

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Global community should seek accurate information on Myanmar's situation

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Under-Secretary-General for UN Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and Chief of UNOCHA

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for UN Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and Chief of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), at the Credentials Hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They frankly exchanged views on political progress in Myanmar, State responsibilities being taken by the Tatmadaw under the Constitution (2008) for occurrences of voting fraud in the 2020 multiparty democratic general elections, endeavours of the State Administration Council to continue strengthening the multiparty democratic system the people aspire to, restoration of internal peace, requirements for undertaking the development of ethnic areas, spreading misinformation on various situations of Myanmar in the international community, the need for the international community to know actual conditions in Myanmar, lesser aid of international organizations including the United Nations for Myanmar in the period when the Covid-19 broke out and storm Mocha hit, and further cooperation in humanitarian aid. — MNA/TTA



SAC Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing extends a warm welcome to UN Humanitarian Chief Mr Martin Griffiths during the latter's courtesy call yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Single-lane opened Myawady-Kaw Kareik road section facilitates traffic movement



The photo captures the ongoing repair work on the Myawady-Kaw Kareik road section.

THE clean-up activities were completed after the landslide on the Myawady-Kaw Kareik section of Asia Highway and the stranded vehicles passed using a single-lane road on 15 August, according to the Road Department under the Ministry of Construction.

A landslide caused on by prolonged torrential rain blocked the Myawady to Kaw Kareik Road, between 149.5- and 151-Mile posts on 7 August. Currently, the clean-up activities were completed and the operation of stranded vehicles was resumed.

SEE PAGE-3

LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-7



YGN palm oil wholesale reference price heads for second weekly slide

NATIONAL PAGE-10



Myanmar exports 650 visses of Shatavari root to Korea this FY

NATIONAL

THE Maravijaya Buddha Image, the tallest of its kind globally and situated within Nay Pyi Taw's Buddha Park, is drawing crowds of pilgrims. Supporters are generously providing vegetable biryani meals to those visiting the pagoda.

Enhanced security measures ensure the well-being of pilgrims. Special arrangements, including buggies for monks, the elderly, and the disabled, are in place alongside the escalator. Ample spaces are dedicated to reciting Gathas, and 24 special chambers offer panoramic views of surrounding pagodas from the Maravijaya platform.

Visitors also have the chance to pay obeisance to 720 stone plaque chamber pagodas that bear inscriptions from the Tri Pitaka treatises, displayed in Pali and Romanized languages using modern techniques. Tradi-

Pilgrims flock to world's tallest sitting marble Buddha image



tional Thudhamma public houses have attracted pilgrims, as have the water fountain square, Sasana Beikman Agga Dhipati ordination hall, and other religious and leisure areas in Buddha Park.

Free admission is available from 8 to 16 August, with monks, nuns, and visitors making contributions. Public obeisance has been extended from 17 to 19 August, allowing peaceful homage to the Buddha Image. Starting on 20 August, a fee of K1,000 per adult and US\$10 per foreigner will be introduced to support the upkeep of the Maravijaya Buddha Image and the park's long-term maintenance.

For additional information, please visit the Maravijaya Buddha Image's official website at mbiw.myannet.com, as well as their Twitter account and Telegram channel. — MNA/KTZH



Devotees are seen gathering to pay homage to and worship the Maravijaya Buddha Image yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 75/2023

14th Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME
15 August 2023

Substituted appointment of Minister for Security and Border Affairs

THE State Administration Council has appointed Colonel Min Min Latt (BC 31375) in place of Colonel Thein Lin (BC 27120) as Taninthayi Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Myanmar's students invited to join 'Asian International Children's Film Festival' in Japan

THE Japanese Embassy in Myanmar invited high school students from Myanmar to compete in the 'Asian International Children's Film Festival' to be held in Japan.

The 16th Asian International Children's Film Festival will be held in Minami Awaji, Hyogo District, Japan on 16 December 2023. For this film festival, the Japanese Embassy in Myanmar will collect the artworks of children from Myanmar.

Contestants must be Myanmar high school students under the age of 18, and the best artworks will be selected and screened at the film festival.

In addition, those who meet the requirements of the Jenesys programme from among the works screened at the Asian International Children's Film Festival will be allowed to study in Japan. Contestants' works must be included in a DVD and sent to the Japanese Embassy

in Myanmar along with the application.

Contestant cameramen, directors, and actors must be of high school age and must have a work that has not been shown anywhere else and shot on Home Video within three minutes. One contestant or a team of contestants (maximum of four) can compete and must be filmed without the use of narration as much as possible. — ASH/KZL

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring peace and stability and the full rule of law across the whole Union, and on successfully conducting a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.
2. Continued efforts will be made to promote the State economy and enhance the socioeconomic situation of all people through expediting manufacturing businesses rooted in agriculture and livestock to benefit the entire National people.
3. Priority will be given to achieving peace as the essence of the State and stabilizing the results of the peace process in alignment with the agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to the extent possible.
4. Work processes will be accelerated to ensure a strong disciplined and authentic multiparty democratic system and build a Union founded upon democratic and federal systems.
5. Work will be undertaken to ensure accuracy and fairness in the general election to prevent eligible voters from losing their rights, and upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multi-party democratic elections will be held, and State duties will be handed over to the elected government.

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives UN Humanitarian Chief

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received the delegation led by Mr Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator – the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

(UNOCHA) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the current cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations and facilitation for the provision of humanitarian assistance to the needy population. — MNA



Mr Martin Griffiths UN Humanitarian Chief and his delegation calls on Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

MoC Union Minister visits Yunnan Pan Test Technology Co Ltd in Kunming

UNION Commerce Minister U Aung Naing Oo, presently in Kunming to partake in the 7th China-South Asia Expo and the 27th China (Kunming) Import/Export Expo hosted in the People's Republic of China, toured the Yunnan Pan Test Technology Company, located

within the Yunnan Industrial Development Zone, at 9:30 local time yesterday. Engaging in a warm discussion with the company's representatives, the Union minister deliberated on plans to establish internationally accredited laboratories in Myanmar and enhance the export

of higher-quality agricultural products from Myanmar.

In the evening, U Aung Naing Oo joined a dinner hosted by the Governor of Yunnan State, an event held to honour leaders of delegations from South and Southeast Asian nations. — MNA/KZW



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo (C) is pictured during his observation tour in Kunming, China.

Single-lane opened Myawady-Kawkareik road section ...



FROM PAGE-1

Similarly, a slight landslide occurred between 155- and 156-Mile posts of Asia Highway after the continuous heavy rain and the officials arranged to remove the blockages.

“We have been transporting the needed materials for road maintenance to build a Bailey bridge as there was a 15-foot crack on tar road between 149 and 149.5-Mile posts since 10 August. If the weather condition is fine and carry out the work in full capacity, it will complete before the fixed date. The Myawady-Kawkareik section will be reopened after this road section has been

repaired. Currently, the private cars and small trucks are allowed to pass the old Htokawkoe section, the old Myawady-Kawkareik section daily,” an official of Kayin State Road Department said.

