

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Senior General announces complimentary pilgrimage to Maravijaya Buddha Image

Flexibility embraced: Pilgrim guidelines to remain gentle during initial three-month trial period



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing extends warm greetings to pilgrims at the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, accompanied by the noted statement. **SEE PAGE-3**

Reminder issued to rice millers, merchants, companies: MRF

THE management committee of the Myanmar Rice Federation issued a reminder on 25 August to rice millers, merchants and companies.

The reminder mentioned those who manage the rice and paddy industry are aware that paddy is cultivated at home for local sufficiency and annual export of surplus rice to foreign markets with a sufficient volume of rice stock. As such, everybody needs to emphasize fair and stable prices of rice without storing stock to manipulate rice prices.

Rice millers who are members of MRF and associate rice associations, rice merchants and companies have been urged to cooperate in implementing the press releases.

Rice millers have to systematically compile statistics for storage and consignment of paddy, records of prices for buying and selling, and stock records.

They have to operate rice mills at full capacity in the supply of electricity, record running hours of rice mills, and report to MRF and its branches at different levels if they need to operate rice mills by diesel due to a lesser supply of electricity.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS PAGE-6



Coordination of labour diplomats needed to organize money transfer system, issues of MoU workers

LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-7



Consumers can complain about overcharging: MOC

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-approved NCA stands ground: Legally valid and never annulled

AT the press conference held at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, Daw Saw Mra Raza Lin, the spokesperson of five NCA signatory EAOs, said that the NCA was signed by the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and representatives from eight EAOs. The national-level political dialogues were based on the NCA. The NCA approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is not just legal but

also never annulled. Hence, the majority of NCA signatory EAOs will continue implementation of the NCA. They will hold peace talks until a State based on democratic and federal systems can be built. The talks focus on the participation of EAOs in building the Union based on democratic and federal systems. At present, the discussions emphasize holding the 8th anniversary of NCA which falls on 15 October with essence.

The spokesperson of the State Peace Talks Team Col Wunna Aung

explained that in the tenure of the State Administration Council, the Peace Talks Team of the State held talks with seven NCA signatories and three non-NCA signatories, and political parties. They agreed on 21 points from provisions of the Constitution (2008) in a bid to make collaborative efforts for cementing the multiparty democratic system, building the Union based on democratic and federal systems the entire people aspire to and joining hands with all to initiate peace and development of the Union.

SEE PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Maravijaya Buddha Image packed with devotees on full moon day of Wagaung

THE Maravijaya Buddha Image, the tallest of its kind in the world and situated within its park, drew crowds of pilgrims on the full moon of Wagaung.

Traditional Thudhamma public rest houses, Sasana Beikman Agga Dhipati ordination hall, and other religious and leisure areas in Buddha Park have attracted pilgrims.

The health workers are providing the necessary healthcare services to the monks, nuns and the elderly people who come to pay homage to the Buddha image.

The Myanmar Red Cross and the fire brigade members

are also assisting the elderly people who have difficulty walking by transporting them with wheelchairs so that they can pay obeisance comfortably.

There will be no entrance fee to the Buddha Image. Starting from 4 September, it will collect camera fees for phones bearing cameras, making videos and other video recording activities. Moreover, there will also be a parking fee for private vehicles that park in the pagoda precinct.

The Buddha image is open to the public from 6 am to 8 pm daily. — MNA/KTZH



Photos depict devotees embarking on pilgrimage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image at Nay Pyi Taw's Buddha Park, reverently continuing tradition.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Full Moon of Wagaung 1385 ME
31 August 2023

IT is necessary to control Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection continuously. So, it is now announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives except for easing restrictions released by Union-level Organizations and Union Ministries up to 31 August 2023 have been extended to 30 September 2023 for prevention, control and treatment on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

Objectives of 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2023

- (a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- (b) To explore, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- (c) To explore and preserve the traditional cultural heritage for the young generation and further propagate the national spirit
- (d) To support measures in the field of national culture ensuring the development, peace and tranquility of the State

COVID-19 report,
31 August 2023

NEW TESTS

3,882

NEW CASES

3

CASUALTIES

0

NATIONAL

Senior General announces complimentary pilgrimage to Maravijaya Buddha Image

TEMPORARY disciplines must be enforced for pilgrims to the Maravijaya Buddha image, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting related to the world's tallest sitting marble Maravijaya Buddha image at the board trustees of the image in the Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General stressed the need to transport members of the Sangha, older persons and people with disabilities by buggy to pay homage to the Maravijaya Buddha image, urging officials to keep the precinct of the image neat and tidy.

Regarding the pilgrimage tours, the Senior General underscored that permanent dis-



The Senior General joins the meeting on the world's tallest sitting marble Buddha image in the Buddha Park yesterday.



ciplines should not be issued for pilgrims to the Buddha image within the first three-month test period but temporary disciplines must be enforced. All pilgrims to the Buddha image precinct must be allowed free of charge for their most convenience, and

appropriate charges must be collected for mobile phones with cameras, video recording and amateur taking photos by camera, he added.

He continued to say that suitable charges must be systematically collected from the car park. In conclusion, he gave guidance that it is necessary to calculate the requirements of manpower, finance and management based on the three-month experiences for sustainable maintenance of the Buddha image.

Adviser to the SAC Chairman Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army),

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Maj-Gen Zaw Naing Oo, union ministers and officials reported on the arrivals of 8,241 members of the Sangha, 1,998 nuns, 327,871 people, totalling 338,110 to pay the Buddha image up to 30 August, admission free of pilgrimage for monks, nuns and students under school plans and personnel at 50 per cent discount, formation of the image board of trustees, construction of two Arahat chambers, video recording on the image, water fountain square, and stone plaque chambers by drone, completion of the entrance road to the image and U-turn, security

measures and compilation of the record book on the image.

