

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



The photo shows domestic and international tourists visiting the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

Enchanting community-based tourism in Bagan and Nay Pyi Taw smart villages

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, community-based tourism (CBT) will be implemented in the smart villages within the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone and the Nay Pyi Taw Council area.

“Community-based tourism (CBT) is not a new concept. It has been done before. However, post-COVID-19, the momentum for CBT decreased. Now, we plan to implement it in collaboration

with the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development. Currently, we are identifying suitable smart villages in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone and the Nay Pyi Taw Council area for CBT implementation. Although the tourist season has ended, we are preparing these villages for tourists when the new season begins,” said U Zeya Myo Aung, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, along with the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, is focusing on smart villages that preserve traditional culture and have industries like textiles, weaving, and small-scale manufacturing for CBT.

CBT initiatives have already been implemented in Shan State, Taninthayi Region, and Mandalay Region. — ASH/MKKS

Article

Casualties of War

By U AC

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL

PAGE 3



Coastal Resources Management Central Committee holds 5th meeting

NATIONAL

PAGE 4



DPM MoFA Union Minister attends 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting in Tehran, Iran

BUSINESS

PAGE 7

Manufacturing exports near US\$1.5B in 2 months

Strict penalties imposed for dumping garbage in drains, creeks, and rivers

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has announced that fines, imprisonment, or both will be imposed on those who dispose of garbage in drains, creeks, and rivers in Yangon Region.

Notice panels bearing the message “Effective action will be taken for throwing garbage into the drain” have been erected near drains and creeks in Latha Township, Dala Township, Dagon Town-

ship, Yankin Township, Seikkyi Khanaung-to Township, Lanmadaw Township, Pazundaung Township, and Hlinethaya (East) Township. This initiative aims to improve the cleanliness and beauty of the city and enhance the water flow in Yangon.

Violating this prohibition will result in a fine ranging from K50,000 to K300,000, up to three months in prison, or both. — TWA/TKO



Erecting notice signages for the development of water flow in Yangon City.

NATIONAL

1 special criminal case, 6 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 5 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, Daw Khin May Yi, U Thein Ko Ko, Daw Thin Thin Nwet and Daw Pyone Pyone Aye, was convened Monday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed judgements for one special criminal appeal case — No 4/2024 (Taninthayi) and six special civil appeal cases — Nos 6/2024 (Mandalay), 18/2024 (Yangon), 20/2024 (Yangon), 22/2024 (Ayeyawady), 24/2024 (Yangon) and 25/2024 (Magway).

In addition, a total of five special civil appeal cases — Nos 53/2023 (Yangon), 21/2024 (Yangon), 26/2024 (Mandalay), 29/2024 (Mandalay) and 34/2024 (Mandalay) were heard. — MNA



Notification

24 June 2024

1. The Ministry of Commerce notified that rice storage facilities need to be registered on the online registration platform – Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) www.myro.com.mm, starting 3 November 2023, intending to ensure rice self-sufficiency, systematic export, price stability and systematic registration for rice storage and implementing warehouse receipt financing system.
2. A total of 726 warehouses, 213 facilities of companies and 513 facilities of individuals have been registered on Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) -www.myro.com.mm as of 23 June 2024.
3. Those who store 50 tonnes or 5,000 baskets of paddy and above for commercial purposes shall register their storage facilities on Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) -www.myro.com.mm.

Ministry of Commerce

Notice

1. The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce released Newsletter 3/2024 on 30 May 2024, stating that action will be taken starting from 1 July 2024 under the Export and Import Law if it is found that imports have arrived at ports and airports before receiving import licences or permits. However, people fail to follow and deliver goods to ports before obtaining the necessary import licences.
2. Therefore, the statement is issued again to strengthen the enforcement against goods arriving at ports and airports without obtaining the necessary import licences.

Trade Department
Ministry of Commerce

Thousands visit Sinywa Waterfall in Mon’s Paung Township during holidays

SINYWA Waterfall, a prominent rainy-season destination in Paung Township in Mon State, has been receiving tens of thousands of visitors during the holidays, according to an official from the Aung Nawarat Social Association.

Locals usually go to the waterfall every day to bathe and swim, but now they have to avoid going there on holidays, including weekends since this place is crowded with other visitors from

Mawlamyine, Kyaikkhami, Setse, Muddon, Hpa-an and Thaton, he said.

“As the waterfall is magnificent during the rainy season, many travellers come here. Even tens of thousands of visitors from other places come on some holidays. It is very crowded at the waterfall. Locals usually go daily to the waterfall to bathe and swim. But they seldom go there on holidays as it is always crowded with guests,” he said.

It is located in Sinywa village, a four-mile drive from the Natkyichaung village, which is eight to nine miles from Zinkyaik through the Natkyichaung market street. Since it has water only in the rainy season, most visitors come from May to October.

“The water falls from a very high mountain in the middle. There are layers of rock underneath. There is a pagoda at the top. Parking fees at the Sinywa

Waterfall are K1,000 for a motorcycle and K1,500 for a car,” he added.

There are lesser-known waterfalls in Mon State, while the Zinkyaik, Sinywa, and Tamaungpan waterfalls receive many visitors. Travellers come on motorcycles, and in cars, light trucks, and three-wheeler taxis, and this destination creates income opportunities for residents as they sell food to many visitors.

— MT/ZN



An enchanting panoramic view of travellers at the Sinywa Waterfall.

NATIONAL

Coastal Resources Management Central Committee holds 5th meeting

THE Coastal Resources Management Central Committee held its fifth meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, in his capacity as Chairman of the central committee, said that the central committee has drafted the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) as per the assigned duties, and also highlighted the establishment of Myanmar coast guard, finalization of Marine Pollution Control Law, designation of no-fishing zones in certain areas that are rich in ecosystem and biodiversity, Hot Spot/Dividing Sites, awareness campaigns to prevent coastal pollution and cooperation of departments concerned in reserved forests and protected public forests.

He added that the world countries including Myanmar



The fifth meeting of the Coastal Resources Management Central Committee in progress yesterday, addressed by SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo.

are implementing the SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) in which 14 out of 17 goals are concerned with coastal and marine ecosystem development. Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods.

However, 30 per cent of fish stocks are overexploited, resulting in significant decline of fish resources whereas sea pollution threatening fish resources and ecosystem.

About 80 per cent of marine debris come from land-based

sources, and mostly plastic wastes and fishing net.

He also mentioned the adverse effects of marine pollution and amplified sound transmission devices installed on offshore and gas exploration vessels.

He then highlighted the 2020 report of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) that estimated that 25 per cent of mammals, 27 per cent of sea birds and 27 per cent of coral reefs could go extinct, and half of the marine species will be at risk of extinction by 2100.

He urged all attendees to work together in drafting balanced policies and procedures to conserve the coastal and marine ecosystems.

Then, the secretary of the central committee the permanent secretary of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation briefed the ICM.

The General made a concluding remark after hearing the reports of the Union ministers, region and state chief ministers and officials, the deputy chief of staff (Navy), permanent secretaries, and directors-general. — MNA/KTZH

UEC Chairman meets Indian Ambassador



Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur calls on Union Election Commission Chair U Ko Ko yesterday.

U Ko Ko, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, received Mr Abhay Thakur, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the reception hall of the Union Election Commission office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They mutually and cordially discussed continued cooperation between India and Myanmar, enduring friendship between the two countries, increasing collaboration between the election commissions of

the two countries, the Election Commission of India and election-related activities, and conditions for cooperation regarding technical and human resource development matters. — MNA/TS

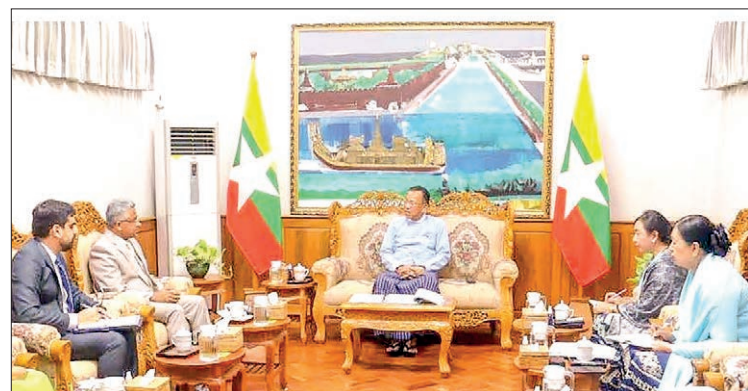
MIFER Union Minister receives Ambassador of India to Myanmar

DR Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Office No 1, Nay Pyi Taw, on the afternoon of 24 June 2024.

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters such

as enhancing economic cooperation, investment promotion, export-import process, and financial payment between Myanmar and India.