The Myawady-Kawkareik section of the Asia Highway is key to trade flows of Myanmar-Thai bilateral trade and is also a part of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC). The country exports corn and rubber through this road section and the highway expresses from Myawady to Yangon and Mandalay, trucks and private cars run on the road daily. — ASH/KTZH

NATIONAL

Govt Office Union Minister receives UN Humanitarian Chief

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for Union Government Office 2, received the delegation led by Mr Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the ways to enhance coordination with the United Nations in post-Mocha rehabilitation work. — MNA



The UN Humanitarian Chief calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

MoSWRR Union Minister hosts UN Humanitarian Chief; Discussions span relief efforts, cooperation



Discussions between Union Minister Dr Soe Win and the UN Humanitarian Chief underway yesterday.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received Mr Martin Griffiths, UN Humanitarian and Emergency Relief Coordinator yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they discussed the current status of relief provision for those affected by the Mocha storm, the capacity to distribute seeds and fertilizers, the invaluable assistance rendered by the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) Centre's Country Liaison Team

in Nay Pyi Taw, as well as the visitation and assessment conducted by the ASEAN Emergency Response and Analysis Team (ASEAN-ERAT) in Rakhine State.

Among other matters, both sides also touched upon the humanitarian support extended by friendly nations, the ongoing collaboration between the Ministry and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and the forthcoming renewal of

the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the Ministry and UNOCHA.

Addressing challenges, they deliberated on internal visa concerns faced by OCHA personnel and the implications of the expiration of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with pertinent ministries on humanitarian partners' operations. This included the impact on numerous international non-governmental organizations. — MNA/TS

MRTV delegation leaves for China to attend Audiovisual Week Roundtable Conference

A delegation led by U Ye Naing, Director-General of the Myanmar Radio and Television-MRTV left for Kunming via Yangon to attend the 4th Lancang-Mekong Audiovisual Week Roundtable Conference to be held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China from 16 to 19 August.

The teleconference is jointly organized by China's National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA) and Cambodian Ministry of Information, Yunnan

State Radio and Television Management Organization, Yunnan Media Group (YMG) and Lancang-Mekong International Satellite TV Channel.

Senior information officials from Mekong countries including China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, Heads of television stations and representatives of media organizations, and media representatives from South Asian countries will join the event. — MNA/KZL



The MRTV delegation is seen before leaving for China at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

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

MAI celebrates 30th anniversary

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) celebrated its 30th Anniversary at Lotte Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

At the event, the officials of MAI clarified the progresses to date since its establishment, the challenges and survival of airlines during the outbreak of COVID-19, and future plans of MAI to promote the aviation sector of the country, and presented honorary awards to partner companies.

MAI is a Myanmar national-owned private company and the safety and comfort of our passengers are the airline's priority regardless of the profits of the airline. The MAI has never suspended flights while the



A commemorative group photograph captures the essence of the documentary celebrating MAI's 30th anniversary, taken yesterday in Yangon. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

country faces natural disasters and other cases. It also operated Relief Flight in bringing back Myanmar citizens in the outbreak of COVID-19.

It also runs MAI Inflight Catering Services and Myanmar Auspicious Life Bakery & Kitchen to provide healthy meals to the passengers on board and arranges to conduct Aviation related training courses.

MAI runs scheduled flights and chartered flights using 15 planes including its fleet of Air Bus Fleet, Embraer E-190 and ATR-72 Fleet. It will expand its fleet to 25 in 2024-2025 aiming to become a great airline in the country. — Ko Nyi Lay/KTZH

CRIME NEWS

Confiscation of illegal items: Timbers, fuel oil, animals, industrial materials and vehicles



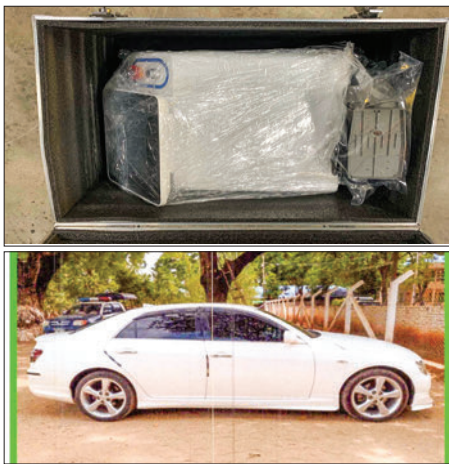
Officials inspect confiscated illegal timbers in the left photo while the above right photos show seized illegal items under scrutiny.

THE combined teams under Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded nine smuggled oxen worth K8.18 million near a monastery in Thaeday village in Thayet township and an unregistered Toyota Mark X (approximate value of K5 million) in Theinga ward in Magway township on 14 August. The action was taken under the Essential Goods and Services Law and the Export and Import Law.

Similarly, an on-duty team at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) confiscated

two sets of polishing machines worth K4.2 million that exceeded the 61 days of VPA on 14 August. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

Additionally, a total of 3.218 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K482,820 was seized in Toun-goo district on 15 August. The action was taken under the Forest Law. On the same day, the combined on-duty teams captured an unregistered UD vehicle (estimated value of K13 million) in Monywa township, an unregistered Toyota Wish (approximate value K15 mil-



lion) at the Kyweye checkpoint in Alone in Monywa township and 1,200 gallons of illegal fuel oil (premium diesel worth K5.76 million) in Nandawun ward in Monywa township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

A total of seven arrests were made on 14 and 15 August, with an estimated value of K51,622,820, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

60 fatalities, 132 injuries recorded on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway

BETWEEN January and July of this year, a total of 97 traffic accidents occurred on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway, leading to the unfortunate loss of 60 lives and causing injuries to 132 individuals. This data originates from the Nay Pyi Taw Expressway Police Commander's Office.

Notably, concerted efforts to curb traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway have led to a decline in the accident rate. This has been achieved through vigilant arrests and measures undertaken

against vehicles that disregard regulations. Furthermore, from January until the end of May in the current year, enforcement actions targeted 7,548 vehicles that flouted the rules on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

To ensure strict adherence to the expressway's speed limitations and traffic regulations, the Nay Pyi Taw Expressway Police Commander's Office has strategically deployed speed-measuring apparatus and is conducting vehicle inspections to bolster compliance with traffic norms. — TWA/KZW



Fire brigade members are seen conducting rescue operations at the scene of an accident.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Tragedy strikes jade working area: 25 bodies recovered from cliff collapse, search for missing continues

AS per reports, 25 bodies have been recovered by rescue teams in the aftermath of a sand cliff collapse within the jade working area in Phakant. The search continues for the remaining individuals who are still missing.

The site of the sand cliff collapse is the jade working area lake, spanning around 1,000 feet in length, 250 feet in width, and

towering over 400 feet in height. The collapse of the sand cliff led to the bank giving way, causing the water to surge into the lake. Tragically, this resulted in jade miners being trapped within the murky waters.

Initial findings indicate that the sand cliff collapse claimed the lives of approximately 40 employees of the company along

with unregistered prospectors. The search operation is ongoing with over 10 rescue teams participating in the effort.

This incident mirrors a similar tragedy that unfolded in 2020, where a sand cliff collapse in Wekha Hmaw, Phakant Township, resulted in the loss of over 150 unregistered prospectors' lives. — TWA/KZW



Members of the Parahita teams are seen carefully packing the recovered bodies at the incident site in Phakant's jadeland area.

ME cautions against exploitative fake social media accounts

THE Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur has issued a warning, alerting the public to the fraudulent activities of individuals using fake social network accounts in the name of the embassy to deceive Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia.

