

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the sixth Union government meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar achieves progress in maritime and land border trade from April to June

Officials have to remove any hurdles along the border trade as unacceptable costs along the route to border trade can raise commodity prices.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance, saying that as the cooperative system is the most appropriate for Myanmar, the government will provide capital, technology and other aids for the formation of cooperative societies and the establishment of agriculture and livestock-based industries.

The Union government meeting 6/2024 took place at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Speaking at the meeting, the Senior

General revealed that the government needs to take responsibility for boosting the State economy in addition to education, health, rule of law and transport.

He noted that the country achieved progress in internal and external trade through maritime and land border trade routes from April to June, but illegal trade in border regions can harm the State economy.

He stressed the need for officials to remove any hurdles along the border trade as unacceptable costs along the route to border trade can raise commodity prices.

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Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Union government meeting 6/2024

- Officials have to remove any hurdles along the border trade as unacceptable costs along the route to border trade can raise commodity prices.
- As the cooperative system is the most appropriate for Myanmar, the government will help form cooperative societies and establish agriculture and livestock-based industries.
- Efforts to develop agriculture and livestock breeding tasks can contribute to more manufacturing and running industries as well as enhancement of the service sector so as to increase the GDP of the State.
- It is necessary to give lectures on knowledge about legal affairs to teachers and students, especially KG+11 and KG+12 students.

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Heavy rain floods Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Mawlamyine, and Patheingyi-Hinthada-Kyangin railways

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Thanlyin Oil Refinery to resume operations aiming for EURO 4 standard

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Myanmar ships 1,100+ tonnes of shrimp to external markets in Q1

NATIONAL



Workers are painting the pillars with a lacquer gold coating.

Myanansankyaw Palace pillars under renovation with traditional gold lacquer

ACCORDING to Daw Mu Mu Swe, Assistant Director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay Branch), maintenance work at Mandalay's Myanansankyaw golden Palace is ongoing. Specifically, the pillars of the Myaynanpyathat Building and the Left and Right Reception Halls are under painting with gold lacquer, preserving traditional styles.

Daw Mu Mu Swe stated, "We are renovating and maintaining the pillars of the Myaynanpyathat Building and the Left

and Right Reception Buildings in the Myanansankyaw Palace with gold lacquer painting, instead of ordinary gold paint, as directed by the Head of State during his visit to the palace in May. Experts in Myanmar cultural traditions provide the lacquer gold painting designs."

A total of 108 pillars, previously painted with ordinary gold paint, are renovated with lacquer gold paint. Myanmar traditional handicrafts are applied to the large pillars using tree resin. — ASH/TMT

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

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Tint, U Khin Maung Yi, Daw Khin May Yi and Daw Pyone Pyone Aye was convened Monday morn-

ing at the Supreme Court of the Union and it passed judgements for five special civil appeal cases — Nos 27/2024 (Yangon), 28/2024 (Shan), 32/2024 (Shan), 33/2024 (Shan) and 35/2024 (Yangon).

In addition, one special

criminal appeal case No 5/2024 (Mandalay) and five special civil appeal cases — Nos 6/2024 (Mandalay), 30/2024 (Kachin), 37/2024 (Yangon), 39/2024 (Bago) and 40/2024 (Mandalay) were heard. — MNA

Myanmar film 'Kan Kaung' wins multiple awards at SEA International Film Festival 2024

THE Myanmar film 'Kan Kaung' (Lucky) won the Best Producer Award, Best Director Award, and Best Actor Award at the SEA International Film Festival 2024, according to Academy



This image showcases a poster of the 'Kan Kaung' film showing in Thailand.

Award-winning director Win Lwin Htet, who created the movie. Based on a story by Kyel Su Thit, the film was scripted by Moe Ni Lwin and directed by Win Lwin Htet for Khatthiya Production. The movie stars Paing Takhon, Academy Thu Htoo San, Academy Khin Zarchi Kyaw, and Nay Htut.

"We're very happy that the film we created won the big awards at SEA IFF, and I'm very proud of our Lucky Team. The movie was shown at 35 theatres in Bangkok for one week, and it is currently being shown at nine theatres for another week," said director Win Lwin Htet.

The film not only portrays the peaceful coexistence between humans and animals but also showcases Myanmar's cultural beauty and natural landscapes exceptionally. It will be screened not only in Thailand but also in Cambodia.

'Kan Kaung' also received awards for the Best Film, Best Cinematography, and Best Movie Music at the 2023 Myanmar Film Academy Award event. — ASH/TRKM

COVID-19 report, 29 JULY 2024

NEW TESTS

31,712

NEW CASES

20

CASUALTIES

NIL

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 29 July 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to Vigorous over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 30 July 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Taninthayi Regions and Mon State and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin States. Degree

of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, (Northren and Southern) Shan, Chin States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-11 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: In-

crease of rain in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 July 2024: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 July 2024: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 July 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

NATIONAL

Myanmar achieves progress in maritime and land border trade from April to June

FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General underscored that efforts to develop agriculture and livestock breeding tasks can contribute to more manufacturing and running industries as well as enhancement of the service sector so as to increase the GDP of the State.

He spotted that it is necessary to turn out educated citizens to operate agriculture and livestock tasks systematically. As the country needs a large number of experts, the government emphasizes turning out educated human resources, he added.

The Senior General un-

derlined that if foodstuffs and consumer goods can be manufactured at home, import volume can be reduced. So, it is necessary to encourage the development of MSME businesses, he noted.

He emphasized that the Mandalay, Magway, and Sagaing regions have to strive to run cotton-based industries to create jobs for residents.

The Senior General said that 70 per cent of basic education schools have reopened this academic year, with 92 per cent attendance of students.

In his guidance, the Senior General pointed out that it is necessary to take secu-

rity measures for teachers to serve academic measures. As the government creates deserved opportunities for education staff, teachers have to dutifully serve their assigned tasks in teaching children to have education and knowledge, he added.

This year, he disclosed that hospitals will be upgraded with provisions of hospital equipment with the allocation of the funds from the special fund this year.

He gave guidance that it is necessary to give lectures on knowledge about legal affairs to teachers and students, especially KG+11 and KG+12

students, as an initiative contributing to declining of crimes.

The Senior General highlighted that the Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions to be held in coming October and the National Sports Festival to be organized in December must be platforms for participants to show off their competitive qualifications, urging participants from ministries, regions and states to take part in both competitions in a fair manner.

According to the current conditions, he noted that as the cooperative system is the most appropriate for Myanmar, the government will provide

capital, technology, and other aid for the formation of cooperative societies and the establishment of agriculture and livestock-based industries.

He called for the turning out of professionals in medical education, technology, computer science, economic and legal affairs from relevant schools and universities.

Union ministers reported on their respective sectors.

The meeting was also attended by union ministers and officials together with the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and region and state chief ministers through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) attends 97th Anniversary of People's Liberation Army of China in Yangon

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

member of the State Administration Council, along with his wife, attended the ceremony

marking the 97th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Liberation Army of China held



Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Maung Maung Aye shakes hands with Chinese Military Attaché to Myanmar Senior Colonel Zheng Zijie at yesterday reception.



The group documentary picture for the 97th Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army held yesterday in Yangon.

at Novotel Max Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

Chargé d'affaires ai of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, Ms Cao Jing, Chinese Military Attaché to Myanmar, Senior Colonel Zheng Zijie, and other officials welcomed General Maung Maung Aye and his party.

The ceremony commenced with the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China. Senior Colonel Zheng Zijie delivered a greeting speech.

Following this, General Maung Maung Aye, his wife, the Chargé d'affaires ai of the

Chinese Embassy, and the Chinese Military Attaché cut the celebratory cake together.

The Chargé d'affaires ai of the Chinese Embassy and the Chinese Military Attaché then hosted dinner in honour of the attendees and guests.