The deputy minister and senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations also attended the meeting. — MNA



MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw receives the Indian ambassador yesterday.

NATIONAL

DPM MoFA Union Minister attends 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting in Tehran, Iran

AT the official invitation of Dr Ali Bagheri Kani, Acting Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the current Chair of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe participated in the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting which was held on 24 June 2024 in Tehran, Iran.

Foreign Ministers and representatives of the ACD Member States attended the 19th ACD Ministerial Meeting, which was held at the Parsian Azadi Hotel in Tehran. At the meeting, the delegations welcomed the theme of Iran's ACD Chairmanship: "A more Inter-connected and Empowered Asia through New and Emerging Technologies" and delivered their respective country statements.

On the morning of 24 June 2024, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe delivered a statement at the 19th ACD Ministerial Meeting.

In his statement, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Minister congratulated the dedication and exemplary efforts of Iran, the current Chair of the ACD and commended Bahrain, the previous Chair of ACD, for its



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe (Front left) is pictured at the 19th ACD Ministerial Meeting yesterday.

successful Chairmanship. He also welcomed Thailand, the upcoming Chair of ACD.

At the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also conveyed Myanmar's condolences on the passing of President Mr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Dr Hossein Amir-Abdollahian of Iran and mentioned that their legacies and active involvement in ACD cooperation will be remembered and valued.

At the 19th ACD Ministerial Meeting, Foreign Ministers and representatives cordially

discussed and exchanged views on matters related to ACD Cooperation mechanisms as well as regional and global issues. Moreover, the ACD Member States updated the meeting on the developments taking place in their respective countries.

At the meeting, the "Guiding Principles for the Functioning of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Secretariat" and "Rules of Procedure of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue" were approved. In addition, the "Tehran Declaration" was adopted by consensus as an outcome document of the 19th ACD Min-

isterial Meeting.

During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also updated the Myanmar Government's efforts to ensure peace, development, and democracy in the country, as well as the latest developments of Myanmar to the Heads of Delegation of ACD Member States.

On the evening of 23 June 2024, Dr Ali Bagheri Kani, Acting Foreign Minister of Iran, hosted an official dinner in honour of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and delegations of ACD Member States at the Espinas

Palace Hotel in Tehran.

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was inaugurated in June 2002 in Cha-Am, Thailand. Currently, 35 countries representing five (5) Regional Groups of Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and East Asia are members of the ACD. Myanmar is one of the founding members of ACD.

By and large, ACD aims to promote interdependence among Asian countries and transform the Asian continent into an Asian community. The ACD Secretariat was inaugurated in October 2013, with its headquarters in Kuwait City, the State of Kuwait.

At the moment, the Member States of ACD have agreed on six (6) priority pillars of Cooperation that are in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely: 1) Connectivity; 2) Science, Technology and Innovation; 3) Education and Human Resource Development; 4) Food, Energy and Water Security; 5) Culture and Tourism; and 6) Inclusive and Sustainable Development.

The representatives from 31 ACD Member States and eight (8) regional and international organizations have participated in the 19th ACD Ministerial Meeting held in Iran. — MNA

Indian Ambassador calls on MoC Union Minister

UNION Construction Minister U Myo Thant received Mr Abhay Thakur, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the reception hall of the Ministry of Construction in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides cordially and

frankly exchanged views on the development of the road and communications sector, the development of border trade and a fast and smooth flow of goods, further improvement of the socioeconomic life of local people, the development

of tourism, upgrading of the Paletwa-Zorampu Road and the Yekyi-Kalewa road section aided by India (Grant Aid), and work plans to be carried out regarding the maintenance of 69 bridges on the Tamu-Kyikone-Kalewa Road. — MNA/TS



Union Minister U Myo Thant receives the Indian ambassador 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.

NATIONAL

Campaign on developing libraries, raising reading habits launched in Sagaing

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, accompanied by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw, attended a ceremony to launch the “Developing Libraries and Raising Reading Habits” campaign at No 1 BEHS in Sagaing yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister, who is also Chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, said the Prime Minister focuses on library development and increase in reading frequency across the country. Students should cultivate reading habits for their improvement. Moreover, they should also study modern technologies.

The ministry also carries out the proper activities to raise public awareness regarding reading in addition to its library operations, which is its primary



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views round the exhibition at yesterday's launching event in Sagaing.

duty. He then urged the students to read all varieties of books and publications and to become reliable citizens of the country.

Afterwards, he handed over K75 million to construct five new libraries and 16,500 books and publications to the region's chief minister, DTH dishes and eight

DVB T2-set top boxes for eight basic high schools to regional education officer U Thet Lay Oo. The region chief minister expressed gratitude and pre-

sented books and publications to the No 1 BEHS headmistress.

After the entertainment programmes of famous singers, comedians and students, the Union minister gave cash prizes to performers and observed the displayed books, journals, departmental booths, photo exhibition, story-telling competition, essay competition, painting, quizzes, impromptu talks and fun game competitions.

The Union minister and party then visited SunU Ponnayashin Pagoda atop Sagaing Hill and discussed the matter of donating gold foils to the pagoda. The gold foils were donated to the pagoda nine years ago, and the Sagaing Region government arranged to donate again and also open the Shwe Taung Yoe Motel for the convenience of pilgrims. — MNA/KTZH

Ripe Panswal mango sells well in wholesale market



Ripe Panswal mangoes.

IN the wholesale market of seasonal ripe mangoes, Panswal mangoes are selling well.

As ripe Panswal mangoes are big and beautiful, they are suitable for giving as presents and used in decoration, and they are the second best-selling variety of mango after Seintalone.

“Ripe mango sale is good during monsoon season. Among

the different varieties of mangos, we have received many orders for Panswal, and it is the second best-selling mango in the wholesale market after Seintalone. It is big and beautiful so they are perfect for giving as presents and used in shop decoration. Its price is as good as that of Seintalone,” said Ma Khine Moe Thet, owner of a seasonal fruits shop at Thanzay in Lanmadaw Township.

In the retail market, ripe Yinkwe mangoes are the most marketable.

“Yinkwe is the best seller in the retail market, and Seintalone can't compete with it. People enjoy ripe Yinkwe mango more because it is cheap,” she added. — Thit Taw/ZS

Music fans invited to Myanmar Music Day celebration at National Theatre

ACCORDING to U Lwin Myint, the chairperson of the Myanmar Music Association (Central), music enthusiasts are invited to attend the Music Festival for Myanmar Music Day at the National Theatre on 27 June.

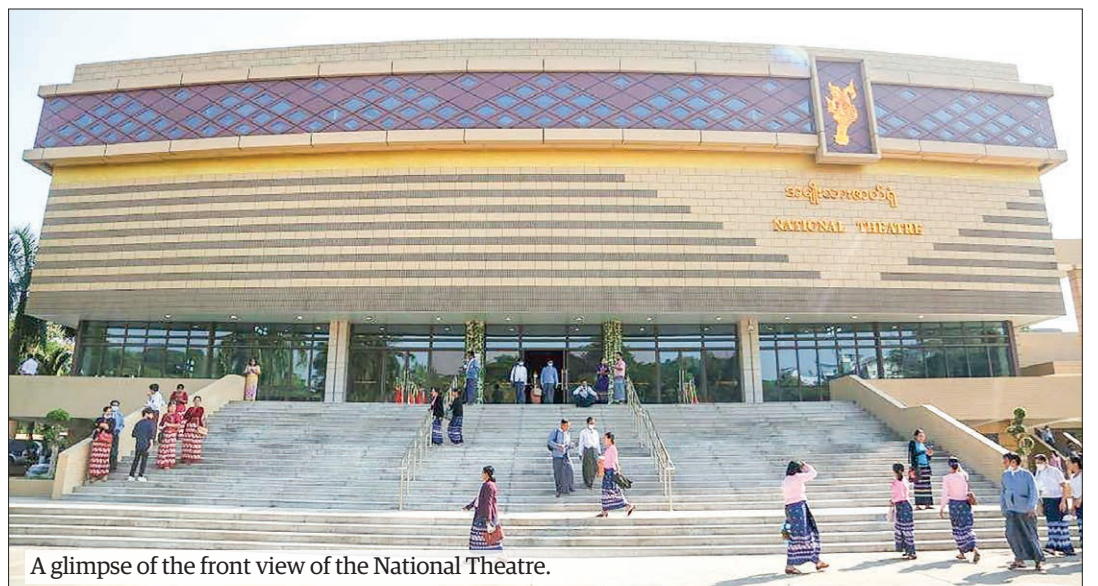
“At 5 pm on 27 June, the grand Myanmar Music Day celebration will be held by the Myanmar Music Association (Central) under the supervi-

sion of the Ministry of Information. Renowned Myanmar studio bands and singers will perform at the event. Music lovers can collect tickets at the National Theatre, the Myanmar Music Association (Central), and Township Music Association Offices starting at 10 am from 24 to 26 June,” said U Lwin Myint.