These scammers have established counterfeit social media profiles under the guise of the Myanmar embassy. They spread false written statements, claiming to be handling passport matters for Myanmar citizens residing in Malaysia. This misinformation has prompted the embassy to launch an investigation and initiate actions to unveil the identities of these fraudsters, as well as those associated with these fraudulent social media accounts, all under the law.

It has been clarified that these social media profiles have no affiliation with the Myanmar embassy in Kuala



The photo shows the Myanmar Embassy, Kuala Lumpur.

Lumpur whatsoever. The embassy firmly asserts that it will not assume responsibility for addressing any issues arising from the fraudulent activities.

To facilitate genuine services, the Myanmar embassy has released dates for passport appointments for Myanmar nationals on its official social media page and website. For passport inquiries, individuals are encouraged to either visit the embassy in person during working hours or directly call the embassy at + (603)4251 4455. — TWA/MKKS

Weekly update prices of Bayintnaung Commodity Market

RISING prices of essential commodities have marked the trading landscape in the Yangon market from August 9th to 15th. Notable increases have been observed in the wholesale rates of rice, pigeon pea, black gram, onions, palm oil, sugar, jaggery, garlic, and more during this period.

Sugar and Jaggery

Sugar prices have surged to K3,450 per viss in wholesale. NyaungU jaggery, incorporating chemical additives, is now priced at K4,050 per viss.

Onion

The Yangon market welcomed a substantial influx of regional onions, totalling 96,000 visses on August 15th. Wholesale prices for Seikphyu and Monywa onions ranged from K1,800 to K2,500 per viss, contingent upon size and quality. This price range represents the highest for onions in 2023, with regional markets recording prices exceeding K2,300

per viss.

Garlic

Shan garlic has been priced at K7,500 per viss for S2, K8,000 for S3, K8,500 for S4, and K9,000 for S5 in the Yangon market. Kyukok garlic is fetching K7,800 per viss.

Potato

In the Yangon potato mar-

ket, Chinese potatoes have been listed at a wholesale price of K2,450 per viss.

Chilli Pepper

August 15th witnessed Eainme and Panye long chilli peppers priced at approximately K11,000–K12,500 per viss in the Yangon market. Sinphyukyun and delta region

bell peppers were valued at K18,500–K19,000 per viss.

Rice

Retail demand surged for rice on August 15th. The price per bag of multi-cropped rice was K73,000, the 90-day rice variety stood at K83,000, and the Pawkywe rice variety was priced at K95,000. Pawsan rice

variants ranged from K110,000 to K145,000 per bag, contingent upon the rice's origin.

Palm Oil

Despite a stable wholesale reference price of K4,350 per viss from August 14th to 20th, the actual wholesale price on August 15th stood at K9,500 per viss in the Nyaungpinlay market of Lanmadaw. Meanwhile, Mandalay market recorded K10,000 per viss and Meiktila oil market observed K9,800 per viss on the same day.

Beans and Pulses

In the second week of August, black gram fetched K2,399,000 per tonne for RC and K2,589,000 per tonne for SQ/RC. Green gram (Kayan Shwewah variety) stood at K3,500 per viss, Pakokku variety ranged from K3,665 to K3,750 per viss, and half of chickpeas commanded prices between K5,800 and K6,200 per viss. — TWA/CT



Vendors are seen organizing kitchen groceries for sale at the retail outlet in Yangon.

LOCAL BUSINESS

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price heads for second weekly slide

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market fell for two straight weeks, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The reference price was set at K4,295 per viss from 31 July and 6 August. For the week ending 13 August, the price was set lower at K4,150 per viss. Then, it was on the course of a second consecutive decline at K4,035 per viss for a week from 14 to 20 August. The price was down by K115 per viss compared to that of the previous week.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service, and issuing the wholesale market reference



A glimpse inside a cooking oil factory, where workers are arranging jerrycans of edible oil destined for sale and distribution.

rate for edible oil every week.

Yet, the palm oil market price is exorbitantly high compared to the reference price.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing invento-

ry intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Essential Supplies and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce

is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer a reasonable price to the consumers and maintain price stability and mitigate the consumers' concern over the possible shortage of palm oil.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July 2022 to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They offer palm oil at a fairer price to the consumers directly depending on the reference price. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM



The photo shows a woman making palm sugar.

Jaggery price hits record high, sugar price volatile

THE prices of palm sugar jaggery spiked at around K4,000 per viss on 15 August, while sugar prices also hit a fresh new peak of K3,450 per viss.

The palm sugar prices moved in the range between K3,500 and K3,800 per viss depending on the producing areas and quality on 12 August, while sugar wholesale price was K3,360 and 3,380 per viss.

When the sugar price soared in 2018 and 2019, jaggery mixed with sugar was sold at K300-400 cheaper than the organic one.

If there is a large price difference between sugar and palm

sugar, the market usually grows, U Thurein, who sends sugar and jaggery to the regions outside Yangon, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

During the new palm sugar season, palm sugar from Myanaung, Ingapu, central Myanmar regions and Mawlamyine areas enters Yangon and Patheingyi markets. Palm sugar from NyaungU is whiter in appearance while the ones from other regions have a brown colour. Inflation hit groceries except for tamarind in Yangon's commodity market in 2022 and 2023. — TWA/EM

CBM revokes money changer licences of 43 companies in half a year

FORTY-THREE money changers have got their money changer license revoked in six months (March-August) as they failed to comply with the rules and directives issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM).

Non-compliance with the rules invalidated the licences of 13 companies on 14 August.

Those companies are Prime Residence Co Ltd, West Line Co Ltd, IMA Co Ltd, Great Father Great Sons General Trading Co Ltd, Gold Foil Co Ltd, Big Lion Gems Co Ltd, Global International Investment & Development Co Ltd, World Fortune International Finance Group Shares Co Ltd, Myat Nan Yone Services Co Ltd, LP Holding Co Ltd, Golden Myanmar Asia Crown Travels & Tours Co Ltd, Yangon KSA Travels & Tours Co Ltd and Balance Co Ltd.

On 12 July, 10 money

changers also got their forex license revoked as they violated the rules and directives issued by the CBM.

They are Kannan Trading Co Ltd, Net Change Co Ltd, Thiri Aung Si Trading Co Ltd, Riverwood Group Co Ltd, Global Myanmar Services Co Ltd, D-Gold Trading Co Ltd, Aurum Image Co Ltd, Hi Welcome Travel & Tours Co Ltd, Sweeties Pearls Co Ltd and Chase Travels & Tours Co Ltd.

Moreover, 20 money changers also got their forex license cancelled as they did not abide by the rules and directives issued by the CBM.

They are Oake Khaung Travels & Tourism Senjo Royal Myanmar, Dawei Popular, Zam Myo, Phyo Thet, Sky Bound, Myanmar MCG Corporation, Htwe and Htwe Family, Won Won, United Eleven, Tun Yama, Myanmar Alincar Hotel Group,

Cartel, Super Phoenix, Golden Falcon Shipping, Fairness Travels & Tours, Yadanabon Travels & Tours, Myanmar National Airlines, Dewant Financial Loan Microfinance and Treasure Su.

The CBM set the reference exchange rate at K2,100, while a US dollar was exchanged at K3,700 in the grey market.

There is a large price difference between the reference rate of the CBM and the unofficial market rate. However, there is no way to set the new price, as per the notification released on 26 May.