Among those present were senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, the Yangon Command commander, members of the Yangon Region government, ambassadors, chargés d'affaires ai from various embassies in Yangon, military attachés, and other invitees. — MNA/TMT

NATIONAL

5th National Sports Festival 2024 to feature four para-sports

THE Working Committee on Organizing the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 held its second coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who is also Chairman of the Working Committee on Organizing the Opening and Closing Events, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, in his capacity as Chairman of Working Committee on Organizing the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024, other relevant officials of subcommittees.

Speaking at the event, the Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister said there would be six



The second coordination meeting of the Working Committee on Organizing the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

types of sports at the ministry level and 23 kinds of sports at state and regional levels according to the final decision. There might be 6,678 people, including managers/coaches and athletes.

Moreover, the festival will include four para-sports. He also urged the subcommittees to present the estimated budget inventory.

The Union Information Minister also said the opening and closing events would be organized on a grand scale depending on the allocated budget. The preparations needed for opening and closing events will also be conducted at the national level and will attract people's interest.

He then called for collaborative efforts based on national spirit.

Attendees coordinated the discussion, and Union Minister U Min Thein Zan concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

ME in Singapore announces passport extension list on 29 July-2 August

AMONG those who have difficulty seeking online appointments and whose passport validity or residence permit remains below six months, the embassy has announced a list of eligible for extension from 29 July to 2 August: 25 persons on 29 July, 24 persons on 30 July, 23 persons on 31 July, 23 persons on 1 August and 24 persons on 2 August.

Applicants will need to arrive by 10 am, and an original or copy of their passport and CSC (citizenship scrutiny card) is required. Along with a photo, documents are needed to fill complete and come to do in compliance with specified schedule and when the scheduled date is over, applicant will need to apply again, it said.

Fake documents or making submissions through agents won't be considered for an extension, and the embassy warned that any private ser-

vice company or agent are not permitted to provide this service and make a waiting list for submitting documents to the embassy's WhatsApp.

For submissions to the embassy's WhatsApp, about two submissions can be made per day, but the embassy reminds individuals that no more submissions will be made in the next few days. If not, you will be moved behind the waiting list. Applicants should wait and see whether they are included in the list that will be announced on the embassy's website in a week.

Myanmar nationals in Singapore aged 65 years and above are not required to seek reservation on the embassy's website or WhatsApp. Still, the embassy will provide them with a passport extension service as a privilege, and they can come in person in the morning. — MT/ZS

Medical entrepreneurs body directly sell medicines to public



Direct medication sale in progress in Yangon. PHOTO: KANU

THE pharmaceutical companies organized medicine sales at three designated sites in Yangon and Bago regions under the guidance and leadership of the Ministry of Commerce, Yangon Region Government and the Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association.

The first medicine sales centre was in Pabedan Town-

ship, and the sales were launched by 70 companies starting from 17 July to date. The second centre was at Nawade Cinema, where the sales started yesterday and until 3 August, from 9 am to 4 pm. Some companies made diabetes and hypertension checks for free. Moreover, the third centre was on the top floor of Ottha Thiri Market in Bago,

and the sales started yesterday.

"The purpose of selling medicines directly to the public is to make it easier and faster to search for medicines and sell them in a single place. Depending on the demand, we will expand the medicine sale centre, and we will display in regions and states as necessary," said U Zeyar Phyo, central executive committee member of Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association.

The association instructed the pharmaceutical companies to sell all their stored medicines to the public. The people can buy the medication at the centres during office hours if a medicine shortage problem occurs. The companies sell about 1,000 types of medicines, and they can enquire about rare medicines from the association. — MNA/KTZH



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NATIONAL

Heavy rain floods Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Mawlamyine, and Pathein-Hinthada-Kyangin railways

DURING the current rainy season, heavy rainfall has been affecting Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, and Mon State since 27 July. Consequently, flooding has occurred on the railways between Bago Station and Phayagyi Station on the Yangon-Mandalay line, as well as between Bago Station and Kali Station on the Bago-Mawlamyine line. Flooding has also impacted some areas in Kyaunggon, Kangyidaunt and Yekyi townships along the Pathein-Hinthada-Kyangin railway section.

Due to water levels exceeding nine inches above the surface of the railroads and bridges, Myanma Railways had to arrange alternative trans-



Flood in Bago Station's courtyard on the Yangon-Mandalay railways.

116 passengers from the No 12 Down train were moved from Penwegon to Phayagyi by the RBE train and then to Yangon by two vehicles. Additionally, 463 passengers from the 82 Down train travelling from Mawlamyine were transferred from Kali to Bago by the RBE train and then to Yangon by a special train.

On the morning of 29 July, train services on the Yangon-Mandalay and Yangon-Mawlamyine routes were temporarily suspended due to the flooding. Services along the Pathein-Hinthada-Kyangin railway section in Ayeyawady Region have also been temporarily halted since 27 July. — MNA/TKO

portation for passengers. On 28 July, 106 passengers from

a special train travelling from Bago to Penwegon Station were

transferred to Mandalay via the No 12 Down train. Similarly,



Flood in the Pathein-Hinthada-Kyangin railroad between Mezaligon and Htoogyi stations.



Flood between Bago and Phayagyi stations on the Yangon-Mandalay rail tracks.



Flood in the Bago-Kali rail section.

Myanmar repatriates one citizen from Saudi Arabia

THE government has been making efforts to repatriate Myanmar nationals who are encountering difficulties abroad by coordinating with the Myanmar Consulate-General and relevant embassies to ensure their safe return to Myanmar.

The Myanmar Embassy in Saudi Arabia communicated with the authorities of Riyadh to repatriate one Myanmar female citizen, Ma Thuzar Moe, who faced hardships in Riyadh, by flight on 28 July, and she arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening.

Ma Thuzar Moe was sent by employment agents to Dubai for job prospects in September 2023, and she lived at the agent's office for 20 days. She

worked at a house in Riyadh at Saudi riyal K1,200 per month for six months. Although she sent her salary to her family, the agency did not transfer it.

She ran away from her work site three times because of poor relations with her employer. She fell from the window of the third floor while she was trying to

escape from that house in June 2024. Her employer sent her to the Myanmar Embassy.

The embassy provided her with medical assistance and accommodation. After the negotiation with the relevant Saudi Arabia authority, she obtained her exit permit and arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening.

The victim said, "I live in Thaphanpin village in Pakokku Township. I arrived in Singapore, then Dubai and Riyadh for job prospects. I have to babysit three children in Riyadh and do housework. I am exhausted and feel sleep deprivation. My family does not receive any of my salary; they only get a salary of four months, although I worked there for six and a half

months. I cannot stand tiredness anymore, and I have not received my full salary.

"Therefore, I told my employer that I wanted to return to my country, but I failed. I got an injury at my waist, and the employer sent me to the Myanmar Embassy. I thank the ambassador, minister-counsellor and staff who took care of me. I don't want others to face such difficulties in other countries just like me, as others deceived me for a well-paid job. I want to urge all to decide carefully. I would like to thank the Myanmar Embassy and relevant officials for giving a hand to its national who is encountering challenges." — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



Ma Thuzar Moe.

NATIONAL

Thanlyin Oil Refinery to resume operations aiming for EURO 4 standard

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Energy (MoE), the No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin) will resume operations

and aim to achieve at least EURO 4 Standard quality.

On 27 July, the Union Energy

Minister disclosed that the No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin) would restart as soon as possible to produce and distribute fuel to meet domestic demand.

A site survey, factory design, installation of necessary equipment, and construction work must be completed in line with prescribed standards to resume oil production. The Union minister emphasized that proper preparations and employee training are essential for smooth production once the factory reopens.

Additionally, measures must be taken to minimize any environmental and socioeconomic impacts resulting from the refinery's operation. Necessary courses and seminars should be organized to ensure that current factory employees are proficient not only in manufacturing but also in statistics and management. — TWA/TKO



No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin).

EPS-TOPIK manufacturing, construction job applications extended

FOR those who employers haven't selected after passing the 2023 Korean language test (EPS-TOPIK) for manufacturing (second batch) and construction sectors, the department will issue and accept extended applications, according to the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), the Department of Labour.

