

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Newsprint Factory (Thaboung) re-commissioned into service

Resumption of Newsprint Factory (Thaboung) to meet paper demand of the country, reducing FE spending and creating job opportunity

Only when the industrial sector improves will it contribute to building a modern, developed country, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was quoted as saying at the resumption of Newsprint Factory (Thaboung) of Myanmar Economic Corporation yesterday.

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Officials from the State Reserved Rice Purchasing Supervisory Committee inspect the second batch of reserved rice purchasing process during a field visit yesterday.

Procurement of reserved rice underway to aid disaster-affected regions

Chairman of the State Reserved Rice Purchasing Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Commerce U Nyunt Aung made a field visit to inspect the second batch of reserved rice purchasing process which is being carried out in collaboration between the

ministry and the Myanmar Rice Federation yesterday.

In the second batch, 0.5 million sacks of rice will be purchased. The first batch saw 0.2 million sacks of rice purchased and distributed to disaster-affected areas under the supervision of the Natural Disaster

Management Committee in May.

After the purchased rice has been examined for quality and quantity, it will be distributed to disaster-affected areas under the directive of the management committee. — MNA/TH

“Dee Money” App facilitates seamless cash transfers for Myanmar citizens in Thailand

The Myanmar Embassy to Thailand has announced that Dee Money mobile application has been jointly established by two Myanmar-Thai non-bank financial service companies as an official money transfer service so that Myanmar nationals in Thailand will not be deceived when transferring money to their motherland.

The embassy stated that Myanmar nationals in Thailand are being exploited while sending money back to Myanmar due to various reasons, as well as facing high transfer fees and a lack of guarantees daily. If people transfer the baht currency equivalent to K10 million through the Dee Money mobile application, they will only be charged 49 baht per service fee. According to the embassy statement, Dee Money App is a safe and secure money transfer service for all Myanmar citizens in Thailand. Currently, Thai-Myanmar exchange rates are not stable and the value of the kyat is falling, reaching over K100 per Thai baht, as per the prevailing conditions in the forex market. — TWA/EM

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Negotiations underway to temporarily waive fines for Myanmar sailors at Brazilian ports

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NATIONAL

Elephants in Myanmar boast greater intelligence, cognitive ability than African elephants

THE elephants in Myanmar, Asian elephants have high intelligence and memorization despite their smaller size than African elephants. Moreover, they are more adaptable to the environment than the African elephants, said U Tint Lwin, Magway Region Chief Minister during the World Elephant Day event held at the elephant camp at Shwesettaw Mann Creek in Minbu (Sagu) Township of Mandalay Region yesterday.

He continued that there are only Asian and African elephants left in the world. World Elephant Day is celebrated by over 100 organizations to draw attention to the plight of these majestic creatures to populations and cultures all over the world and also to preserve and protect their places.

The Extraction Department under Myanma Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation runs 23 elephant conservation-based tourism camps (ECBT) including the Shwesettaw Mann Creek elephant camp.

Then, the region chief minister provided basic food-stuffs to the elephant camp staff and made elephant feed donations for 12 elephants in camp and the elephants enjoyed a buffet.

The theme of this year is Bringing the World Together to Help Elephants. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KTZH



Photo shows elephants delight in refreshing baths at Shwesettaw Mann Creek. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG (MINBU)**

“Sheepadee” harvesters reap good profits in Kachin's ice-capped mountains



The hunters search for Sheepadees by trekking deep into the Hponkan Razi, Gamlang Razi, Madwe Razi and Hkakabo Razi (above photo), and the cordyceps fungus searched by Sheepadee harvesters are seen (right photos). **PHOTO: HPONKAN**

THE cordyceps fungus, Sheepadee in Myanmar, grows at altitudes of over 10,000 feet in the snow-capped Tibetan plateau of Putao District of Kachin State. Currently, the Sheepadee harvesters can make their extra income foraging for them.

The price of Sheepadee is K6,500 per creature this year in the Putao market and it is K7,500-K9,500 if the size is large.

There is high demand from Yangon and Mandalay and they are transported by car or flight, according to Saya Aung Thein Htwe, an online seller.

The hunters search for these zombie-like creatures by trekking deep into the Hponkan Razi, Gamlang Razi, Madwe Razi and Hkakabo Razi. Although there were only 2,000 Sheepadee hunters in the past, there are about 20,000 hunters this year.

Hunters have to stockpile the rations at the mountains in April and May and they forage for the Sheepadee in June, July and August.

The fungi demand has surged in recent decades largely for use in traditional medicine. — Hponkan (Putao)/KTZH



NATIONAL



The Senior General inspects the supply of natural gas through a filtration system, pressure regulation system and metering system at the Thaboung natural gas distribution camp yesterday.

Newsprint Factory (Thaboung) re-commissioned into service

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Union Ministers and the Adviser to the SAC Chairman MEC Chairman reported to the Senior General on the availability of raw pulp from private hardwood plantations, allotment of plots for the establishment of bamboo and hardwood plantations, supply of natural gas to the factory, potential benefits from the resumption of the factory, hand-over of the factory from Ministry of Industry to MEC, and refitting of machines at the factory by experts from the company in the past installation of machines.

In giving guidance, the Senior General noted that as daily newspapers reflect the history of the country, every country still publishes newspapers, de-



The Senior General warmly greets employees of Newsprint Factory (Thaboung) of Myanmar Economic Corporation yesterday.

... only when the industrial sector improves will it contribute to building a modern, developed country. Running industries and manufacturing processes can create employment opportunities.

manding newsprint day after day.

The Senior General gave guidance, saying that as Newsprint Factory (Thaboung) requires a large volume of wood and bamboo raw materials, it

should have forests and bamboo plantations on a commercial scale. The Ministry of Energy needs to supply natural gas which is a top requirement among inputs.

The Senior General ex-

pressed his satisfaction with the high quality of newsprint produced in the past. He remarked that the factory will contribute to the production of newsprint as well as printing school textbooks.

ulation system and metering system at the camp.

The Union Minister for Industry, the Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister and the Adviser to the SAC Chairman MEC Chairman cut the ribbon to commission the Newsprint Factory (Thaboung) into service.

The Senior General pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the factory and launched the chip preparation plant for operating the newsprint factory. He inspected the functioning of the Chip Preparation Plant, Paper Making Plant and Finishing Section. The Senior General and attendees put their signatures on the first-ever produced newsprint as records.

Before the lunch, the Senior General delivered a speech, saying that only when the industrial sector improves will it contribute to building a modern, developed country. Running industries and manufacturing processes can create employment opportunities. The resumption of the Newsprint Factory (Thaboung) revitalizes the industrial sector of Myanmar.

The Newsprint Factory (Thaboung) was halted for various reasons. The resumption of the factory will meet the paper demand of the country, reducing spending on foreign exchange and creating job opportunities. — MNA/TTA

Regarding the manufacturing process, the Senior General pointed out that if other import products such as rubber products and personal goods can be manufactured at home, these products can be substituted in the placements of import goods.

The Senior General disclosed that the government is striving for re-operating factories halted for various reasons with the purpose of promoting domestic manufacturing.

The Senior General launched the gas station at the Thaboung natural gas distribution camp and inspected the supply of natural gas through a filtration system, pressure reg-

NATIONAL



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San is seen off by officials from the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Myanmar at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

DPM Union Defence Minister departs for Russian Federation

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San departed from Yangon by Air yesterday evening for Russian Federation to attend the 2023 Army Forum and XI Moscow Conference on International Security from 14 to 20 August in Kubinka, Moscow, the Russian

Federation.