Last August, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K4,500 in the grey market. Consequently, the CBM sold dollars at its auction market for the sectors in need, to control the soaring dollar, injecting a total of \$443.8 million in the markets in 2021. — NN/EM

OPINION

Keep illegal trade away from society

COUNTRIES worldwide have been employing measures to protect their economies by engaging in illegal trade while simultaneously cracking down on it to stabilize commodity prices and foster domestic market growth. This strategy aims to provide consumers with goods at stable and fair prices, benefiting all segments of society.

However, the ramifications of illegal trade are far-reaching, affecting businesspersons, manufacturers, and ordinary consumers alike. The influx of smuggled goods from foreign markets can create an uneven playing field, causing locally-made products to struggle to compete against these cheaper alternatives. The ensuing imbalanced competition can trigger a domino effect, leading to an economic crisis that deeply impacts the livelihoods of people.

The methods employed by those involved in illegal trade are often deceptive and corrupt. They resort to bypassing security measures during the transportation of smuggled goods and dutiful personnel at various checkpoints and security gates. The recent speech by the Chairman of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee emphasized the need for Union-level officials to expose

and take action against bribery and misconduct. Relevant personnel must change their ways and prioritize the interests of the State.

In June 2023, special task forces made significant seizures of illegal commodities, amounting to K11.816 billion worth of smuggled goods and K7.822 billion worth of transport facilities, including various types of vehicles. The volume of seized smuggled commodities at key checkpoints along illegal trade routes saw a remarkable decline. This underscores the necessity for increased efforts by relevant task forces and personnel to effectively combat illegal trade and apprehend offenders.

It is crucial to implement a robust plan to eradicate illegal trade altogether. Authorities are devising strategies to inspect warehouses and domestic markets for smuggled

goods and to prevent illegal trade activities along the borders and various trade routes. Such measures will help in curbing the prevalence of illegal trade to a significant extent.

The fight against illegal trade is a collective responsibility that demands collaboration between government bodies, law enforcement agencies, and citizens. By fostering an environment of fair competition and adherence to regulations, we can ensure the stability and growth of our domestic markets, benefitting all sections of society.

As such, it is imperative to keep illegal trade at bay for the prosperity and well-being of the nation. By upholding the rule of law and actively combating corruption, we can create a fair and flourishing economic landscape where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Together, everybody needs to safeguard the future of society and the economy from the harmful effects of illegal trade.

TERRORIST organizations tend to threaten and kill unarmed civilians anywhere anytime and every society in the world is facing the threat of terrorism. The terrorist organizations are targeting the non-combatant targets of civilians, public infrastructures and critical places in the countries. Accordingly, world countries do not accept such violent acts and always defend them with special attention.

In defending against the threat of terrorist organizations, every country of the world must join hands together regardless of boundaries, what terrorism is universally defined and its relevant laws.

To give an overview on the threats of terrorist groups across the world today, when terrorism becomes a serious concern and threat for a country, the country certainly would suffer its negative outcomes and moreover, the ideologies of the terrorists would prevail across other regional countries and eventually link to the terrorist organizations of other regions. In this case, it is noteworthy that providing political support or cover to the terrorist groups for their unlawful acts recklessly committed on innocent civilians is most likely to pave the way for growing terrorism and terrorist groups.

Having said that, every country is taking measures of counter-terrorism in line with their respective laws, rules and regulations to combat terrorism and terrorist groups and protect the people from its threats and consequences. In some cases, countries have to cooperate with the international community in combating

against terrorism.

In this regard, as one of the cooperation activities to combat terrorism joining hands together with the international community, Myanmar hosted the Tabletop Exercise-TTX of ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter Terrorism from 2 to 4 August 2023.

The Tabletop Exercise-TTX on Counter Terrorism was successfully organized with the participation of senior military officials from Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam besides Myanmar and Russia, co-chairs of the ADMM-Plus EWG on CT. The opening ceremony of TTX on 2 August was honoured with the presence of Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) General Maung Maung Aye. The General officially opened the ceremony by pressing the logo of EWG CT on a touch-screen and delivering an opening remark.

On the second day of the TTX on 3 August, Command Post Exercise was conducted with the discussions led by Myanmar and Russian senior officers of participants reinforced with the views, experiences and suggestions of participants from other countries. The active participation of each country in alphabetic order led to the perfect outcome of the operation plan of TTX.

In the morning on the third day of TTX, the participants from respective countries viewed the demonstration performance of Myanmar Special Operation Task- Force-SOTF members of Myanmar Armed Forces and also recognized the physical strength and mental toughness of male and



Combat Against Terrorism in Unity

By Min Khant

female SOTF members who are well-disciplined and well-trained. In the afternoon, TTX continued with the active participation of representatives from respective countries and final decision of joint operation plan was finalized. Then, a gala dinner was hosted in the evening building more trust, understanding and friendship among the participants.

Successful holding of a table-

top exercise on counter terrorism with the participation of ASEAN's dialogue partners is a honourable achievement for Myanmar. Moreover, Myanmar, where the attacks of NUG/PDF terrorists occur in recent political development, has gained invaluable experiences from the opportunity to work closely together with international community in the counter terrorism measures.

During the exercise, cultural programs were added with recreational purposes so that the senior officials from participating countries know more about Myanmar. They got the chance to study the history of Myanmar armed forces that was born together with the Independence and its relentless efforts to safeguard the live and property of the people and activities for the national interests throughout successive eras in Defence Services Museum; the facts and evidence of Myanmar civilization dating back from pre-historic period, Myanmar's literature, art and architecture, cultural artefacts and religious objects in historic period, the grandness of Lion Throne used by ancient Myanmar kings reflect-

ing the national sovereignty under crowns in National Museum; and the precious gemstones of Myanmar mineral products on display at Myanmar Gem Museum.

Furthermore, the participants of TTX also had paid deep homage to Upatasandi Pagoda as well as the Maravijaya Buddha Image which would be the world's highest sitting marble Buddha Image in the world fully enjoying the peaceful environment of a country of Theravada Buddhism. In particular, they became recorded as first foreigners from 11 countries to pay homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image following its consecrating ceremony. Moreover, after briefing of responsible officials, the participants also observed the documentary records of how the world's largest and heaviest marble stone was conveyed using water and land transports in longest distance as well as the incredible skills of Myanmar engineers who had carved out the Buddha Image and built the religious buildings in the Maravijaya Buddha Park.

The Tabletop Exercise TTX recently conducted is for counter terrorism which is one of seven areas of practical defence coop-

eration between each of ASEAN

member States and other countries of Plus Countries of dialogue partners on ADMM-Plus platform. This area of defence cooperation has been co-chaired by Myanmar and Russia, and Myanmar led the TTX.

Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) have been established to facilitate cooperation in these areas. The EWGs are each co-chaired by one ASEAN Member States and one Plus Country, operating in a three-year cycle since its inception in 2011. The first three-year cycle of ADMM-Plus EWG on Counter Terrorism was jointly co-chaired by Indonesia and United States from 2011 to

2013. The second cycle of ADMM-Plus EWG on CT from 2014 to 2016 was co-chaired by Singapore and Australia and its third cycle from 2017 to 2019 was co-chaired by Thailand and China. The fourth cycle of EWG CT was inactive in the following year due to the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 and became active again in 2021 co-chaired by Myanmar and Russia for three years until 2023.