Therefore, candidates should check their ID/Password via mobile phones, and only those whose applications expire on or before 30 September 2024 need to submit job applications, while an extension schedule for the rest with later expiry dates will be further announced, it said.

Only those not selected by employers will have to apply. Job application forms will be issued on 12-13 August, and the forms will be accepted back on 14-15 August.

The applicants must collect the form in person by presenting their passports and examination slips. Photos in the test application, passport and job application form must be the same. Medical check-ups must be done only at designated clinics, and only those who pass the check-ups must submit a job application form.

Documents to be attached to the job



This photo shows Myanmar workers who were sent under EPS to the Republic of Korea in 2023.

application are original passport and its colour copy, three passport sized photos (white background, good quality, 3.5 cm x 4.5 cm), original medical check-up, copy of citizenship scrutiny card, own bank account opened in a public/private bank under the same name as stated in the passport, copy of household register, copy of education qualification, and whether or not you have been to Korea and, if yes, job type and sector in the

Republic of Korea, and complete date of re-entry into Myanmar.

The information, contact phone numbers, and certificates to be filled in or attached to the job application must be accurate, and if any of them are incorrect, it is the responsibility of the applicant, and there is no guarantee that everyone who submits a job application will be able to work in the Republic of Korea, the department said. — MT/ZN



A new postage stamp in peacock pansy (K200).

New peacock pansy stamp debuts on 31 July

A new postage stamp (K200) in peacock pansy will be introduced on 31 July at post offices in all regions and states at the same time, including Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office.

As a tribute to a butterfly species recorded in Myanmar by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Myanmar Post under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will sell the new stamp on 31 July in all regions and states from 9:30 am.

As a special programme, the date logo will be printed on postage stamps, and first-day covers will be bought at Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office, and Mandalay Post Office on launch day, 31 July.

Stamps are already distributed to region or state post offices. To buy first-day cover, contact can be made to U Nyi Nyi Lwin, an officer in charge of Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, 09 450000226, U Khin Maung Oo, an officer in charge of Yangon Post Office, 09 5300001 and U Tin Maung Myint, and officer in charge of Mandalay Post Office, 09 424000515. — MT/ZS

Daily newspapers available online

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8th Edition of Indusfood 2025 welcomes Myanmar delegates

THE Eighth Edition of Indusfood 2025, which will take place on 8-10 January 2025 at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, India, welcomes participation of Myanmar business delegates engaged in the beverage and food sector, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

This exhibition will provide a marketplace for food and beverage products in Asia, and over 20 types of food and beverage groups will be showcased.

Approximately 7,000 domestic and foreign retailers, wholesalers, and importers who have been preliminarily selected to join are expected to participate.

This exhibition will connect buyers and sellers in Asia's beverage and food sector. The participants will cost US\$380 with 18 per cent tax per square meter of raw space.

The joint director of the Trade Promotion Council of

India (TPCI) and Myanmar's Economic Attache have already set the prices for exhibition booths, and there will be no more discounts. There will be a discussion to cover accommodation and travel costs for Myanmar businesspersons who will showcase their products, excluding air tickets. Some Myanmar buyers will be selected to be provided accommodation and air tickets.

Some start-ups will also be provided accommodation upon recommendation of the Myanmar embassy. There are plans for a study tour to Indusfood Manufacturing 2025 that will be held on 9 to 11 January 2025 in New Delhi.

Those interested can submit the list of participants to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through event.td.myantrade@gmail.com and contact number 067 408622. — NN/KK



Myanmar ships 1,100+ tonnes of shrimp to external markets in Q1

THE Fisheries Department stated that Myanmar conveyed 1,176.283 tonnes of shrimp to international trading partners in the first quarter of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, with an estimated capital of \$4.195 million.

Myanmar's seaborne shrimp export reached 1,124.148 tonnes worth \$3.938 million, and the border saw exports of 52.135 tonnes worth \$0.257 million in Q1 (April-June).

Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 international

countries, including Japan, Bangladesh, China and Thailand, through maritime and border trade channels.

Myanmar delivered fisheries worth \$143.244 million to external markets in Q1 this FY. — NN/KK

YGN palm oil wholesale rate rises slightly to K5,485 per viss



Cooking oil is arranged for sales in the market.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market rose slightly to K5,485 per viss this week ending 4 August from K5,460 recorded last week ending 28 July, 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 hotline in late August. The department urges 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/KK

Peanut oil market fair at UMFCCI on 3-4 August

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association (MEOMA), the local peanut oil market fair will be held at the UMFCCI in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region, on 3 and 4 August. The event is organized to commemorate the 5th Annual General Meeting of MEOMA, with the participation of oil mill owners from Mandalay, Yangon, Magway, Sagaing, and Bago Regions.

"The selling price will be K17,000 per viss, including packing cost," said an official from MEOMA. Local oil millers such as Ah May Htwar, Win Win, Du Win, and Shwe Taung will participate in the event.

Currently, in the external market, the price of peanut oil without packing is K19,000 per



This picture captures an advertisement for the peanut oil market fair.

viss. Peanut oil from famous brands will be sold at over K20,000 per viss. — ASH/MKKS

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OPINION

Forge spreading peace and unity in friendship relations

GOOD friendships benefit individuals and enhance a country's standing. Friends offer unwavering support and empathy, especially in tough times, making them inseparable partners. Myanmar, aiming to strengthen its international relations, adheres to four cardinal virtues and demonstrates its commitment through acts of goodwill. Historically, Myanmar has aided other nations by donating food during natural disasters and other crises without interfering in their internal affairs.

Myanmar's goal is to build genuine and friendly relations with countries worldwide. It welcomes connections with nations that understand its nature and show genuine consideration, recognizing them as true friends. Despite geographical distances, some countries maintain close ties with Myanmar, showcasing the strength of their friendly relations.

The International Day of Friendship, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2011, highlights the importance of friendship among peoples, countries, cultures, and individuals. This day aims to inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

Myanmar's approach to international relations, rooted in genuine friendship and the four cardinal virtues, serves as a model for promoting peace and unity. As the world celebrates the International Day of Friendship, Myanmar's efforts to build bridges between communities and foster mutual understanding highlight the importance of empathy and goodwill in creating a harmonious global society. Through these efforts, Myanmar hopes to inspire other nations to join in spreading peace and unity through friendship.

future. The nation's history of supporting others in times of need and its commitment to non-interference set a strong foundation for continued positive relationships with the global community.

Myanmar's approach to international relations, rooted in genuine friendship and the four cardinal virtues, serves as a model for promoting peace and unity. As the world celebrates the International Day of Friendship, Myanmar's efforts to build bridges between communities and foster mutual understanding highlight the importance of empathy and goodwill in creating a harmonious global society. Through these efforts, Myanmar hopes to inspire other nations to join in spreading peace and unity through friendship.

The significant day will initiate its theme: "Spreading peace and unity" which will emphasize the role of friendship in bridging cultural divides and promoting harmony between different groups. Friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

Compulsory Second Language Acquisition And Broadening Horizons

By Min Zan

IN our interconnected world, foreign languages play a crucial role. These languages – ones that aren't our native tongues – open doors to better communication, understanding, and global friendships. Here, let's explore why making foreign language education mandatory is essential.

Making Friends

Learning a foreign language allows us to connect with people worldwide. Imagine having friends from different cultures, sharing stories, and understanding their perspectives. When we travel abroad, knowing the local language makes our experience richer. It's like having a secret key to unlock new places and connect with locals.