The Senior General viewed round the platform of the image and stone plaque chambers and cordially greeted pilgrims.

The consecration of the Maravijaya Buddha image, hoisting umbrellas atop stone plaque chamber pagodas and sharing merits gained took place on 1 August. Starting from 8 August, members of the Sangha and people were allowed to pay homage to the image, and the religious edifices in the precinct of the image are crowded with monks, nuns and pilgrim people daily. — MNA/TTA

Salient points in speech of Senior General at meeting on Maravijaya Buddha Image

- Monks, older persons and the people with disabilities will be transported by buggy for paying homage
- Permanent disciplines should not be issued for pilgrims to the Buddha image within first three-month test period
- All pilgrims to Maravijaya Buddha image precinct must be allowed free of charge for their most convenience

MoE UM arrives back from China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Ceremony



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe is seen being welcomed back on his arrival at Yangon International Airport.

THE delegation headed by Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, who attended the 2023 China ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Ceremony held in Guiyang, Guizhou province of China, arrived back in Yangon yesterday.

The event is being held from 28 August to 2 September and issues about educational cooperation between Guizhou University and universities of Myanmar and the strong promotion of educational exchange and cooperation were cordially discussed. — MNA/KZL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-approved NCA stands ground: Legally ...

FROM PAGE-1

He continued to say that the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee-JMC together with the UN provides humanitarian aid to needy areas in coordination with relevant state governments. So, humanitarian aid has been distributed to the Leiktho-Yado region of Thandaunggyi Township in Kayin State, Laykaekaw region of Myawady Township, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun and MraukU townships in Rakhine State, Hsihseng, Pinlaung, Pekhon, Nyaungshwe, Taung-

gyi and Hopong townships of Shan State.

The government, Tatmadaw and eight ethnic armed organizations signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement-NCA on 15 October 2015 in the presence of diplomats from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, Thailand, the European Union and the United Nations as well as local witnesses and it was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Two more EAOs signed the NCA on 13 February 2018. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

SPTT concludes peace talks with 5 NCA signatories



The third-day peace talks in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

STATE Peace Talks Team separately met the delegation led by ALP Chair Daw Saw Mra Raza Lin, the delegation led by Saw Ba Nyein Aung at the rank of Operational Commander of DKBA, the delegation led by KNU/KNLA Peace Council Vice-Chair Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo, the delegation led by LDU Vice-Chair Kyar Phu, the delegation led by PNLO Chairman Khun Thurein in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides frankly discussed issues related to regional security, stability and develop-

ment through each delegation's presentations.

SPTT and five NCA-Signatory EAO delegates also continued the third-day peace talks at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre.

Following the three-day discussion and negotiation, the parties concerned agreed, signed and exchanged the final comprehensive peace agreements. ALP Chair Daw Saw Mra Raza Lin and Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae gave their closing remarks to wind up the peace talks. — MNA/TS

MoALI plans to provide compensation in time for confiscated agri-land

THE Union Minister for of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation stated at the 10th meeting of the Central Agricultural Land Management Body that arrangements are being made to pay the compensation in time for the land seized by the state in accordance with existing farmland laws and regulations in order not to harm those who have the right to agricultural land, whether it is for the benefit of the state or for the public.

The discussions were made

at the meeting regarding matters related to the applications for the vacant, fallow, and virgin land to be designated as agricultural land according to the relevant laws and submissions of the right to use farmland in other ways according to the provisions of the farmland laws and regulations. The Union Minister also stated that it is important for the departments to complete the ownership deed of the land used according to the relevant business. — TWA/CT

Youth empowerment campaign continues in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs jointly held an awareness campaign on five kinds of strength for youths at No 6 BEHS in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint said on the occasion that youths should be perfect ones in terms of knowledge and skills. Therefore, the government is implementing an education system like a comprehensive education system to develop five essential strengths including knowledge and skills.

He then highlighted the missions of the literary talks and discussion and urged the students to be outstanding ones, and also teachers to be good mentors for the students.

During the talk show, Sayamagyi Daw May Kyawt Shin talked about the word of Mingalaba, the cultural greet-



Deputy Minister U Ye Tint joins the youth empowerment campaign yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

ing speech of Myanmar, the duties of students to ask the teachers what they want to know without hesitation and to read various literature to know what is right and what is wrong and also urged the students to avoid drugs and try hard to become outstanding students.

The event also features colourful photo contests "Hla Pa Thayar Pyi Myanmar", a mobile library with books and journals to develop the five strengths of students, fun games of MRTV-4 artistes, the awarding section for winners and other fun activities for the students. — MNA/KTZH

Reminder issued to rice millers ...

FROM PAGE-1

If they cannot operate rice mills due to being out of control, they have to report to the federation in advance. If they store rice for domestic consumption such as Ayeyawady Pawsan and Shwebo Pawsan, they have to set storage records. They must not

sell lessen selling of stock to the market despite having a regular volume of stock.