Conducting joint exercises in the area of counter terrorism on the ADMM-Plus platform aims to promote mutual interaction, understanding, trust, friendship and cooperation among ASEAN members and plus countries of dialogue partners. Better inter-personnel trust and understanding will largely contribute to the efforts to combat terrorism and violent acts in the region.

The essence of the recently-organized TTX is to formulate an operation plan for multilateral forces to annihilate the terrorists who are threatening a stable and peaceful country. It is notable that during the TTX, senior officials from Myanmar and Russia led the discussions in the Staff Exercise and Common Post Exercise, the phases of the TTX.

All countries participating

and accordingly, the cooperation mechanism has been established to effectively combat any possible form of terrorism in the region with the combined efforts of regional countries. In this regard, the effective cooperation of defence forces should be more emphasized rather than the internal affairs and political system of relevant countries.

Among our ASEAN member States, there would be certain diversities ranging from different historical background, culture, nationality, faith and religion to different politics and political systems. In spite of the differences and diversities, all member States should unite the strengths in implementing the common objective of ASEAN centrality and its proactive role.

Absence of participating in such counter terrorism exercise on the pretext of politics and political system of the host country infers the meaning of supporting terrorism and terrorist acts. Despite many disturbances of those who have negative views on the exercise, the Tabletop exercise-TTX on counter terrorism was successfully concluded as the result of unity. In other words, the successful conclusion of the TTX fully reflects the

“ All countries participating in the TTX, regardless of different territories, languages and cultural customs, have a common perspective that they do not accept terrorism and an objective to combat any terrorist in the world. Having said that, they all actively are actively participating in unity in counter terrorism measures of the exercise. ”

in the TTX, regardless of different territories, languages and cultural customs, have a common perspective that they do not accept terrorism and an objective to combat any terrorist in the world. Having said that, they all actively are actively participating in unity in counter terrorism measures of the exercise.

In reality, the ADMM-Plus EWG on Counter Terrorism established for the practical defence cooperation between ASEAN and plus countries of dialogue partners is not related to the political and internal affairs of member States. No country in the world would accept or tolerate any form of terrorism and violent

essence of the theme of fourth cycle of ADMM-Plus EWG on CT 'Working in Unity, Building the Security'. Experiences and suggestions made by the representatives of participating countries were significant contributions to the successful completion of the TTX.

To sum up, I strongly believe that conducting such exercises continuously will improve mutual trusts and understandings among participants and eventually become a practical and invaluable contribution in the efforts to combat terrorism and terrorist acts threatening the entire society of mankind.



NATIONAL

Restoration of historic structures in post-Mocha storm completed

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch) under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is working on maintenance work of the ancient buildings, including cleaning the weeds and plants grown on temples in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone by chemical means, according to Dr Min Swe, the deputy director from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch).

The weeds-cleaning process covers ancient building numbers: 1,589, 1,580, 1,202, 1,686, 1,195, 1,917, 1,478, 1,239, 1,192, 1,321, 744, and building

number 505 which is the northern entrance to the Bagan palace.

“Maintenance works are carried out yearly and the scope of work each year is subjected to budget allotment. Bagan Archaeological Zone, which has more than 3,000 ancient buildings, has been divided into 11 sections and is being cleaned and beautified. The weeds clinging to the pagodas are removed using chemicals. In addition to normal maintenance schedules, the pagodas and temples affected by the Mocha storm in May has been repaired following UNESCO guidelines,” Dr Min Swe said. — ASH/ TH



Personnel from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch) are captured in the midst of their maintenance efforts within the Bagan Archaeological Zone.

Myanmar exports 650 visses of Shatavari root to Korea this FY



In 2023-2024FY, the Southeast Asian country exported 650 visses of Shatavari root to Busan, South Korea in July.

MYANMAR has launched a new export item Shatavari root to South Korea exporting 650 visses in July of this FY,

according to Myanmar Green Farm Company in Taungoo of Bago Region.

The country has a demand

for raw materials of traditional medicine such as villous amomum, screw pine, Menispermum and other herbal roots from Korea. During this FY, Korea purchases Shatavari from Myanmar.

In 2023-2024FY, the Southeast Asian country exported 650 visses of Shatavari root to Busan, South Korea in July. The Shatavari root is bought from the western parts of the Thagara and Swa regions of Yedashe Township of Bago Region and Shan State (South) and exported them to Korea.

The wet Shatavari root is priced at K700-K1000 per viss. Six visses of wet Shatavari root is equal to one viss of dried Shatavari root. — ASH/ KTZH

Muse trade zone achieves US\$23.892 mln trade volume

AS per the Ministry of Commerce's Department of Trade, the 105th-mile Muse trade zone along the Myanmar-China border conducted trade activities totaling US\$1.59 million during the period of August 1st to 13th, within the 2023-2024 financial year.

Within the same timeframe, trade transactions involving the trade zone encompassed exports valued at US\$13.523 million to China and imports amounting to US\$10.369 million from China, culminating in a trade volume of US\$23.892 million between the two countries.

Prominent among the ex-

ported commodities are onions, broken rice, turmeric roots, rubber, dried prawn shell powder, eel, copper, cow pea, fish powder, and white fiber plants. Notably, the major imports from China encompass vehicles and vehicle mechanisms, diesel generators, bearings, alcoholic beverages, various types of shoes, plastic rolls, citric acid, apples, bicycles, and carton boxes.

According to the MACCS system, as of the second week of August, the exchange rate stood at K293.0825 per Chinese yuan, and the current status of the trade route remains favourable. — ASH/CT



Export and import cargoes are seen on the Myanmar-China border.

Three new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 August

THREE new cases of COVID-19 were reported on 15 August 2023, according to the Ministry of Health but there was no new death.

COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

Chinese medical team imparts TCM knowledge to Namibian university students

THE Chinese medical team in Namibia on Monday delivered a lecture on traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) to students from the University of Namibia, enabling them to have a better understanding of the TCM techniques.

During the lecture at the university's Confucius Institute, the Chinese doctors delved into the intricate details of TCM, in a move meant to enlighten and educate students more on the benefits as an alternative to other modern forms of treatments.

The Chinese team explained

the uses of techniques like acupuncture and how and why it is administered, and how other techniques are combined to be more effective, like incorporating moxibustion with acupuncture as a natural means of treatment for various ailments.

The doctors also zoomed in on the benefits of TCM, saying it is considered to be milder and does not have strong side effects as some other medicine does.

During the lecture, the students had the opportunity to experience some of the techniques which included acupuncture,



Students practice Baduanjin Qigong during a traditional Chinese medicine lecture at the University of Namibia in Windhoek, Namibia, on 14 August 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

massages, moxibustion, and cupping.

Kaputuaza Mbuende, a sophomore, told Xinhua that the whole experience was fascinat-

ing. "This was my first experience to have acupuncture and I learned a lot from the history of the techniques," he said.

According to Mbuende, a

couple of months ago he broke his forearm and since then it has been difficult to move some of his fingers due to the nerve damage caused by his injury. — Xinhua

Wine from Brazil's unsung savannah makes a splash



Brazilian winemaker Ronaldo Triacca shows his vineyard at Villa Triacca winery in Paranoa, a rural area located 100km from the centre of Brasilia, Brazil, on 18 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

THE tropical savannah around Brazil's ultra-modernist capital is not exactly known as wine country, but French enologist Jean-Michel Barcelo gushes as he plucks a ruby-red grape and pops it in his mouth.