Knowledge Expansion

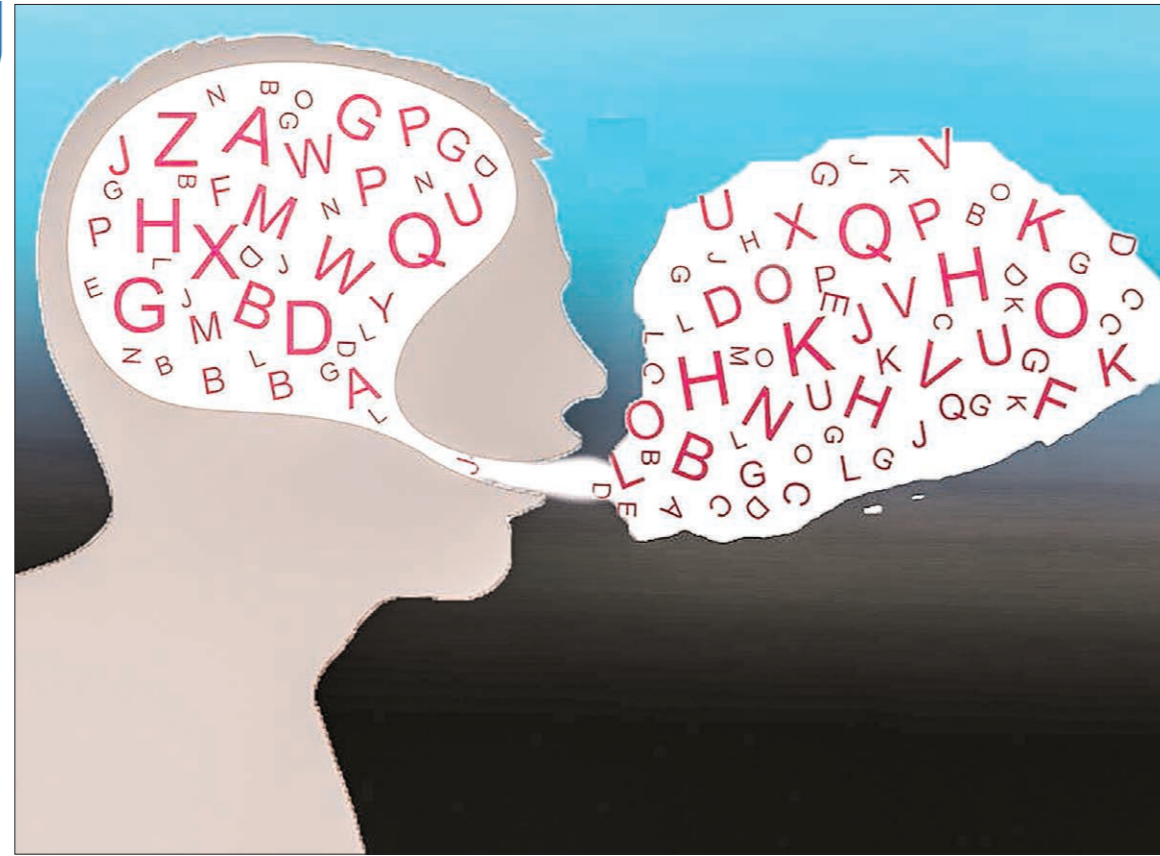
Education benefits significantly from foreign languages. Some students dream of studying abroad to broaden their horizons. Knowing another language opens up scholarship opportunities and enriches their academic journey. Don't worry about expensive language classes. In today's digital age, online resources make learning accessible and affordable.

Politics and Mutual Understanding

National leaders and politicians benefit from language skills. Effective communication with other countries is vital for diplomacy and cooperation. Mutual understanding – built through shared languages – can lead to a more harmonious world.

Economics and Business

In business, foreign languages are invaluable. When companies collaborate internationally, language bridges gaps. Think of it as a currency for successful global trade. Even in developing countries like Myanmar, businesses thrive by connecting with partners worldwide. In the words of Nelson



Therefore, it is important for individuals to actively seek opportunities to broaden their horizons and to encourage one's new generation to have compulsory second language acquisition.

Mandela, "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, it goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, it goes to his heart." So, everyone should embrace foreign languages and connect with the world – from the head to the heart!

Learning a second language is a valuable skill in today's globalized world. Many countries around the globe have already recognized this and made learning a second language mandatory in schools. This essay will discuss the various benefits of compulsory second language acquisition, focusing on cognitive, cultural, economic advantages and so on.

Cognitive Benefits

One of the most significant benefits of learning a second language is its impact on the brain. Studies have shown that bilingual individuals often have better cognitive abilities than monolingual individuals. Learning a new language improves memory, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking. It also enhances multitasking abilities, as the brain learns to switch

between different languages and processes. This mental workout helps keep the brain healthy and can even delay the onset of age-related cognitive decline, such as Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Cultural Benefits

Learning a second language also opens the door to understanding and appreciating different cultures. Language is deeply connected to culture, and by learning a new language, students gain insights into the customs, traditions, and values of other countries. This cultural awareness fosters tolerance and empathy as students learn to appreciate diversity and understand perspectives different from their own. Additionally, exposure to different cultures through language learning can inspire curiosity and a lifelong interest in exploring the world.

Economic Benefits

In the global economy, being proficient in more than one language can significantly enhance job prospects. Employers often prefer candidates who can communicate in multiple languages, as this skill is valuable in international business, tourism, and many other fields. Bilingual employees can help companies expand their markets, communicate with foreign clients, and navigate cultural nuances in business transactions. As a result, individuals who know more than one language often have better job opportunities and higher earning potential.

Compulsory second language acquisition can also lead to improved performance in other academic areas. Research has shown that students who study a second language often perform better in subjects like math, science, and their native language. Learning a new language requires discipline, practice, and attention to detail, skills that are transferable to other areas of study. Furthermore, bilingual students tend to have better reading and writing skills, which can benefit them throughout their education.

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In addition, making second language acquisition compulsory in schools offers numerous benefits. It enhances cognitive abilities, promotes cultural understanding, improves job prospects, strengthens social skills, and boosts academic performance. In today's interconnected world, the ability to communicate in more than one language is not just an advantage but a necessity. Therefore, implementing mandatory second language education can equip students with essential skills for their future and contribute to a more inclusive and understanding society.

Broadening Horizons

In today's fast-paced and interconnected world, broadening one's horizons is more important than ever. This concept means expanding one's knowledge, experiences, and perspectives beyond the familiar and the comfortable. By doing so, individuals can achieve personal growth, gain a deeper understanding of the world, and contribute more effectively to their communities. Let's discuss again the various ways in which broadening horizons can be achieved and the benefits it brings.

Travelling

One of the most effective ways to broaden one's horizons is through travel. Visiting new places exposes individuals to different cultures, languages, and ways of life. It allows them to see the world from various perspectives and appreciate the diversity that exists. Travel can challenge one's preconceptions

and stereotypes, leading to a more open-minded and tolerant outlook. Moreover, experiencing new environments and meeting new people can be incredibly enriching and can inspire new ideas and ways of thinking.

Learning

Another key method of broadening horizons is through learning. This can be formal education, such as taking courses in a new subject or language, or informal learning, such as reading books, attending workshops, or watching documentaries. Learning new skills and acquiring new knowledge can open up new opportunities and pathways in life. It encourages curiosity and critical thinking, helping individuals to understand the complexities of the world and to make informed decisions.

Engaging with Different Cultures

Engaging with different cultures is another powerful way to broaden one's horizons. This can be done by attending cultural festivals, trying new cuisines, or participating in cultural exchange programmes. By immersing oneself in different cultural practices and traditions, individuals can gain a deeper appreciation of the richness and diversity of human experiences. This cultural engagement fosters empathy and understanding, breaking down barriers and building bridges between people from different backgrounds.

Expanding Social Circles

Expanding one's social circles is also an important aspect of broadening horizons. Building relationships with people from different walks of life, with different experiences and viewpoints, can provide fresh perspectives and insights. These diverse connections can challenge one's thinking, encourage personal growth, and create a more inclusive and supportive community. Networking with a wide range of people can also open up new opportunities for collaboration, learning, and mutual support.

Embracing New Experiences

Embracing new experiences is crucial for broadening horizons. This can involve stepping out of one's comfort zone and trying activities or hobbies that are unfamiliar. Whether it's learning to play a musical instrument, taking up a new sport, or volunteering for a community project, new experiences can be transformative. They can build confidence, resilience, and adaptability, as well as uncover hidden talents and passions.