This commemorative ceremony for Myanmar Music

Day is held annually by the association and is broadcast on Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV).

Additionally, the first Music Academy event will be inaugurated in Nay Pyi Taw in October, where nine categories of music awards, including traditional, studio, modern, and international music, are planned to be awarded. — ASH/TRKM



A glimpse of the front view of the National Theatre.

COVID-19 report, 24 JUNE 2024

NEW TESTS

32,320

NEW CASES

66

CASUALTIES

Nil

NATIONAL

MRF announces affordable rice sale in Yangon Region

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has announced the sale of Shwebo Pawsan, Ayeyawady Pawsan, and Aemahta rice at affordable prices for consumers in Yangon Region.

Starting on 24 June, MRF, in collaboration with rice companies and warehouses of

brotherhood associations, will sell rice at Yangon's Wahdan Rice Warehouse and Bayintnaung Rice Warehouse from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

The sale is intended for public consumption, and each household can purchase one bag of Pawsan rice and one bag

of Aemahta rice per month. To make a purchase, buyers must present a photocopy of the household member list and the citizenship scrutiny card of a member listed in the household.

The announcement specifies that rice will not be sold to retail sellers. — TWA/TKO



Rice bags are well-organized for sale at the super market.

Seasonal food, False Earthstar popular among consumers



False Earthstar recipes.

SEASONAL food and False Earthstar (truffle), one of the most consumed in Myanmar, has been in demand among consumers.

Young false earthstars are produced in the early monsoon season, so the price is reasonable; however, the market will gradually decline when the truffle matures in the mid-monsoon season.

"This is the false Earthstar season. Its taste is pretty good at the young stage. But the taste is not good in Waso and Wagaung (Myanmar lunar months) because they become ripe and not available plentifully. The price is good in its harvest time. Many consumers enjoy it. Like a mushroom, its price drops when it gets ripe," said a false Earthstar seller from North Okkalapa Township in Yangon.

False earthstar is a kind of mushroom that grows beneath fallen In (*Dipterocarpus tuberculatus*) leaves when they are wet in the rain, and Myanmar people enjoy eating it. It requires rinsing thoroughly before it is cooked. It can be cooked in different recipes, either cooking, frying, grilling or salad. It is rich in vitamins. — Thit Taw/ZS



The image showcases some tissue-cultured banana plantations in Kachin State.

Myanmar exports 150,000+ MT of tissue-cultured bananas to China in April-May

ACCORDING to the Agricultural Department (Kachin State), Myanmar exported more than 150,000 tonnes of tissue-cultured bananas in April and May of the 2024-25 financial year through land borders from Kachin State.

Deputy head of Kachin State Agricultural Department U Aung Lwin Oo said, "A total of more than 120,000 tonnes of tissue-cultured bananas were exported in April and over 31,000 tonnes of tissue-cultured bananas in May this financial year through the Kampaiti and Lweje borders. Exports are decreasing at present since this is

the cultivating season. From November to March, productivity is flourishing. Therefore, exporting is mainly carried out in those seasons. Farms in Myitkyina, Waingmaw and Bhamo mostly grow tissue-cultured bananas in Kachin State, in Sagaing Region and borderline townships of Kachin State."

Tissue-cultured bananas produced within Kachin State are exported to China via Lweje and Kampaiti. Over 490,000 tonnes of tissue-cultured bananas were exported to China in the previous FY (2023-24). — ASH/TMT

Farmers in Mandalay Region receive K3.52 bln in agricultural loans

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (Mandalay Region), a total of K3.52 billion in agricultural loans has been provided to farmers in Mandalay Region.

Since 20 May, the bank's

branches have been lending to growers of paddy and other crops in 23 townships. Currently, loans have been given to 5,623 farmers in 99 village-tracts across 17 townships.

Loans are disbursed to farmers every season, with amounts of K150,000 for an acre of paddy and K100,000 for an acre of other crops such as peanuts, green beans, and sesame. — TWA/MKKS



This photo shows farmers working at the farm in Mandalay Region.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Manufacturing exports near US\$1.5B in 2 months

THE exports from the manufacturing sector reached US\$1.49 billion over the past two months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April 2024, indicating a sharp drop of \$195.46 million compared with that of the FY 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The finished industrial goods export declined from \$1.69 billion in the corresponding period last FY 2023-2024.

Myanmar transports manufacturing goods to foreign mar-

kets through two modes of transportation (sea and land border).

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials from CMP garment factories, and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in order to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES com-



File photo shows containers being loaded and unloaded aboard container vessels at the international port of Yangon.

prise agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery

business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality manage-

ment, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/EM

YGN palm oil rate set at K5,400 per viss this week



A vendor meticulously arranges edible oil for sale at the outlet.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market rose slightly to K5,400 per viss this week ending 30 June from K5,370 recorded last week ending 23 June, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

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, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way

too high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre's hotline in late August. The department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the

cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/EM

MoALI to boost soya bean meal production for import substitution

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will endeavour to reduce soybean meal import for animal feed year over year and boost domestic production, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi said.

The soybean meal is utilized for animal feed production as quality vegetable protein. The ministry held a meeting regarding import substitution for the soya bean cake at the No 36 office building in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 June.

He highlighted matters regarding the reduction of soya bean meal import, bolstering domestic production, increase in oil crop plantation, the quality standard for soya bean meal,

yearly output for soya bean meal, cut import volume on soya bean meal, self-sufficiency for feedstuff and future plan to have a competitive market for feedstuff. He urged attendees to participate actively in the discussion.

Representatives from institutions concerned and the private sector also talked about the production of oil crops, including soya bean, oil milling process, quality for oil seed cake and food safety measures, upgrading mills and private financing for the development of oilseed cake, support to extend soya bean plantation and coordination to fulfil the requirements in feedstuff production by oil mills. — NN/KK



The photo shows beans and pulses in the market.

OPINION

Review good results of education conference for future State

THE Second Myanmar Education Conference 2024, themed “To Further Promote Education, to Develop Human Resources,” will take place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw from 25 to 27 June. This three-day event aims to ensure the success of the education sector being implemented for the youth who will eventually take on the responsibilities of the State.

The conference’s objectives include fostering patriotism among youth, producing well-educated individuals, promoting vocational education to support manufacturing, enhancing teachers’ capabilities, improving research and innovation, and strengthening the education system to guarantee quality for the youth.

Reflecting on the previous conference, some initiatives have been completed with accomplishment, while others are ongoing. This year’s conference will involve discussions to review and refine educational outcomes and conditions for future generations. It is crucial to evaluate the work procedures of the previous conference, as implemented by relevant ministries, to maintain and build on past successes through both short- and long-term plans.

Since its establishment, the State Administration Council has been focusing on the enhancement of the nation’s education standards. The government has prioritized creating learning opportunities for all school-age children, implementing the KG+9 educational scheme as a compulsory learning plan, establishing basic education plus industrial, agriculture, and livestock high schools, inaugurating Naypyitaw State Academy, providing administrative allowances and cash assistance, conducting capacity enhancement courses, improving literacy rates, and fostering a reading culture. The outcomes of the 2024 education conference are expected to contribute significantly to the nation’s educational development. The government aims to further advance the country’s education, health, and social sectors beyond their current state. To this end, necessary resources have been allocated for the successful implementation of relevant initiatives. It is essential for each ministry to take responsibility for achieving success in their respective sectors in order to enhance education standards.

Today’s children are the future adults of the nation. Those future adults must be well-qualified and highly capable in their fields. If so, they will be crucial for the prospects of the entire country to serve the nation’s interests effectively and sustain its development. As such, the government and authorities must be ready to pass on a positive legacy to future generations. Moreover, individuals need to create a proper learning environment for new generations. Consequently, Myanmar’s development will be sustained through the efforts of well-educated and skilled individuals.

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Casualties of War

By U A C

DEPENDING on who you asked, the percentage of Myanmar under the control of EAO, rebels and the NNCP terrorists varies. From fake news agency Mizzima 60 per cent to NUG’s half of the country to the central government not acknowledging a number, it is a fact that there are certain states and regions that we cannot travel freely now without the risk of encountering the trio of anti-government forces. Feel free to dispute my statements with facts.