The delegation led by Admiral Tin Aung San was seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, senior military officers, Mr Pavel Klavukov who is a counsellor from the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Myanmar and officials at Yangon International Airport. — MNA/MKKS

Nay Pyi Taw hosts 2023 International Youth Day commemoration

WUNNA Theikdi Gymnasium Stadium B in Nay Pyi Taw was abuzz with the celebration of International Youth Day 2023 yesterday. U Min Thein Zan, Chairman of the Myanmar Youth Affairs Central Committee and Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, emphasized the theme "Let's create a sustainable world with the power of youth".

He urged the younger generation to collaborate and leverage their energy to expedite the journey towards sustainability. The ministry's dedication to comprehensive youth development was underscored, emphasizing clear objectives and

effective implementation.

Distinguished young men and women were honoured during the event, aligning with the mission to cultivate patriotic and principled individuals. Recognizing that this mission requires collective efforts across sectors, U Min Thein Zan stressed the importance of united endeavours in youth development activities.

U Zin Min Htet, Chairman of the Myanmar Youth Affairs Working Committee and Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs conveyed UN Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres' message for International Youth Day. A video showcasing robust youth development activities was pre-



The celebration of International Youth Day 2023 in progress at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium B in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 August 2023.

sented, echoing the significance of this occasion.

Union ministers presented

awards and cash prizes to recipients, followed by a heartfelt expression of gratitude by an

outstanding young individual on behalf of the youth community. — MNA/KZW

14 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 12 August, total figure registers 641,130

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **641,130** after **14** new cases were reported on 12 August 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 12-8-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health.

— GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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NATIONAL

CBM announces shift to online gold bar trading, similar to forex market

Vigilant inspections required to uncover gold price manipulation at jewellery stores

IT should launch online trading for gold bar transactions just like the online trading of the foreign currency market, said Daw Than Than Swe, governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar during the meeting with the chairman and secretary of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market and departmental officials yesterday.

She also mentioned the need to allow those who hold legal certificates for following the mechanisms of meeting the standard for gold, quality, weight and pricing to participate in online trading to ensure gold price

stability.

She then instructed the supervisors to inspect whether the price manipulators make price instability at gold shops, and whether the shops have relevant work licences and other certificates including the legal trading price and payment methods.

The CBM launched online trading programmes in the international currency market on 22 June. It sold US\$6.89 million at K2,920/2,922 per dollar to six banks on that day and also announced that the online sale prices were illegal.

Moreover, the CBM re-



The meeting between the Central Bank of Myanmar and the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market in progress on 12 August.

viewed the lists of buyers and sellers of foreign currency submitted by AD-licensed banks and sale listings between the banks and customers and also negotiated with the banks regarding

the exchange rate and amounts.

Then, the attendees reported on the proper situation concerning the online trading of CBM for real estate agents and car brokers in addition to

the foreign currency and gold market to make official transactions by laying down rules and regulations and the plans to inspect as per the Anti-Corruption Law. — MNA/KTZH

Illegal timbers, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated



Officials from the Forest Department inspect confiscated hardwood timber in Toungoo District on 12 August.

THE combined on-duty teams under the management of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made inspections on 11 August and confiscated a Nidi truck (approximately K30 million), headed to Mandalay from Muse, carrying 870 sets of Tecot electric pan cooker worth K10.44 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the milepost 20/5 on Mandalay-Muse


road and a Nissan station wagon and a Toyota Isis minivan (estimated value of K35 million) carrying 20 kinds of goods worth K3,611,250 including two boards of bathroom cabinets without official documents from two vehicles at the milepost 24/1 on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, the Customs on-duty teams impounded 500

brand new agriculture tractor spare parts worth K16,926,000 that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Hteedan Port, a total of 6.37 kilogrammes of powder — suspected drugs — worth K95.55 million from passenger baggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and 9,688.8 kilogrammes of plywood one side coated worth K8,138,592 from three containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 12 August, a total of 3.654 tonnes of illegal teak and 0.591 tonne of illegal hardwood worth K1,664,308 was captured in Toungoo district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A total of 10 arrests were made on 11 and 12 August, with an estimated value of K201,330,150, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 12-8-2023)

Flood Condition of Sittoung River

ACCORDING to the 13:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about (1½) feet above its danger level. It may fall the present water level by about (½) foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Flood Condition of Bago River

ACCORDING to the 13:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Bago River at Bago has exceeded by about (1½) feet above its danger level. It may fall the present water level by about one foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Flood Condition of Thanlwin River

ACCORDING to the 13:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about four feet above its danger level. It may fall the present water level by about (1½) feet during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

IT is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Madauk, Bago and Hpa-an townships, to take precaution measure.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Negotiations underway to temporarily waive fines for Myanmar sailors at Brazilian ports

MYANMAR'S Ambassador to Brazil U Aung Kyaw Zan engaged in a productive discussion with the chief representative of the cross-border crime department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil yesterday. The central topic of their discussion was centred around the potential exemption of Myanmar seafarers from bearing fines imposed at Brazilian ports, marking a significant step towards fostering stronger bilateral relations.

During their cordial meeting, Ambassador U Aung Kyaw Zan and the head of Brazil's cross-border crime department explored the possibility of introducing a grace period during which Myanmar sailors disembarking at Brazilian ports without a valid Seafarers Identity Document (SID) would be spared from incurring fines. The ambassador meticulously outlined the strategic mechanisms through which essential consular protection would be extended to these seafarers. The comprehensive discussion included Minister Marcelo Della Nina, who oversees Brazil's cross-border crime department,



Bird's-eye view of the Port of Santos in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

and together, they evaluated the practical implementation of these measures.

In addition to this vital initiative, Ambassador U Aung Kyaw Zan also dedicated time to

elaborate on Myanmar's steadfast commitment to combatting human trafficking. He presented a comprehensive overview of the ongoing fourth five-year plan (2022-2026) and elucidated the

seamless continuity of pivotal processes to address this issue.

Brazilian regulations stipulate those foreign seafarers, hailing from diverse nations, can access Brazilian ports un-

der specific conditions. Crucially, entry is conditional upon the presentation of a valid SID or a pre-entry visa when the ship arrives. However, instances of seafarers arriving without SID due to various reasons have been a recurring concern, often resulting in unwarranted fines. To mitigate this issue, the ambassador and his counterparts are diligently coordinating to streamline the process of obtaining SIDs. Letters of support are being issued to Myanmar seafarers destined for Brazilian waters, while the Seafarers Division under the Directorate of Marine Administration (DMA/SD), is expediting SID issuance.

Furthermore, the Brazilian Embassy to Myanmar remains steadfastly committed to securing exemptions for Myanmar seafarers from detention or financial penalties and providing unwavering support and assistance to sailors in need, reaffirming the strong ties between Brazil and Myanmar. For seafarers seeking guidance or support, the Brazilian embassy stands ready to extend its helping hand at any juncture. — MNA/KZW

Tenders invited for demolishing and selling of old Thirimingala Market

YANGON City Development Committee has invited for the tender of old Thirimingala Market on the strand road, Kyimyindine Township to demolish and sell.

Tender forms will be available from 21 to 30 August at the engineering department in the 12th Floor Office of the Yangon City Development Committee in Botahtaung Township. It must be submitted by 1 September and the date of tender will be notified in advance, it is reported.