The benefits of broadening horizons are numerous. On a personal level, it leads to greater self-awareness, personal growth, and a more fulfilling life. It enhances creativity and problem-solving abilities as individuals are exposed to different ways of thinking and doing things. On a societal level, it promotes understanding, tolerance, and collaboration, which are essential for building harmonious and thriving communities. In the workplace, individuals with broad horizons are often more innovative, adaptable, and capable of working effectively in diverse teams.

In brief, broadening horizons is essential for personal and societal growth. However, it is fundamentally based on compulsory second language acquisition. Therefore, through travel, learning, cultural engagement, expanding social circles, and embracing new experiences, individuals can expand their perspectives and enrich their lives. The benefits are far-reaching, leading to greater understanding, empathy, and creativity. In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability to see beyond one's immediate surroundings and to appreciate the diversity of human experiences is more valuable than ever. Therefore, it is important for individuals to actively seek opportunities to broaden their horizons and to encourage one's new generation to have compulsory second language acquisition.

Study reveals sun's influence may penetrate deep into earth

Solar radiation affects Earth's deep interior by creating temperature gradients that influence marine life distribution.

SOLAR radiation may have an impact on Earth's deep interior, according to a collaborative study by researchers from China and Romania.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, was conducted by the researchers from the Institute of Geology and Geophysics (IGG) at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China University of Geosciences, and the University of Bucharest.

According to the researchers, solar radiation varies with latitude, creating temperature gradients on the sea surface that influence the distribution of marine life. These organisms, rich in carbon, are transported into Earth's interior through the subduction of oceanic plates. This process significantly affects the redox state of arc magma.

The researchers analyzed data from thousands of magma samples, including those from deep within the earth and the sea, collected by geologists worldwide. They examined tiny melt inclusions within olivine minerals and bulk rock data to determine the redox state of arc magma.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Solar radiation varies with latitude, creating temperature gradients on the sea surface that influence the distribution of marine life. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: PEKELS

NATIONAL

Tornado destroys 70+ homes in Kungyangon; Aid efforts underway

A tornado hit Kanyingon village and Nyaungnigon village in Yangon Region's Kungyangon Township on the early morning of 26 July and left more than 70 houses destroyed. Government departments and social relief associations have jointly provided help to affected people.

Two fire engines from Kungyangon Township Fire Station and one fire engine from Kawhmu Township Fire Station, along with firefighters, carried out search and rescue works and clearing, and the Myanmar Fire Services Department issued a press release.

Thirty-four houses collapsed entirely in the natural disaster, and the roofs of 37 houses got damaged, with up to 300 people affected, said an official from the Aryupala association.

"According to residents, the tornado lasted just two or three minutes. It swept like this within the moment. Thirty-four houses collapsed completely, and the roofs of 37 houses were damaged. More than 300



This photo shows some houses being damaged by a tornado in Kungyangon Township.

people were affected. No one gets injured severely, just minor cuts and bruises. Departments and social relief associations have already cleared trees that blocked streets and fell over houses. For those whose houses collapsed, a temporary shelter has been set up at a monastery

under the management of administrative authority," he said.

Social relief associations from the Yangon Region have prepared to provide necessary assistance, such as food, clothes, and tarps, to affected people. — MT/ZS

Two men imprisoned for human trafficking

THE Labutta District Court in Ayeyawady Region yesterday sentenced two offenders named Aung Zaw Oo (aka) Kywet Ni from Labutta Township and Zaw Naing from Myaungmya to ten years in prison with labour for trafficking one man who lived in Labutta.

Two traffickers persuaded the victim to work at a bread factory in Myaungmya and sent him to Lu Wa Gyi (aka) Than Naing to work on 'Kyaphaung' (bamboo fishing raft) in Pyapon Township and exploited an upfront fee of K750,000.

A case was filed against them at the Kanbat Police Station under Section 36 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA/KTZH

Illegal trade crackdown yields K553M in seizures

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

On 25 and 26 July, a combined team managed by the Customs Department conducted inspections. It seized 28 undocumented commodities valued at approximately K26.706 million, including two reconditioned sewing machines at the Asia World Port Terminal checkpoint. The team also seized six undocumented bracelets, which were supposed to be made of gold, weighing ten ticals worth K276 million, from a passenger who was to depart for Thailand at the Yangon International Airport. Other seizures involved undocumented Italy-made and France-made machinery, including two toothed wheels, two CVMOT2-CVMOT3 card replacement units, one Kit Maint E-V, 20 bearings and others worth approximately K5.5 million at the Yangon Airport (Warehouse), 31,920 cans of Thai-made My Boy brand condensed milk and evaporated milk worth K27.531 million

at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. One Chenglong tractor head, one Dong Feng tractor head and two trailers worth K125 million were also confiscated. The action was carried out in accordance with Customs procedures.

On 26 July, a combined team under the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized 0.591 tonne of illegal timbers worth K405,120 in Taungdingyi Township, and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 28 July, a combined team under the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections at the Kywetatson checkpoint. It confiscated 650 bags of garlic (each bag weighing 12 kilogrammes) worth approximately K15.6 million and one Nissan Diesel truck worth K45 million. The action was undertaken in accordance with Customs procedures.

On the same day, a combined team under the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication

Special Task Force conducted inspections and seized 39,996 packs of China-made chicken rumps and two other commodities worth K31.014 million at the Yadanabon checkpoint in Sagaing Township. The action was taken under the Import and

Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 15 arrests were made on 25, 26 and 28 July, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K552.756 million. — MNA/TMT



Photos (above) show confiscated illegal goods in different states and regions.



Türkiye approves controversial stray dog cull

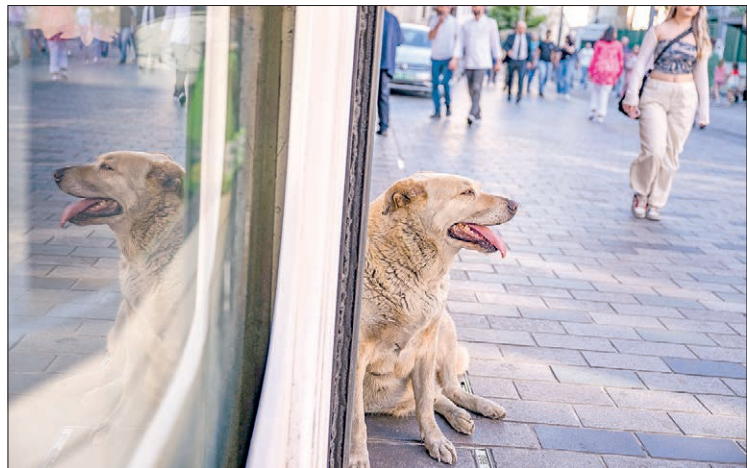
TÜRKIYE'S parliament approved on Monday a move to euthanize some of the country's four million stray dogs, a measure opponents say could lead to a vast animal cull.

The controversial article, part of a draft law on the fate of the animals, says those who are sick or deemed aggressive must be put down.

The rest of the bill is being debated today and expected to be adopted in the next few days.

The government says the euthanasia clause is needed to prevent dog attacks and the spread of rabies. It says the other homeless dogs should be captured en masse, placed in animal shelters and put up for adoption.

Critics say relying on animal sanctuaries and adoption is ultimately unworkable because of the numbers involved.



A stray dog sits near Taksim Square, in Istanbul on 29 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Animal rights campaigners, who fear the draft law is a cover for a huge cull despite government denials, instead advocate a mass sterilization campaign.

MPs began examining the 17-clause bill on Sunday, when deputies opposed to the measure protested by putting on white gloves stained with fake blood.

The emotional debate has revived memories of a 1910 tragedy when the Ottoman authorities rounded up around 60,000 stray dogs in Istanbul and sent them to a deserted rock in the Sea of Marmara.