Kayah, Chin, Kachin, and Kayin are mostly inaccessible to the general public now, without the escort of an armed regiment. People would not venture on routes along Sagaing, Magway, Taninthayi, and Rakhine unless it were an absolute imperative. Civil servants have to use air travel to get to major cities of administration in these States to avoid the risks of being kidnapped and killed by these terrorists. Even the outskirts of Mandalay region have been compromised. On our recent trip from the town of Myingyan to the city of Mandalay, we were told there was the possibility of terrorists (PDF) coming up onto the roads and asking for levies and dues. We were also asked if we were civil servants, and they would be advised to turn

back. Even the relatively safe states such as Mon and Bago have seen occasional bombings along the rail tracks and bridges. Two local staff of a Korean Microfinance company were shot dead in May while visiting a ward administrator in Bago Region in an assassination attempt on the administrator himself. Talk about being caught in the wrong place at the wrong time!

There is no doubt that there is now a civil conflict going on within Myanmar. Regardless of how the war is waged (in our case, using terrorist activities), civil war, by definition, is a war between organized groups within the same state (or country). The aim of one side may be to take control of the country or a region, to achieve independence for a region, or to change government policies. With NNCP (NUG, NLD, CRPH, PDF) terrorists gang-ing up EAOs and rebel groups, it would be hard to fathom how we could possibly fulfil even the first of the ASEAN five-point consensus for Myanmar. Mission Impossible, indeed.

Meanwhile, the casualties of war keep on increasing. Hence, this article.

It’s the economy, stupid!
Suffering from COVID-19,

together with the rest of the world, is one thing, but having to grapple with a downturn for four consecutive years is hard to take for a lot of businesses in Myanmar. While the global markets have shrugged off the tensions between America and China, anxiety and attacks in the Middle East, coups in Africa and the Russia-Ukraine war (evidenced by successive monthly record highs in Dow and S&P indices), higher inflation, lower or negative growth, disruption to operations, unstable exchange rates have become a daily dose of bitter pills for businesses here in Myanmar.

It is quite difficult to find an impact from war analogous to what Myanmar is experiencing. Russia is the world’s 11th-largest economy and one of the largest commodity exporters (oil, gas, nickel, aluminium, palladium, potash, etc.). Ukraine is big on wheat, being the world’s fifth-largest exporter. Israel exports lots of tech, and other Middle Eastern countries have black gold in their backyards. Myanmar only has agricultural and CMP exports, which do not necessarily put the country in a position of strength.

Yet, the destruction of infrastructure and sanctions damaged the export supply chains going through the war zones.

Sanctions also may not have much impact on other war-torn countries; they did not prevent BP, Exxon or Shell from continuing to invest in Russia. The West cut off Russia’s access to IT, software and talent. Its banks were cut off from using SWIFT for cross-border fund transfers. These tech-based measures acted as a drag on Russia’s growth over time and annoyed its consumers. But it recovered quickly. The country managed to reduce the number of US dollar-denominated trade transactions. For example, only 33 per cent of transfers between China and Russia are now in US dollars, down from 97 per cent in 2014.

In Myanmar, however, a funding crunch due to banking restrictions, impeding financial flows and net outflows of FDIs have taken a toll on international investors. Famous for being ‘First to leave and last to arrive’, many Japanese firms have abandoned Myanmar. Many technology talents have left the country, mainly to Thailand. Companies in Myanmar, regardless of whether local or foreign-owned, are now deprived of the IT talent

necessary to help them grow in this digital and AI era.

As most economists would concur, the long-term impact of wars happening now in different parts of the world would be an acceleration of the division of the world economy into economic blocs. Right now, Russia, China and the blocs led by them are on one side, while the EU, the US and their allies are on the other. The world is being split into two blocs. Does anyone recall WWII on any similarities prior to the actual military action?

Another impact of sanctions and such divisiveness would be each country or bloc intensifying campaigns of self-sufficiency. Those following Myanmar news would undoubtedly remember many of the Senior General speeches highlighting the need for self-sufficiency and significant import substitutions. Wars, including the civil strife in Myanmar, might not cause the economic crisis today, but they will change how the economy operates for decades to come.

As James Carville (Clinton’s elections strategist) put it, “It’s the economy, stupid!” And it is exactly what is being experienced across the board in Myanmar.

Transparency, or rather, the lack of it

Dalai Lama once said, “Lack of transparency results in distrust and a deep sense of insecurity.” Currently, there is

a serious dearth of information available to assess the economy and its potential correctly. This consequently makes business planning out of the question. “Without proper planning, you are sure to lose the battle,” said Sun Tzu.

Deng Xiaoping once said, during the reform era of China, that “we must seek the truth from facts”. If the facts are invisible or being covered up, how would we ever see the truth? If the government is not positioning itself on truth, how could it possibly come up with strategies for the betterment of the country? The top leaders of the country would somehow end up being in a world of claptrap, oblivious to many upcoming grey rhino incidents in the country.

We are leading the country towards the path of democracy, but still, we are not open to any form of opprobrium. How can this be!

Infrastructure crumbling

Public services are shutting down in most affected areas. Government offices, including schools and hospitals, cannot function without the protection of the armed forces in some states and regions.

Missed mortgage payments from borrowers due to the economic downturn risk triggering another banking crisis. Lack of trust in banks and the banking system continued as an extenu-

ation of the bank run in 2021. The smaller banks are still unwell, yet CBM is not prioritizing getting them merged to make them bigger and stronger. Hence, people continue to place excessive reliance on gold, consequently making the gold prices uncontrollable due to imprudent demand.

Even those infrastructures watched over by security forces were being drop-bombed by NNCP terrorists, disrupting supply chains much needed for economic stability and growth. While Jakarta has just finished building bullet trains, Nay Pyi Taw is still having to defend our antique rail tracks incessantly targeted by terrorists.

Having to focus on non-value-added, non-economic activities, plus business people and residents putting all they have into non-income-generating activities such as gold and foreign currency buying, could eventually slide the country into a debt crisis, with unheard-of exchange rates, gold prices and inflation – A recipe for even more extreme politics, perhaps.

Everyone is becoming a Smuggler

War across border regions and disruption of trade routes, combined with import controls, have resulted in the debilitation of entrenched supply chains and integrated markets across the country. With a limited release of import permits, recent warnings

of further penalties for imports arrived prior to the permit, and bonded warehouses only accepting essential goods for local manufacturing and pharma industries, businesses and companies are having to turn to illegal imports through the border, effectively becoming indirect smugglers. For example, one long-established foreign businessman with around 20 years in Myanmar has to resort to relying on his contacts in Shan State to import much-needed spare parts for ATMs for the banking industry.

With the shortage of imports, business people are having to turn to alternative ventures such as selling Bangkok properties to residents. This itself has taken a toll on the demand for foreign currency, deprecating the Kyat further. Hence, the government justify its action against such resellers of overseas properties. There have been rumours that the owner of a well-known property group and its managers were being called up for their part in promoting the resale of the flats out of the en bloc Bangkok property they had recently purchased.

The government is resorting to barter trade to somehow circumvent the requirement for the complex web of exchanges and rates. We have to wait and see if this strategy will result in successful implementation.

TO BE CONTINUED.

AI goes mainstream as ‘AI PCs’ hit the market

A new line of PCs specially made to run artificial intelligence programmes hit stores on Tuesday as tech companies push towards wider adoption of ChatGPT-style AI.

Microsoft in May announced the new AI-powered personal computers, or “AI PCs”, which will use the company’s software under the Copilot Plus brand.

The idea is to allow users to access AI capabilities on their devices without relying on the cloud, which requires more energy, takes more time, and makes

the AI experience clunkier.

The PCs feature a neural processing unit (NPU) chip that helps deliver crisper photo editing, live transcription, translation, and “Recall” — a capability for the computer to keep track of everything being done on the device.

However, Microsoft removed Recall last minute over privacy concerns and said it would only make it available as a test feature.

For now, the devices built by hardware makers like HP and



John A Microsoft marketing manager, builds a Microsoft Copilot+ display at the Best Buy store on 18 June 2024 in Miami, Florida. The store on 19 June began selling Microsoft’s new line of AI-centric Copilot+ PCs to customers. **PHOTO: AFP**

ASUS run exclusively on a new line of processors called Snapdragon X Elite and Plus, built by the California-based chip giant Qualcomm.

“We are redefining what

These PCs feature a neural processing unit (NPU) chip, aiming to provide enhanced functionalities such as photo editing, live transcription, and translation directly on the device, without needing cloud services.

a laptop actually does for the end user,” Qualcomm’s senior vice-president Durga Malladi told AFP at the Collision tech conference in Toronto.

“We believe this is the re-birth of the PC.”

At the May launch, Microsoft predicted over 50 million AI PCs would be sold in 12 months, given the appetite for ChatGPT’s

powers.

Such a result would give a much needed boost to PC sales, which declined for two years from the halcyon days of the coronavirus pandemic before returning to growth in the first quarter of 2024.

Best Buy, the US retail giant, said it had trained tens of thousands of staff to sell and maintain

the new line of AI PCs.

Some industry experts are more hesitant about their promise, predicting the actual benefit of upgrading to an AI laptop isn’t compelling enough yet and will need more time.