The old Thirimingala Market, which was opened in 1998, has led to the main vegetable market in Yangon and it was moved to the present location as New Thirimingala Market at the end of 2010.

After moving, there was continued to operate a car dealership, restaurants and some hotel businesses in the former area. It was declared a dilapidated building in August in 2017. — TWA/MKKS

Poet and scriptwriter Myint Oo U Myint passes away

A renowned poet and scriptwriter and Film Academy Award winner Myint Oo U Myint (U Myint Oo) passed away on 12 August and he was cremated on the same day. He was 67.

He died of kidney disease, leaving his beloved better half, four daughters and a granddaughter. The artist's body was cremated on the day of his demise as his family fulfilled his last wishes shared with them, according to his wife.

The scriptwriter won a film Academy award for the script of the movie titled "Gyokyar Taungpan Khat Thaan" (Hissing Sound of a Crane's Wing) directed by film director Zinyaw Maung Maung in 2009. He wrote many poems, short stories and scripts and he was a member of the script association under the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization. He was also a member of the Myanmar Academy Award Scrutiny Board.

"We won Academy awards for the same movie and I feel very sad about the death of my colleague Myint Oo U Myint. I pray and hope that he is in a better place now. With great sad-



The funeral service scene.

ness..." film director Zinyaw Maung Maung expressed his heartfelt condolences on the loss of the scriptwriter on his social media.

Members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and the people from the film and literary arenas helped the family of the late scriptwriter with the arrangement of the funeral ceremony and also presented in the funeral service. Alms donation dedicated for him by his family will be conducted at their home in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 18 August. — Htun Htun/TH



Saya Myint Oo U Myint.

LOCAL BUSINESS



A petrol filling station showing prices of fuel on 12 August.

Domestic fuel oil market sees price fluctuation

FUEL prices are volatile in the domestic market, with a one-day increase of over K100 per litre on 11 August and a price slump on 12 August.

Fuel prices were K2,195 per litre of Octane 92, K2,310 for Octane 95, K2,360 for diesel and K2,440 for premium diesel on 10 August and then, the prices rose to K2,310 per litre for Octane 92, K2,420 per litre for Octane 95, K2,500 for diesel and K2,575 for premium diesel on 11 August.

Fuel prices stood at K2,285 per litre of Octane 92, K2,395 for Octane 95 and K2,460 for diesel

on 12 August.

Although the prices recorded on 12 August showed a small decrease compared to that of 11 August, those prices are still up by K90-100 per litre from the price of 10 August, Ko Hla Myint, who comes to the petrol station, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The prices will remain unchanged until 14 August due to office holidays.

The retail reference price of fuel oil for Yangon dropped to K1,795 per litre of diesel on 4 May 2023 and peaked at K3,245 per litre

on 31 August 2022.

The price of Octane 92 also plunged to K1,615 per litre on 7 August 2022 and K2,615 on 31 August 2022.

The fuel oil is imported to meet local demand. They can be purchased at retail reference price, the energy consumers mentioned.

Despite the price fluctuation, energy consumers can buy them at reference prices.

High fuel prices force energy consumers to cut the consumption of generators and fuel oil in vehicles in the Yangon Region. — TWA/EM

Myanmar exports around 80,000 tonnes of rubber to foreign markets in past 4 months

APPROXIMATELY 80,000 tonnes of Myanmar's rubber were shipped to foreign countries in the past four months (April-July) of the current financial year 2023-2024, according to Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA).

Myanmar aims to achieve an export target of 300,000 tonnes to external markets this FY.

It is about a month since the rubber tapping business halted in the monsoon season.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the Southeast Asian nations and the market supply influence the rubber price condition of Myanmar.

The rubber price in Mon State, a major rubber production state in Myanmar, is positively related to those factors as well, the traders elaborated.

Myanmar's rubber production is annually estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

The rubber production in the last FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes and more than 200,000 tonnes of rubber were shipped to foreign trade partners.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there were over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

Myanmar bagged more than US\$449 million in revenue in rubber exports in the previous financial year 2020-2021. — NN/EM

MRF coord meeting highlights commitment to assist MSME rice millers, farmers

MYANMAR Rice Federation convened a coordination meeting regarding loan contributions to MSME rice millers and farmers to bolster rice production on 10 August in Toungoo Township, eastern Bago Region.

The meeting focused on enhancing rice production, development of MSME businesses, purchasing and milling of rice crops, action plans for rice market stability and price control and other related operations.

Additionally, procedures to implement the work process decided at the Myanmar Rice Conference 2022, loan plan for farmers and MSME rice millers to ramp up rice production and market stability during the monsoon rice harvest season were discussed.



Coordination meeting between Myanmar Rice Federation and MSME rice millers, and farmers in progress in Toungoo, Bago Region on 10 August.

The Bago Region government's minister for Economic Affairs gave an opening remark at the meeting and highlighted boosting rice production in Bago Region,

price stability, self-sufficiency in the region and plans for high yield. Moreover, the president of MRF, vice-presidents, general secretary, executives, officials of the

department concerned, rice association members in the eastern Bago Region, rice traders and farmers developed work plans for prospects at the meeting. — NN/EM

OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Seize the moment: Farmers envisage a bright future

THE global necessity for food security remains an undeniable imperative, and within the framework of its agro-centric economy, Myanmar stands poised to satisfy the worldwide demand for sustenance. The prospect of Myanmar emerging as a substantial food provider on the international stage hinges on its ability to cultivate diverse and high-yield crops. Such an achievement would enable the nation to tap into the extensive consumer base spanning all corners of the globe.

For Myanmar to ascend as a key food supplier, a concerted effort must be directed towards cultivating premium strains of crops, including high-yield paddy, while concurrently exploring the manufacturing of value-added food products. This endeavour necessitates the integration of contemporary technologies in both agricultural and livestock production. This entails bolstering micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises to manufacture an array of food items that cater to local demand initially, with an eventual eye towards exporting these products abroad.

This juncture presents a golden opportunity for all cultivators, whether individual farmers, cooperative groups, or collective entities. Engaging in the cultivation of paddy, oil crops, and industrial crops holds the promise of uplifting socioeconomic standards and ensuring food security. The path to a glittering future is illuminated by the collaborative endeavours of those who till the land.

safeguard the livelihoods of farmers. Any diversion from this path could yield detrimental outcomes for both the agricultural sector and the nation as a whole.

The augmentation of crop yields hinges on the judicious and correct cultivation of planned crops. This virtuous cycle not only promises food security but also furnishes the bedrock for national development. Consequently, it's imperative for both local authorities and farmers to discharge their responsibilities earnestly, collaborating to usher the nation into the modern era. Government entities must provide technical expertise and agricultural resources while concurrently supporting the promotion of agricultural output. In parallel, farmers must contribute their efforts within the framework of government policies.

This juncture presents a golden opportunity for all cultivators, whether individual farmers, cooperative groups, or collective entities. Engaging in the cultivation of paddy, oil crops, and industrial crops holds the promise of uplifting socioeconomic standards and ensuring food security. The path to a glittering future is illuminated by the collaborative endeavours of those who till the land.

Presently, a substantial portion of farmlands—exceeding three million acres—are dedicated to single-crop cultivation. By diversifying post-paddy harvests to encompass additional crops, particularly oil crops, Myanmar has the potential to mitigate its reliance on imported consumer essentials. This diversification could also lead to a surplus of crops, facilitating exports to neighbouring nations and even those within the broader region.

