

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Kampaiti border trade exceeds US\$2M by 22 July

THE trade value at the Kampaiti border between Myanmar and China has reached over US\$2 million as of 22 July in the current financial year 2023-2024, comprising exports worth \$0.174 million and imports worth \$0.488 million.

The Kampaiti border is expected to meet a target of \$5 million in July 2024, comprising exports worth \$4 million and imports worth \$1 million, according to

the Ministry of Commerce.

The main export items at the Kampaiti border were tissue-culture bananas, dried chillis, onions, dried mango slices, fresh areca nuts, black cardamom, various pulses, tamarind with seeds and aluminium scrap. Meanwhile, capital goods, intermediate goods, construction materials, consumer goods, fruits and fuel were imported.

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Lorries loaded with export-import cargoes line up at the Kampaiti crossing on the Myanmar-China border.

Myanmar garment struggles with labour shortage amid order surge



This picture captures diligent workers in action at a garment workplace in the Yangon Region industrial zones.

THE garment factories in Myanmar's industrial zones have received more orders than before. However, they are facing a shortage of local workers, creating job opportunities for job seekers, according to the sources.

"As a garment factory, the order receipt is good. The order from Bangladesh

has reached us, not a few, but many hundreds of thousands. The order receipt is more than before. In terms of order receipt, the normal practice is to order in four months. Now, they order for a year," said a garment factory owner.

Garment factories have more opportunities to receive such orders from

abroad, but currently, factory workers are moving illegally to garment industries abroad, he said.

"It is good to have more orders, but without workers, there are difficulties. When we get more orders, we face a labour shortage.

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Combat human trafficking in all forms

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Kayah State Chief Minister comforts victims of terror attacks in Loikaw

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Heavy Industries Enterprise No 3 seeks bids for C-grade long-staple cotton

NATIONAL

Myanmar Charge d’Affaires attends 6th Singapore International Culture Festival Wushu Championships Awards Dinner 2024

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Zaw Zaw Soe, Minister-cum-Charge d’Affaires ai at the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore, attended the “Sixth Singapore International Culture Festival Wushu Championships Awards Dinner 2024” on 28 July.

He presented awards to the winners at the event, which was held at the Summer Garden Restaurant, SAFRA Mount Faber, Singapore.

The event was jointly organised by the Singapore Youth

Cultural and Arts Centre and the Singapore International Wushu Cultural Centre, with around 1,500 participants from over 30 countries and regions taking part.

The Singapore International Culture Festival Wushu Championships has been held every two years since 2013. — ASH/TMT

This photo shows attendees at the Sixth Singapore International Culture Festival Wushu Championships Awards Dinner 2024.



MoHT announces photo contest for World Tourism Day



This photo shows the World Tourism Day colour photo competition in progress in 2023.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, a photo competition will be held to commemorate World Tourism Day. Participants are encouraged to feature Myanmar’s peaceful and pleasant scenes, culture, attire, and customs of its indigenous peoples to promote the Myanmar tourism sector.

There will be 20 prizes for participants, with the first prize being K900,000, the second prize K700,000, the third prize K500,000, and consolation prizes of K150,000 each.

Contestants must submit their photos to the Yangon Region Directorate of the Hotels and Tourism Department by 3 pm between 5 and 23 August.

The winning photos will be exhibited at the World Tourism Day ceremony, which will be held in December 2024, along with the awards ceremony.

Application forms and competition rules can be obtained via the QR code or downloaded from <https://moht.qrd.by/wtd>. — TWA/MKKS

Kampaiti border trade exceeds US\$2M ...

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The trade value at the Kampaiti border was aimed to reach \$5 million in June of the 2024-2025 financial year, including exports worth \$4 million and imports worth \$1 million, according to the Min-

istry of Commerce.

The actual trade value was \$21.636 million, comprising exports worth \$9.847 million and imports worth \$11.789 million, surpassing the trade target.

A combined team, includ-

ing one-stop service agencies and departments concerned, is making efforts to ensure smooth trade flow and bolster exports. The Kampaiti border performed the third-largest trade among Myanmar-China border posts. — NN/KK

Public Notice

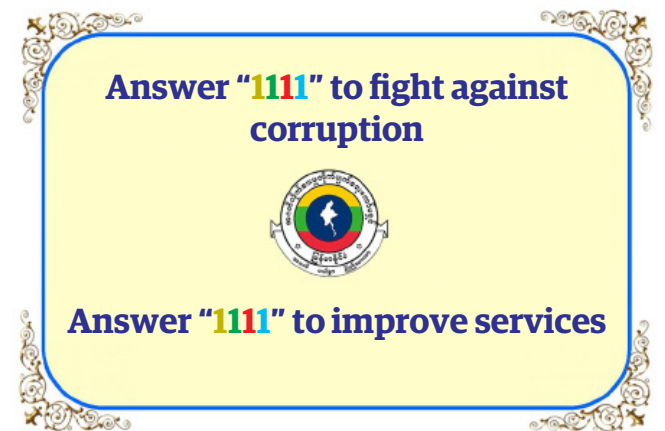
THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No “1111” for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code “1111”. Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission



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NATIONAL

Union Ministers inspect MRTV (Tatkon)

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win enjoyed the competition No 5 of radio quiz on population and housing census and filming of kid-friendly game show at MRTV in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

First, they inspected the work processes at Convergence News Room, MRTV HD, MRTV News and the News Studio of MRTV and warmly greeted the staff.

During the inspection, they observed the maintenance work conducted on the floor, wall and concrete road of MRTV's main building, which was hit by the Thabeikkyin earthquake in 2019.

Then, they enjoyed competition No 5 of the radio quiz on the population and housing census



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin and Union Minister Dr Soe Win view round MRTV in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

2024, in which five students from basic education high schools of Nay Pyi Taw participated.

Ministry of Immigration and Population, Ministry of Information, MRTV and, Ministry of Education, Basic Education De-

partment jointly organize Radio quizzes under five programmes, and the first and second winners from each competition, totalling ten members, will compete in the matches to be held in the second week of August.

On arrival at the Auditorium, MRTV's Director-General U Ye Naing briefed the Union Minister on the MRTV Auditorium on stage height and capacity to hold the 25th Silver Jubilee of Myanmar Traditional Cultural

Performing Arts Competition.

The MRTV Auditorium is 48 feet in length, 45 feet in width and three feet and four inches high and is installed with a sound system, lighting bar, setting bar, main curtain, side tab, intermediate curtain and elevator stage, and it can accommodate 457 people.

They then watched the kid-friendly game show and gave gifts to the children who participated in the show.

The programme was broadcast by MRTV every Saturday from 1997 to 2019 and was suspended during the outbreak of COVID-19. The programme is resumed every Saturday starting from 20 July.

The Union ministers and party observed the displayed materials at the 75-anniversary museum of MRTV together with children, parents and teachers from kindergarten. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar garment struggles with labour ...

FROM PAGE 1

Now, there are industrial zones on the border with China, so the workers go there illegally. As they can show their competence in practical work, they are employed with accommodation and meal allowances. Most people go illegally. They don't need a passport to go illegally," he said.

According to an HR manager of a garment factory, the current situation is creating a

demand for workers in garment factories and the industry players want workers to seize this opportunity to get employed.

"Now we need workers, so we would like people to come and work. There are also opportunities. That's why some have gone back home to other cities to bring their relatives to work. Some employees bring their own elder sister and younger sister to the same factory," he said. — MT/ZN

Kayah State Chief Minister comforts victims of terror attacks in Loikaw



The Kayah State chief minister and officials encourage patients at Tatmadaw hospital in Loikaw yesterday.

TATMADAW, Myanmar Police Force, officials and people fight against terrorists in Kayah State, and now locals are making resettlements in Loikaw Township as it gains peace and tranquillity, and the rehabilitation processes are ongonig.

Meanwhile, KNDF, KNPP, and PDF terrorists intentionally opened fire on the wards in Loikaw township at about 9 pm on 29 July using heavy weapons. The shells fell on the houses, religious buildings, and pagodas and exploded. Five ci-

vilians were wounded in the explosions. The injured were taken to the military hospital in Loikaw for medical treatment.

Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin and officials comforted the injured yesterday and provided them with cash, medicines and food.