Everybody needs to expose those who intentionally commit to rising prices of paddy and rice and report it to the federation or relevant departments in time. — Myo Min Thura/TTA

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

MoIP UM receives UNFPA Resident Representative to Myanmar

U Myint Kyaing, Union Minister for Immigration and Population, received a delegation led by Mr Ramanathan Balakrishnan, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Resident Representative to Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed issues related to population and de-

velopment negotiated last July on the dialogue between the ministry and the UNFPA resident representative, the ministry's review and action on the UNFPA headquarters' response regarding the issue of population home census, the ministry's response to the submission of a list of names for the appointment of UNFPA's



UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Ramanathan Balakrishnan calls on Union Minister U Myint Kyaing yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

new resident representative to Myanmar and the tradition of

long-term cooperation between the ministry and UNFPA in My-

anmar's population and development issues. — MNA/KZL

CRIME NEWS

Confiscation of illegal items: Timbers, fuel oil, foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles

THE Customs on-duty teams at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint nabbed a Mitsubishi Fuso truck and a Nissan Diesel truck (approximately worth K60 million), headed to Yangon from Mawlamyine, carrying 12 kinds of goods worth K28 million, including 48 bottles of Pascual Yogikids without official documents on 25 August and a Higer bus (estimated value of K30 million), travelling from Kawkareik to Yangon, carrying 7,740 bags of Wai Wai instant rice vermicelli worth K2.365 million on 28 August. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team under the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded 4,800 gallons of smuggled diesel worth K38.4 million in Monywa on 28 August. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Similarly, a combined team under the management of Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections on 28 August and captured a Nissan diesel tractor head and a trailer (es-



Seized illegal goods in Sagaing Region.

estimated value of K70 million) carrying four kinds of goods worth about K36.362 million, including 288 Valence Adhesives that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) near No 2 Junction on Yangon-Bago highway and a Hino Profia vehicle (approximately worth K40 million), headed to Yangon from Muse, carrying six kinds of goods worth about K34.127 million, including 3,500 Tecno back bags that were not declared in the ID on the detour in Bago township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined on-duty team at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint confiscated two Nissan Diesel trucks (approximately worth K57 million) travelling from

Nabu-Myapadaing village road to Kawkareik-Myawady road, carrying a total of 9.754 tonnes of teak without official documents on 28 August and a vehicle, headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying 6,480 bags of Smart softener worth K4.05 million without official documents on 29 August. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 1.936 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K135,576 was seized in Bago district on 29 August and action was taken under the Forest Law.

A total of 18 arrests were made on 25, 28 and 29 August, with an estimated value of K448,519,646, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in Thabeikkyin, Lashio townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Pajero driven by Hlaing Moe Win and accompanied by Nang Lin Oo, Aung Soe Lin and Kyaw Zin Htun at the combined checkpoint in Wahphyutaung village-tract in Thabeikkyin township at 6:15 pm on 29 August and captured 2.1 kilogrammes of heroin.

Additionally, a combined

team including members of the Anti-Durg Police Force searched the house of Kyaw Yin (aka) Ah Wam in Ward 5 of Lashio at 2:30 pm on 30 August and seized 1.3 kilogrammes of Ketamine, 0.07 kilogramme of Happy Water, 550 Ecstasy tablets and 400 Happy-5 tablets.

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



Four arrestees are seen along with confiscated drugs and a vehicle.

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.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Department of Buildings issues construction permits for 70 buildings last week of August in Yangon



The rear view of a building under construction in Yangon.

It is known that 70 construction permits were issued within the municipal area of the Yangon City Development Committee last week of August.

According to the Engineering Department (Buildings), 70 construction permits were issued and 28 building completion certificates (BCC) were approved last week of August.

Furthermore, to allow the construction of the building,

10 letters of recommendation were sent to the Department of Fire Services, as well as 49 letters to the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), 20 letters to the Department of Urban Land Management, one to the Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges), one to the Engineering Department (Water Course Management), and one to the Department of Urban and Housing Development. — TWA/CT

Around 4,000 visses of chilli peppers traded at low price

A total of 200 bags of cold-processed Panye long chilli pepper weighing around 4,000 visses have been sold out wholesale at a low price in the sluggish Bayintnaung chilli pepper market, according to the market reports.

At a time when the market was sluggish, it was strange that the chilli peppers were traded at K14,000 per viss. The price of long chilli peppers in the cold storage was as high as K15,000–K15,500 in the previous days, but the price fell due to a lack of demand.

The purchase price of a viss of long chilli pepper varies from K11,000 to K13,500 when they were first put in cold storage. The cost of the cold storage for half a year, transport, and labour is about K1,000 per viss. Those who purchased them at a price of K11,000–K12,000 per viss in early 2023 got profits, and those who paid K13,000–K13,500 for a viss of chilli pepper faced losses.

Thus, storing the Pyawbwe Moehtaung chilli peppers produced in 2022 in cold storage could incur a loss, not profit, this year, said a chilli pepper trader.

Only Sinphyukyun bell peppers and Delta bell peppers (bell peppers from the delta region) processed in the cold storage have a wholesale rate of K19,500–K20,000 per viss in the Yangon chilli pepper market.

It is reported that the colour of the chilli peppers fades about a month after they are taken out of the cold storage, so traders sell them out in the market as soon as possible after they have been taken out of the cold storage. — TWA/CT



Chilli peppers traded in the market.

Coordination of labour diplomats needed to organize money transfer system, issues of MoU workers

UNION Minister for Labour U Myint Naung said at a meeting with officials of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) on 29 August that it is necessary for the banks of the two countries to systematize the remittances to the families of MoU workers and for labour issues to be coordinated as soon as possible by the labour attaches.

He continued that relevant agencies need to send contracted workers within 90 days to avoid complaints from the workers, which may occur if they are not able to send them within the specified date.

