philippines.

In July, the Thai government declared the eradication of the species a national priority and began encouraging people to consume the fish.

Promotional activities in central Phetchaburi province advertised tilapia-based fish sauces and sausages. Restaurants have also increasingly used the fish in cuisine, fried with garlic or sun-dried. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

4 killed on commuter train shooting in Chicago area

FOUR people were fatally shot on a commuter train in the Chicago area early Monday, and it appears the victims were attacked while sleeping in their seats, police reported Monday afternoon.

According to the Forest Park Police Department, a review of security footage showed that the victims seemed to be asleep, seated separately, and did not resist the attack. The shooting occurred in two separate train cars.

A suspect has been taken into custody, and a weapon was recovered. The motive is still unknown.

Forest Park is a village in Cook County, Illinois, and a suburb of Chicago.

Also on Labour Day, five people were shot in the afternoon when a suspect discharged a weapon into a crowd along the New York Caribbean Carnival parade route, according to police. Two people were critically wounded. — Xinhua

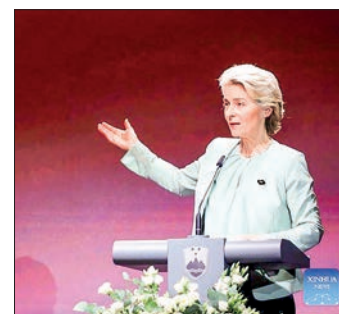
Man killed after being hit by falling concrete in Tokyo

A man was killed after being hit by a piece of concrete that fell from a building at a demolition site in central Tokyo on Monday, local media reported. The 67-year-old man, Masanori Yokoyama, a security guard who was directing traffic at the site in the capital's Minato Ward, was sent to hospital with his head bleeding, but died three and a half hours later, Jiji Press reported, citing the Metropolitan Police Department.

The piece of concrete, apparently part of an exterior wall of the building, fell from the fifth floor through a construction enclosure, the report said. The report quoted another security guard who was nearby at the time of the accident as saying that an exterior wall suddenly came off and what appeared to be a stone fell and hit the victim while he was sweeping the street. — Xinhua

Von der Leyen pledges to speed up EU enlargement

THE European Union (EU) enlargement will be expedited under the new European Commission set to be formed in the coming months, incumbent and future Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced at an international political conference in Slovenia on Monday. "Enlargement is an investment in our collective strength and security," von der Leyen said in her speech at the opening of the Bled Strategic Forum, Slovenia's largest annual international political event. She emphasized the critical



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen speaks at the opening of the Bled Strategic Forum in Bled, Slovenia, on 2 September 2024. **PHOTO: DANIEL NOVAKOVIC/STA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

importance of integrating the Western Balkans into the EU, noting that "a larger European Union gives us a strong voice in the world." Slovenian President Nataša Pirc Musar urged global action against climate change, saying, "We should learn how to live with less but better."

The host of the forum, Slovenia's Foreign Minister Tanja Fajon, called on countries to recognize Palestine as a sovereign state and to help end the violence in Gaza. Slovenia recognized the Palestinian state in June. — Xinhua

Australians warned to prepare for fires, cyclones, floods during high-risk season

AUSTRALIANS have been told to prepare for possible cyclones, storms, fires and flooding during the upcoming high-risk weather season.

Minister for Emergency Management Jenny McAllister on Tuesday said the federal government is preparing for the

worst-case disaster scenarios as the nation heads into warmer months of the year.

She said Australians need to be thinking about a range of perils in the high-risk weather season, which traditionally runs from October through April.

"Fire is one of them. But

we are, of course, thinking about the cyclone season and we're thinking about the risk of severe storms like some of the rain and flooding that we've seen in recent days," McAllister told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar to play 3 friendly matches in Thailand



This photo shows the Myanmar U-20 football team. PHOTO: MFF

IN preparation for the 2025 AFC U-20 Championship, the Myanmar U-20 football team will be travelling to Thailand this month for a series of friendly matches.

Originally scheduled to play five friendlies, the team will now face three opponents due to changes with some competing teams. The Myanmar U-20 squad will train in Thailand from 1 to 14 September. They will play against Bahrain U-20 on 5 September, the Thailand League 3 club Kamsambandit University on 9 September, and Cambodia U-20 on 13 September. Head coach U Aung Naing will lead the team and will feature a group of young and promising players. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

China shuttlers bag seven golds, pregnant archer wins title

CHINESE badminton players showcased their dominance at the Paris Paralympics on Monday, securing an impressive seven gold medals, while para-archer Jodie Grinham made history as the first pregnant athlete to win a Paralympic medal.