The government's pivotal role in optimizing agricultural land utilization cannot be overstated. Ensuring that agricultural lands remain dedicated to their intended purpose rather than being repurposed for alternate ventures is essential to sustain agricultural output and

How El Nino could impact health, food and the economy

Scientists Predict Heightened Temperatures and Extreme Weather Amidst an Already Eventful Year

SCIENTISTS have discovered that a weather phenomenon called El Nino is starting to happen.

El Nino is when the temperatures in the Pacific Ocean get warmer, and it can cause extreme weather events like storms and heatwaves.

This El Nino is expected to last for about nine to 12 months and could get stronger later in the year.

Disease

Rising temperatures have been linked to the expansion of diseases like malaria and dengue, which are spread by insects.

Scientists are concerned that El Nino, combined with ongoing global warming, could worsen this situation.

Past El Nino events have led to increased outbreaks of such diseases in tropical regions, where El Nino's impact is most

significant.

Health

Determining the precise role of El Nino in extreme events like wildfires is challenging, yet its impact on such incidents remains unclear.

Disturbingly, over 61,000 deaths were attributed to heat-related causes in Europe last summer, a year without El Nino's influence.

Moreover, July 2023 has been officially confirmed as the warmest month ever recorded.

Food security

"In an El Nino year, there are countries where the chances of having a bad harvest increase, for example in South and Southeast Asia," said Walter Baethgen of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society.

Last month India, the



During an El Nino year, certain countries, like those in South and Southeast Asia, experience an increased risk of poor harvests. Farmers are joined by children helping to harvest rice in a field in the southern Thai province of Narathiwat on 27 March 2023. PHOTO: MADAREE TOHLALA/AFP

largest rice exporter in the world, restricted its exports due to crop damage from irregular monsoon rains.

Economic growth

The Panama Canal, a critical element of global trade, recently faced traffic restrictions due to reduced rainfall, partly exacerbated by El Nino.

This move is expected to lead to a decrease of around \$200 million in earnings. This incident exemplifies how El Nino can negatively affect the worldwide economy. Both El Nino and global warming were projected to result in economic losses of approximately \$84 trillion throughout the 21st century, as stated in the research.

However, some experts from Oxford Economics have challenged these forecasts, considering El Nino a "new risk, but not a gamechanger".

SOURCE: AFP



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Thamee Phat Phoh Hnalontha Shuhmyawginmyar-2

SYMPATHY is important to human society. Should everybody harbour sympathy, there will not be cases of lootings, robberies and bullying; nor there be armed conflicts in the worst-case scenario. The world would be worth living with people making donations, and providing aid, thereby resulting in the emergence of a peaceful and prosperous world. To make it happen, human beings inhabiting the world are required to purify their mind. Sympathy is a reflector of the pure mind. At this juncture, it is

worth recalling Reverend Panditabhivamsa from Shwedaunggon Sasana Yeiktha, who said that mental beauty is more important than physical beauty. People are reluctant to beautify their minds, he said.

The book under review is written by Maung Tha Cho. The book titled Thamee Phat Phoh Hnalontha Shuhmyawginmyar-2 is a collection of 57 articles.

As the writer has a daughter, these articles are dedicated to her. He wants his daughter to be aware of the nature of the

people, the world outlook and the Teachings of Lord Buddha. He wants her to be able to differentiate between the truth and untruth, the good and the evil and weal and woe, sunshine and rain and egotism and altruism. Although this book is aimed at making his young daughter clever, this book is recommended to those older people who are lost in the wilderness at their wit's end, not knowing what to do to be able to lead a peaceful and prosperous life.

The writer reminds the

readers of the importance to participate in community activities, abiding by the laws, rules and regulations, providing a helping hand to those who are in trouble and to harbour sympathy towards the people. The writer also emphasizes choosing the right words in interaction with the people in order that the other person does not feel embarrassed, disheartened, discouraged, displeased and disappointed.

The writer also stressed the importance of social relations, which is highly superficial, nonetheless. He has highlighted the fact that people are wearing masks, hiding their interior personality. In other words, the public persona and the private persona are just the opposite. Although people are making the impression that they are kind-hearted, sympathetic, generous and noble-minded, their interior traits are cunning, wicked, selfish and dishonest.

The writer said that it is sympathy that makes human beings different from animal beings. If a human is not sympathetic, he will behave like animals that are ruthless and merciless, being ready to commit atrocious acts.



Book Title	-	Ahlone Nyeinbar Meezon Phwintmai
Writer	-	Nu Nu Yee (Innwa)
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	August 2023 (2 nd Edition)
Price	-	K8,000

Ahlone Nyeinbar Meezon Phwintmai

THERE is a notorious pun in the world of the film industry—yokeshin is yinshoke. Yokeshin means movie whereas yinshoke suggests confusion. No one knows exactly what this pun means. People are confused about its underlying meaning. Does this pun imply confusion about the process of making a movie or the affairs of the actors and actresses behind the scene?

The book under review is written by Nu Nu Yee (Innwa). This book is, in fact, the second impression. When this book was first published around the 1990s, this title was not allowed to use by the Press Scrutiny Board.

The novel was written based on the video film world. The current title was then changed to Mintha Thone Thein Minthamee Ta Thein Lugyan Ta Yar.

The novel was opened on a winter morning when there was no snowfall. A red Hilux pickup came into a yard in a quiet neighbourhood. This car is used in the shooting yard. Ko Soe was behind the wheel, smiling, chewing the betel nut. Ko Soe is the shooting manager, who is an important person. The story was opened with a conversation between the shooting manager and Daw Sein Pwint, who plays the supporting role. Then, the writer depicted

the characters and personalities of Khin Dewi, the actress, Tin Ye Naung, the super actor, Set Maw, the new video director and Phyto Wai, the cameraman etc. The writer studied in detail the shooting process and the characters of the cast before composing her novel. This is the reason why she is so meticulous in depicting her novel. She writes so vividly about the characters and traits of the cast that the readers will have a very clear picture of the events as if they were watching the movie with their own eyes.

Although the novel is only fiction, the readers will think this is a true story. They will look for

the casts in the novel in the outside world with the hope that they can exist in the outside world. The readers may think that this and that video actor and/or actress can be the cast in the novel. Nu Nu Yee (Innwa) must have a magic hand in the creation of this novel. Her art of writing is believed to be able to fascinate the readers.

Additionally, it is believed that the readers will be able to figure out what the aforesaid said pun suggests. They will be able to guess what the pun, "Yokeshin Yinshoke" means. The readers are recommended to read this book titled, "Ahlone Nyeinbar Meezon Phwintmai." This phrase can be roughly translated into English like this, "Be quiet everybody. Switch on all the lights." This phrase is invariably shouted by the shooting manager just before the shooting starts.

Reading this book will enable the readers to know the nature and the traits of the people from the film industry. Reading this book will give the readers mixed feelings of joy, sorrow, disgust, hatred and anger etc.

SCI/TECH WORLD

China opposes US deployment of cyber forces in neighbouring countries: FM spokesperson

CHINA opposes the US deployment of cyber forces in China's neighbouring countries and condemns the US disinformation campaign, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Thursday when asked to comment on US cyber theft targeting Japan.

According to WikiLeaks, the United States carried out cyber theft against 35 Japanese targets, including some members of the Japanese cabinet.