"This terroir has real potential," says the 52-year-old wine consultant, who is in the high plateau of central Brazil making his annual visit to Villa Triacca, a vineyard located a 50-minute drive from the sweeping white buildings of the seat of power in Brasilia. With its predominantly tropical climate, Brazil is far

less known for wine than fellow South American producers Argentina and Chile — never mind France. But a new production technique developed by Brazilian researchers in the 2000s has helped winemakers in the Brasilia region hack the local climate to harvest in the winter, producing better-quality grapes — and wines that are starting to make a splash. "The technique they're using here is different from what you see anywhere else in the world," says Barcelo, a silver-haired Frenchman who takes his wine very seriously. — AFP

Scent of luxury: India's jasmine infuses global perfume

HEADY scents fill the air as skilled pickers in India pluck white jasmine before the still fresh buds are rushed for processing into a valuable ingredient for global perfumes.

Jasmine only issues its powerful scent when it blooms at night, and pickers must select only the ones yet to open.

"We know which one to

pick," said Malarkodi, who gave only one name, as she snapped her fingers carefully to pluck the buds, tucking into her hair a few flowers that had already bloomed.

"There is no use of these... but I like the smell," she said.

Jasmine's fragrant flowers have been used for millennia in India to honour the

gods, and the scent is a key part of world-famous perfumes.

In the ancient city of Madurai in southern India, jasmine is omnipresent — attracting buyers from some of the world's most recognizable perfumes, including J'adore by Dior and Mon Guerlain by Guerlain. — AFP



In this picture taken on 27 June 2023, Thierry Wasser (2L), a perfumer at French beauty house Guerlain and Raja Palaniswamy (L), a director at the Jasmine Concrete Exports Private Limited, interact with farmers in a farmland of Jasmine flowers on the outskirts of Madurai. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japanese economic growth smashes expectations

QUARTERLY growth data for Japan smashed expectations on Tuesday as car exports rebounded and tourists flooded back, but economists cautioned that it may not last.

The world's third-largest economy expanded 1.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter in the three months to June, preliminary government data showed, the fastest rate since the fourth quarter of 2020.

This was almost double the average economist forecast of 0.8 per cent, according to Bloomberg News, and followed revised growth of 0.9 per cent in the previous quarter.

On an annualized basis, growth was 6.0 per cent, more than double the market expectation of 2.9 per cent, and giving Japan three-straight quarters of growth.



Employees (C) operate vehicles during a media tour of Japanese automaker Nissan's engine plant in Yokohama, Kanagawa prefecture on 19 July 2023, after the company marked in June the production of its 40 millionth engine since commencing operations in 1935. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Japan's exports have recovered as the supplies crisis eased for the auto sector while the yen's depreciation provided support," Ryutaro Kono, chief economist at BNP Paribas, wrote in a note issued before the data.

Hiroyuki Ueno, at SuMi TRUST, also said pent-up demand from the pandemic and an increase in capital investment were boosting the economy.

"The hospitality sector is expected to remain a driver of economic growth due to the increase in inbound tourism, as the pandemic is now in the rearview mirror," Ueno wrote ahead of the release. "Although the number of inbound visitors to Japan has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, the per capita consumption of tourists during their stay in Japan has increased, partly due to the weak yen," he wrote. — AFP

Wheat availability in East Africa to be influenced by international trade dynamics: WFP

WHEAT availability and prices in some East African countries are more likely to be influenced by international trade dynamics, the World Food Programme (WFP) has warned.

The WFP, in its latest publication on the impacts of the suspension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative in Eastern Africa issued Monday, said local wheat production remains below consumption needs across most countries in the Eastern Africa region, with in-country production ranging between 0

per cent to 25 per cent of the total annual consumption requirements. "Considering the high reliance on imports from the Black Sea to meet the domestic wheat demand and weak domestic currencies, wheat availability and prices in Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan are more likely to be influenced by international trade dynamics," the WFP warned.

The WFP data showed that wheat consumption represents 67 per cent and 38 per cent of total cereal consumption in Djibouti and Sudan, respectively

while in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia wheat consumption accounts for less than 24 per cent of total cereal consumption. Djibouti and Somalia rely exclusively on imports to meet their domestic wheat demand, it said. A sizable portion of wheat demand in Kenya and Sudan is met by imports. Ethiopia is the only exception as domestic production in 2022 accounted for 82 per cent of total wheat consumption needs, the WFP said. — Xinhua

Singapore, Chile sign MoU to collaborate on carbon markets, carbon pricing

SINGAPORE and Chile signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on carbon markets and carbon pricing on Monday, according to Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The MOU was signed by Beh Swan Gin, Permanent Secretary (Development) of Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Alex Wetzig, Secretary General of Foreign Policy of Chile's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dur-

ing the latter's visit to Singapore.

Under the MOU, both countries will collaborate on carbon credits and related carbon market initiatives, including the identification of mutually beneficial projects and the exchange of best practices on carbon services and trading ecosystem development.

The two countries will also explore potential collaboration opportunities in carbon markets with third countries. — Xinhua



US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen (C) looks on during a demonstration of a new Internal Revenue Service (IRS) (paperless processing initiative in McLean, Virginia, on 2 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Yellen calls for diversified clean energy supply chains

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen stressed Monday the need for diversified clean energy supply chains as America shifts away from fossil fuels, warning that production should not be concentrated in a few countries.

While she did not provide names, Yellen's prepared remarks come at a time when China produces the majority of batteries for electric vehicles and the

Treasury Department has noted a high level of Chinese control over critical mineral processing globally. "Today, the production of critical clean energy inputs — from batteries to solar panels to critical minerals — is concentrated in a handful of countries," Yellen said at an event in Las Vegas.

She stressed the importance of building resilient and diversified critical global supply chains

to mitigate disruptions and safeguard economic security.

"That starts by investing here at home," Yellen said, touting what she called the benefits of President Joe Biden's landmark climate action plan.

Called the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the plan provides incentives for America's energy transition and marks its one-year anniversary this week. — AFP

Switzerland, Liechtenstein end post-Fukushima Japan food import curbs

SWITZERLAND and Liechtenstein on Tuesday lifted import restrictions on food products from 10 Japanese prefectures imposed after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear plant disaster, the Japanese government said.

Following a similar move by the European Union earlier this month, the two countries will no longer require radiation tests on some agricultural and fishery products from the prefectures, including Fukushima. Switzerland and Liechtenstein are not EU members.

With two more coun-

tries dropping the measures, the number of countries and regions imposing import restrictions on Japanese food products will be seven, with China and South Korea still on the list. As many as 55 had restrictions in place at one stage.

The removal of requirements for Japan to test for radionuclides and provide safety certification for some products is expected to alleviate the administrative burden on producers and exporters in Fukushima, as well as those in the nine other affected prefectures of Miyagi, Yamagata, Ibaraki, Gun-

ma, Niigata, Yamanashi, Nagano, Iwate and Shizuoka.

As other non-EU members Norway and Iceland also lifted similar import curbs along with the 27-nation European bloc on 3 August, all members of the European Free Trade Association have eliminated the measures.