As of 23 August, there are a total of 457 licensed foreign employment agencies and

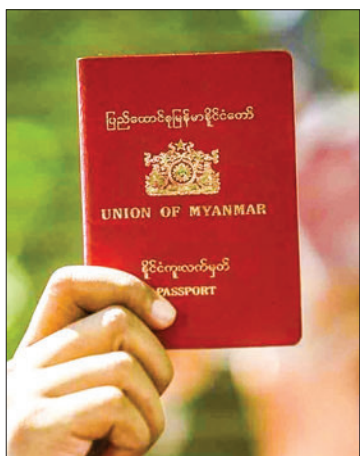


File photo taken in 2022 shows Myanmar MoU workers who will go to Thailand.

150 Thai-licensed agencies in Myanmar. It is reported that foreign employment

guidance courses for workers who will go to work in foreign countries are being conduct-

ed at skill training schools in Yangon Region and Mandalay Region. — TWA/CT



The photo shows a Myanmar national holding the passport.

Myanmar citizens in Thailand allowed PJ passport renewals without taking appointment token

MYANMAR citizens in Thailand will be able to apply for PJ passport renewals without the appointment token starting from 2 September.

The Myanmar Embassy to Thailand announced that Myanmar citizens in Thailand whose PJ passports will expire on 31

March 2024 are to renew them by taking appointment tokens in person every Saturday starting from 29 July. However, the number of people who are taking appointment tokens have now become fewer. Therefore, the appointment token system will be suspended on 2 September.

It has been notified that those who want to apply for PJ passport renewals are requested to come in person without taking appointment token from Monday to Friday to the consular department, the Myanmar Embassy to Thailand. — TWA/MKKS

LOCAL BUSINESS

Consumers can complain about overcharging: MOC says

WITH the Consumers Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce endeavouring to scale down palm oil prices, consumers can make a complaint about overcharging by dialling the Call Centre.

The department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to the consumers, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association and oil importing companies.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over Hot Line: 1535 of the Call Centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook Page of the department and the pages of the region and state departments concerned.

The coordination meeting for the edible oil price stability was held on 30 August at the Ministry of Commerce (office No 3). Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo gave the remark that the State contributed cheaper way to buying foreign currency to the edible oil sector by allowing

the importers to buy 50 per cent of the total cost of imported palm oil at the reference exchange rate at the Central Bank of Myanmar and the remaining at the best rate. Furthermore, the CBM also stepped up to deal with foreign currency shortages for edible oil importers.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo elaborated on the Commerce Ministry issuing the wholesale reference price weekly. However, the market price is exorbitantly high. He found that consumers are not able to access the subsidy scheme. Therefore, the Union Minister warned the businesspersons in Yangon on 1 July to set a reasonable price. He called for them to prioritize the consumers' interest, not for self-interest only.

Additionally, the Union Minister encouraged all the stakeholders in the supply chain to cooperate with the ministry to reduce palm oil prices in the coming days as the ministry will try to achieve the meeting outcomes practically.

A task force for edible oil



Consumers line up to shop for cooking oil at affordable prices in Yangon. PHOTO:UMFCCI

price stability was formed and started informing the lists of wholesale/retail shops of each company from 28 August, including the address of the shops in the respective townships and the

number of available barrels.

The task force will govern the market to meet the satisfaction of the end-users in the supply chain and get easy access to the consumers.

It will also supervise the market to ensure the palm oil sales at wholesale prices are not higher than two per cent of the net profit margin and retail prices not higher than 10 per cent margin.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

The wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set at K4,155 per viss this week from 28 August to 3 September.

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. To meet the domestic demands, about 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

Pigeon pea price hits record high of K3.8 mln per tonne



The photo shows pigeon pea crops and seeds.

THE pigeon pea prices were on an upward trend in late August in the Yangon market, hitting a fresh peak of K3.8 million per tonne on 31 August 2023.

Meanwhile, black gram prices also touched a high of

K2.499 million per tonne on 31 August 2023.

The pigeon pea (red gram) witnessed a persistent rise at K3.45 million per tonne on 28 August, K3.5 million on 29 August, K3.675 million on 30 Au-

gust and K3.8 million on 31 August, indicating a sharp rise of K350,000 per tonne in the past four days.

The FOB price stood at US\$1,230-1,250 per tonne of pigeon pea, and \$920-940 per tonne of black gram.

The pigeon pea was priced below K300,000 per tonne in early 2009. The price remarkably surged on 31 August 2023, which is a 12 times increase compared to that of 2009. The growers earned a handsome profit and expanded the cultivation.

India's market observers forecast that the output of India's pigeon pea (tur) cultivation is estimated at 300,000 tonnes in 2023. The pigeon pea is grown in May in the central Myanmar regions and it usually flows into the market at the end of the year. — TWA/EM

YRIC greenlights 12 domestic, foreign enterprises on 30 Aug

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed one domestic and 11 foreign enterprises in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of over US\$14.775 million and K2.054 billion at a meeting 8/2023 held on 30 August at the YRIC office, creating 9,216 jobs for residents.

Those enterprises will execute the manufacturing of clothes, apparel and down and feather and footwear on a Cut-

ting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

At the meeting, 15 companies raised general matters, including the expansion of capital by one enterprise.

Of 52 foreign countries investing in Myanmar, Singapore ranked first, followed by China and Thailand.

Myanmar Investment Commission prioritizes labour-intensive businesses for investments. — NN/EM



Front view of the DICA office in Yangon.

OPINION

Foster future professionals: Nurturing democracy in students

IN PURSUIT of a workforce equipped to invigorate the manufacturing sector and elevate the competencies of the younger generation, the government is actively implementing a comprehensive education system. This endeavour places paramount importance on enhancing the capabilities of youth to create knowledgeable and skilled citizens throughout the nation.