The spokesperson said the US government has not only carried out large-scale, system-

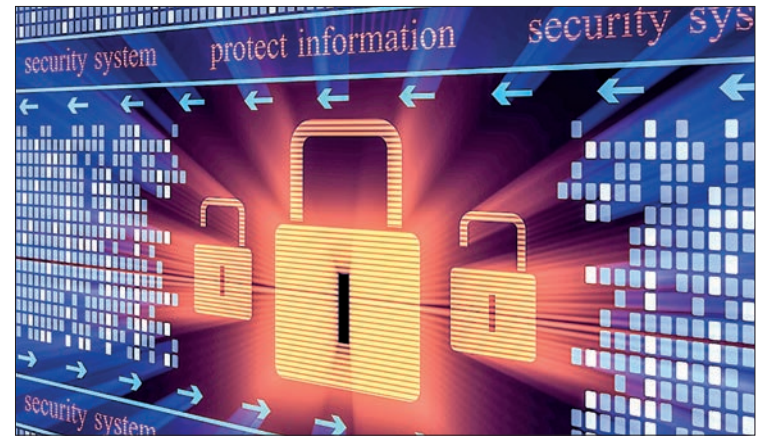
atic and indiscriminate cyber theft against other countries in the world, but also attempted recently to deploy cyber forces to relevant countries in the name of capacity-building cooperation to infiltrate these countries' cyber system.

The US has even resorted to media and other forms of disinformation of so-called "Chinese hackers" in order to induce or coerce relevant countries, particularly those around China, to receive US cyber force deployment, which is akin to "inviting

a wolf into their house", given the fact that the US leads the world in hacking technology, the spokesperson said.

"This not only endangers their own cybersecurity, but also turn themselves into a bridgehead or springboard for US government's cyber attacks against China without their knowledge," the spokesperson added.

Noting that cyber military forces are different from conventional military forces, the spokesperson said they are strategically important. — Xinhua



Cybersecurity refers to the practice of protecting computer systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, attacks, damage, or theft. **PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/CGTN**

Russia's Luna-25 Station launches from Vostochny Cosmodrome



The Luna-25 station is like a spacecraft that can land gently on the Moon. It will collect and study samples of the Moon's soil to do important research for a long time. **PHOTO: SERGEY MAMONTOV/SPUTNIK**

THE Luna-25 station, equipped with soft landing technology, will take and analyze samples of the lunar soil to conduct long-term scientific research, including the study of the upper layer of the sur-

face regolith near the moon's South Pole.

Sputnik goes live with transmission of the launch of the Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket with the Fregat upper stage and Luna-25 automatic station

from Vostochny Cosmodrome.

The spacecraft is expected to land in areas of the moon previously inaccessible to humans, which will expand knowledge of the Earth's natural satellite. — SPUTNIK

Rio Tinto to build largest solar plant in Canada's north

Anglo-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto announced on Thursday that it will begin construction of the largest solar power plant in northern Canada on the site of its Diavik diamond mine.

Rio Tinto plans to install 6,600 solar panels at Diavik, a major diamond production centre 300

kilometres (185 miles) northeast of Yellowknife near the Arctic Circle. Construction on the solar site will start within weeks, and when operational in the first half of 2024 will generate around 4,200 megawatt-hours of electricity per year, Rio Tinto said in a statement. — AFP

Virgin Galactic rockets its first tourist passengers into space

VIRGIN Galactic launched its first tourist passengers into the weightlessness of space on Thursday, the culmination of a nearly two-decade commercial pursuit, the company said.

The three passengers — Jon Goodwin, Keisha Schahaff, and her teenage daughter Anastatia Mayers — floated gravity-free through the Virgin spacecraft about 45 minutes after taking off.

"They are officially astronauts. Welcome to space," said Virgin Galactic announcer Sirisha Bandla as the spacecraft pushed above 80 kilometres in altitude, the level marking the edge of space where the pull of gravity is minimal.

Live video showed the three

admiring views of the Earth below and further into space through the windows.

Virgin Galactic's spaceflights involve a giant, twin-fuselage carrier aircraft that takes off from a runway, gains altitude, then drops a rocket-powered spaceplane that soars into space.

After a few minutes in space, the craft began descending and safely landed in the US state of New Mexico, at the same runway they took off from.

Goodwin, 80, an adventurer who competed in the 1972 Olympic games as a canoeist for Britain, became Virgin Galactic's first paying space tourist who won their tickets in a charity sweepstakes. — AFP



Virgin Galactic's first space tourism flight will include a mother-daughter duo from the Caribbean. **PHOTO: VIRGIN GALACTIC/AFP/FILE**

Pakistan climber cleanses K2 as shrine to fallen father

GAZING up from K2 Basecamp, Sajid Ali Sadpara sees Earth's second-highest mountain, his father's final resting place, and a blight of litter on the furthest reaches of the natural world.

Sajid dons a down coverall stitched with Pakistan's green flag to scale the 8,611-metre (28,251-foot) spur of rock, clearing an icebound grotesquerie of spent oxygen canisters, mangled tents and snarled rope discarded over decades by climbers questing for the summit.

Over a week some 200 kilograms (400 pounds) of litter is hacked from the pinnacle's frozen grip by his five-strong team and ferried precariously back down, he says, a rare act of charity in one of Earth's most unforgiving environments.

It is a high-altitude tribute to



"This is our mountain," says 25-year-old Sajid Ali Sadpara. "We are the custodians." PHOTO: AFP

Sajid's father, legendary climber Ali Sadpara, honouring the place where they bonded in nature and where his body remains after a 2021 father-son expedition fell foul of the "savage mountain".

"I'm doing it from my heart," Sajid told an AFP team at K2 Basecamp, where 5,150 metres of elevation labours breathing and avalanches tremor off an amphitheatre of surrounding slopes. "This is our mountain," the 25-year-old said, sizing up the task above. "We are the custodians."

Pakistan raised high

K2 was forged when India collided with Asia 50 million years ago, sprouting the Karakoram range of mountains across Pakistan's present-day northeastern Gilgit-Baltistan region. — AFP

Study shows walking fewer than 5,000 steps, lower risk of death



Study confirms that the more you walk, the better. PHOTO: PIXABAY

A study suggests that one needs to walk fewer steps per day than previously believed

to start experiencing health advantages.

The research, released

in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, found that walking 2,337 steps a day cut the risk of dying from cardiovascular disease in half and that walking at least 3,967 steps a day started to lower the risk of dying from any cause.

However, a recent review of 226,889 participants from 17 different research conducted all over the world revealed that the health advantages increase with the amount of walking. With every 500 to 1,000 more steps you take, your chance of dying from any cause or from cardiovascular disease is dramatically reduced. — ANI

'New global fashion giant': Coach owner acquires Michael Kors parent company

TAPESTRY, the US owner of lifestyle brands including Coach and Kate Spade, said Thursday (10 August) it will acquire Michael Kors parent company Capri for US\$8.5 billion (approximately RM38.9 billion), creating a new global fashion giant to compete with European powerhouses.

The unified company will also include Tapestry's Stuart Weitzman and Capri's Jimmy Choo – both prominent shoe brands – as well as Versace, a

go-to name for Hollywood A-listers looking to make a splash on red carpets.

That will give Tapestry an upscale portfolio with multiple brands focused on shoes and handbags, as well as a strengthened apparel offering with Versace and Kors, also a celeb favourite.