Following the moves by European countries, Japan's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry plans to set up a new export support platform in Brussels to provide information to producers. — Kyodo



The season's first catch of bonito at Onahama port in Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan, is landed on 29 May 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

UK unemployment rises to 4.2%: official data

UK unemployment jumped to a two-year high in the three months to the end of June, official data showed Tuesday, as the country grapples with high inflation and a cost of living crisis.

The number of people out of work increased to 4.2 per cent compared to 4.0 per cent in the three months to the end of May, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

The ONS said the

rise was mainly generated by an increase of people unemployed for up to six months. UK annual inflation currently stands at 7.9 per cent, the highest among G7 nations.

The UK finance ministry noted that Britain's unemployment rate was lower than that of Canada, France, Italy, Spain and the Euro area.

While the unemployment rate is the highest since the period from

July to September 2021, the ministry added that it remains "low by historical standards".

"The fall in employment in the three months to June and further rise in the unemployment rate will be welcomed by the Bank of England as a sign labour market conditions are cooling," said Ruth Gregory, deputy chief UK economist at Capital Economics. — AFP



A man, reflected in a building, walks on the Southbank of the River Thames, with London Bridge on the background, central London, on 14 August 2023. The British Office for National Statistics (ONS) will release new data on the job market on 15 August morning. PHOTO: AFP

UBS to pay \$1.4 bln to settle US fraud charges on subprime loans

UBS will pay \$1.4 billion to settle US charges that it defrauded investors in the sale of mortgage-backed securities, resolving the last big case stemming from the 2008 financial crisis, the Justice Department announced Monday.

The department agreed to dismiss a civil complaint against UBS in exchange for the fine, which brings the total federal penalties to \$36 billion in settlements from nearly 20 financial institutions, a Department of Justice (DOJ) press release said. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (173N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (173N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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**Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority**

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PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

We, **OMO Family Co.Ltd** would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by **Agro Icon Cropscience Pte.,Ltd** to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor **Aka Yarzar Co.Ltd**. If any objection 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.

OMO FAMILY CO.,LTD. 09-5029796

| Sr. | Trade Name | Active Ingredient | Type of pesticide | Registration No. |
|-----|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Binhsin 70% WP | Thiophanate-methyl 70% WP | Fungicide | F2022-3558 |

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Pedestrians try to shield from wind and rain as they cross the street in front of Osaka Station on 15 August 2023 as Tropical Storm Lan hit the main island of Honshu overnight. **PHOTO: STR / JIJI PRESS / AFP**

Tropical storm Lan soaks Japan's main island

A month's worth of rain drenched parts of Japan's main island Honshu on Tuesday as a tropical storm hit, swelling rivers and triggering landslide warnings.

Downgraded from a typhoon, Lan roared in from the Pacific at around 5 am (2000 GMT), soaking and buffeting with strong winds the commercial hubs of Osaka and Kobe as it rumbled northwards.

"Total rainfall has already exceeded the normal monthly rainfall for August in some places" in central and western regions, the Japan Meteorological Agency said on the social media platform X.

"Please be cautious of

heavy rain... and very strong wind," it warned.

Electricity was mostly restored in seven regions, but 15,600 households were still without power as of Tuesday afternoon, according to a local utility. Part of a pedestrian bridge was swept away in Kyoto and flying debris stopped local commuter trains.

Express bullet trains were suspended as planned along with hundreds of flights, including 240 Japan Airline services and 313 of rival ANA, particularly those serving Osaka.

Around 650 people were forced to stay overnight at Kansai airport, located on an artificial island in Osaka Bay,

after rail and road access was cut off by the storm, Kyodo News reported. Local governments issued non-compulsory evacuation instructions to more than 237,000 residents, especially in Wakayama, Kyoto and the ancient capital of Nara. A town in Hyogo region issued the top-level warning to its nearly 16,000 residents, asking them to "take action to save lives" and "evacuate to higher places" as a river was flooding.

The weather system was forecast to spend all of Tuesday sweeping over the region, before moving out to the Sea of Japan and sweeping up the coast past Vladivostok and the Russian Far East. — AFP

Search for survivors after Indian floods, landslides kill 65

RESCUERS searched Tuesday for people feared missing in floods and landslides that have killed at least 65 in India, including 11 who died in the collapse of a popular temple.

Days of torrential downpours have washed away vehicles, demolished buildings and destroyed bridges in the Himalayas.

Flooding and landslides are common and cause widespread

devastation during India's treacherous monsoon season, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity.

At least 52 people have been killed in Himachal Pradesh since Sunday, with thousands more stranded after disruptions to roads, power lines and communication networks.

"As many personnel as possible are being deployed in

relief and rescue work," state chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said in a statement late Monday.

"Work will continue on a war-footing to provide relief to the people."

Sukhu said earlier that up to 20 others were feared trapped under rubble after landslides, and appealed to residents to stay indoors and avoid going near rivers. — AFP

Japan marks 78th anniversary of WWII end as PM reiterates war opposition

JAPAN on Tuesday marked the 78th anniversary of its surrender in World War II, three months after Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pitched his vision of a "world without nuclear weapons" at the Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima.

Kishida stated Japan's opposition to war in his speech at the annual ceremony in Tokyo amid lingering fears that Russia might use nuclear weapons in its war in Ukraine.

"Under the banner of proactive contribution to peace, Japan is determined to join forces with the international community and do its utmost to resolve the various challenges facing the world," he said.

The government-sponsored ceremony was held to mourn about 2.3 million military personnel and 800,000 civilians who perished in the war on the Japanese side. Emperor Naruhito also attended the event.

The ceremony was held on a smaller scale for the fourth consecutive year to prevent coronavirus infections. About 1,900 people attended it at the Nippon Budokan arena, compared with 1,000 last year.

The memorial day coincided with a typhoon hitting western and central Japan, meaning relatives of the war dead in affected areas had to cancel traveling to Tokyo due to public transport disruptions.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Another Ecuador politician slain, six days ahead of vote

A local politician in Ecuador was killed Monday, party officials said, less than a week after a presidential front-runner was gunned down at a campaign rally ahead of this weekend's elections. Pedro Briones, a member of the Citizen Revolution Party of former president Rafael Correa, and one of the movement's leaders in the province of Esmeraldas on the border with Colombia, was killed by unknown gunmen. "My solidarity with the family of comrade Pedro Briones, new victim of violence," Luisa Gonzalez, one of the main presidential candidates, said on X, the social media platform formerly called Twitter.

"Ecuador is going through its bloodiest period," said Gonzalez, a close former associate of Correa. She called the government inept and said the country has been taken over by organized crime gangs. — AFP



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel search for victims at the site of a landslide after a temple collapsed due to heavy rains in Shimla on 14 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS



Spain's defender (19) Olga Carmona and Sweden's forward (8) Lina Hurtig fight for the ball during the Australia and New Zealand 2023 Women's World Cup semi-final football match between Spain and Sweden at Eden Park in Auckland on 15 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Carmona's late stunner takes Spain into maiden Women's World Cup final

OLGA Carmona's stunning late strike gave Spain a 2-1 win over Sweden on Tuesday to propel them into the Women's World Cup final for the first time in their history.

Spain's thrilling victory at Eden Park sets up a showdown in Sydney on Sunday with either Australia or England, who meet in the other semi-final on Wednesday.

The semi-final in Auckland

seemed to be drifting towards extra time before suddenly bursting to life when substitute Salma Paralluelo put Spain ahead with nine minutes left.