“AI’s evolutionary features aren’t revolutionary enough to disrupt traditional buying patterns,” said analysts from Forrester.

“For most information workers, there aren’t enough game-changing applications for day-to-day work to drive rapid AI PC adoption.”

Microsoft has aggressively pushed out generative AI products since ChatGPT’s release in late 2022, with new AI fea-

tures available across products including Teams, Outlook and Windows. Feeling the pressure, Google quickly followed suit while Apple entered the game earlier this month, announcing its own on-device AI capabilities rolling out to premium iPhones in the coming months and year. The latest MacBooks and iPads already have the capability to run high-performing AI features, but Apple has been slower to highlight those powers.

“I guess we missed the boat to name it an AI PC,” Craig Federighi, Apple’s senior vice-president of Software Engineering, joked recently about the latest generation of MacBook.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Myanmar Parahita group in Malaysia urges nationals to seek hospital treatment



SINCE some Myanmar nationals died of illness while trying to return home, sick persons should seek early treatment at hospitals, said the Lovely Heart Parahita Blood Donor Group (Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia).

A few days ago, a sick Myanmar national died in Kuala Lumpur while trying to return home from Penang via Kuala Lumpur, it said.

“If Myanmar nationals feel sick, they

Lovely Heart Parahita Blood Donor Group (Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia) taking care of a hospitalized patient.

should go to clinics and hospitals early. There is no problem if they don't have documents. They should take care of their health and go to clinics. The number of people who died while preparing to go home is not small. Take care and get treatment from physicians,” the group said, advising them to consult with the group about health matters.

A Myanmar national from Wetlet felt numb in his legs and hands while working at a car workshop in a Malaysian city. When he went to the hospital, he was told to be hospitalized, but as it was not convenient for him, the group helped him return to Myanmar at his family's request, it said. — MT/ZN

CRIME NEWS

Illegal trade crackdown results in 6 arrests with K458.817M goods seizure

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

On 23 June, an on-duty team under the supervision of the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded 2,400 bottles of soybean oil (each containing one litre) valued at K8 million without official documents at a warehouse in Boatchaung Ward in Myeik. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 24 June, the combined

teams captured illegal teak weighing 5.453 tonnes and other illegal timbers weighing 1.688 tonnes worth K3.159 million in Bago, Toungoo and Thayawady districts, and 55 kinds of goods valued at K447.658 million, including 89 cartons of LifePo4-280 Ah batteries without official documents, in Sagaing Township. The action was conducted under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law. Therefore, six arrests (estimated value of K458.817 million) were made on 23 and 24 June, according to the committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal soybean oil in Taninthayi Region.

Stimulant tablets captured in Nawngkhio, Loilem townships



Photos show offenders with seized drugs and vehicles.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force, stimulant tablets were seized in Nawngkhio and Loilem townships.

A combined team comprising members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Soueast car driven by Sai Tun Hla (aka) Tun Hla accompanied by Saw Moe Kyaw Thu in Nawngkhio Township at 3 pm on 21 June and found 500,000 stimulant tablets.

After interrogating Sai Tun Hla and Saw Moe Kyaw Thu, the Anti-Drug Police Force arrested Sai Moe Myint Thu, who was involved in the drug transport, with a Soueast vehicle and MMK 540,000, at 2:30 pm near Khayon village in Kyaikmayaw

Township on 22 June.

Additionally, the police force searched the house of Sai Mya in Loilem Township at 12:30 pm on 23 June and captured 5,000 stimulant tablets

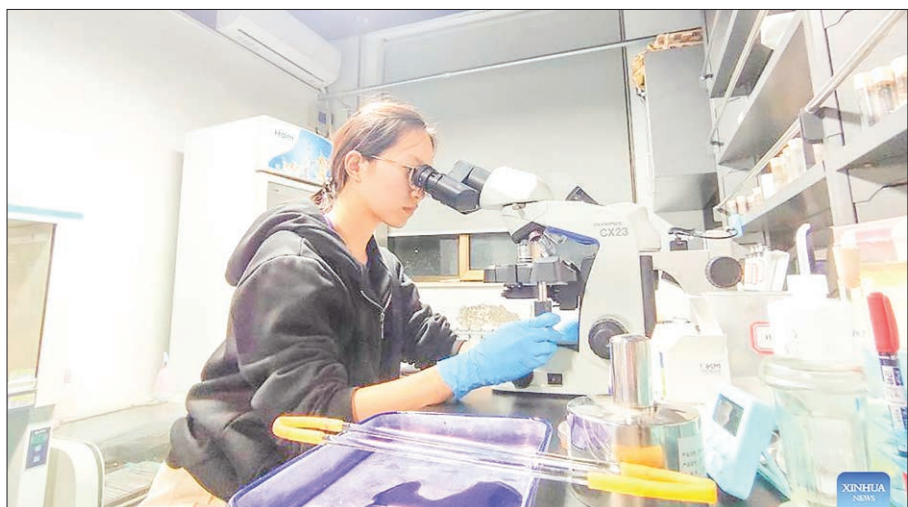
and three kilogrammes of raw opium.

They have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



Sai Mya seen alongside seized stimulant tablets and raw opium.

A Malaysian student's fascination with biological sciences, China



This file photo taken in September 2023 shows Malaysian junior student Tan Pei Wei preparing for an experiment skill contest at Tianjin University in north China's Tianjin. PHOTO: XINHUA

TAN Pei Wei, a Malaysian junior student at Tianjin University, vividly remembers her excitement when she heard the news about China's visa-free entry policy for Malaysians late last year, which has been extended to 31 December 2025.

As the only daughter in her family, she hopes her parents and brothers can visit and see Tianjin University in the port city of Tianjin in north China.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia.

Hailing from Pahang, Malaysia, Tan chose to pursue a degree in biological sciences in China after graduating from high school, driven by her love for life sciences.

"As a child, I often wondered about the origins of life. Biology classes in school answered most of my questions, which sparked my deep interest in biology," she said, adding that the COVID-19 pandemic strengthened her determination to enter the field of biomedical sciences.

In 2021, the news about Sino-Malaysian cooperation in promoting biotechnology for epidemic prevention caught her attention.

"An instructor from the School of Life Sciences at Tianjin University came to our school for recruitment presentations and introduced their research strengths in biological sciences, especially breakthroughs in synthetic biology, which immediately attracted me," she recalled.

Tan was later admitted to Tianjin University with excellent grades, majoring in biological sciences.

She said the major emphasizes bio-design and manufacturing, intersecting with frontier disciplines such as synthetic biology, biochemistry, molecular biology and microbial immunology.

At the beginning of her college life, she found the experimental courses very challenging. "Our major places a strong emphasis on innovative thinking and skills training, so the proportion of lab courses is high."

Faced with pressure, Tan showed great resilience. She dedicated much of her spare time to lab courses, gradually becoming more adept at experimental operations. — Xinhua

Beijing book fair promotes cross-cultural exchanges through literature

THE 30th Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF) concluded on Sunday after a five-day run, attracting 1,600 exhibitors from 71 countries and regions to showcase 220,000 Chinese and international titles.

Over 1,000 cultural events were held, with more than 2,100 copyright trade agreements or statements of intent reached.

Billed as the world's second-largest book fair, the BIBF will broaden the channel for Chinese culture to go global and serve as a bridge for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

Chinese publishing houses spotlighted major titles illustrating the nation's development path, achievements and cultural heritage for international audiences.

"We hope these books can present a multi-dimensional and vibrant image of China to global readers," said Zhao Jianying, president of the China Social Sciences Press.

The fair created platforms for dialogue between Chinese and foreign publishers, writers and translators alike, with forums discussing themes like how to use the medium of written language to promote dialogue and exchanges between different civilizations.

Over 20 countries hosted national exhibition booths.

Saudi Arabia, this year's Guest of Honour, seized the opportunity to promote its ancient yet flourishing culture through colourful exhibits.

A series of activities including book tours, writers' meets and translators' cafes offered diverse avenues for global participants to appreciate the interactions of civilizations. — Xinhua

Vogue World brings together fashion and sport in Paris



Italian jewellery designer Sabine Getty poses during a photocall upon arrival to attend the Spring/Summer 2025 menswear ready to wear joint fashion show hosted by Vogue World as part of Paris Fashion Week at Place Vendome in Paris on 23 June 2024 ahead of the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic Games. PHOTO: AFP

THE bar was set high a month before the Olympic Games as the Vogue World event brought together fashion and sport for an unprecedented crossover show in the heart of Paris.

"We are here to celebrate the wonders of French fashion. I am very grateful for the support of everyone here in France and the fashion world," said the Sunday show's organizer, Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour.