They also comforted the members of Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force, militia and their families and provided them with cash, medicines and food. They also donated money for patients and members of

the Defence Services General Hospital.

Terrorists frequently attacked such non-military targets as townships and wards using rockets and heavy weapons, aiming to jeopardize the peace and stability of Loikaw. Three civilians died, and ten were injured due to their attacks, and the houses, pagodas and departmental buildings were seriously destroyed. Therefore, locals strongly condemn terrorists. — MNA/KTZH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Library development and reading campaign launched in Yamethin

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended a ceremony to launch the “Developing Libraries and Raising Reading Habits” campaign at No 1 BEHS in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

First, the Union minister cut the ribbon with relevant officials to open the archway of the festival and gave cash prizes to cheerleader groups, music bands and dance troupes.

In his speech, the Union minister, who is also Chairman of the Myanmar Libraries De-

velopment Cooperation Committee, highlighted the guidance of the Head of the State and urged the students to cultivate reading habits to enrich their knowledge. At the same time, campaigns on developing libraries and raising reading habits are ongoing across the nation.

He then presented five DTH dishes and 15 DVB T2 Set Top Boxes for the middle and high schools to headmasters and headmistress, and Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department officials



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to unveil the archway at yesterday's event in Yamethin.

donated books and publications for No 1 BEHS, Yamethin.

After the entertainment programmes of 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. — MNA/KTZH

69th YWCA Diplomatic Bazaar 2024 invites Myanmar businesses



THE 69th Young Women's Christian Association Diplomatic Bazaar 2024, which will be held at Central World, Bangkok, Thailand, from 7 to 10 November 2024, invites Myanmar business delegates, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Young Women's Christian Association of Thailand and diplomats from Thailand-based embassies organized the 69th YWCA Diplomatic Bazaar 2024. Respective diplomats and

businesspeople will showcase products at 180 booths in eight different areas at the Central World shopping centre.

Participation costs 25,000 minimum baht and 55,000 maximum baht per booth, depending on size and place.

Prior to the bazaar, five TV channels and the social media platform of the association will advertise unique products of each participating country, to which they must send a sample of the product and a list of

the exhibited items and categories to participate in the programme.

This bazaar will bring you a unique marketplace and explore business opportunities and products of foreign countries.

Those enthusiastic can enquire about details from the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through the contact number 067 408622 or email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

Mandalay Region allocates 1 mln acres for oil crops

U Myo Myint, Assistant Director in charge of Oil Crop Special Zone 1 of the Mandalay Region Agriculture Department, announced that the Mandalay Region is establishing two special zones for the cultivation of oil crops (peanut, sesame, and sunflower), covering over one million acres.

This initiative, starting from the current financial year, aims to ensure an adequate supply of edible oil.

Special Zone 1 includes 12 townships in five districts, while Special Zone 2 comprises seven townships in three districts.

The objective of these special zones is to achieve self-sufficiency in domestic oil consumption and generate a surplus for export. This will be accomplished by providing necessary technical expertise and agricultural loans from State economic funds, according to U Myo Myint. — ASH/MKKS



This picture captures a thriving sunflower plantation in Mandalay Region.

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NATIONAL

Illegal trade nationwide crackdown yields K159M in seizures

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

On 26 and 28 July, combined teams managed by the Customs Department conducted inspections. They seized 2,300 metres of China-made cable wire and three other commodities worth K11.35 million at the Myanma Industrial Port and Netherland-made, three sets of Starlink standard, actuated kits with accessories and two other commodities worth K7 million at the Yangon International Airport. The action was taken in accordance with Customs procedures.

On 28 July, a combined team managed by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized 750 kilogrammes of China-produced carrot and other commodities



Photos show confiscated illegal goods in different states and regions.

worth K2.325 million and one Yutong bus worth K30 million at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray machine checkpoint. The action was carried out according to Customs procedures.

On 29 July, a combined team managed by the Magway Re-

gion Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized one unregistered Honda Fit worth K5 million at the checkpoint at the entrance to Magway, and the action was taken under the Import-Export Law.

On the same day, a combined team managed by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized undocumented 70 pieces of China-made coconut fibre bed mattresses, 4,176 boxes of Thai-

made Wai Wai instant noodles, 3,000 kilogrammes of Singapore-made beer flavour and five other commodities worth approximately K22.97 million and one Hino Profia truck and one Mitsubishi Canter worth K55 million at the Kywetatsone checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 28 July, a combined team managed by the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized one unregistered Toyota Alphard worth K25 million at the Yadanabon checkpoint in Sagaing Township, and the action was taken under the Import-Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 13 arrests were made on 26, 28 and 29 July, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K158.65 million. — MNA/TMT



Local Parahita group warns of fake fundraising accounts

THERE are fake Facebook accounts and pages which mislead people as if they were Parahita groups, so people should make proper enquiries before they donate, Thathananwe Foundation's Sayadaw warned on his Facebook page.

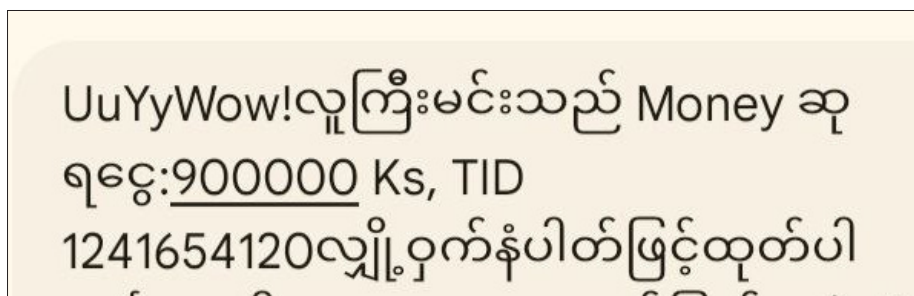
As a gang, such fake accounts and pages are collecting money by using photos of poor children and old and infirm people, pretending to be monks and leaders of Parahita groups, said

Sayadaw.

Similarly, some scams work as fake accounts or pages of online shops.

Sayadaw said there is an account that looks like a woman often makes comments about scam messages below his post.

"I'm quite cautious. Scam messages were sent to me two or three times. The amount of the prize they told me was pretty good, but I know it is a scam," he said. — MT/ZS



This image depicts a scam message.

Counter-argument to false information

Security forces accused of attacking villagers in Yenangyoung

MALICIOUS media outlets are spreading false information on social media, claiming that security forces launched attacks using heavy weapons, resulting in one civilian dead and four hurt in Kukkokhwa village-tract, Yenangyoung Township of Magway Region on 28 July.

Civilians reported to security forces that PDF terrorists hid in the vicinity of Kukkokhwa village-tract. Upon a tip-off, security forces conducted security measures, and they did not open fire on the village, according to a security official.

PDF terrorists asked for money from Yenangyoung residents and killed locals, and fake news was reportedly circulated through malicious media, defaming security forces. — MNA/KTZH



This screenshot reveals false claims of RFA Burmese.

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NATIONAL



A general front view of the 1982-established State Agricultural Institute Shwebo.

Applications open for Diploma in Agriculture, Livestock 1st year courses

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has announced that applications for the Diploma in Agriculture and Livestock first-year courses will be accepted for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The duration of the course is set at three years, and upon completion, a diploma certificate will be awarded. Those who pass the Diploma in Agriculture with excellence will have an opportunity to be admitted to Yezin Agricultural University, and those who pass the Diploma in Livestock with distinction will have the chance to be admitted to the University of Veteri-

nary Science.

Those who want to attend the agriculture diploma course can apply for school admission at the Institutes of Agriculture and Livestock from Pyinmana, Thaton, Myaungmya, Shwebo, Patheingyi, Pwintbyu, Thayawady, Dawei, Heho, Myitkyina, Demawso, Hpa-an, Lonpee, Kyauktaw and Homalin respectively.

Those who want to join the livestock diploma course can apply for admission at the Institutes of Agriculture and Livestock from Pyinmana, Patheingyi, Heho, Pwintbyu, Thay-

awady, Thatone, Myitkyina, Hpa-an and Myaungmya.

Application forms for admission to diploma courses are available free from the above-mentioned nearest Institutes of Agriculture and Livestock. Applications must be sent directly to the Agricultural and Livestock Institutes, together with the specified documents, by 10 September.