Qu Zimo successfully defended his title in the men's WH1 category, while Liu Yutong did the same in the women's WH2 category. Paralympic debutant Li Fengmei made her mark by clinching two gold medals in the women's singles and mixed doubles SH6 categories on the same day.

In blind football, favourites Brazil maintained their perfect

record by defeating France 3-0 at the Eiffel Tower Stadium. The Brazilian team has won every gold medal in the sport since its introduction at the Athens 2004 Paralympics.

In archery, British athletes Nathan Macqueen and seven-month-pregnant Jodie Grinham won gold in the mixed team compound open, defeating Iran's Fatemeh Hemmati and Hadi Nori. This victory marked Grinham's second medal of the Games, following her bronze in the women's individual compound on Saturday. Meanwhile, China's Chen Minyi and Zhang Tianxin successfully defended their mixed team W1 title. — Xinhua



Gold medallist Qu Zimo (C) of China, silver medallist Choi Jung-man (L) of South Korea and bronze medallist Thomas Wandschneider of Germany react during the awarding ceremony after the men's singles WH1 gold medal match of para badminton at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, France, 2 September 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

Defending Champions VUC advance to MFF Futsal Championship Quarterfinals



The VUC team and Generations team are in action in the knockout-stage match. PHOTO: MFF

THE second day of the 2024 MFF Futsal Championship knockout stage was held at the MFF Futsal Arena in Yangon yesterday.

The current champions, VUC, along with MIU, Futsal-19, and Seven, entered the quarterfinals. In the knockout stage matches on the second day, VUC defeated Generations 5-1, Futsal-19 overcame M2K 3-0, Seven won against 7 Brother 3-2, and MIU triumphed over YRG 3-1.

Notably, VUC, who reached the finals last

year, faced Generations early this year and secured a decisive victory. Despite a slow start, the renowned MIU team managed to turn their performance around in the second half to advance to the quarterfinals. The quarterfinal matches will continue on 5 September, featuring contests between: Pyae Sone FC and TG United, Winner Soccer and MH Dream Team, VUC and Futsal-19, and Seven and MIU. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Japan wins wheelchair rugby, 2 badminton golds in Paris

JAPAN won its first Paralympic gold medal in wheelchair rugby Monday after seeing off the United States 48-41 in Paris, with the nation adding two badminton gold on the day to make it five total at the ongoing games.

The bronze medallist both at Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and Tokyo in 2021, Japan led 24-23 at half-time and widened the gap in the third and fourth periods in the mixed-gender wheelchair rugby

final at Champ-de-Mars Arena.

Japan's Katsuya Hashimoto led the match with 19 tries and teammate Yukinobu Ike got 16, while Chuck Aoki and Sarah Adam each scored 14 points for the United States.

Daiki Kajiwara defended his men's wheelchair badminton WH2 singles class title, easing past Chan Ho-yuen of Hong Kong 21-10, 21-10 in the final. — Kyodo

Thailand nets 1.3M
kilogrammes of
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Xi meets African Union Commission chairperson