Raising her trademark dark glasses towards the column of Place Vendome, Wintour, dressed in a multi-coloured sequined ensemble, said she was grateful "it wasn't raining" on the square, which had been locked off

for the occasion.

"The challenge was to honour the big houses and dedicate this evening to all the creators," Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo told AFP. In front of the Ritz, the emblematic hotel of the City of Lights where Wintour is a regular, a select list of 800 guests included Pharrell Williams, Jared Leto, Diane Kruger and Eva Longoria.

The show began with Jean Paul Gaultier putting the finishing touches to the dress of singer Aya Nakamura, while an orchestra delivered a classical take on Daft Punk's "Around the World", escorted by a squad of Parisian waiters carrying trays. — AFP

Chinese youth musicians to perform at Carnegie Hall

THE Beijing Youth Orchestra, a new ensemble featuring student musicians, is expected to perform at Carnegie Hall, a prestigious concert venue in the United States, in August.

The orchestra, jointly curated by China's National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) and the Beijing Municipal Education Commission, comprises 131 musicians from the Central Conservatory

of Music and two middle schools in Beijing.

At the invitation of Carnegie Hall, the ensemble, along with six other youth orchestras from across the world, will participate in World Orchestra Week, presenting New York audiences with both Western and Chinese orchestral works, according to an NCPA statement.

The young musicians will also engage

in a series of exchange activities during their stay in the United States, the statement noted.

The year 2024 marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations. The trip by the young musicians represents an effort by the NCPA to promote cultural exchanges between the two countries. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD



A general view shows the business district during the evening rush hour in Jakarta on 5 June 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Indonesian economy to steadily grow over next two years: World Bank

INDONESIA'S economy is expected to steadily grow over the next two years on the back of domestic consumption and investment despite weak exports, a World Bank report said Monday.

Household spending, traditionally a strong contributor to Indonesia's GDP, and election-related spending helped to expand Southeast Asia's largest economy 5.11 per cent in the first quarter of 2024.

And it is expected to expand five per cent overall this year, followed by 5.1 per cent in 2025 and 2026, according to the World Bank's Indonesia Economic Prospects report.

The latest projection was an increase from the Bank's previous estimates of 4.9 per cent this year and next, followed by five per cent in 2026.

"The economy is expected to benefit from a pick-up in public consumption and investment but will face headwinds, notably from worsening terms of trade," the report said.

It noted several risks to the economy, including high interest rates and geopolitical shocks, which could further weigh on exports already impacted by lower prices.

"The outlook is stable, but risks are tilted to the downside," World Bank senior

economist Wael Mansour told a news conference.

"Our baseline (projection) assumes continuity in policy, especially those linked to boosting investment."

The latest projection assumes a large contribution from public consumption — with government spending expected to increase — while foreign direct investment as a share of GDP is projected to return to pre-pandemic levels, Mansour said.

He added that Indonesia's "credible" fiscal rule had helped attract investments and lower Indonesia's risk premiums. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka's inflation drops further to 1.6% in May

SRI Lanka's inflation decreased to 1.6 per cent in May from 2.7 per cent in April according to the national consumer price index, the Department of Census and Statistics said on Monday.

The department said the inflation in the food category dropped from 3.3 per cent to 0.5 per cent during the period, while the inflation in the non-food category had increased from 2.3 per cent to 2.4 per cent.

Sri Lanka's inflation has been easing steadily since September 2022 when the inflation was at 69.8 per cent. The World Bank has projected an overall growth rate of 2.2 per cent for Sri Lanka this year. — Xinhua

Singapore's core inflation holds steady in May while overall CPI rises

SINGAPORE'S core inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), came in 3.1 per cent year-on-year in May, unchanged from April, official data showed Monday.

The increase in services prices was offset by lower energy and retail inflation, according to the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

The core CPI excludes private transport and accommodation costs to better reflect household expenses.

The all-items inflation in Singapore rose to 3.1 per cent year on year in May from 2.7 per cent in April due to higher private transport prices. — Xinhua

Cambodia's insurance industry sees slight growth in first 5 months of 2024

CAMBODIA'S insurance industry recorded a gross premium of 150 million US dollars in the first five months of 2024, up 1.2 per cent from 148.1 million dollars over the same period 2023, an Insurance Regulator of Cambodia (IRC)'s report showed on Monday.

The growth was generated from 18 general insurers, 15 life insurers, seven micro-insurance companies and one reinsurance firm, the report said.

It added that the total amount of claims incurred was 27.9 million dollars during the January-May period this year, up 17 per cent from 23.8 million dollars over the same period 2023. — Xinhua

Markets mixed after weak Wall St lead, eyes on yen

ASIAN and European markets were mixed Monday after last week's poor run as investors look ahead to the release of key US inflation data, while eyes are on Japan as the yen sits around three-decade lows.

A forecast-topping read on the US services sector provided further evidence that the world's top economy remained in rude health and dealt a blow to hopes for interest rate cuts.

A surge in the tech sector has helped push markets to record or multi-year highs, but concerns that the buying has gone too far have set in and profit-taking has weighed on equities in recent weeks. That saw Wall Street end broadly lower Friday, with the better-than-expected read on the US services sector, which is at a more than two-year high, weighing on sentiment.

The next major indicator

will come at the end of this week with the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) index — the Federal Reserve's preferred gauge of inflation — which could play a key role in the bank's plans for monetary policy. Decision-makers have pushed back against speculation they could cut interest rates in September, with some even suggesting they are happy to keep them elevated into the new year. — AFP



People walk out from a subway station in Tokyo's Ginza district on 6 June 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Australian govt to penalize supermarkets for anti-competitive behaviour under crackdown



Shoppers make their way through the central business district on a rainy day in Sydney on 10 May 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

AUSTRALIAN supermarket chains will face large fines for anti-competitive behaviour under new laws.

The federal government on Monday announced it has accepted all the recommendations of a review into the Food

and Grocery Code of Conduct and will impose new obligations on large supermarket chains to treat their suppliers fairly.

Under the new laws, legislation for which was introduced to parliament by Treasurer Jim Chalmers on Monday, the code

of conduct will be made mandatory for chains with annual revenue exceeding five billion Australian dollars (US\$3.3 billion) after being voluntary for a decade.

Supermarkets will be required to deal with their suppliers in good faith and

prevented from penalizing those who complain after the review of the code found that suppliers fear retribution if they raise concerns about a supermarket chain's conduct.

The most severe breaches of the code will be punished with fines worth whichever is greatest out of three times the benefit derived from any misconduct, 10 million AUD (\$6.6 million) or 10 per cent of the chain's turnover in the preceding 12 months.

"This is about getting a fair go for families and a fair go for farmers," Chalmers said in a joint statement with Murray Watt, the minister for Agriculture, and Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury Andrew Leigh on Monday. — Xinhua

MUFG bank, brokerages told to improve operations over info-sharing



File photo taken on 7 June 2024 shows MUFG Bank signage in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S Financial Services Agency ordered a bank and two brokerages under Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc on Monday to improve their operations after they were found to have shared undisclosed information about customer businesses among themselves without permission.

Based on the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act, the agency urges MUFG Bank, Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities Co and Morgan Stanley MUFG Securities Co to prevent a recurrence by strengthening their business and client information management.

The agency also ordered the parent company, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, to check its supervision and submit reports based on the

Banking Act.

Earlier this month, the Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission recommended the Financial Services Agency to take punitive action against the firms after finding MUFG Bank illegally shared information about several customer companies from 2021 to 2023.

The watchdog said it has confirmed a case in which an executive of the bank shared client information with two affiliated brokerages despite being refused permission.

The Financial Instruments and Exchange Act prohibits nonpublic client information be shared among related banks and brokerages without the consent of clients, requiring a "firewall" to be put in place to prevent such acts. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC NAGOYA VOY.NO. (2429N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC NAGOYA VOY.NO. (2429N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-6-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB423A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB423A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-6-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S MEDITERRANEAN COMPANY S.A

Notice for change of distributor

We, **Zibo NAB Agrochemicals Limited**, would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Topagri Myanmar Co., Ltd** to **Gold & Super Co., Ltd**. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration number	New Distributor
1	Topagri Myanmar Co., Ltd	Tetking	Atrazine 20% + Mesotrione 7% + Nicosulfuron 3% OD	Provisional	P2023-5391	Gold & Super Co., Ltd

Gold & Super Co., Ltd. (Address: CORNER OF 43 & 57 ST, YE MON TAUNG WARD, NO.MA-14/1, MAHAR AUNG MYAY TOWNSHIP, MANDALAY REGION, MYANMAR. Ph no .09403723854)

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Heavy rain forces evacuation of thousands, dozens of scenic spots shut in east China city



Vehicles move on a waterlogged road in Shexian County, Huangshan City, east China's Anhui Province, 23 June 2024. Rainstorms hit Huangshan City on Sunday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THOUSANDS of people in an eastern Chinese tourist city have been evacuated and dozens of scenic attractions closed as torrential rain continues to lash parts of this region.