The merger "creates a new powerful global luxury house", said Tapestry chief executive Joanne Crevoiserat. — AFP



A file picture showing the Michael Kors store in Beverly Hills, California. PHOTO: AFP

Borrowing from coffee culture, 'espresso makeup' becomes a social media hit

WHAT'S going on in the world of beauty?

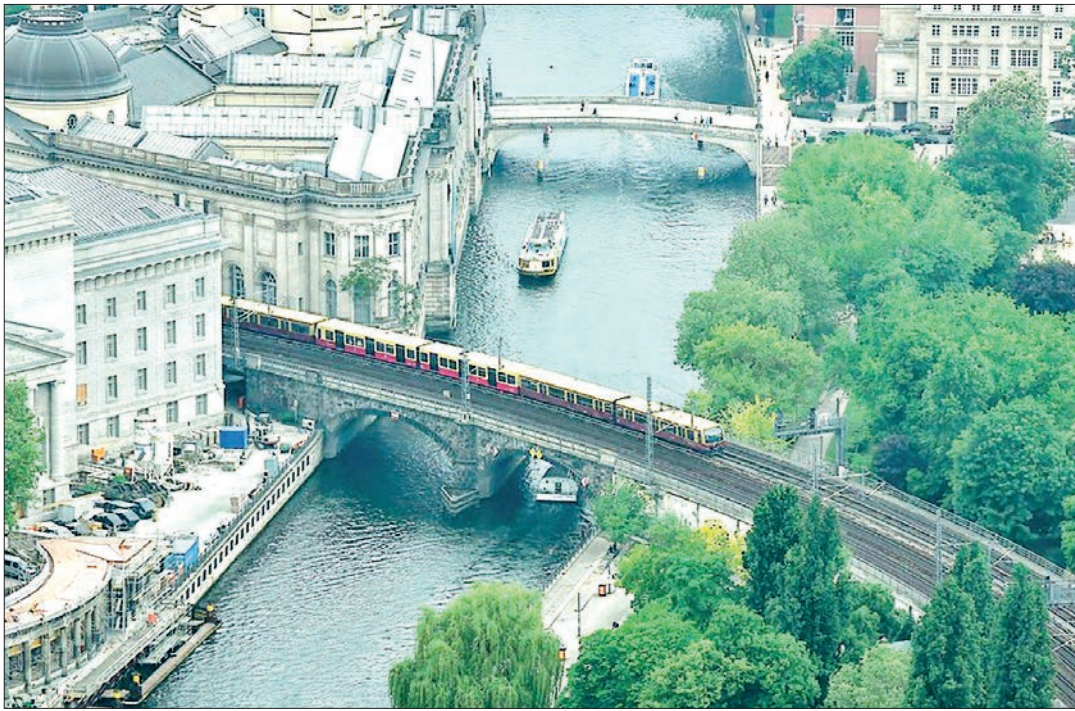
Not content with finding a multitude of innovative and unexpected purposes for products and reinventing the "rules" of cosmetics application, people are now taking inspiration from

coffee culture for their makeup routines. For proof look no farther than the trend of the moment, dubbed "espresso makeup", which translates into a luminous, tanned complexion and deep brown eye makeup.

In other words, an intense,

bolder version of "latte makeup", the inspiration that has been taking social networks by storm since the start of summer. Read more: Like it hot and creamy? Then the 'latte makeup' beauty trend is a must-try. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD



A train runs over the Spree River in Berlin, Germany, 23 May 2023. PHOTO: REN PENGFEI/XINHUA

Why is German economy losing steam?

GERMANY'S economy, the largest in the European Union (EU), stagnated in the second quarter of 2023 with zero growth, according to Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently revised its forecast for the German economy in 2023 down to a contraction of 0.3 per cent.

The worsening of business sentiment is ubiquitous in all

four industries covered by the closely watched Ifo Business Climate Index in Germany (manufacturing, service, trade and construction), the Ifo Institute said.

The index fell for the third consecutive month in July.

High energy prices, the European Central Bank's (ECB) rate hikes, as well as weak global demand and the uncertain global economic out-

look are all weighing on the German economy, according to a recent IMF report.

German chemical giant BASF has said that its additional energy costs totalled 3.2 billion euros (3.5 billion US dollars) in 2022. The rise in energy prices has thrown profitability of German industries into question. As a result, BASF decided to wind down some of its plants in Germany. — Xinhua

Preliminary audit report slams Lebanon central bank, governor

A preliminary forensic audit of Lebanon's central bank by professional services firm Alvarez & Marsal (A&M) has painted a damning picture of the institution under long-serving former governor Riad Salameh.

Since late 2019, Lebanon has been mired in an economic crisis that the World Bank has dubbed one of the worst in modern times, but officials have largely failed to take action to stem the collapse or implement reforms demanded by creditors.

An audit of the central bank has been among the top demands of creditors as Lebanon seeks bailout funds.

The financial position of

the central bank (BdL) "deteriorated rapidly" between 2015 and 2020, according to a leaked

copy of the preliminary report which was seen by AFP on Friday. — AFP



A file photo shows demonstrators carrying banners during a protest organized by the "Depositors' Outcry" association outside the Central Bank in Beirut to ask for deposits blocked in Lebanese banks. PHOTO: AFP

Lula launches \$348 bln public works programme in Brazil

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Friday announced the relaunch of a major \$348 billion infrastructure investment programme, saying he hopes it will help Latin America's biggest economy get back on the path to growth.

Projects under the public-private Growth Acceleration Pact (PAC) will target energy, road construction, access to water and sewage, healthcare, internet access and education.

"Our country needs credibility, stability and predictability, and this programme provides these three ingredients," the left-

ist Lula said as he presented the PAC in Rio de Janeiro.

"I am sure that with the new programme, the country will return to growth and take the correct path," Lula said, adding that "all the capacity of the state" will be employed. "Today my government begins. Until now, what we have done was to repair what had been damaged," Lula said.

Previous versions of the programme, in 2007 and 2010 during Lula's first and second terms (2003-2010), had mixed success since a number of planned projects had to be stopped due to lack of financing. — AFP



Lula during the launch ceremony of Growth Acceleration Programme (PAC) at Rio de Janeiro's Municipal Theatre.

Yellen sees 'resilience' in US economy even as it cools

US economic growth and wage gains should "serve as a source of resilience" moving forward even if the economy continues to cool, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in remarks released Friday.

"I still believe that there is a path to continue reducing inflation while maintaining a healthy labour market," she said, in excerpts of a speech to be delivered in Nevada next week.

"While there are risks, the evidence we've seen so far suggests that we are on such a path," Yellen added. The world's biggest economy has defied expectations of a slowdown, picking up pace in the second quarter of the year, supported by business investment and consumer spending. Its

labour market has remained robust as well. The strength comes despite policymakers' efforts to ease demand and rein in inflation, fueling hope that the central bank's aggressive campaign of interest rate hikes will lower price increases without triggering a major recession.

Yellen noted in prepared remarks that annual inflation is now nearly six percentage points below its 9.1 per cent peak in June 2022, while the economy continues to expand.

Real average hourly earnings have increased over the past year as well, reversing some wage inequality that has accumulated in recent decades, she added. — AFP



Photo taken on 17 February 2023 shows a view of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) in Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: WANG QUANCHAO/XINHUA**

Chinese mainland, HK securities regulators reach consensus on block trading

THE China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) and the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) jointly announced the introduction of block trading, or manual trades, under the mutual market access programme on Friday.