The list of those allowed to attend and the opening date of the courses will be further informed by the relevant agricultural and livestock institutes. — TWA/KZL

MMPO donates over K10 million to flood victims

ACCORDING to Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay, of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organisation (MMPO) donated over K10 million to assist flood victims affected by the heavy rains across the country.

Led by the MMPO, artistes and film enthusiasts collectively contributed funds to regions and states severely impacted by the floods. These donations were channelled through relevant film and government organizations to aid those affected by the persistent rains.

U Aye Kyu Lay stated, "We donated K1.2 million to Myitkyina, K5 million to the Sagaing Region, and K1 million to Mon State through the respective government organizations. We will also donate K1 million each to Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, and Kayin State. In total, we have donated K10.2 million out of our total donation fund of K10.86 million".

The MMPO also provides support through cash and food donations to resettlement projects for disaster victims in collaboration with donors and relevant government departments. — ASH/TRKM



This photo shows MMPO representatives offering cash assistance for flood victims.

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

Immediate rescue order issued for rising Balu Creek in Loikaw

ACCORDING to the Kayah State Government, rescue efforts must be carried out promptly without awaiting further orders or instructions if the water level in Balu Creek in Loikaw Township exceeds the flood stage.

Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin stated on 28 July that flood warnings should be issued in a timely manner, and rescue operations must commence immediately without waiting for further directives.

As of 28 July, the water level in the creek is one foot and four inches below the flood stage, but it is already causing water to flow into some houses in low-lying areas of the city.

Consequently, the Chief Minister has urged relevant departments and committees to form teams to monitor the rising water levels. They should be prepared to respond quickly, set up temporary shelters, and assist if the water level continues to rise. — TWA/TRKM



Chairperson of the Disaster Management Committee Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin and officials inspect places where water entered Loikaw.

Heavy Industries Enterprise No 3 seeks bids for C-grade long-staple cotton

NO 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry invited a tender to purchase 500,000 visses of C-grade long-staple cotton in the current financial year 2024-2025.

The tender proposal stated to buy 200,000 visses of C-grade long-staple cotton for No 1 Textile Factory (Shwetaung), 100,000 visses for No 3 Textile Factory (Sagaing), 100,000 visses for cotton ginning factory (Taungdwingyi) and 100,000 visses for cotton ginning factory (Yamethin) operated under No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise.

A tender form will be sold on



A glimpse of the thriving long-staple cotton plantation.

31 July, and the tender closing date is 13 August. Individuals can enquire details through the contact number of the produc-

tion department of No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise located at office No 37 in Nay Pyi Taw (Ph: 067 3408138, 067 3408439, 067 3408492).

Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) also called for a bid to buy 917,927 visses of long-staple cotton for the cotton ginning factory (Myittha). A firm price quotation for cotton, including delivery charges to the factory, must be submitted during a tender meeting that is scheduled to be held at MEC headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 August 2024. Individuals can enquire about bidding through the contact

number Ph: 067 3434733.

The Ministry of Industry also called for tender in early May to buy 3 million viss of cotton, including 2.9 million viss of A-grade long-staple cotton and 100,000 viss of C-grade cotton, for No 1 Textile Factory (Shwe Taung), No 3 Textile Factory (Sagaing), No 4 Textile Factory (Pwintbyu), cotton ginning factory (Taungdwingyi), No 7 Textile Factory (Myittha), No 8 Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) and cotton ginning factory (Yamethin) operated under No 3 Heavy Industrial Enterprise during the 2024-2025 financial year. — NN/KK

Nationwide orders surge for Shan State fresh young tamarind

FRESHLY harvested young tamarinds from southern Shan State have received orders all around the country, including Yangon and Mandalay, this month, according to the vegetable market.

The seasonal unripe tamarind is one of the most consumed vegetables and is only available for a month and a half in a year, so the trading is doing well.

“There are orders for seasonal unripe tamarind. It is one of the most consumed vegetables. I transport it to other cities, including Yangon and Mandalay. Young green tamarinds started harvesting in July and are avail-

able for a month and a half in a season. The trading is good. They can't be sold when they ripen,” said an unripe tamarind trader from Taunggyi Township.

The young green tamarind will ripen in around September, and the price is reasonable now.

“It is eaten in pounded form and fried with onion and garlic. It can be stored for a long time in containers after being fried in a lot of oil. I deliver it to Magway, Mawlamyine, Myeik, Yangon and Mandalay. Young green tamarind is mostly produced from Shan State's Taunggyi,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZS



This photo shows unripe tamarinds produced by Shan State.

Dealers to distribute 2 visses of palm oil per household monthly



This photo depicts the distribution of cooking oil to the public by mobile vehicles under the arrangement of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association.

THE Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association (MEODA) has announced that it will provide door-to-door distribution service of palm oil at the rate of two visses per household for one month.

In Yangon Region's 44 townships, under the supervision of the Edible Oil Import, Storage and Distribution Supervision Committee, palm oil importing companies sell to the public through retail and wholesale shops on a daily and monthly basis.

Despite the current dis-

tribution, some households have difficulty going to shops to buy palm oil, so for such a family to be able to buy palm oil for one month under a quick home-delivery system, the Yangon Region Palm Oil Door-to-door Distribution Committee has planned to sell two visses per household per month, the MEODA announced on 30 July.

People can make orders by phone at centres 01 2399222 (seven extensions) from 9 am to 3:30 pm on Mondays to Saturdays (excluding Sundays and public holidays) starting

31 July.

The retail price is based on the wholesale reference price published in the newspapers every Monday, without profit, and will include bottle and bottling charges.

The delivery fee must be paid by the buyer who places the order, and the product will be sold only in cash on the delivery system, and there is no need to make payment in advance. The committee said the product arrival date can be three days from the order date. — MT/ZN

OPINION

Combat human trafficking in all forms

HUMAN trafficking, a modern form of slavery, is a grave violation of human rights, affecting thousands of men, women, and children worldwide. Countries across the globe grapple with this issue, serving as points of origin, transit, or destinations for victims.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) leads global efforts against this crime through the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its related protocols. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, a key element of this framework, outlines the comprehensive definition of human trafficking. It includes the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of individuals through threats, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or exploitation of vulnerability. The protocol also encompasses the giving or receiving of payments to gain control over another person for exploitation.

Myanmar actively engages in regional anti-trafficking initiatives, particularly through the Greater Mekong Sub-region project. This cooperation includes

To combat these crimes, Myanmar relies on a multi-faceted approach. Strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing law enforcement capabilities, raising public awareness, and fostering international cooperation are critical components of the strategy. By addressing the root causes and providing support to victims, Myanmar aims to significantly reduce the incidence of human trafficking and protect the rights and dignity of all individuals.

Forced marriages often involve young girls and women sold or coerced into marriage, frequently crossing borders. Forced prostitution exploits vulnerable individuals, forcing them into the sex trade under threats or violence. Forced labour involves coercing individuals into work under inhumane conditions, while child trafficking targets minors for various forms of exploitation, including labour and sexual abuse. Debt bondage traps individuals in work environments to repay debts, often under unfair and abusive terms.

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LAND of a million elephants – an obvious overstatement perhaps, yet it is a nation worth visiting for just being a uniquely landlocked sovereign in the heart of ASEAN. Trying to convert the landlocked country into a land-linked nation, Laos is setting a good enough example as the benefits started to accumulate in the economy of the State.

First, back to the basics: Lao vs Laos; Lao, without an 's', is the term used locally, from Beer Lao to "we are Lao people". The Laos is only used when referring to the State or internationally. The country of 7.5 million people lived peacefully under a one-party communist government, uniting around 50 different ethnic minorities. With the country's population akin to that of Yangon, in a land area roughly the size of Shan State, Laos is one of the least densely populated countries on earth. Land transport has always been a challenge as most of the country's geography comprises mountainous regions.

The writer was there on a recent BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) showcase trip, involving travelling from the state capital of Vientiane to the ancient capital of Luang Prabang and finally ending in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province of China via the border crossing at Xishuangbanna. There was no direct flight from Yangon at the time of the trip, but inaugural flights are expected from

the beginning of July 2024. The current flights out of BKK to VTE are with small ATR planes, the same as those used in domestic flights within Myanmar.