As the nation progresses toward embracing an authentic and disciplined multiparty democratic system, it becomes imperative to instil democratic values within students from an early age. This process, however, must be carefully orchestrated to ensure that the intrinsic national character and cultural heritage remain intact. An optimal educational framework emerges when schools prioritize imparting not only sound democratic practices but also a deep understanding of democratic principles, setting the stage for an ideal educational paradigm.

The holistic development of the youth encompasses physical, mental, moral, fraternal, and economic dimensions, all of which hinge on knowledge acquisition. Despite the constitutional mandate (2008) stipulating compulsory primary education for all school-age children, the government aspires to align the education sector with evolving times by implementing a mandatory KG+9 education model.

A comprehensive grasp of the genuine and disciplined democratic system is essential for the youth. This is primarily because the tenets of democracy demand universal participation. Therefore, fostering a sense of civic responsibility and facilitating active engagement in endeavours aimed at restoring peace and stability across

various sectors necessitate early exposure to democratic principles.

Incorporating lessons on democratic practices into the curriculum yields twofold benefits: it equips young individuals to navigate their personal lives as well as contributes to societal advancement. Equipping youth with an understanding of democratic obligations nurtures responsible citizenship, a foundational requirement for contributing positively to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Each young individual is duty-bound to contribute to the nation's development, healthcare services, cultural preservation, diplomatic relations, and social progress. Ethical integrity goes beyond surface-level politeness, as even well-educated individuals might lack this crucial attribute. Mere education and moral uprightness, devoid of genuine politeness, may fall short of ensuring absolute success. The lack of tactfulness can, at times, lead to missed opportunities and setbacks.

Youth who possess both education and a refined demeanour stand poised to seize pivotal opportunities. Demonstrating politeness in interpersonal interactions fosters mutual respect within society, thereby bolstering democratic values. It is incumbent upon educational institutions to take a forward-looking stance and incorporate lessons on democratic practices to equip youth with the necessary skills for a promising future.

OUT of the language skills, writing is the most intricately patterned skill, we have well known. Since any subject matter is usually written on paper or by the book, a writing task always covers the most convincing evidence for reliability, validity and relevancy about the written subject matter. There are different types of writing such as report, persuasive, argumentative, narrative, expository, descriptive, creative, critical, or reflective, and report writing is still living among language users till now. That writing links up with informative essays that present factual information on a topic that is likely to be unfamiliar to the reader. So, I would like to tell the basic structure, grammar and language banks of an informative essay in the following.

Like most other essays, informative essays consist of an introduction, the main body and a conclusion. The introduction of an informative essay begins with the central idea or topic, the controlling idea, a hook to get the reader's attention sometimes, and background information about the topic. Its main body continues to describe details about the topic, transitions from old information to new information, usually at the beginning of a new body paragraph, words that let the reader know when the writer is certain and when he or she is hedging, and use of specific tenses like present simple, present perfect, past simple, and past perfect. The conclusion of informative essays ends in the restatement of the central idea or topic and a satisfactory ending.

In informative essays, it is im-



The goal of an informative essay is to educate your audience about a specific topic. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WIKIPEDIA/PEXELS

The Theory and Practice of Report Writing

portant to use specific verb tenses: 1) present simple to describe facts that are true now and in the future, and were true in the past as in 'Happiness at work often goes with job satisfaction', 2) present perfect to describe a situation or trend that develops over time, from past to present as in 'Literature has played an essential role in human history and culture', 3) past simple and 4) past perfect to report on past events as in 'Myanmar once was figuratively a tiger in Asia from all sides' and 'Yangon University had shot to the top of the best university list in SEA'.

What is more, expressions

that indicate certainty are 1) words or phrases such as 'certain', 'sure', 'convinced', 'confident', 'satisfied', 'undeniably', 'certainly', 'undoubtedly', 'definitely', 'always', 'of course', 'without (a) doubt', 'have no doubt', 'be in no doubt', 'there is no doubt that', 'there is no denying the fact that', or 'there is no disputing the fact that', 2) modal verbs such as 'must', 'will', 'cannot', or 'have to', and 3) quantity words such as 'all', 'no', 'whole', 'everyone', or 'everything'. On the other hand, words that express probability or possibility are 'probably', 'perhaps', 'few', 'most', 'not

often', 'not much', 'many', 'say', 'report', 'might', 'seem', 'tend', 'uncertain', 'unsure', 'not certain', 'not sure', 'have doubts', and 'be dubious in something'.

After all, about report writing, I want to try an informative essay of 376 words under the title of 'The Art of Ironing' as follows: -

The Art of Ironing

Housework has traditionally been regarded as women's work in many different parts of the world, even until today. As we know, this

work also includes ironing, and I have imitated the habit of ironing from my eldest sister since I was able to wash my clothes all by myself in my childhood. The main reason why I do the ironing of washed clothes even though I am a boy is that I just prefer ironing clothes to folding as well as wearing them stylishly and attractively. Then, I try to think about the beginning and another reason for ironing.

As far as I can see, researchers discovered that people have been using heated rocks to smooth

out animal hides as long as 4000 years ago, and using metal to iron was introduced by the Chinese over 1,000 years ago. In the 1st century BC, they would use metal pans filled with hot water to smooth their clothes and erase creases from fabric. It is also assumed that the ancient Chinese used a scoop that was heated with hot coal or sand and would rub it over clothing to smooth wrinkles. The electric iron was invented by Henry Seely White in 1882. It is named for the metal (iron) of which the device was historically made, and its use is generally called ironing, the last step in the process of laundering clothes.