Heavy rain has battered the city of Huangshan, Anhui Province, since 18 June, with the water levels of 99 of its 188 reservoirs recorded at above the danger level as of 5 pm Sunday. The lives of over 400,000 residents had been affected and 54,109 people had been evacuated as of 3 pm Sunday.

By Monday morning, a total of 43 national A-level tourist attractions in Huang-

shan had been temporarily shut due to the extreme weather. Mount Huangshan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its magnificent natural beauty, has been partially closed since 20 June, with the reopening date depending on weather condition.

China's National Meteorological Centre on Sunday morning renewed an orange alert for rainstorms and issued a blue alert for severe convective weather.

According to the meteorological centre, parts of Anhui, Jiangxi, Zhejiang and Guizhou are forecast to experience torrential rain. — Xinhua

News in brief

Death toll rises to 58 in India's tainted liquor tragedy

THE death toll in the consumption of tainted bootleg liquor in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu has risen to 58, officials said Monday.

Over 150 people are still undergoing treatment at different hospitals.

According to officials, bootleg liquor spiked with methanol consumed by the residents last week resulted in their deaths and hospitalization in Kallakurichi town, about 244 km southwest of Chennai, the capital city of Tamil Nadu.

"The death toll in the hooch tragedy in the Kallakurichi has reached 58, with two more people succumbing on Sunday night," a district administration official said.

"So far, 32 people have died at the Government Kallakurichi Medical College and Hospital, 19 at the Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College and Hospital in Salem, four at the Government Villupuram Medical College and Hospital and three at the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (Jipmer) in Puducherry."

The victims following the consumption of liquor had complained of blurred vision, intense abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. — Xinhua

Trump and Biden do battle in first US presidential debate

JOE Biden and Donald Trump square off for a historic US presidential debate this week, with the stage set for what could be a pivotal moment in the 2024 race as millions of potential voters tune in.

The showdown fires the starting gun on what promises to be a bruising summer on the campaign trail, in a deeply polarized and tense United States still convulsed over the chaos and violence that accompanied the 2020 election.

With only two debates this cycle, Thursday's high-stakes clash takes on heightened significance, and both candidates have stepped up their personal attacks, with national polls showing the pair neck and neck. — AFP

A dozen of Chinese nationals confirmed dead in S Korea's battery plant fire

A dozen of Chinese nationals were confirmed dead in South Korea's battery plant fire on Monday, according to the Chinese embassy in South Korea.

The embassy said in a statement that the South Korean side preliminarily confirmed that a dozen of Chinese people unfortunately died from the fire accident and it had yet to confirm the detailed death toll.

After recognizing the accident, the embassy contacted the South Korean police and the fire

authorities to confirm the possible death of Chinese people while immediately launching an emergency operation system.

Chinese Ambassador to South Korea Xing Haiming contacted the governor of Gyeonggi province, in which the fire accident occurred, to call for the rescue and treatment of the Chinese people as much as possible.

According to the Chinese embassy, Xing will visit the site of the fire personally.

A total of 22 people were confirmed dead and eight others injured after the fire broke out at a primary battery plant in Hwaseong, some 45 kilometre south of the capital Seoul, at about 10:31 am local time (0131 GMT).

Kim Jin-young, a local fire station official, said in a televised briefing that rescue workers retrieved the bodies of the 21 missing factory workers who had failed to be reached after the fire outbreak. — Xinhua



This photo shows an aerial view of firefighters working to extinguish a fire at a lithium battery factory in Hwaseong on 24 June 2024. **PHOTO: YONHAP / AFP**

SPORTS

Asian Cup 3rd-round qualifiers to feature 24 teams

A total of 24 teams, including Myanmar, will compete in the 2027 Asian Cup third-round qualifiers, which will be held for one year from March 2025 to March 2026.

The 18 first- and second-placed teams from each group, including Myanmar, will qualify for the 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers and advance to the 2026 World Cup third-round qualifiers.

Among the teams that were eliminated from the first round of qualifying, Bhutan, Laos and the Maldives team are allowed to play directly in the third round qualifiers, while Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Macao, Mongolia, Timor-Leste and Brunei will join the play-off stage.

A total of 24 teams will be allowed to compete in the final stage of the 2027 Asian Cup Championship. Since 18 teams have already emerged, only six teams from the third qualifying round will advance to the next round.

— Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Germany survive Euro 2024 scare as Hungary victory marred by injury drama

FRANKFURT, Germany survived a scare to finish top of Group A at Euro 2024 as Niclas Füllkrug's stoppage-time goal rescued a 1-1 draw against Switzerland on Sunday, while Hungary's Barnabas Varga suffered a sickening injury in a 1-0 win that eliminated Scotland.

Dan Ndoye's first-half goal in Frankfurt had put Switzerland on course to climb above hosts Germany into top spot.

But Füllkrug's late header ensured Julian Nagelsmann's side advanced to the last 16 in pole position with seven points.

"In the end it's a well-deserved point. We did well to come back. We deserved it," Nagelsmann said.

"Niclas is important for us. It's important to have players who can score decisive goals coming on as substitutes."

In Stuttgart, meanwhile, Varga was described as being in a "stable" condition after a second-half collision halted play for eight minutes while the stricken striker was treated by medics.

The 29-year-old was surrounded by worried teammates as red sheets were used to shield him as he lay on the pitch. — AFP

Myanmar faces Brunei in ASEAN U-16 Championship amid slim advancement prospects

THE 2024 ASEAN U-16 Championship will continue today, with Myanmar facing Brunei in Group B.

The second-day match will kick off at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time, followed by Vietnam against Cambodia at 7 pm MST. The tournament comprises three groups, and Myanmar's chances of advancing are slim following an initial defeat. They need to secure a win against Brunei to keep their hopes alive, as only the best second-placed team from each group and the top team will progress to the semi-finals.

On the first day, Myanmar suffered a 1-2 loss to Cambodia, while Vietnam defeated Brunei with a score of 15-0. The ASEAN U-16 competition is hosted in Indonesia, with the group stage concluding on 29 June. — Ko Nyi Lay/TRKM



Myanmar (white jerseys) fights for the ball with Cambodian players during the ASEAN U-16 Championship's first match of group B in Indonesia on 22 June 2024. Myanmar lost 1-2 to Cambodia. PHOTO: MFF



Coco Yoshizawa (C) of Japan poses for a photo after winning the women's street skateboarding final during the Paris Olympic qualifier series in Budapest on 23 June 2024, alongside compatriots Yumeka Oda (L) and Funa Nakayama, who finished second and third, respectively. PHOTO: KYODO

Yoshizawa, 14, into Olympics as Japan's street skateboarders dominate

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Coco Yoshizawa booked her ticket to the Paris Games as she led a Japanese podium sweep in the women's street skateboarding final of the Olympic Qualifier Series in Budapest on Sunday.

With a place at the games on the line, Yoshizawa leapt from fourth to first place by nailing her final trick of the competition in the Hungarian capital. She totalled 270.29 points to edge reigning world champion Yumeka Oda on 268.52, with Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Funa Nakayama scoring 263.62 for third.

Liz Akama, who clinched her Olympic spot in the previous day's semifinal, earned 262.50 for fourth.

Nakayama also secured one of the three Olympic quotas amid

fierce competition between Japanese athletes that saw both Oda and Tokyo Games gold medallist Momiji Nishiya miss out. Japan earlier swept the men's street podium, with Yuto Horigome winning the competition and earning a chance to defend his Tokyo Games gold medal.

Sakura Yosozumi, the reigning Olympic champion in women's park skateboarding, qualified for the Paris Games via her world ranking despite missing out on the final. Olympic quotas were also up for grabs in breaking and sport climbing on Day 4 of the qualifying series in Budapest. Japan swept the women's breaking podium, with winner Ami Yuasa and runner-up Ayumi Fukushima claiming Olympic berths, but third-place Riko Tsuchioka missing out. — Kyodo

USA and Uruguay make winning starts to Copa campaigns

CHRISTIAN Pulisic scored one goal and set up another as the United States launched their Copa America campaign with a clinical 2-0 victory over Bolivia on Sunday.

Also in Group C, Darwin Nunez was on target as 15-time Copa winners Uruguay

beat Panama 3-1 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, offering a reminder of their status among the favourites.

US captain Pulisic curled in a superb early goal before teeing up a second for striker Folarin Balogun just before half-time at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"We came out flying with a lot of intensity," Pulisic said.

"Obviously an early goal helped us a lot, but all around a pretty dominant performance."

US coach Gregg Berhalter had warned his team against complacency against

a Bolivia side who had won only one game in nine previous editions of the Copa America since 1999.