Under Stock Connect,

offshore investors will be able to conduct block trades on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange through the northbound trading link, while mainland investors will be able to conduct manual trades on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Ltd through the

southbound trading link. The initiative will further enhance the Stock Connect arrangements, make available more trading mechanisms, improve trading efficiency, and promote the mutual development of both capital markets, said the announcement.

The CSRC and the

SFC will supervise the respective exchanges and clearing houses on both sides in studying the business, technical, and regulatory arrangements to introduce block trading, conduct market consultation as appropriate, and develop an implementation proposal. — Xinhua

FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried jailed after bail revoked

A US federal judge on Friday ordered FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried back to prison less than two months before his trial on fraud charges, revoking the disgraced cryptocurrency tycoon's bail over alleged attempts to tamper with witnesses.

Bankman-Fried, 31, has pleaded not guilty to charges of wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering, as well as election finance violations, in connection with the spectacular collapse of his crypto firm last year.

FTX and its sister trading house Alameda Research went bankrupt in November, dissolving a virtual trading business that at one point had been valued by the market at \$32 billion.

US District Judge Lewis Kaplan justified the revocation of bail by citing "probable cause... that the defendant has committed the federal crime of attempted witness tampering", the ruling said.

"There is no condition or combination of conditions of release that will assure that the defendant will not pose a danger to other persons or the safety of the community," the order said.

Prosecutors had argued to Kaplan that Bankman-Fried's activities as a source for The New York Times amounted to witness intimidation, citing an article containing the private writings of former Alameda CEO Caroline Ellison, his former girlfriend. — AFP

Guinea signs new rail, port deals for iron mining site

GUINEA'S government has signed new agreements to build a port and railway to serve the mammoth Simandou iron deposit, one of the companies working on the project has announced.

Anglo-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto Simfer and the Chinese Winning Consortium Simandou have been contracted to mine the site in southeastern Guinea, one of the largest iron deposits in the world.

The parties have agreed to build a 670-kilometre (416-mile) railway to connect the mining corridor to a port south of the capital Conakry.

"Signing these (new) agreements is a decisive



The Simandou iron ore reserves are believed to be among the biggest in the world. **PHOTO: RIO TINTO**

step, establishing a comprehensive framework for the major infrastructure of the Simandou project,"

Rio Tinto Simfer said in a press release dated Thursday. "Establishing infrastructure will facil-

itate the export of iron ore and the transport of passengers (and) goods," the statement said.—AFP

Huawei shows rebound in H1, despite sanctions

CHINESE telecoms titan Huawei on Friday announced a pick-up in sales in January-June, the first increase since 2020, as the sanctions-battered firm works to diversify its business operations.

The Shenzhen-based company has for several years been at the centre of an intense tech standoff between China and the United States, with Washington warning its equipment could be used for state espionage, an allegation Huawei disputes. Since 2019, sanctions have cut the company off from global supply chains that gave it access to US-made components and technologies, significantly weakening its smartphone division and forcing it to seek other sources of growth. — AFP



Crisis-struck cryptocurrency platform FTX has gone bankrupt in the US. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (005W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (005W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russia downs 20 Ukrainian drones near Crimea

RUSSIA said on Saturday it shot down 20 unmanned Ukrainian drones near the Crimean peninsula.

Fourteen drones were destroyed by air defence systems and six more were suppressed by electronic warfare, the defence ministry said on Telegram.

There were no casualties or damage, it said.

In Moscow, officials said Friday they had destroyed a drone aimed at the capital, the latest

in a string of attacks on the city in recent days.

A Ukrainian drone was destroyed over the western outskirts of Moscow, the defence ministry said, adding there were no casualties or damage as a result of the incident.

In July, Ukrainian drone strikes on Crimea blew up an ammunition depot and damaged the bridge across the Kerch Strait linking the peninsula to Russia's mainland. — AFP

Polish govt plays anti-EU, anti-German card ahead of polls



A protest against the governing PiS party takes place in Warsaw, Poland, on 7 May 2016. **PHOTO: WOJTEK RADWANSKI/AFP/FILE**

POLAND'S populist, nationalist government is increasingly taking an anti-German, anti-European Union stance in the run-up to the October 15 legislative elections in the hope of mobilizing its most loyal followers, analysts say.

Jaroslav Kaczynski, head of the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party, fired the latest shot on Friday, suggesting that Germany wanted to interfere in the coming election campaign.

He was revealing one of the questions the PiS wants the people to vote on in a national referendum on election day: "Are you in favour of selling state enterprises?"

Such a sell-off could profit Germany which, he said, wanted to impose on Poland opposition leader Donald Tusk.

Kaczynski, although officially only deputy prime minister, is widely regarded as Poland's de facto leader.

And Tusk, leader of the main opposition Civic Platform (PO) party, has long been the government's bete noire.

A former Polish premier between 2007 and 2014 and subsequently president of the European Council — part of the EU's executive —, Tusk personifies everything the government opposes.

Recent opinion polls suggest his party could pose a threat to the ruling PiS in October.

While the ruling party is hitting around 33 per cent, Tusk's Civic Platform is scoring between 26 and 32 per cent. — AFP

Russian Defence Minister Shoigu inspects Northern Fleet and main nuclear site in Arctic



Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has checked the Russian grouping of troops in the Arctic zone and has flown over Russia's Central Test Site on Novaya Zemlya, the Russian Defence Ministry informs. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

RUSSIAN Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has checked the Russian grouping of troops in the Arctic zone and has flown over Russia's Central Test Site on Novaya Zemlya, the Russian Defence Ministry informs.

"The Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, General of the Army Sergei Shoigu, inspected the remote Arctic

garrisons of the Northern Fleet.

"The head of the Russian military department checked the organization of official activities and the fulfillment of tasks for the purpose of special units and units deployed on the Novaya Zemlya archipelago, including readiness for actions to protect and defend critical facilities," the ministry said on

Saturday.

The ministry added that Shoigu has also inspected social infrastructure, such as a school and a kindergarten, on Novaya Zemlya and has flown over the Central Test Site of Russia on Novaya Zemlya together with Alexey Likhachev, the head of Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom. — SPUTNIK

Thousands of coup supporters gathered near French base in Niger

THOUSANDS of supporters of Niger's coup leaders gathered on Friday near a French military base on the outskirts of the capital Niamey, AFP reporters saw.

Protesters shouted "down with France, down with ECOWAS", a reference to the West African bloc which on Thursday approved deployment of a "standby force to restore constitutional order" in Niger.

Many brandished Russian and Niger flags and yelled their support for the country's new strongman, General Abdourahamane Tiani.

"We are going to make the French leave! ECOWAS isn't



Supporters of the coup brandished Nigerien and Russian flags in the rally near the French airbase. **PHOTO: AFP**

independent, it's being manipulated by France, there's outside influence," said one

demonstrator, Aziz Rabeh Ali, a member of a students' union. — AFP

SPORTS

Aunglan Lethwei Championship accomplishes with smiles of winners

Organized by the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and 360 Sports, the New Generation Aunglan Lethwei Championship, which consists of 12 bouts, was held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon yesterday.

In the third round of the 54-57 kg three-round competition, Ja La was counted out due to Shine Htoo's punch.