Rebecka Blomqvist equalised for Sweden in the 88th minute only for full-back Carmona, Spain's captain, to score with a superb shot in off the underside of the crossbar from the edge of the box. It has been a remarkable run for a nation who had

never previously gone beyond the last 16 at a Women's World Cup, and for a team who had been in disarray in the months leading up to the tournament.

Fifteen Spanish players told their federation last September that they no longer wished to be considered for selection, principally out of unhappiness with coach Jorge Vilda, and only three of them returned for this World Cup run. — AFP

Free tickets plus ferry arrangements set for Yangon's qualifiers

THE Yangon United Fan Club has informed that the AFC Cup Qualifier between Yangon United and Brunei Club DPMM FC has been arranged for tickets and ferry arrangements.

The two teams will play in the AFC Cup qualifiers at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time today. According to the Yangon United Fan Club, the audience who are supporting the Yangon United team representing Myanmar should come to the YUSC stadium (Thanlan bus stop) and the car will leave

at 2:00 in the afternoon.

The Yangon United team played a warm-up game against the Myanmar national U-23 team on 11 August as a preparation for this match.

Team Yangon beat Myanmar junior team 2-0 thanks to the goals of Thurein Soe and Harbilar.

If Yangon gets past the Bruneian club DPMM FC, they will have to compete against the Indonesian club PSM Makassar in the next round to qualify for the group stage. — TWA/KZL



The Yangon United Football Club is seen posing for a group photo. **PHOTO: YUFC**

Man Utd punish wasteful Wolves for winning Premier League start

MANCHESTER United survived an onslaught from Wolves and huge claims for a late penalty to start the Premier League season with a 1-0 win thanks to Raphael Varane's header on Monday.

Wolves had seen manager Julen Lopetegui walk out less than a week before the new campaign, but dominated for long spells at Old Trafford.

A combination of wasteful finishing and new United goalkeeper Andre Onana kept the visitors at bay until Varane headed in 14 minutes from time.

Onana was lucky to escape when he punched Sasa Kalajdzic as he flapped at a cross deep into stoppage time and VAR did not intervene.

“It looked like the keeper nearly took our forward's head off,” said Wolves boss Gary O'Neil. “I think it is a foul. You go for the ball and clatter the player that hard. It is a penalty.”

O'Neil added that Premier League referees chief Jon Moss had contacted him after the game to apologize for the decision.

United clung on to get off to a winning start, in stark contrast to the two defeats that began Erik ten Hag's reign 12 months ago. — AFP

Australia to use home support as 'fuel and energy' against England

AUSTRALIA coach Tony Gustavsson says self-belief and massive fan support could make the

difference when they meet England for a place in the Women's World Cup final on Wednesday.

The co-hosts have already created history with their maiden run to the last four, and are determined to keep breaking barriers and go even further.

Gustavsson said Serena Wiegman's world number four England would be favourites at Sydney's Stadium Australia, but the Matildas had something the Lionesses did not.

“If you look at rankings they're favourites, if you look at where their players play in top clubs in top leagues all over the world,” he said on Tuesday.

“If you look at all that and the resources financially, obviously they are a massive favourite going into the game. — AFP



Australia's coach Tony Gustavsson and Australia's goalkeeper Arnold MacKenzie (R) attend a press conference at Stadium Australia in Sydney on 15 August 2023 on the eve of the Women's World Cup semi-final football match between Australia and England. **PHOTO: AFP**



Georgia Grand Jury indicts Trump on 13 charges in election interference case-filing

A Fulton County grand jury in the state of Georgia indicted former President Donald Trump with 13 criminal charges related to an investigation alleging he attempted to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, a court document revealed.

Several of the charges Trump faces include violation of the Georgia RICO Act, solicitation or violation of oath by a public officer, false statements and writings, and forgery, among others.

Eighteen other associates were also charged in the indictment, including Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani and former Trump chief of staff Mark Meadows.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis said in a press

conference late Monday night that a grand jury issued arrest warrants against the 19 defendants named in the 41-count indictment, but they will all have an opportunity to voluntarily surrender by 25 August. Willis said she will ask the court to set the trial date within the next six months.

The Georgia racketeering scheme charge alone carries a prison sentence of up to 20 years. The person could also face a fine of up to \$250,000 or double the amount of proceeds earned from illicit activity, according to the statute. Trump has repeatedly condemned the criminal proceedings against him as attempts to weaponize the American justice system to prevent him from running in the 2024 US

presidential election and denied any wrongdoing.

On Monday afternoon, Reuters reported that a document from the Fulton County District Attorney's Office was published online previewing charges against Trump before being taken down.

Giuliani, in a statement, suggested that the former US president's legal team should file a motion to dismiss for a constitutional due process violation for publicly issuing an indictment before the grand jury had actually signed one. Willis declined to comment about the leak when asked about it during the press conference.

Trump's lawyers did not immediately respond to Sputnik for comment on the indictment. — SPUTNIK



Hawaii fire death toll hits 99, may double, warns governor

THE death toll in Hawaii's wildfires rose to 99 and could double over the next 10 days, the state's governor said Monday, as emergency personnel painstakingly scoured the incinerated landscape for more human remains.

Last week's inferno on the island of Maui is already the

deadliest US wildfire in a century, with only a quarter of the ruins of the devastated town of Lahaina searched for victims so far. Governor Josh Green said more fatalities are certain, as emergency responders with cadaver dogs work their way through hundreds of homes and

burned-out vehicles.

"There are 99 fatalities that are confirmed," he told a press conference Monday.

Speaking to CNN earlier, Green warned that "over the course of the next 10 days, this number could double."

The historic coastal town of Lahaina was almost totally destroyed by the fast-moving blaze last week, with survivors saying there had been no warnings.

The intensity of the fire and scale of the destruction have made identification of human remains difficult, with some corpses disintegrating as they are uncovered by searchers.

Only three of the 99 victims recovered so far could be identified by their fingerprints, said Maui Police Chief John Pelletier. Police are encouraging those with missing relatives to give DNA samples that might speed up the process.— AFP



Charred remains of a burned neighbourhood is seen in the aftermath of a wildfire, in Lahaina, western Maui, Hawaii on 14 August 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Russia claims Ukraine's military resources are 'almost exhausted'

RUSSIAN defence minister Sergei Shoigu said Tuesday that Ukraine's military resources were "almost exhausted", as Kyiv wages a gruelling counter offensive to recapture lost territory.

"Despite comprehensive assistance from the West, Ukraine's armed forces are unable to achieve results," Shoigu said at a security conference in Moscow.

"Preliminary results of the hostilities show that Ukraine's military resources are almost exhausted," he said.

He added that there was "nothing unique" about Western weapons and that they were not invulnerable to Russian arms on the battlefield.— AFP

Dengue devastation continues in Bangladesh, hospitals crammed with patients

BANGLADESH on Monday registered 18 more deaths from dengue, the second highest in a 24-hour count since January, taking the toll from the disease this year to 416, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported.

The total number of dengue fever cases has reached 87,891 since January in the South Asian country.

Amid the rising dengue cases, hospitals and clinics in the capital Dhaka are crammed with dengue patients. Farhana Ahmed, who is in charge of dengue cell at Bangladesh Children's Hospital and Institute, told Xinhua on Monday that compared to the last year's peak dengue outbreak season, this time they are handling more pressure with a large number of patients being admitted on a daily basis.— Xinhua