Laotian food was not distinctly different from Myanmar's. The only surprise would be the instant realization that you are the world of world's largest per capita consumer of sticky rice. They do not use normal rice (jasmine, basmati, or pawsan) to go with their dishes. Instead, sticky rice is served as the staple.

Costing of a major development

A project that could possibly uplift a nation from a third-world to a first-world infrastructure would not have come without high costs. The \$6 billion high-speed rail project was financed with 60 per cent debt and 40 per cent equity in LCR (Laos China Railway Co). Obviously, the former, being owed to China, would have significantly increased the nation's external debt as a percentage of its GDP. The equity itself was, in turn, 70 per cent funded by China and the remainder 30 per cent by Laos. In essence, China contributed nearly 90 per cent of the required capital and probably an enormous lot of political capital. Most of the trains go empty in business and first-class coaches, but economy class has an occupancy rate of 80+ per cent on average. It would be long



before any financial payback materialized, yet intangible benefits are being experienced as of now.

From Laotians being able to utilize first-world hardware to the country becoming a trans-shipment hub carrying fruits and vegetables from Thailand to now tourists booking the ride the train from Bangkok all the way to Kunming, the positive externalities are numerous. The government aims to double the number of tourist arrivals to four million per annum in the foreseeable future. Just for comparison, tourist arrivals in Myanmar peaked at around 1m in its heydays.

Attractions may be few in between, especially in the capital. The victory monument looks good at first sight, and the night market is a tad too duplicate of

people is what Ayutthaya is to the Thais. The last king of Lao resided there. The Royal Palace and the temple with the burial chamber are on city premises. Just like all the major towns and cities within Laos, they are located alongside the great Mekong River. Going into Thailand is just a boat crossing or swim away. Many tourist attractions are located around the Luang Prabang area, including many elephant camps and trekking tours. According to the historian at the Royal Palace, successive Kings of Lan Xang occupied the Palace, including the seven monarchs who were allegedly killed under the orchestration of one serial monarch killer; a Queen known as Maha Davi (Nang Keo Phimpha).

As with all the developments, lots of displacements occurred as villages were relocated, especially from areas around hydroelectric power plants. Laos has so much electricity generated by hydropower that they are selling back the excess supplies to both Thailand and China, contributing more than 10% to the GDP every year. (And we, in Myanmar, are still short on power, and NNCP terrorists are still bombing our transmission towers). The displaced villagers were given nearby lands. Regardless of their emotional struggles upon giving up their ancestral land, no one dared to object to the

move towards bringing the nation forward. The displaced persons received better housing and more extensive land than they had lost. Such an arrangement would not have been possible, especially in areas dominated by ethnic minorities in Myanmar.

Ultimately, the mega BRI project may have added to Laos' debt, but it decreased transport and logistic costs across the land. It may have increased the number of overseas visitors (targeting 4 million), yet it remains safe. It created job and learning opportunities for Laotians. It may not be a democratic country measured by the Western standards of yardsticks, yet the government continues to fight for economic opportunities and protect the public interest. The successful project completion implies a country that provides for people experiencing poverty, works for working families, makes sense for the middle class, helps out in the heartland and revitalizes the rural landscape. At the end of the day, just like the fastest growing countries in the current decade, Laos has chosen development over democracy, country over individual rights, hope over infighting, determination over indecision and economy over freedom of expression, and people over politics. All its citizens can hope for is to bring the country forward along the path of growth, much like the rest of South East Asia.

Importance of Consuming Foods Rich in Omega-3 to Prevent Alzheimer's Disease

RESearchers analyzed omega-3 blood levels in 320 participants in the Alzheimer's and Families+ (ALFA) cohort in Spain, who were at high genetic risk for AD, but did not have cognitive impairment.

Volunteers were injected with tagged glucose to check how it was metabolized in different brain areas and parallel, erythrocyte fatty acids were quantified, reflecting the consumption of fatty acid-rich foods during the last weeks. Results showed that those with higher blood levels of omega-3 alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), which comes from plant-based sources such as walnuts, showed a better use of brain glucose in critical areas of the brain, which are first affected when the disease begins to manifest.

This was observed in the entire study population, but especially in participants with

- A Spanish study found that high blood levels of omega-3 alpha-linolenic acid (ALA) from plant sources like walnuts are linked to better brain glucose utilization, potentially making the brain more resistant to Alzheimer's disease.
- This finding suggests that increasing omega-3 intake could be a simple, affordable method for Alzheimer's prevention, especially important given the projected rise in dementia cases in India.

a higher genetic risk of Alzheimer's. Conversely, omega-3 docosahexaenoic (DHA), coming from marine sources, was more beneficial in those who, despite not presenting symptoms of Alzheimer's, were already beginning to have the accumulation of proteins (amyloid and tau) that are characteristic of the disease.

Dr Aleix Sala-Vila, lead investigator of the

study and member of the Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute (IMIM), "Reinforces the idea that foods rich in omega-3, such as walnuts, could be useful in making the brain more resistant to the changes that precede the appearance of the disease."

In conditions like AD, signs and symptoms may not show until much later in life.

So, adopting simple, nourishing habits early in life and doing them often, like incorporating foods rich in omega-3s (such as walnuts and fatty fish) could be a promising action that may benefit cognitive function and neurodegenerative conditions (2). Naaznin Husein, renowned Nutritionist, and Founder of Freedom Wellness Management, emphasizes the importance of omega-3-rich walnuts in supporting brain health: "Incorporating walnuts into the diet may be an easy and delicious way to help support brain health throughout the lifespan, as a growing body of research has examined how walnuts could support cognition and prevent risk factors for neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, as well as cardiovascular diseases such as diabetes or high blood pressure, and reduce the risk of cancer."

SOURCE: ANI



ILLUSTRATION: ADOBE

ARTICLE



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 30 July 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 31 July 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw and Rakhine and Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Chin and Kayin states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon 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 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Taninthayi regions and Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 July 2024: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 July 2024: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

New push for mRNA bird flu vaccine development: WHO

THE World Health Organization announced Monday a new project to accelerate the development in poorer countries of vaccines for human bird flu infections using cutting-edge messenger RNA technology.

The WHO said Argentinian manufacturer Sinergium Biotech would lead the effort and had already begun developing candidate H5N1 vaccines.

The bird flu H5N1 first emerged in 1996, but since 2020 an exponential growth in outbreaks in birds has occurred in parallel with the virus increasingly jumping to mammals, including cattle in US farms and a few humans.

This has prompted fears the virus could spark a future pandemic.

Sinergium is aiming to establish proof-of-concept in pre-clinical models for its candidate vaccines, the WHO said.

Once the preclinical data is ready, the technology, materials, and expertise will be shared with a network of manufacturers in poorer countries, allowing them to accelerate their own development and production.

The UN health agency said the project would be rolled out through the mRNA technology transfer programme it established with the UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) in 2021, at the height of the Covid-19 crisis.

That programme was aimed to help low- and middle-income countries, which found themselves dramatically underserved during the pandemic, to develop and produce their own vaccines using mRNA.

The technology instructs the body to produce a unique protein that stimulates an immune response, teaching it to



This handout picture released by the Galapagos National Park Authority shows a Galapagos National Park technician examining samples taken from birds on Genovesa Island in the Galapagos Archipelago, Ecuador, on 18 September 2023. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / PARQUE NACIONAL GALAPAGOS / AFP**

defend against the infection.

Vaccine equity

Swiftly developed mRNA Covid vaccines were game-changers during the pandemic, but they also exposed glaring global vaccine inequity

and demands for a fairer distribution amid efforts to use the technology against other diseases.

“This initiative exemplifies why WHO established the mRNA Technology Transfer

Programme,” the agency’s chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

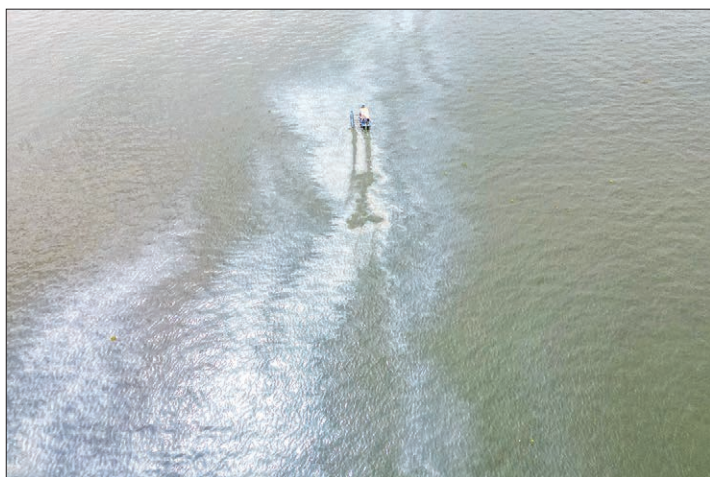
That programme, which counts 15 manufacturing partners in countries ranging from South Africa to Ukraine to Vietnam, was aimed “to foster greater research, development and production in low- and middle-income countries”, he said.