Next, Daung Thetthi (Daung Myanmar) fought with Aung Ye Naing (Power Punch), but the three judges gave Aung Ye Naing the victory by points.

In the same category, Htoo Sey Wah (Shwe Phoo) won over Ah Marn (Yazadariz) and Saw Kedo (Holy Power) beat Kasaw Htoo (Yoya Kyar) by points.

In the 60-63.5 kg events, Win Bo (Yazadariz) snatched Saw Bilu (Power Punch) in the third round and Lau Kwadu (Tawwin Yoeya) clinched Nyi

Ye Khant (YFC) by split decision.

Meanwhile, Gae Do (STL) cut off Thar Letthee (Shwe Maubin) in the second round and Gawdo Htoo (Yoya Kyar) gave a series of punches on Tamakyar (Smart Fight) and celebrated his sweet victory even in the first stanza.

In the 67-71 kg event, Myat Thu (Kyar Bayin) knocked down Gaw Htoo Gae (Yoya Kyar) in the third round and Zaw Thet Naung (Knight) defeated Kyaw Zay Latt (Tun Tun Min) in the second round.

Meanwhile, Mike Mike (Shwe Maubin) secured his win over Aung Ko Min (Nagamarn) in the first stanza and Arkar Phyo beat Saw Ke (YFC) by points. — Bala Soe/KZL



Mike Mike (Shwe Maubin) and Aung Ko Min (Nagamarn) fight in the 67-71 kg category. PHOTO: BALA SOE



Myanmar U-23 players are seen departing for Thailand as they will compete in the 2023 ASEAN U-23 Championship. PHOTO: MFF

Team Myanmar leaves for Thailand, aims high in ASEAN U-23 tourney

THE Myanmar U-23 team arrived in Bangkok, Thailand on the night of 12 August with 25 preliminary players to compete in the 2023 ASEAN U-23 Championship, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Head coach Michael Feicht- enbeiner selected 25 out of 37 preliminary players and left for Thailand after a friendly match against Yangon United.

Myanmar is placed in Group A with ASEAN power-

house Thailand, Cambodia and Brunei.

Team Myanmar will come up against Thailand on 17 August, Cambodia on 19 August and Brunei on 21 August. — KZL

Harry Kane: Bayern move fuelled by silverware chase

HARRY Kane has opted to leave Tottenham in search of silverware with Bayern Munich, likely forgoing the chance to achieve Premier League immortality.

Kane has scored 213 Premier League goals, behind only Alan Shearer's 260, and was a near certainty to overtake the Newcastle great if he had stayed in England. The 30-year-old striker moved ahead of Jimmy Greaves as Tottenham's record scorer last season and also supplanted Wayne Rooney at the top of England's all-time goal list.

But despite his impressive personal milestones, Kane has not won a single trophy with club or country, losing in the 2019 Champions League final

and tasting bitter defeat in the final of the delayed Euro 2020.

At German champions Bayern he is almost certain to rectify that, joining a club who are serial winners, domestically and in Europe. The clean-cut Kane, married to his childhood sweetheart, often feels like a throwback to a different era in the frantic circus that is the English top-flight.

He has been remarkably consistent, passing the 20-goal mark in the Premier league six times and winning the Golden Boot on three occasions.

Kane describes his predatory instincts in front of goal as "natural", adding: "When that ball drops to me my body takes over and my mind is just blank really." — AFP



Australia players come to celebrate with Cortnee Vine after she scored the winning penalty in the shoot-out against France. PHOTO: AFP

Australia beat France in penalty thriller to reach World Cup semi-finals

CO-HOSTS Australia beat France 7-6 in a thrilling penalty shoot-out to reach the semi-finals of the Women's World Cup for the first time in their history on a night of drama in Brisbane on Saturday.

Australia now go to Sydney on Wednesday to face the winners of the final last-eight tie between

England and Colombia.

Cortnee Vine scored the winning penalty to end a remarkable shoot-out that saw both teams take 10 spot-kicks, the quarter-final having ended 0-0 after 120 nerve-shredding minutes.

Vine held her nerve to send the crowd into raptures and keep

the Matildas' dream of winning the World Cup on home soil alive.

Australia goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold had missed a chance to win the shoot-out when her kick hit the post, but then saved twice from Kenza Dali after the VAR spotted she had both feet off her line the first time. — AFP



Shehbaz Sharif confident of finalizing name of caretaker Prime Minister



Security staff accompanied a vehicle transporting Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as he departed from the final session of the National Assembly in Islamabad on 9 August 2023. **PHOTO: AAMIR QURESHI / AFP**

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed confidence that the name of the caretaker Prime Minister will be finalized today (on Saturday). The Dawn news report citing the state-run Radio-Pakistan, the Pakistan

PM in a conversation with journalists in Islamabad confirmed saying that, "Coalition partners will be taken into confidence over the matter before taking a final decision."

This comes a day after the premature dissolution of the National Assembly, PM Shehbaz met the outgoing leader of the Opposition in the NA Raja Riaz to exchange a list of probable candidates for the covered slot as formal consultation on the matter kicked off.

The Dawn news reported that Riaz had six names under consideration, adding that they were in no hurry to decide the name for the caretaker PM.

According to the Constitution, the premier and the outgoing opposition leader in the NA have three days to decide the name of the interim prime minister.

The outgoing government has so far failed to name the caretaker prime minister who would lead the interim set-up till general elections, which are likely to be delayed after the notification of the latest census, the Dawn reported. — ANI

Hunter Biden: in the shadow of his father and brother

SHADY business deals, drugs and women: Hunter Biden has lived a turbulent life under two shadows – that of his father, President Joe Biden, and his older brother Beau, who died of cancer in 2015.

The 53-year-old Hunter Biden's efforts to put his lurid past behind him suffered a setback on Friday as Attorney-General Merrick Garland named a special counsel to look into his affairs.

Hunter Biden's legal and personal troubles have made him a vulnerable target for Joe Biden's Republican political opponents and the attacks have ramped up with the Democratic president now seeking a second term in office. Republicans in Congress have launched multiple probes into business deals Hunter Biden entered into in China and Ukraine while his father was vice-president under Barack Obama. — AFP

Hawaii starts probe into wildfire handling, as toll hits 80

HAWAII'S chief legal officer said Friday she was opening a probe into the handling of devastating wildfires that killed at least 80 people in the state this week, as criticism grows of the official response.

The announcement and increased death toll came as residents of Lahaina were allowed back into the town for the first time — with most finding their homes had been reduced to ashes, and even the lucky few angry at a sense of abandonment.

"Everything has been coconut wire," said William Harry, referring to a system of rumours.

"One person heard, then told another, but it's not official information. They don't come here and explain anything."

Another man, who did not want to be named, told AFP he felt like he had been left to fend for himself.

"Where is the government? Where are they?" he fumed.

"This is insane. We can't move freely, we don't get the

support, now we've heard about looting."

Hawaii's Attorney-General Anne Lopez said her office would be examining "critical decision-making and standing

policies leading up to, during and after the wildfires on Maui and Hawai'i islands this week".

"My department is committed to understanding the decisions that were made before and

during the wildfires and to sharing with the public the results of this review".

Late Friday, Maui county officials gave an updated death toll from the disaster.

"The number of fatalities is at 80," the county said, adding that 1,418 people were at emergency evacuation shelters. — AFP



Officials have confirmed 80 deaths in the wildfires, but Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen warned the death toll "could go up". **PHOTO: AFP**