With nothing else to eat, the dogs tore each other to pieces.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said ahead of the debate that Türkiye faced a problem "like no other civilized country" and which was "growing exponentially". — AFP

Japan TV can catch 'Shogun' wave, says 'Like A Dragon' star

JAPAN'S entertainment industry must "catch the wave" of global streaming hits like "Shogun", according to one of the stars of new Amazon television show "Like A Dragon: Yakuza".

The crime-thriller series — unveiled at Comic-Con over the weekend, and out on Prime Video in October — is based on a popular and long-running Sega video game series about Tokyo crime gangs.

Like "Shogun" — the drama that topped this month's Emmy nominations — "Like A Dragon: Yakuza" was created by an American studio, but set in Japan, with a Japanese cast speaking their own language.

HBO's recent "Tokyo Vice" also explored the world of yakuza gangsters, while Japanese animes like "Blue Eye Samurai" have recently made Netflix's global top 10 most-viewed lists.

"It makes me really happy, and it's only recently that we're getting this recognition" internationally, said Ryoma Takeuchi, the star of "Like A Dragon: Yakuza".

Co-star Kento Kaku said it is important for Japan to "catch the wave" of success stories like "Shogun" by making more shows that are "recognized internationally".

"We have to be the ones to



Japanese actors Ryoma Takeuchi (R) and Kento Kaku (L) speak during an interview for Amazon Prime Video's "Like a Dragon: Yakuza" on the sideline of Comic Con International in San Diego, California, 27 July 2024. PHOTO: AFP

lead the way," said the 35-year-old.

Based on a long-running video game series, "Like A Dragon: Yakuza" is set in a Tokyo nightlife district modelled on the real-life red-light area of Kabukicho.

The action hops between 1995 and 2005, as a group of childhood friends are drawn into the world of the yakuza in various ways.

Kazuma Kiryu (Takeuchi) has become a fearsome but morally conflicted warrior, in mysterious circumstances.

"I had to take the risk to build a character from scratch... he's very beefed up on the outside but intricate on the inside," said Takeuchi.

'Authentic'

The show follows a string of recent hit video game adaptations for television, including HBO's "The Last of Us" and Amazon's "Fallout".

Beloved Japanese video game characters like Nintendo's Mario and Sega's Sonic have also recently enjoyed huge success at the movie box office.

Those followed years in which film adaptations of video games generally struggled.

"Like A Dragon" executive producer Erik Barmack suggested that previous flops were the result of Japanese creations being "pulled over to Hollywood" and stripped of their context. — AFP

Shoemaker on Beijing Central Axis blends traditional designs with modern elements

CAI Wenke explains as a visitor feels a hand-made cloth shoe to a student in Beijing, capital of China, 21 July 2024. Located at the south section of the Beijing Central Axis, Dashilan commercial area is home to many time-honoured Chinese brands such as shoe maker Neiliansheng, silk and fabric store Ruifuxiang, foodstuff company Daoxiangcun and pharmaceutical company Tongrentang.

Cai Wenke, an inheritor of

making techniques of Neiliansheng handmade cloth shoes, is now exploring new possibilities of the products by combining the traditional designs with modern elements.

He hopes that more people could wear the cloth shoes and walk on the Beijing Central Axis to experience the colourful Chinese culture.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Saturday announced the



PHOTO: XINHUA

inclusion of the Beijing Central Axis: A Building Ensemble Exhibiting the Ideal Order of the Chinese Capital, into its world heritage list.

Beijing Central Axis, initially established in the 13th century and formed in the 16th century, runs through the old city of Beijing from north to south. It has become the longest urban axis in the world today, spanning 7.8 kilometres. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

ASIAN markets rallied Monday, tracking a surge on Wall Street after data showing US inflation slowed further in June stoked hopes the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates.

The upbeat mood comes at the start of a busy week for traders, with the central banks of the United States and Japan making policy decisions, a key US jobs report due on Friday and megacaps releasing their earnings.

The gains helped claw back some of the hefty losses suffered last week after disappointing results from tech titans Tesla and Alphabet caused panic-selling among investors who had piled into the sector this year.

All three main indexes in New York jumped more than one per cent Friday after the Fed's preferred gauge of inflation, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) index, slowed to 2.5 per cent last month.

Asian markets extend Wall St rally after US data and ahead of Fed



People walk past the Bank of Japan (BoJ) headquarters in Tokyo on 13 June 2024. PHOTO: AFP

The reading, which was just above officials' two per cent target, was the latest to boost bets on a rate cut in September and pushed up expectations for two more before January.

Fed chief Jerome Powell sparked a rally in markets this month when he said decision-makers did not need to see the reading hit two per cent before moving. The bank is due to make an announcement Wednesday, ahead of the release of the closely watched non-farm payrolls report Friday.

"Incoming data ahead of the July (Fed policy) meeting could not have been better: consumption rebounded in June after a weak start into the second quarter," said Christian Scherrmann at DWS.

"Lower-than-expected gains in inflation for the same month pleased both consumers and central bankers. Meanwhile, it appears that labour markets remain on track towards a better balance." — AFP

Ethiopia currency slides as central bank eases forex curbs



A man withdraws Ethiopian Birr from an ATM in Addis Ababa on 4 December 2023. PHOTO: AFP

ETHIOPIA'S central bank announced on Monday that it was easing curbs on its foreign exchange regime, a move which saw the value of the local currency slide by about 30 per cent.

The major reform was unveiled as the deeply indebted country awaits a multi-billion dollar deal on crucial funding from the International Monetary Fund after long and fraught negotiations.

There was widespread spec-

ulation that Ethiopia, whose economy is tightly controlled by the state, would have to devalue its currency, the birr, as a condition of IMF aid. The National Bank of Ethiopia announced a series of foreign exchange reforms which it said involved "significant new policy changes". The first measure was a "shift to a market-based exchange regime", the NBE said in a statement.

"Banks are henceforth allowed to buy and sell foreign cur-

rencies from/to their clients and among themselves at freely negotiated rates, and with the NBE making only limited interventions to support the market in its early days and if justified by disorderly market conditions," it said.

The US dollar was buying 74.73 birr and selling at 76.23, the leading Commercial Bank of Ethiopia said in a statement published on X. On Friday the buying rate was 57.48 and selling 58.64.

'Boost FX supplies'

Until now, the rate for the birr, a non-convertible and non-exportable currency, was set daily by the NBE.

The central bank also announced Monday it would allow foreign exchange to be retained by exporters and commercial banks "thus substantially boosting FX supplies to the private sector". Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said earlier this month that he was expecting about \$10.5 billion in financial aid in the coming years once the country wraps up its negotiations with international lending institutions. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Uzbekistan's grain production increases by 6.6% in first half of year

IN the first half of 2024, Uzbekistan produced 5.8 million tonnes of grain, an increase of 6.6 per cent compared to the same period last year, according to the state statistics agency.

It is also reported that the Ferghana region occupies the leading place in grain production, accounting for 12 per cent of the total. The smallest share was observed in the Republic of Karakalpakstan – 2.3 per cent.

The country's grain production reached 8.2 million tonnes for the first time in 2023, according to the country's presidential press service. — Xinhua

Philips orders rebound after sleep machine crisis

DUTCH medical device maker Philips said Monday its orders rebounded in the second quarter and it will receive insurance payments of more than 500 million euros as it recovers from a crisis over faulty sleep machines.

Philips reached a \$1.1 billion deal in April to settle lawsuits in the United States over the DreamStation machines for sleep apnoea, a disorder in which breathing intermittently stops during sleep.

The crisis erupted in 2021, with millions of devices recalled over concerns that users were at risk of inhaling pieces of noise-cancelling foam and fears it could potentially cause cancer.

Philips said Monday it would receive 538 million euros (\$583 million) in insurance payments related to the liability claims over the sleep machines made by subsidiary Philips Respironics. — AFP



A Pakistani exhibitor (L) introduces carpets to visitors at the South Asia Pavilion during the Eight China-South Asia Expo in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province, 26 July 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

China-South Asia expo concludes with US\$1.12-billion in trade deals

THE eighth China-South Asia Expo concluded Sunday, with domestic and foreign trade contracts worth a total value of over eight billion yuan (about US\$1.12 billion) signed, according to the organizers.