Pulisic was clearly in no mood to let the South Americans improve that record, firing the hosts into the lead after only three minutes. — AFP

Heavy rain forces evacuation of thousands, dozens of scenic spots shut in east China city

PAGE-14



WORLD

US involvement in Sevastopol attack is undeniable — Russian Foreign Ministry

THE Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that US involvement in the missile strike on Sevastopol is beyond doubt, claiming that Washington and its allies have established a neo-Nazi regime in Kiev.

“On 23 June, the Kyiv regime, with the support of the US and their satellites, committed yet another monstrous terrorist crime against the peaceful population of Russia,” the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The ministry stressed that all targeting for ATACMS missiles programmed by US specialists using their own country’s satellite reconnaissance data, while a US RQ-4 Global Hawk reconnaissance drone was operating near Crimea that day.

“Washington and its satellites created and nurtured a neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv, actively fostering and supporting their Ukrainian puppets, leading them in a war against Russia, and inciting them to commit acts of international terrorism and the murder of peaceful Russian citizens, including using one of the most inhumane types of weapons — cluster munitions,” it said. “A response to this crime will surely follow,” the ministry assured.

Ukraine fired five US-supplied long-range ATACMS missiles with cluster warheads at the Crimean port city early on Sunday afternoon. Four missiles were shot down while the fifth exploded over the city, killing at least four people, including two children, and injuring 153 others. — Sputnik

WITH her sleek shoulder-length hair, high heels, figure-hugging outfit and flawless make-up, Xiaoqi stands elegantly in the exhibition hall, ready to answer a myriad of questions.

She is kind, empathetic and knowledgeable. But here’s the twist: Xiaoqi isn’t human.

She is a humanoid robot created by Ex-Robots, a company based in China’s northeastern city of Dalian, as advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics have brought these machines from the pages of novels and the screens of mov-

convergence of AI, high-end manufacturing and new materials — are attracting increasing attention in China, both from investors and the government.

At the expo, various tech companies displayed lifelike robots capable of walking quickly, dancing, and even making coffee.

A crowd gathered to observe a demonstration by UBTECH Robotics Corp Ltd of Walker X, a

Humanoid robots step from science fiction into reality

ies into practical, real-world applications. Xiaoqi has been charming crowds at the 2024 World Intelligence Expo, which runs from Thursday to Sunday in north China’s Tianjin Municipality.

“Currently, we produce 400 to 500 robots per year,” said Qu Yan, who is in charge of media relations at Ex-Robots. “Our company designs more human-like robots, with enhanced facial expressions and the ability to foster an emotional connection with users, so we call them emotional interaction robots.”

At present, used primarily in museums and educational institutions, these robots could have broader application scenarios once their prices become more affordable, Qu said.

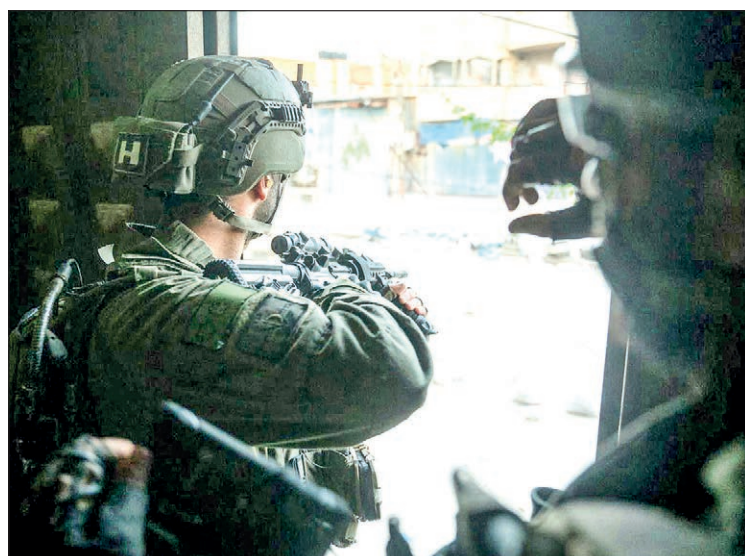
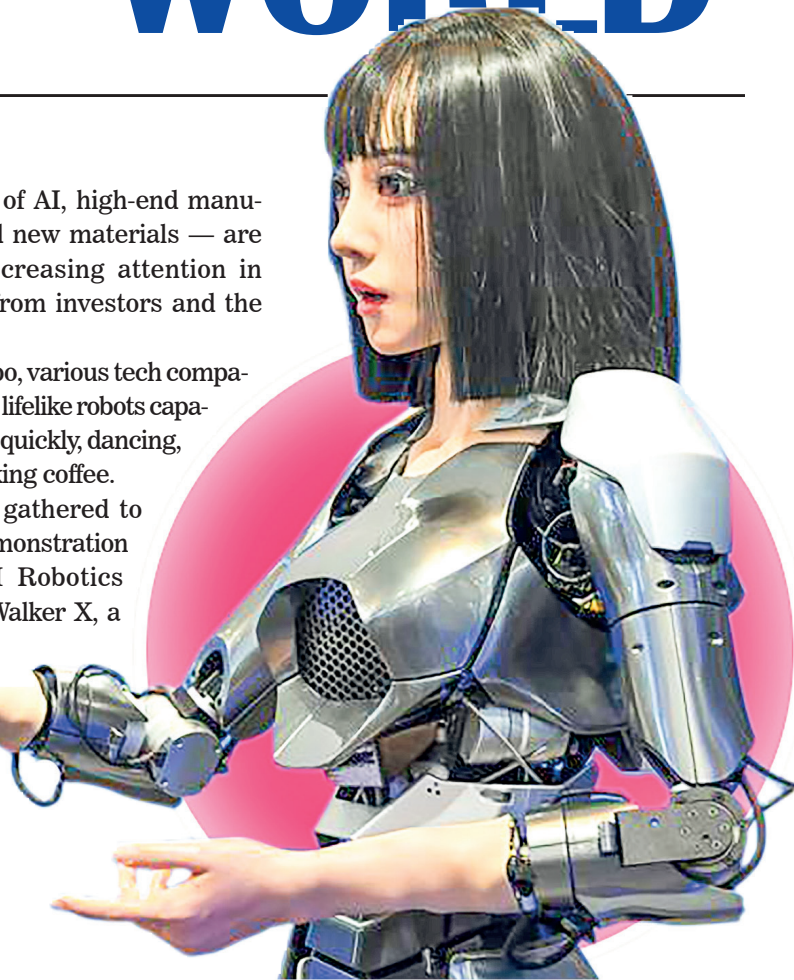
Humanoid robots — a technological

130-centimetre-tall humanoid robot showcasing its abilities to greet people, shake hands, perform Tai Chi and make heart gestures.

“We are dedicated to bringing humanoid robots to households,” UBTECH’s Chief Brand Officer Tan Min told Xinhua. “The demand for humanoid robots could exceed 10 billion units in the future,” said Tan. “Each person could potentially own at least three to five robots for tasks ranging from work and companionship to household chores.”

Goldman Sachs Research estimates that the global market for humanoid robots may reach at least US\$6 billion in 10 to 15 years, potentially expanding to US\$154 billion by 2035 in a blue-sky scenario.

Xiaoqi, a humanoid robot, is pictured at the World Intelligence Expo 2024 in north China’s Tianjin, 21 June 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA



Israel PM says ‘intense’ phase of Gaza war winding down

A day after Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the “intense phase” of the Gaza war is winding down, the army bombed Hamas on Monday as the Palestinian militant group again demanded a permanent end to the fighting.

The right-wing premier spoke in a TV interview Sunday evening as his Defence Minister Yoav Gallant travelled to Washington for what Gallant called “critical” talks with Israel’s top ally and arms supplier.

Netanyahu, in his first Israeli media interview since Hamas’s 7 October attack started the bloodiest ever Gaza war, told Channel 14 that “the intense phase of the fighting against Hamas is about to end”.

He stressed that this “doesn’t mean that the war is about to end, but the war in its intense phase is about to end in Rafah,” the far-southern city near Egypt that is the last part of Gaza to face a full ground invasion.

“The goal is to return the

kidnapped and uproot the Hamas regime in Gaza,” he said, again rejecting the permanent ceasefire demanded by Hamas over recent months of on-and-off talks involving US and other international mediators.

Netanyahu said Israel would then be able to “redeploy some forces to the north” on the border with Lebanon, where Israel has traded fire with the Hezbollah movement, but said this would be “primarily for defensive purposes”. — AFP

This handout picture released by the Israeli army on 23 June 2024 shows Israeli army soldiers operating in the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing conflict in the Palestinian territory between Israel and Hamas. PHOTO: ISRAELI ARMY / AFP