That way, “when the next pandemic arrives, the world will be better prepared to mount a more effective and more equitable response”.

Avian influenza viruses are among those considered to carry the potential of sparking a future pandemic.

The WHO has said there are a range of traditional influenza vaccines already licensed for pandemic use that could potentially be tailored to combat H5N1 if it begins spreading among people. — AFP

Sunken Philippine tanker leaking ‘minimal’ oil



This aerial photo shows an oil slick in Manila Bay, about two kilometres off the coast of Malolos municipality, Bulacan province on 29 July 2024. A tanker carrying 1.4 million litres of industrial fuel oil sank in bad weather off Manila Bay, killing one crew member and leaving the Philippines facing the possibility of its worst oil spill ever. **PHOTO: AFP**

A sunken tanker off Manila was leaking “minimal” oil, the Philippine Coast Guard said Monday, as a salvage company prepared to offload the vessel’s 1.4 million litres of industrial fuel cargo.

The tanker sank in bad weather off Manila early Thursday, killing one crew member and leaving the Philippines fac-

ing the possibility of its worst oil spill ever.

Divers began sealing the vessel’s leaking valves on Saturday, reducing the amount of oil flowing into the water to one litre per hour from 7.5 litres per minute.

The leaking was now “minimal scale” and “very controllable”, said Lieutenant

Commander Michael John Encina from Bataan Coast Guard Station.

The tanker went down as heavy rains fuelled by Typhoon Gaemi and the seasonal monsoon lashed Manila and surrounding regions in recent days.

An aerial inspection of Manila Bay on Monday found the oil slick from the tanker had dramatically reduced in size to 3.2-6.4 kilometres (2-4 miles).

On Saturday it had been 12-14 kilometres, Encina told reporters.

Offloading the 1.4 million litres of industrial fuel oil from the tanker, which was resting on the sea floor under 34 metres of water, was expected to start on Tuesday and would take around 10 days to complete.

Encina said the contracted salvage company would initially transfer 300,000 litres of industrial fuel oil to two other vessels.

That should be sufficient for the tanker to float and be towed to a site where the rest of the cargo can be removed. — AFP

China makes progress in hepatitis prevention, control

AS this year’s World Hepatitis Day was marked on Sunday, Chinese officials and experts highlighted the country’s significant progress in the prevention and control of hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes severe liver disease and cancer.

Infections from hepatitis have shown a steady decline in China thanks to enhanced monitoring and comprehensive interventions, said Chang Jile, deputy head of the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration.

Data showed that the prevalence rate of hepatitis B surface antigen has fallen continuously in the country particularly among children under five years old, where it has been controlled below one per cent. Hepatitis B is one of the most burdensome infectious diseases globally and considered a significant public health issue in China.

When people discuss hepatitis, they typically refer to the highly infectious and harmful

forms of viral hepatitis. There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus, categorized as types A, B, C, D and E.

The incidence rate of hepatitis A in China had dropped from 55.69 per 100,000 individuals in 1991 to 1.06 per 100,000 in 2020, and the incidence rate of hepatitis E remained relatively low, at 1.85 per 100,000 in 2021, said Li Jian, an expert with the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC).

Treatment for viral hepatitis has also improved in China, with more patients now being able to receive standard treatment, said Chang. The antiviral cure rate for hepatitis C patients has exceeded 95 per cent.

According to the National Cancer Centre, China added approximately 367,700 new cases of liver cancer in 2022, with a standardized incidence rate of around 15.03 per 100,000 individuals, indicating a downward trend. — Xinhua

Chinese museums embrace technologies to bring exhibits to life

IMAGINE birds soaring, flowers blooming, and streams flowing, all within a digital panorama. As the holographic “scroll” unfolds, “Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains,” a masterpiece from over 600 years ago, comes to life in a five-metre high and 40-metre long display at the Zhejiang Provincial Museum in Hangzhou.

“I’ve visited many museums, but this experience is unlike anything I’ve ever seen. It’s as if I’ve stepped into the painting itself,” a visitor surnamed Chen remarked, captivated by the experience.

This immersive digital exhibition is just one example of how China’s museums are in-

novating. These institutions are redefining the visitor experience by integrating technologies such as digital twins, virtual reality (VR), and naked-eye 3D. Visitors can “return” to historical places and interact with ancient civilizations as if they were present.

Visitors to the digital Dunhuang immersive exhibition hall in the Mogao Caves in north-west China’s Gansu Province can wear VR glasses to “enter” the caves, and “travel” back over 1,400 years to experience the exquisite world of murals.

Mogao Cave 285, which is usually closed to the public, is now welcoming visitors in this innovative way.



A child experiences VR devices at the Nanjing Science and Technology Museum in Nanjing City, east China’s Jiangsu Province, 1 May 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

This early cave, excavated during the Western Wei dynasty, boasts well-preserved murals

that vividly illustrate the exchange and integration of Chinese and Western cultures. It

stands as a prominent representative of the Dunhuang’s cave art and cultural heritage. — Xinhua

China, Africa move to strengthen digital cooperation



People visit the Photography Exhibition on Pragmatic China-Africa Cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative in Nairobi, Kenya on 22 March 2024. A photography exhibition highlighting the achievements of China-Africa cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was inaugurated on Friday in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

MINISTER of Industry and Information Technology Jin Zhuanlong said at a forum on Monday in Beijing that China will continue its collaboration in the digital field with African countries, and help them build a “digital Africa”.

Jin told the forum on digital cooperation between China and Africa that enterprises will be supported in pragmatic cooper-

ation in such areas as mobile communication, data centres, and submarine and land cables.

Joint efforts will also be made to advance the development and application of digital technologies such as 5G, 6G, network security, high-performance computing and quantum communication, according to Jin. — Xinhua

Japan puts brakes on electric suitcases amid tourism boom

THE growing popularity of rideable suitcases with electric motors designed to get people quickly around airports and train stations has alarmed Japanese authorities following a rise in incidents of foreign visitors using them illegally on public roads.

Japan currently classifies electric suitcases, which are particularly popular in the rest of Asia, as motorized vehicles that can be ridden on roads only with the required safety equipment and a driver’s license.

Two major Japanese airports have already asked travellers not to ride them within their facilities while police are urging domestic retailers to warn customers of the strict laws concerning their use, concerned that foreign visitors are unfamiliar with the rules.

A Chinese woman became the first person referred to prosecutors in Japan in June for unlicensed driving after she was spotted riding a three-wheeled electric suitcase on a sidewalk in Osaka.

In early July, a boy from Indonesia on an electric suitcase was seen weaving his way through a crowd of pedestrians on a street of Osaka’s Dotonbori district, one of the busiest shopping areas in Japan. His family was taken aback when they were told riding such devices on roads is illegal in Japan, saying they can be ridden anywhere in Indonesia.

An electric suitcase has a built-in battery and an electric motor and can travel at

around 10 kilometres per hour. Those sold in Japan are priced at around 100,000 yen (\$640).

Under Japanese traffic law, the suitcases are categorized as “motorized bicycles”, a category that includes mini motorcycles with 50 cc or smaller engines. As such, they need to be registered and equipped with a rear view mirror and turn signals. Drivers are also required to wear a helmet and carry liability insurance. — Kyodo



Photo taken 3 July 2024 shows a boy riding an electric suitcase on a street in Osaka’s Dotonbori district. **PHOTO: KYODO**

ECONOMY WORLD

US national debt surpasses US\$ 35 trillion for first time

THE US federal government's total public debt has surpassed US\$35 trillion for the first time, as recorded at the end of last week, according to data released by the Treasury Department Monday.