As to ironing benefits, ironing our clothes makes them last longer, first of all. This helps fabrics soften and return to their original states despite shrinking over time. Second, ironing gives our clothes a fresh and better look, removing all the wrinkles, offering our clothing a smarter impression, and influencing the fabric for quality enhancement. Third, ironing clothes kills the germ like thermophilic bacteria and fungi all of which the heat from the iron will terminate once and for all. Fourthly, I should like to mention that ironed clothes have a specific fresh smell for high temperatures can remove some bad smells, too. Finally, I may be a little biased on this one, but ironing while listening to our favourite music can be really relaxing. Ironing is a very methodical job and the back and forth of the iron can iron away worries.

After me is the reader's turn, I hope!

POEM

That Brief Moment

By Minthuwan

'tis from faults
and omissions of others
that intense roaring anger
arise in me

'tis from my own mistakes
and negligence
that restlessness and anxiety
burn inside my heart

in a sea of mental suffering
physical ailments also arose
unable to sleep
past midnight

the wrong-headed groping for the 'I'
the 'me', the 'great' I, the 'unparalleled' me
causes all this turmoil

in a very rare moment of insight
when one thinks detachedly
putting one's palm over one's forehead
one sees the state of being immersed in this
'I', in the 'Self'
are indeed states of defilements

when this affirmative truth is glimpsed
serenity pervades that brief
rare moment which is
so difficult to attain:
one continues to pine and wait for this
glimmer of insight to visit
if only briefly the turbulent 'I' once again

Translated by Myint Zan

(This poem by Sayagyi Minthuwan (1909-2004) was first published in March 1987. The poem also appears in the anthology of Minthuwan's poems written between the years 1927 to 1994.)

Global Fund secures deal to slash HIV treatment price

THE Global Fund announced Wednesday a deal with generic pharmaceutical manufacturers to significantly slash the price of a cutting-edge HIV drug, in a move it said would save lives.

The Global Fund, a partnership set up in 2002 to battle AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, said the agreement would make it possible to provide the advanced pill known as TLD for under \$45 per person per year. "This improved pricing — a 25-per-cent reduction — will allow governments in resource-limited settings to expand

access to critical HIV services," it said in a statement.

The three-in-one pill bands together the drugs tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, lamivudine and dolutegravir.

The World Health Organization has recommended it as the preferred first-line HIV treatment for adults and adolescents, since it rapidly suppresses the virus that causes AIDS, has fewer side effects and is easy to take, the statement pointed out.

Addressing Financial

Barriers

"The countries most affected by HIV face enormous fiscal constraints, and there are still millions of people who are HIV-positive who don't have access to quality treatment," Global Fund chief Peter Sands said in the statement.

"Reduced pricing for TLD means governments and other implementers of Global Fund grants can expand treatment programmes and invest more in prevention, saving more lives and reducing new infections." — AFP

What you need to know

- The Global Fund, established in 2002 to combat AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, has announced a groundbreaking partnership with generic pharmaceutical manufacturers to reduce the cost of a cutting-edge HIV drug.
- The focus of the partnership is the antiretroviral medication TLD (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, lamivudine, and dolutegravir), a three-in-one pill known for its effectiveness in treating HIV.
- The agreement aims to offer the TLD medication for under \$45 per person per year, reflecting a 25% reduction in its price.
- The partnership's primary aim is to make cutting-edge HIV medication more accessible and affordable, extending critical medical services to a broader population and contributing to saving lives while curbing the spread of HIV.



The agreement aims to offer the TLD medication for under \$45 per person per year, reflecting a 25 per cent reduction in its price. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

Pope to publish updated climate thesis on 4 October

POPE Francis revealed Wednesday he will publish an update to his seminal 2015 thesis on the environment in October, just weeks before the next round of UN climate talks.

The 86-year-old pontiff earlier this month mentioned plans to write a second part of "Laudato Si" but gave no details beyond saying it would address "current issues".

His so-called encyclical in

2015 laid the blame for global warming squarely on humanity's shoulders, and was seen as influential in United Nations climate talks in Paris later that year that led to landmark commitments.

At his weekly audience at the Vatican on Wednesday, Pope Francis set the date for his new version as 4 October — just weeks before the next round of UN talks, at COP28 in the United Arab Emirates in November and De-

cember. "On that date I intend to publish an exhortation, a second Laudato si," he said.

"Let us join our Christian brothers and sisters in the commitment to safeguard Creation as a gift of the Creator.

"It is necessary to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, striving to bring an end to the senseless war on our common home, which is a terrible world war."

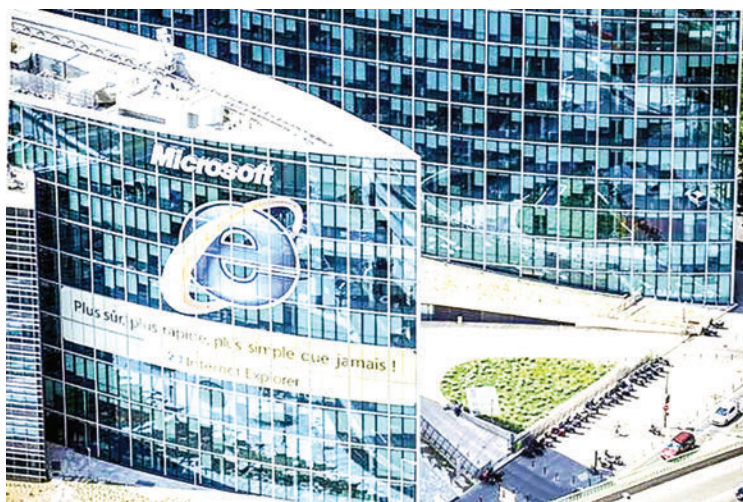


The Pope urged everyone to stand by the victims of environmental injustice and work to preserve the environment. **PHOTO: POOL/MARCO BERTORELLO/ AFP**

Earlier this month, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said the updated document would focus

in particular on recent extreme weather events and catastrophes across the world. — AFP

Microsoft bows to EU competition concerns over Teams



A file photo of Microsoft's Paris headquarters. **PHOTO: BORIS HORVAT/AFP**

MICROSOFT will unbundle its Teams communications from its popular Office suite in an attempt to assuage EU antitrust concerns, the company said Thursday.