During the event held in Kunming, the capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, the cumulative online and offline sales exceeded 500 million yuan.

The six-day event featured 15 exhibition halls with themes including architecture technology, manufacturing, green energy and modern agriculture.

This year's expo saw participation from 82 countries, regions, and international organizations, with more than 2,000 exhibiting companies. Nearly half of these were overseas companies, covering all countries in South Asia and Southeast

Asia.

The expo was first held in Kunming in 2013, the same year China put forward the Belt and Road Initiative. Since its inception, the expo has served more than 18,000 domestic and foreign companies, promoted trade of more than \$100 billion, and facilitated the signing of over 3,000 projects.

Jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce and the Yunnan provincial government, the expo is one of the most important events of the year for economic and trade exchanges between China and South Asian countries.

Official data shows that trade volume between China and South Asian countries reached nearly \$200 billion in 2023, twice the amount recorded in 2013. — Xinhua

Vietnam's shrimp exports face global competition

VIETNAM'S shrimp exports grew in the first half of this year, but the market is facing competition from other countries in the world, Vietnam News Agency reported Monday, citing the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers.

Besides facing price competition with Ecuadori-

an and Indian shrimp in the US and EU, Vietnamese shrimps face an additional problem: disease outbreaks in farmed shrimp, potentially causing a shortage of raw materials for processing, said the report.

The country's shrimp export revenue reached roughly US\$1.6 billion in the first half, up six per cent

year-on-year, according to the association.

After decreasing in May, the Chinese mainland and China's Hong Kong, the largest export market of Vietnamese shrimps, showed a recovery in June with 328 million dollars in revenue, 17 per cent higher than the same period 2023. —Xinhua



Announcement to Shareholders

1. We are pleased to announce that 32nd Annual General Meeting (2023-2024 FY) of Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd. is soon to be held. The meeting will be arranged in accord with the bank's Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association. Thus, some directors shall terminate at the end of their terms and new directors shall be elected for their places as per existing Articles of Association.
2. Candidates shall have to submit their applications to the Central Bank of Myanmar in advance before the Meeting. Accordingly any Special Account Holders at Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and Security Account Holders at Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) willing to be elected as the directors, among individuals with the shares of MMK 5,000,000 (Five Million Kyats) and above, and companies/associations with MMK 10, 000,000 (Ten Million Kyats) and above at the closing on 02.08.2024 as set by MCB Board of Directors, may visit MCB at No-383, Mahabandula Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon and submit your applications by 16:30 on 09.08.2024.
3. Candidates must meet the qualifications stated in sub-clause 1 to 8 of Clause 76 (b) of Section 10, the Financial Institutions Law.
4. Please note to bring NRC (original), 1 photo (license photo size) and proof documents for the ownership of shares along with you at the time of application. We shall announce the time and venue of Annual General Meeting later. For More information, please contact our Administration Department at 01-8386023 and 01-8386029.

Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd

Mitsubishi Motors in talks to take part in Honda-Nissan alliance

MITSUBISHI Motors Corp is in talks to join the Nissan Motor Co-Honda Motor Co alliance to play catch-up with foreign rivals in the development of electric vehicles and advanced technology for next-generation vehicles, sources familiar with the matter said Sunday.

The three Japanese automakers are consider-

ing teaming up to standardize in-vehicle software and for other joint operations, the sources said.

As Toyota Motor Corp is expanding its tie-ups with other local peers in developing vehicle electrification technology, the Honda-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance will create two major groups in the Japanese auto industry. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC TIANJIN VOY.NO. (2429S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC TIANJIN VOY.NO. (2429S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-7-2024 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 ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (125N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (125N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-7-2024 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

HUNDREDS of people are living submerged in floodwater in the suburbs of Hanoi, a week after torrential rains in northern Vietnam caused rivers to overflow their banks.

Residents of Ben Voi village — around 40 kilometres (25 miles) from central Hanoi — are travelling through the streets by boat and sleeping in homes partially inundated by muddy water.

“I cannot go anywhere, and neighbours are finding it difficult to come to my shop to buy things,” Tran Thi Ly, who runs a convenience store from the ground floor of her home, told



An aerial picture shows flood waters surrounding and submerging homes in Ben Voi village on the outskirts of Hanoi on 28 July 2024. Hundreds of people in the suburbs of Hanoi have been living in floodwater for a week after torrential rain in northern Vietnam caused rivers to overflow their banks. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hundreds living in floodwater in Vietnam

AFP on Sunday.

The 70-year-old waded through water almost knee-high as she tried to keep her food supplies dry, moving her instant noodles and soft drinks onto higher shelves.

All her furniture was sitting in the dirty water.

Since early July, flooding and landslides have killed at least 18 people in the country's northern mountainous areas.

Ben Voi village is a low-lying

area prone to flooding after heavy rain, according to authorities.

It usually experiences two or three days of high water a

year, particularly if Hoa Binh hydropower plant — located in a neighbouring province — needs to discharge water.

When that happens, “the wa-

ter level of the Red river and the Day river passing Hanoi will rise quickly... affecting communities lower down the river,” a report in Saigon Giai Phong newspaper said.

But around 500 people in Ben Voi have been living in floods for a week now, with no signs of the water receding.

“We have been travelling by boat,” said resident Hoang Van Su, adding that the floodwater in the village reached 1.5 metres (5 feet) in places.

“It's hard for us as we struggle to find a dry place to grind rice husks for our daily meal,” the 51-year-old told AFP.

Weather forecasters said more heavy rain will fall in northern Vietnam between Monday and Wednesday.

The country is often struck by heavy downpours, triggering flooding and landslides.

But scientists have warned that extreme weather events globally are becoming more intense and frequent due to climate change.

Natural disasters left 169 people dead or missing in Vietnam last year. — AFP

100 days: Extraordinary US election enters the home stretch

THE 100-day sprint to the US election began Sunday, the final act of a campaign transformed by an assassination attempt and the stunning exit of President Joe Biden.

After weeks of infighting and despondency over Biden's candidacy, Democrats have consolidated behind Vice-President Kamala Harris, radically reshaping the race to 5 November that was fast becoming Republican nominee Donald Trump's to lose.

Harris's candidacy has clearly reinvigorated her party's campaign, which said Sunday it had raised \$200 million — mostly from first-time donors — since Biden dropped out and endorsed his vice-president a week ago.

A new Wall Street Journal poll showed Harris had closed Biden's six-point deficit with Trump to just two points — well within the margin of er-



US Vice President Kamala Harris waves during a campaign event at James B Dudley High School on 11 July 2024 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Harris spoke on the stakes of the election for North Carolinians. **PHOTO: AFP**

ror — with boosted support from Black, Latino and young voters.

But Republican pollster David Lee, who conducted the Journal survey, cautioned Democrats not to get carried away by the race tightening.

“Donald Trump is in a far

better position in this election when compared to a similar time in the 2020 election,” Lee said. If the race is at a dead heat nationally, the advantage still lies with Trump given the mathematics of the Electoral College system for electing the president. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Laos, Cambodia to enhance cooperation in technology

LAOS' Ministry of Technology and Communications and Cambodia's Ministry of Post and Telecommunications discussed plans for cooperation in postal, telecommunications, information and communication technology, and digital government.

A bilateral meeting was held here to discuss the exchange of lessons, information and personnel, technology transfer, and joint training, according to a report issued by the Lao Ministry of Technology and Communications on Monday.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to enhance collaboration in these fields, focusing on the development of digital government services, the use of blockchain technology, and a public document authentication system. — Xinhua

Heatstroke alerts issued across Japan as mercury may hit 40 degrees

HEATSTROKE alerts have been issued for 38 of Japan's 47 prefectures as an intense heatwave on Monday may drive temperatures to 40 degrees Celsius in some regions.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said a high-pressure system continues to bring sunny and scorching weather mainly to eastern and western Japan, noting temperatures will likely reach 40 degrees Celsius in the cities of Kumagaya, Kofu and Hamamatsu. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar preliminary selected team for U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2024 undergoes training in Mandalay



Some preliminary Myanmar U-12 team players in training.