The total public debt outstanding climbed to \$35 trillion on Friday, according to the newly released Daily Treasury Statement. The data is updated at the end of each business day with data from the previous business day.

Just seven months ago, the US national debt surpassed \$34 trillion in late December 2023. Three months before that, the United States reached a historic milestone by passing \$33 trillion.

"The borrowing just keeps marching along, reckless and unyielding," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, in a statement. "Yet despite all the risks and warning



Photo taken on 29 July 2024 shows the US Treasury Building in Washington, DC, the United States. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

signs, these alarm bells seem to be falling on deaf ears."

"We are going to have to get serious about the debt, and

soon. Election years cannot be an exception for trying to prevent completely foreseeable dangers -- and the debt is one of the ma-

major dangers we are facing," said MacGuineas.

According to the Peter G Peterson Foundation, a nonpar-

tisan organization focused on addressing US long-term fiscal challenges, the national debt of \$35.001 trillion translates to \$103,945 of debt per person in the United States.

"Our deficits are caused mainly by predictable structural factors: our aging baby-boom generation, rising healthcare costs, and a tax system that does not bring in enough money to pay for what the government has promised its citizens," the foundation said.

Desmond Lachman, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a former official at the International Monetary Fund, told Xinhua earlier that "there can be no question that the US budget deficit is on an unsustainable path".

The "dangerous trajectory" poses "serious questions for the dollar" and inflation's long-run outlook, Lachman said. -- Xinhua

Eurozone economy grows more than expected in second quarter

THE eurozone economy grew faster than expected in the second quarter of 2024, official data showed Tuesday, confirming the single currency area's rebound since January despite Germany's weak performance. The figures will likely support the European Central Bank's view that there is no need to rush to further lower interest rates so soon after a rate cut in June. The EU's official data agency said the 20-country single cur-

rency zone recorded growth of 0.3 per cent over the April-June period, beating economists' forecasts. Analysts surveyed by FactSet and Bloomberg had expected growth of 0.2 per cent.

That comes after the eurozone also grew by 0.3 per cent in the first quarter of this year, breaking away from stagnation in the second half of 2023.

In the final six months of last year, the eurozone recorded zero per cent growth.

The better-than-hoped-for growth will delight many but concerns remain over Germany, Europe's largest economy, which is weighing on the single currency area's performance.

Germany's output contracted by 0.1 per cent in the second quarter.

"All in all, today's data once again confirms that Germany is the growth laggard of the eurozone," ING Bank's Carsten Brzeski said. But he added that "a rebound in the second half of the year is still possible, even though it is highly unlikely that it will be a strong one". There are however warning signs for the European economy after data last week showed business activity in the eurozone slowed further in July, with persistent weakness in the manufacturing sector. In stark contrast to Germany, France, the eurozone's second biggest economy, and Spain, the fourth, beat forecasts to grow in the second quarter by 0.3 per cent and 0.8 per cent respectively. -- AFP



Employees work on the car production line at Seat factory in Martorell on 27 June 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

SUMMARIES: SCI

FDI disbursement in Vietnam sets record in Jan-July

TOTAL foreign direct investment (FDI) disbursed in Vietnam in the first seven months of 2024 is estimated to rise 8.4 per cent year-on-year to US\$12.25 billion, a record for the seven-month period in five years, according to the General Statistics Office.

The processing-manufacturing sector saw the largest amount at \$9.98 billion.

It was followed by real estate business at \$1.14 billion, and production and distribution of electricity, gas, hot water, steam and air conditioning at \$481.1 million. As of 20 July, foreign investment in Vietnam reached over \$18 billion, a year-on-year increase of 10.9 per cent, said the office. -- Xinhua

Indonesia views Africa as significant market for EV batteries: minister

INDONESIA viewed Africa as a significant market for electric vehicle batteries and is actively seeking collaboration with countries on the continent, said Coordinating Minister for Maritime and Investment Affairs Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan on Monday.

During the International Battery Summit in Jakarta, Luhut said with a fast-growing population, Africa becomes a big market. "We are anxious to establish relationships with them, particularly Kenya and South Africa."

Luhut embarked on a mission to Africa and has been engaging with major stakeholders in the continent's electric vehicle industry.

The Indonesia-Africa Forum, set for September 2024, will include further discussions on collaborative initiatives in the electric vehicle sector. -- Xinhua

Toyota retains No 1 spot in 1st half global sales for 5th year

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Tuesday that its group sold 5.16 million vehicles worldwide in the first half of 2024, outselling German rival Volkswagen AG to retain the top spot in global sales for the fifth straight year.

But its global sales in the January-June period, including those of its small-car manufacturing unit Daihatsu Motor Co and truck-making subsidiary Hino Motors Ltd, fell 4.7 per cent from a year earlier due to production halts stemming from a series of quality scandals and sluggish sales in China.

Volkswagen sold 4.35 million vehicles in the same period, down from 4.37 million a year earlier, according to the German company.

Toyota group's global production fell 9.8 per cent to 5.07 million vehicles in the first six months, the



Photo taken on 26 March 2024 shows a revamped electric pickup truck of Toyota Motor Corp during a media preview of the Bangkok International Motor Show in Thailand. **PHOTO: KYODO**

automaker said.

The group's domestic sales slumped 32.0 per cent to 823,595 vehicles as Daihatsu temporarily suspended production after it was found that safety test data had been rigged.

The small-car specialist resumed operations at all of its domestic assembly plants in early May after a halt at its factories in December.

Toyota also halted some domestic produc-

tion during the half-year period, admitting that it conducted vehicle tests in ways not specified by the government. A recent recall of the popular Prius hybrid car also pushed down the figure. — Kyodo

Harley-Davidson Japan searched over excessive sales quotas

THE Japan unit of motorcycle company Harley-Davidson Inc was searched by the country's antitrust watchdog on Tuesday for allegedly imposing excessive sales quotas on dealers in violation of the antimonopoly law, sources close to the matter said.

The Japan Fair Trade Commission suspects Harley-Davidson Japan

KK in Tokyo insinuated there would be no renewal of exclusive sales contracts with the dealers if they failed to meet the set goals, leading some to purchase motorcycles for themselves, according to the sources.

The unit is also suspected of pressuring the stores to purchase unpopular models they did not want. — Kyodo



File photo of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Chinese electric cars secure thousands of orders at Indonesia's exhibition

CHINESE automaker Wuling Motors secured 2,302 vehicle orders during the GAIKINDO International Auto Show 2024, held in BSD City, Indonesia, from 18 to 28 July.

"This is tangible proof of consumer confidence in the quality and innovation we have brought as we enter our seventh year in Indonesia," said Wuling

Motors Senior Marketing Strategy Manager Ricky Christian on Monday. The BinguoEV was the best-seller, accounting for 30 per cent of the total orders, followed by the Air EV (26 per cent) and the Cloud EV (23 per cent). Wuling displayed a total of 15 car models and recorded 1,610 test drive participants during the event. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka to import eggs again to stabilize prices

THE Sri Lankan government has approved a proposal to import eggs to stabilize market prices and ensure adequate supplies during the upcoming festive seasons, the government's infor-

mation department said on Tuesday.

The department said Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security Nalin Fernando submitted the proposal for the import of eggs. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0326-775N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0326-775N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-7-2024** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3417S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3417S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacture Chrysalis Crop Pte., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Anger 10EC	Evo Top Gear 10EC	Alpha-Cypermethrin 10%EC	Full	F2018-1816

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of herbicide.

Address-**Evogro Co., Ltd.** No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

93 killed after landslides strike India tea estates

LANDSLIDES in India triggered by pounding monsoon rains struck tea plantations and killed at least 93 people Tuesday, with at least 250 others rescued from mud and debris, officials said.

The southern coastal state of Kerala has been battered by torrential downpours, with blocked roads into the disaster area in Wayanad district complicating relief efforts.

“Ninety-three dead bodies have been found so far,” Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan told reporters. “This is one of the worst natural calamities that our state has seen.”

Another 128 people had been hospitalized for treatment after their rescue, he said.

“My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved



This handout photograph taken on 30 July 2024 and released by India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) shows NDRF personnel at the disaster site as they rescue victims of the landslide in Wayanad. **PHOTO: NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE (NDRF) / AFP**

ones and prayers with those injured,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on social me-

dia platform X.