The European Commission launched the investigation in July to see whether the US tech giant was "abusing and defending its market position" by bundling the software together.

If the commission probe finds against Microsoft, the company could face a hefty fine or other ordered remedies.

In a bid to address the concerns, Microsoft will unbundle Teams from its Microsoft 365 and Office 365 suites in the European Economic Area and Switzerland from 1 October, the company's vice president on European gov-

ernment affairs, Nanna-Louise Linde, said.

Customers will now be able to buy the software without Teams at a lower price, she added.

"We are announcing proactive changes that we hope will start to address these concerns in a meaningful way, even while the European Commission's investigation continues and we cooperate with it," Linde wrote in a blog post.

Microsoft bundles Teams with its cloud-based Office 365 and Microsoft 365 suites, which include its popular Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Excel programmes. Teams is a platform that allows users to communicate through messages, video calls and file sharing. — AFP

Elon Musk lifts political ad ban at rebranded Twitter

ELON MUSK on Tuesday lifted a ban on political ads put in place at Twitter to thwart misinformation before the billionaire bought the platform now called X.

Welcoming back potentially misleading political messages at X came less than a week after former

president Donald Trump posted there for the first time since January 2021.

Trump posted his police mugshot after his arrest in Georgia, signaling his return to a platform that was his favorite bullhorn during his years in the White House. — AFP

Google courts businesses with ramped up cloud AI

GOOGLE on Tuesday said it was weaving artificial intelligence (AI) deeper into its cloud offerings as it vies for the business of firms keen to capitalize on the technology.

The internet giant unveiled new AI-powered features for data searches, online collaboration, language translation, images and more at its first annual Cloud Next conference held in-person since 2019.

The gathering kicked off a day after OpenAI unveiled a business version of ChatGPT as tech companies seek to keep up with Microsoft, which has been ahead in powering its products with AI. "I am incredibly excited to bring so many of our customers and partners together to showcase the

amazing innovations we have been working on," Google Cloud chief executive Thomas Kurian said in a blog post. Most companies seek-

ing to adopt AI must turn to the cloud giants — including Microsoft, AWS and Google — for the heavy duty computing needs. Those companies in turn partner up with AI developers — as is the case of a major tie-up between Microsoft and ChatGPT creator OpenAI — or have developed their own models, as is the case for Google. — AFP



A visitor walks past Google Cloud logo at the Mobile World Congress. **PHOTO: AFP**

Milestone Chinese summer box office earnings inject confidence, mirror quality advances

AS of 10 pm on Saturday, China's summer box office revenue had surged past 20 billion yuan (2.78 billion US dollars), a new record high for summer box office sales in the country.

From a pre-pandemic high of nearly 17.8 billion yuan in 2019, China's summer box office revenue has rocketed to a new level of 20 billion yuan, injecting more confidence into the recovery of the Chinese and global film industries. China's summer movie season runs from the beginning of June to the end of August. Analysts attribute the strong performance of this year's summer movie period — the first since



People walk past film posters outside a cinema in Yubei District of Chongqing, southwest China, 30 July 2023. PHOTO: CHU JIAYIN/XINHUA

China adjusted its pandemic control measures — to the recovery of cultural consumption, including movies, from the impact of the pandemic, a diversity of film genres and themes, and overall higher quality than previous years, satisfying a diverse range of viewing demands.

Yu Chao, deputy general manager of Beijing's Capital Cinema, said his most prominent impression of this season was the number of standout films.

According to film data platform Beacon, as of Sunday morning, crime films "Lost in the Stars" and "No More Bets" ranked first and second in the

summer box office chart, with 3.5 billion yuan and 3.3 billion yuan, respectively.

They were followed by mythological epic "Creation of the Gods I: Kingdom of Storms" and reality-themed film "Never Say Never," with box office receipts of 2.4 billion yuan and 2.2 billion yuan, respectively. The animated historical film "Chang'an" ranked fifth with nearly 1.8 billion yuan. Yu was particularly impressed with this film. "The exquisite production exceeded expectations, sparking a craze for Tang poetry and traditional culture and attracting audiences of all ages," Yu said. — Xinhua

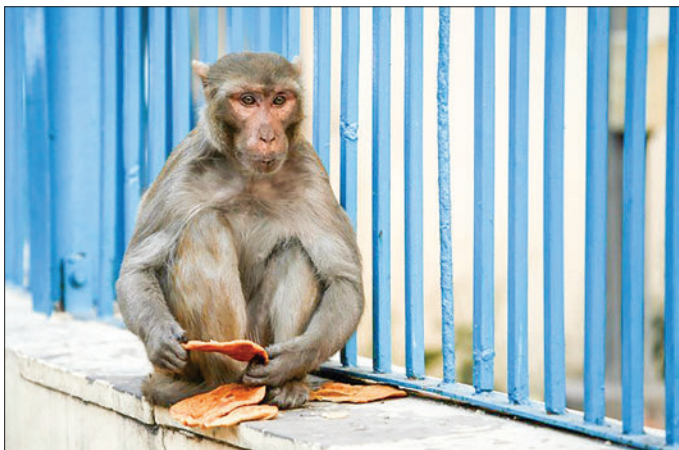
OFFBEAT

India deploys 'monkey-men' to scare away primates from G20 summit

INDIAN officials preparing for the G20 summit next week have hired teams of "monkey-men" and erected primate cutouts to deter marauding monkeys from munching on the floral displays laid out for global leaders. New Delhi's city council has hired more than 30 "monkey wallahs", or "monkey-men", who mimic the hoots and screams of the aggressive langur monkey — the natural enemy of the smaller rhesus macaque primates who wreak havoc in the capital's leafy government areas.