THE preliminary selected Myanmar U-12 team that will take part in the U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2024, a competition that is attracting a lot of interest, is now under training in Mandalay, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge tournament has been held in Japan since 2013. The first tournament was held on 27 August, 2013. Among the 12 teams, Barcelona beat Liverpool and won the championship.

Interest in the competition has increased, with rising par-

ticipation from Premier League clubs such as Arsenal and Manchester City, German club Bayern Munich, and teams from China, Thailand, Singapore, Australia and Nigeria.

In the 2023 tournament, Myanmar U-12 team took part and came up against Barcelona, the most successful team, in the group.

This year's competition will be held in Chiba, Japan from 20 to 23 August and a total of 48 teams, including Myanmar U-12 team, will compete. Myanmar will play against Japanese clubs — Tozuka Football Club, Junior

Kashima Antlers Norte and FC Basara Hyogo — in Group D.

The preliminary selected Myanmar U-12 team is being trained by former Myanmar international U Min Thu as head coach. They will be under training at the Mandalay Football Academy until 2 August and will return to Yangon on 3 August to continue their preparations.

The preliminary Myanmar U-12 team consists of 28 players and the final 18 players will be selected to take part in the U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2024 after training and friendly matches. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



Olympics: Hifumi Abe wins 2nd straight Olympic men's 66-kg judo gold

JAPANESE judoka Hifumi Abe won his second consecutive Olympic gold medal in the men's 66-kilogramme category Sunday in Paris, hours after his younger sister Uta fell to a shock second-round loss.

Hifumi defeated Brazil's Willian Lima by ippon in the final at the Champ-de-Mars Arena to restore family pride that was dented after the Abe siblings' bid to win gold medals on the same day, as they did at the pandemic-hit Tokyo Olympics in 2021, was dashed.

"This is an unforgettable memory for me," Hifumi said. "My sister lost today, and it was a very difficult day, but I worked

hard with the feeling that I had to do my best to make up for (it)."

"I felt I had no choice but to do my best as the older brother. I was able to keep my emotions in check," he said.

During the morning session, Uta lost to IJF top-ranked judoka and eventual gold medal winner Diyora Keldiyorova of Uzbekistan by ippon in the women's 52-kilogramme second round.

Hifumi's win gave his country its second judo gold of the Paris Games, following Natsumi Tsunoda's triumph in the women's 48-kg category the previous day. — Kyodo



Hifumi Abe (white) of Japan beats Willian Lima of Brazil in the men's judo 66-kilogramme final at the Paris Olympics on 28 July 2024, at Champ-de-Mars Arena in Paris. PHOTO: KYODO

China's Sheng Lihao wins 2nd Paris Olympic gold with men's 10m air rifle victory



Sheng Lihao of China competes during the 10-metre air rifle men's final of shooting at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Chateauroux, France, on 29 July 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINESE marksman Sheng Lihao claimed the Paris Olympic title in the men's 10-metre air rifle event on Monday, adding to his victory in the 10m air rifle mixed team event along with Huang Yuting.

Sheng, the silver medallist from Tokyo, set an Olympic record with a score of 252.2 points, upgrading his medal to gold at the Chateauroux Shooting Centre.

"I'm quite satisfied with my performance at the Paris Olympics. As you could see, I encountered some difficulties during the competitions, but I managed to hold myself together and complete them," Sheng said.

Victor Lindgren of Sweden came from behind to eliminate Miran Maricic of Croatia by 0.5 point through the second shot of the penultimate series, scoring 10.6 to Maricic's 9.9. Lindgren claimed the silver medal with 251.4 points.

"I'm really satisfied with my performance. It's an Olympic final and we all know what it is and how hard it is to shoot," said Maricic, who spoke about having a big relief seeing himself among the top three. "I didn't have a good day so that 9.9 didn't surprise me, but I'm really happy to win a bronze in the end."

Despite finishing first in Sunday's qualification round, the 19-year-old Sheng was not at his best, scoring 631.7 points, which is 6.2 points lower than his own world record. However, he responded with a strong start in the final and dominated after three series in the elimination stage. Two perfect 10.9 shots gave him a 2-point advantage over second-placed Arjun Babuta of India.

Although Sheng's lead diminished to 0.6 point before the final series against Lindgren due to two sub-10 shots, he managed a 10.5 and a 10.6 to secure his victory. — Xinhua



WORLD



This handout picture taken and released on 29 July 2024 by the Indonesian Presidential Palace shows Indonesia's President Joko Widodo (L) speaking to the media as he visits the new Presidential Palace in the future capital city of Nusantara (IKN) in Penajam Paser Utara, East Kalimantan. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / INDONESIA'S PRESIDENTIAL PALACE / AFP**

Indonesia president says 'everything in progress' at new capital

INDONESIA President Joko Widodo said Monday "everything was still in progress" during a visit to the coun-

try's planned new capital, the flagship of his two terms in office but plagued by delays.

The capital is due to move from traffic-clogged and sinking Jakarta to the planned city of Nusantara in East

Kalimantan province, but the project is months — even years — behind schedule.

Widodo was expected to attend a flag ceremony in Nusantara on 17 August to mark Indonesia's Independence Day and has invited VIPs including ambassadors and key investors to the event.

But the overall project is way behind schedule and a first wave of thousands of civil servants due to move to the city in September has already been postponed by several months.

"We came here to check the latest progress on the development... particularly the construction of the palace," Widodo said in a statement.

"I see that everything is still in progress."

The president, First Lady Iriana Widodo, and several officials arrived in Nusantara on Sunday, along with a number of Indonesian social media influencers.

They rode along an under-construction toll road that connects the Nusantara with the nearest city, Balikpapan.

The government aims to have 1.9 million people living in Nusantara by 2045, importing a wave of human and industrial activity into the heart of Borneo.

Environmentalists have warned that the planned city will speed up deforestation in one of the world's largest stretches of tropical rainforest. — AFP

Israel to launch "painful" but "limited" strike against Hezbollah to avoid regional war: official

ISRAEL has decided to launch "a painful strike" against Hezbollah, but in a limited scope that will not "trigger a full-fledged regional war", an Israeli government official confirmed to Xinhua on Monday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Israel was preparing to launch "a limited" retaliation, after a rocket attack on Saturday killed 12 children and youth in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights.

Israel accuses Hezbollah of firing the rocket while the Lebanese group and political party has denied any involve-

ment.

The source said that the response could trigger "several days" of intensive fighting and that Israel was preparing for such a scenario.

According to a statement issued on Sunday night following a meeting of Israel's security cabinet, the ministers had granted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant the authority "to decide on the manner of the response against Hezbollah, and its timing".

The statement did not specify how Israel would respond to the attack. — Xinhua

Lunar soil sample from China's Chang'e-5 mission under spotlight in Bangkok



People view the lunar sample from China's Chang'e-5 mission during the Sci Power for Future Thailand Fair in Bangkok, Thailand, 23 July 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A rare opportunity to see soil from the moon in person captivated crowds as the lunar sample from China's Chang'e-5

mission was under the spotlight in Bangkok.

Under collaboration between the National Astronomi-

cal Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) and the China National Space Administration (CNSA), the lunar sample was featured as one of highlights at Sci Power for Future Thailand Fair that concluded on Sunday.

Enclosed in a rotating crystal sphere, the 75-milligram sample named "The Moon Shines Bright On Me" invited visitors on a microscopic journey to the moon's surface and they marvelled at the extraterrestrial material up close.

Experiencing the mysterious substance for the first time, elementary school student Tannya Neesanant was filled with excitement. "The lunar sample's unusual colour intrigued my curiosity, as it appeared to be sand rather than soil," the seven-year-old told Xinhua. — Xinhua