Wayanad is famed for the tea estates that crisscross its hilly

countryside and which rely on a large pool of casual labourers for planting and harvest.

Several estates in the district were hit by two successive landslides before dawn when most of their inhabitants were asleep.

Images published by the National Disaster Response Force showed rescue crews trudging through mud to search for survivors and carry bodies on stretchers out of the area. Homes were caked with brown sludge as the force of the landslide scattered cars, corrugated iron and other debris around the disaster site.

India's army said it had deployed more than 200 soldiers to the area to assist state security forces and fire crews in search-and-rescue efforts. Kerala state excise minister MB Rajesh said more than 250 people had been rescued so far, The Hindu newspaper reported. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 killed, 20 injured as 18 train coaches derail in India's Jharkhand

AT least two people were killed and 20 others injured after 18 coaches of a passenger train derailed Tuesday in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, officials said.

The accident took place in the morning hours near Barabambo station of Chakradharpur in West Singhbhum district, about 123 kilometres southeast of Ranchi, the capital city of Jharkhand.

Following the derailment, ambulances and rescue teams rushed to the spot to help the injured. “Two people were killed and 20 injured as 18 coaches of Howrah-Mumbai Mail derailed near Barabambo. Rescue operations are on and an NDRF team is rushing to the spot,” West Singhbhum Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary, who is camping at the accident site, was quoted in local media as having said. — Xinhua

Beijing renews yellow alert for rainstorms

BELJING meteorological observatory renewed a yellow alert for rainstorms at 2:55 pm on Tuesday, warning of heavy rainfall and secondary disasters in the city.

There has already been heavy rainfall in Beijing since Tuesday morning. Due to the impact of new rain clouds, the rainfall will intensify again from the afternoon to Tuesday night. Most parts of Beijing will see cumulative rainfall exceeding 100 millimetres, with some areas in Huairou, Miyun and Pinggu districts reaching over 250 millimetres.

Secondary disasters such as flash floods, mudslides and landslides may occur in mountainous and hilly areas, while low-lying areas may experience waterlogging. Citizens have been requested to take precautions. — Xinhua

Evacuations, destruction as California's largest fire of year rages



Stairs remain standing at a destroyed trailer home as the Nixon Fire burns with evacuation orders in the area on 29 July 2024 near Aguanga, California. The wildfire in Riverside County has scorched 3,700 acres thus far. 726,000 acres have burned in California so far this year— more than five times the average for this point in the summer. **PHOTO: MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

THRONGS of firefighters were mobilized in California Monday to battle the state's largest blaze of the year, which has prompted thousands of evacuations and already burned an area larger than the city of Los Angeles.

The Park Fire outside of Chico in the state's north has been raging since Wednesday in a rural region about three hours' drive northeast of San Francisco. It has now ravaged more

than 370,000 acres (149,700 hectares) according to the Cal Fire agency, making it one of the largest fires in state history.

No casualties have been reported so far, and firefighters benefitted from a slight drop in temperatures over the weekend that allowed them to make some progress, with the fire now 12 per cent contained.

Nearly 4,900 firefighters have been mobilized, with 33

helicopters, 400 fire trucks and numerous planes battling the conflagration.

More than 26,000 residents were under evacuation orders Monday afternoon, with authorities calling for extreme caution due to a high risk of fire escalation. “This fire is extremely unstable and unpredictable,” Tehama County Sheriff Dave Kain told a press conference Monday. — AFP

SPORTS

MLF holds qualifiers for Myanmar boxers

WITH the cooperation of the Myanmar Lethwei Federation (MLF), Japan Boxing Commission (JBC) and MBC Company, qualifiers for Myanmar boxers were held in Yangon yesterday.

Men's events feature 50.80 kilogrammes (flyweight), 57.15 kg (featherweight), 63.50 kg (super lightweight), 72.57 kg (middleweight) and 79.38 kg (light

heavyweight), totalling eight categories.

"There was a time when our Myanmar boxers were very successful. But now there are fewer boxers. Because of the lesser players, when we gather fighters, we see a lot of weight problems.

Although the weight class is different, we will choose the good one. Japan JBC will arrive

here on 21 August. The referees and coaches will also come. We will select more players during the next round of qualification, MBC's Managing Director U Kyaw Win Tun said. Both men's and women's qualifiers will continue on 21 August.

— Arkar Linn/
KZL



Fighters showcase skills during the men's boxing qualifiers in Yangon.



Teen swim star McIntosh 'soaking up the moment' after first Olympic gold

CANADIAN prodigy Summer McIntosh said she was "soaking up the moment" after the 17-year-old swimmer won her first Olympic gold medal in style on Monday.

World record-holder McIntosh produced a dominant 400-metre medley swim in Paris, clocking the fourth-fastest time ever.

She powered to the wall in 4 minutes 27.71 seconds, outpacing American pair Katie Grimes (4:33.40) and Emma Weyant (4:34.93).

It was the Toronto swimmer's second Paris medal after pipping Katie Ledecy to win silver behind Australian star Ariarne Titmus in the 400m freestyle.

"I'm just trying to soak up the moment as much as possible because obviously these moments only come around every four years. So just trying to make Team Canada proud," she said.

McIntosh's journey to the top began at the pandemic-delayed Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where she made her mark as a 14-year-old by coming fourth in the 200m freestyle behind winner Titmus.

Now at her second Games, she feels like a veteran and said her Japan experience helped her deal with the big occasions better.

"Every single time I get to race on the world stage I learn more and more about handling it, mentally and physically and emotionally, and trying not to get too high or too low, depending on my race results," she said. — AFP

Thet Htar Thuzar quits Paris Olympics after narrow loss

MYANMAR badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar has left the 2024 Olympic Badminton Tournament after suffering a shock loss to a Canadian player by only

two points.

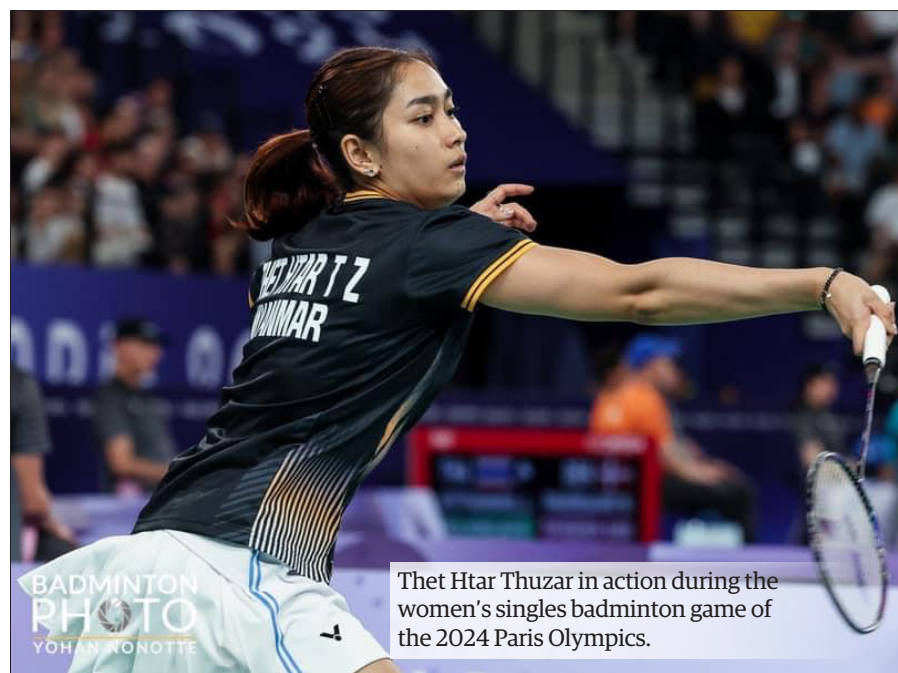
The 25-year-old Thet Htar Thuzar, ranking 43rd in the world, was able to play with the same ability against 32-year-old

Canadian player Michelle Li, ranking 32nd in the world. However, she lost by 21-16 and 25-23 points during the Group C match of the 2024 Paris Olympic Women's Single Badminton Event.

After the loss, Thet Htar Thuzar expressed her feelings on her social media.