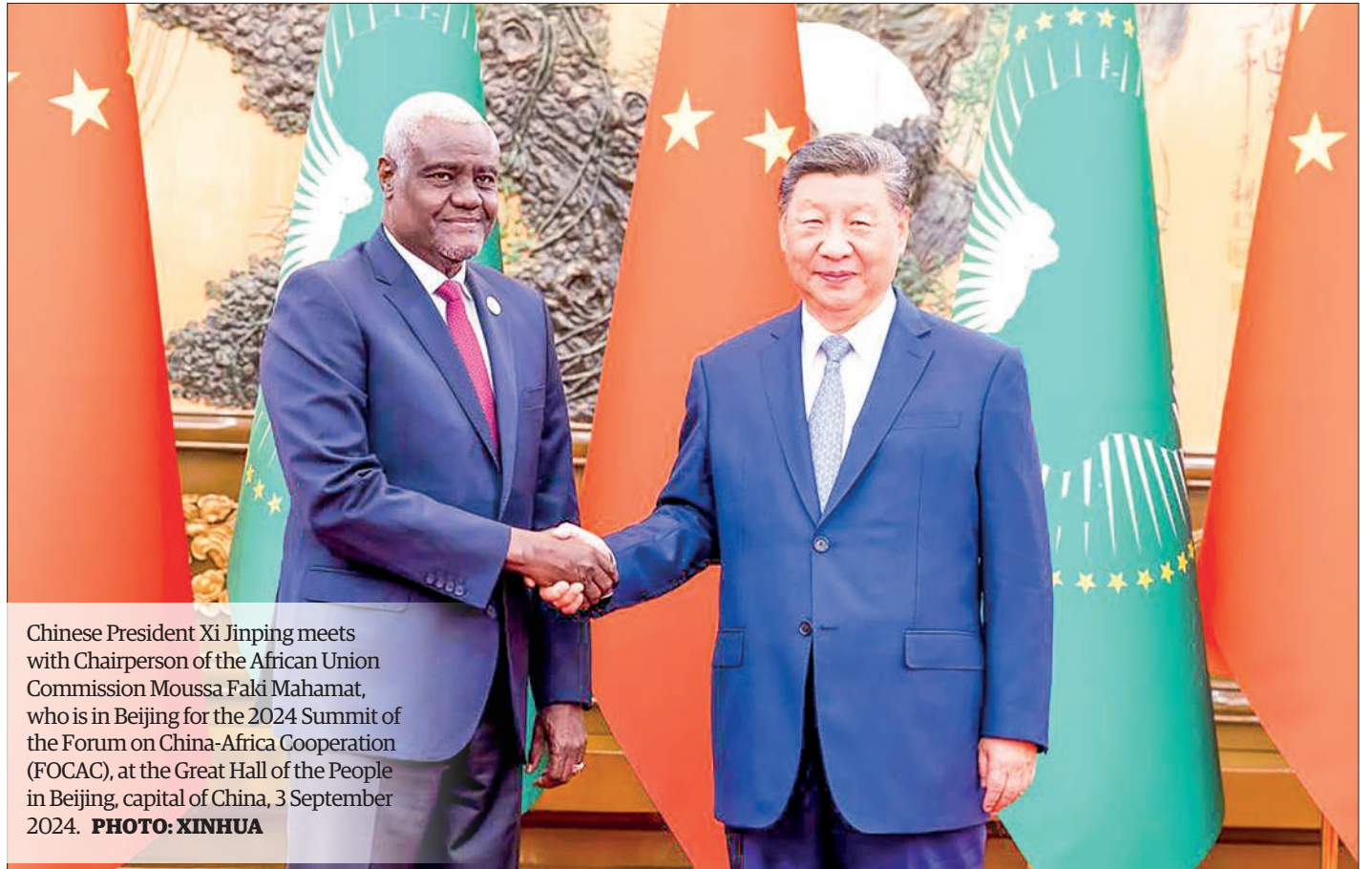
CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Tuesday met Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Noting that the AU is a flag guiding Africa's unity and self-strengthening and an important platform for international cooperation, Xi said China supports the AU in playing a bigger role in the development of China-Africa friendship.

China stands ready to pursue greater achievements in various fields in its cooperation with the AU and elevate the China-Africa community with a shared future to a new level, he said.

China considers Africa a major priority in its diplomacy, and is willing to increase political exchanges, deepen strategic mutual trust, strengthen pragmatic cooperation, share development experience and promote common development with Africa, Xi stressed.

— Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 3 September 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Putin invites Mongolian president to BRICS' October summit in Kazan



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh attend a welcome ceremony in Sukhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday invited Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh to the BRICS summit, to be held in the Russian city of Kazan in October.

"I would like to invite you to Russia, to Kazan, where we will hold the BRICS sum-

mit this year. It will be the first event of this level after the BRICS expansion. I hope you will take part in the BRICS+ format. We will be waiting for you," Putin said in Ulaanbaatar. Putin arrived in Mongolia at President Khurelsukh's invitation on

Monday to attend celebrations of the 85th anniversary of the Soviet-Mongol victory over militarist Japan on the Khalkhin Gol River.

Russia assumed the rotating presidency of the BRICS group of emerging economies in January. — SPUTNIK

IAEA works on preventing possible use of nukes, seeks to continue talks with Iran – Grossi

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) keeps in touch with different countries to prevent possible use of nuclear weapons, Director-General Rafael Grossi said on Monday, adding that he expected to resume dialogue with Iran on its nuclear programme as soon as possible.

"Use of nuclear weapons could lead to unstoppable escalation and to a situation which could be completely out of control. So, we try to engage with countries, we try to help to deescalate the situations that may lead to that," Grossi said in an interview with Al Arabiya broadcaster.

He also expressed hope to meet with new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian as soon as possible in order to discuss the country's nuclear programme and the issues associated with it. The IAEA's

chief said he is ready to come to Tehran to continue the bilateral dialogue with Iran.

Meanwhile, it is "extremely improbable" that Tehran might be secretly developing nuclear weapons behind the backs of international agencies, such as the IAEA, amid the agency's current inspection and verification capability, Grossi added.

In 2015, Tehran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear programme, also known as the Iran nuclear deal, with China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the involvement of the European Union. The deal committed Iran to scaling back its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief. The US withdrew from the deal in 2018 under then-President Donald Trump, leading to the collapse of the deal. — SPUTNIK