"My 2024 Olympic was ended yesterday after losing my second group match by 21-16 and 25-23. It was a tough match, but I did try my best and gave all that I had. The atmosphere was amazing, and I am really grateful to have had this superb experience. Thank you to everyone who came to encourage me in person and online. I do really appreciate each one of your support," Thet Htar Thuzar stated.

Thet Htar Thuzar also competed against world-class 6th Japanese player Yamaguchi on 26 July and suffered a significant loss: 21-12 and 21-10. — Htun Htun/KZL



Thet Htar Thuzar in action during the women's singles badminton game of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Paris put on major storm alert during Olympic Games

FRANCE'S meteorological service on Tuesday put Paris and its surrounding suburbs on a major storm alert as the city hosts the Olympic Games.

Strong thunderstorms, heavy rain, hail and lightning were likely from 6 pm (1600 GMT) over the French capital, the weather service announced in a bulletin.

This could be accompanied by "intense precipitation (around 20 mil-

limetres to 40 millimetres in less than an hour)" with the impact to be very localized and last until about midnight, the service said.

The storm alert comes as Paris swelters in heat forecast to reach 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) on Tuesday as it hosts the fourth day of the Games.

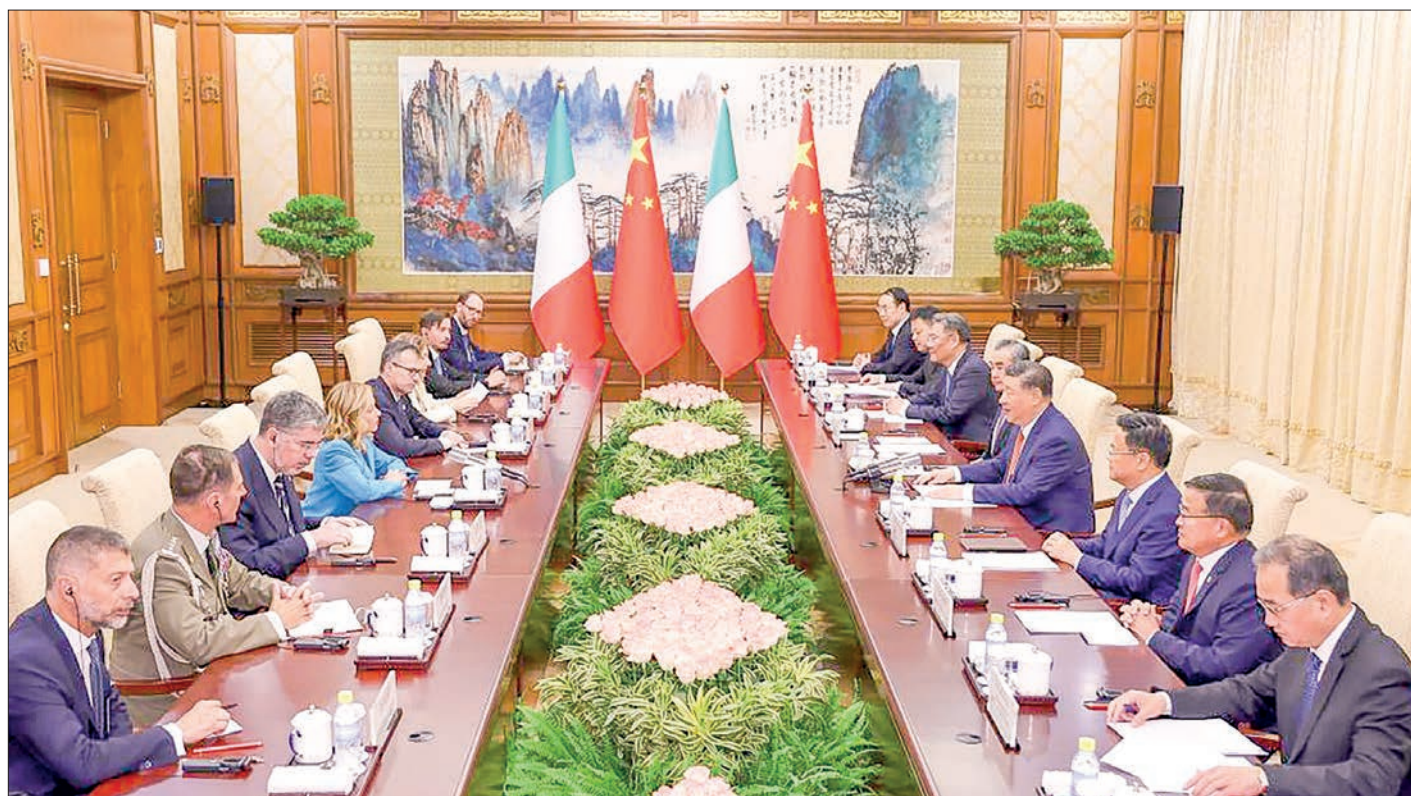
The scorching temperatures will

be keenly felt by Olympians competing in outdoor events including the beach volleyball at the Eiffel Tower and the women's rugby semi-finals at the Stade de France.

Other cities in France hosting Olympic events have also been affected by a strong heatwave, with temperatures in some central and southern parts hitting 40C in recent days. — AFP



Xi meets Italian prime minister, calls for upholding Silk Road spirit



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who is on an official visit to China, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, capital of China, 29 July 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni here on Monday.

Noting that China and Italy are at the two ends of the ancient Silk Road, Xi said the time-honoured friendly exchanges between the two countries have made significant contributions to the overall exchanges and mutual learning between Eastern and Western civilizations, and to the progress of humanity.

The Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness,

mutual learning and mutual benefit is a shared treasure of China and Italy, Xi said.

He said that amid accelerating global changes unseen in a century, countries will either progress together through connectivity and unity, or retreat separately through closure and division. China and Italy should uphold and promote the Silk Road spirit, view and develop bilateral relations from a historical dimension, strategic height and long-term perspective, and push their relations to

go steady and far.

Xi said the healthy and stable development of China-Italy relations is in line with the common interests of both countries and their peoples. Despite the ongoing profound changes in the international landscape, China's commitment to valuing and developing relations with Italy has not changed, the nature of win-win cooperation of China-Italy relations has not changed, and the friendship between the two peoples has not changed, he added. — Xinhua

Greece on alert after outbreak of small-ruminants plague

GREECE has culled approximately 9,000 animals following an outbreak of the small-ruminants plague (PPR). This action was part of efforts to contain the spread of the contagious and deadly viral disease, after inspections of over 230,000 goats and sheep on the mainland over the past week, Greek Agricultural Development and Food Minister Kostas Tsiraras said on Tuesday.

"We are taking all necessary measures to address the issue," he told Greek broadcaster ERT, adding that there was no risk to public health.

The agriculture ministry has announced a nationwide ban on the transport of goats and sheep for any reason as a preventive step, as experts were trying to locate the origin of the disease.

The first cases were identified in the region of Thessaly in central Greece last week, where units were placed under quarantine. On Monday a few cases were reported also near Athens and on the Peloponnese peninsula in southern Greece. Breeders said that some animals tested positive were imported from Romania.

Greek authorities also proceeded to ban imports of goats and sheep from Romania until this Friday. — Xinhua

Lebanon taking necessary measures to prevent escalation with Israel – minister

THE Lebanese government is making every effort to avoid escalation of fighting between Israel and Shiite movement Hezbollah in the wake of the shelling in the Golan Heights, Lebanese Labour Minister Mustafa Bayram told Sputnik.

Several Israeli officials said that a war with Lebanon was

imminent. The Israeli army struck a number of Hezbollah targets deep inside Lebanon and in the country's south on Sunday morning.

The minister accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of using Lebanon "to show the Israelis that he has not turned away from

northern Israel and the Golan Heights."

The Israeli army said on Saturday that 12 people had been killed in a rocket strike on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, which it blamed on Hezbollah. The Lebanese movement denied the claim. — SPUTNIK



Smoke billows from a site targeted by the Israeli military in the southern Lebanese border village of Kafra Kila on 29 July 2024 amid ongoing cross-border clashes between Israeli troops and Hezbollah fighters. Fallout from the Gaza war is regularly felt on the Israel-Lebanon frontier, where deadly cross-border exchanges have escalated between Israeli troops and mainly Hezbollah fighters. **PHOTO: AFP**