"We can't remove the monkeys from their natural habitat, so we have deployed a team of 30-40 men who are trained to scare away monkeys," Satish Upadhyay, the vice-chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council, told AFP on Wednesday.

"We will deploy one man each at the hotels where the delegates would be staying, as well as in places where monkey sightings have been reported." Though revered in the majority Hindu nation, monkeys are a major menace, often trashing gardens, office and residential rooftops and even viciously attacking people for food. — AFP



Indian authorities are trying to scare away macaque monkeys from the G20 summit venues in New Delhi. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Climate poses 'high risk' for Europe's ski resorts



Half of the world's ski resorts are in Europe, where they generate about \$30 billion (28 billion euros) per year. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

AT current rates of greenhouse gas emissions, which would see Earth's surface warm nearly three degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, 90 per cent of Europe's ski resorts will eventually face critical shortages of natural snow, researchers said Monday.

Even if the world caps global heating at the Paris climate treaty target of 1.5 degrees Celsius (a very big if) a third of the continent's 2,234 resorts would still be highly vulnerable to snow scarcity, they reported

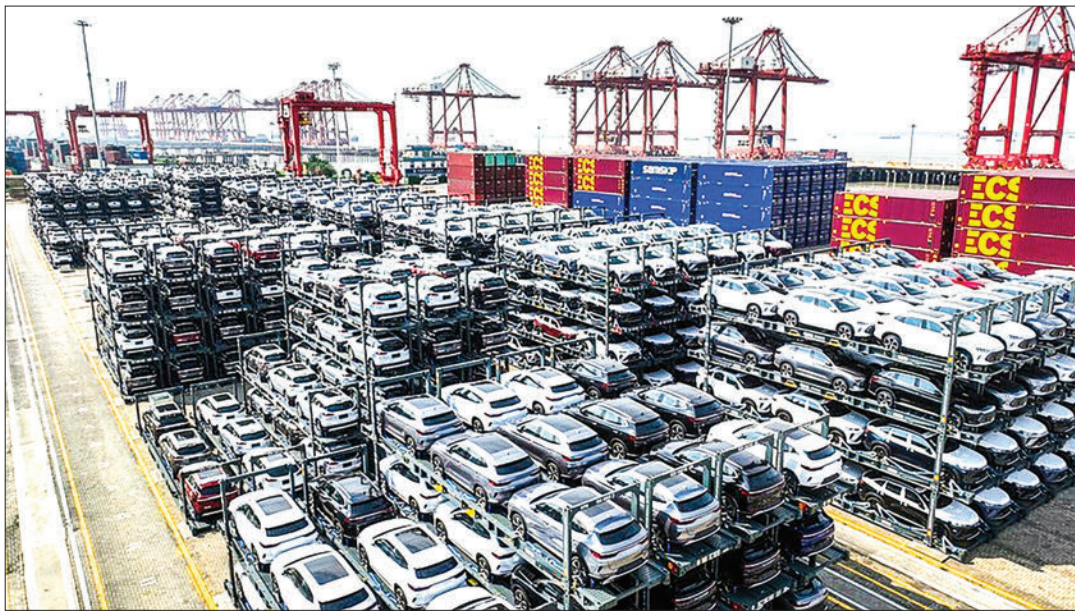
in the journal Nature Climate Change.

At this lower temperature threshold, ski spots at higher altitudes and latitudes such as in Nordic countries and the French, Swiss and Austrian Alps can reduce climate risk through mechanical snowmaking. But this will be of little use to resorts further south and in lower altitudes, according to the study, the first to factor in the cost and carbon footprint of consuming additional energy and water to produce manufac-

tured snow.

"Snowmaking involves investment and operating costs that expose resorts to economic failure risk," lead author Hughes Francois, a researcher at France's National Institute for Agronomics Research, told AFP. Even where artificial snow can be produced cheaply enough to keep a resort open and turn a profit, however, it also contributes to a vicious circle by increasing global warming due to its energy demands, the study showed. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD



This aerial photo taken on 11 July 2023 shows new energy vehicles for export at a terminal of Taicang Port, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: JI HAIXIN/XINHUA**

China upgrades green power industry to boost high-quality development

CHINA'S green power industry, the global leader, is becoming a new driving force for China's high-quality development through technological upgrades.

GREEN POWER

China has the world's largest renewable power generation system, with the installed capacity of hydropower, wind power, solar power and biomass power generation ranking first in the world. This cheap and eco-friendly energy has become a key for high-quality development. According to the latest data from the National Energy Administration (NEA), as of the end of June 2023, the installed capacity of renewable energy in China had exceeded 1.3 billion kilowatts, surpassing the

installed capacity of coal power for the first time in China's history.

A closer look at the installed capacity of renewable energy in China reveals that wind power is at 389 million kilowatts, ranking first in the world for 13 consecutive years, while the installed capacity of photovoltaic power is 470 million kilowatts, ranking first in the world for eight consecutive years.

According to Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu, the technological progress and large-scale application of renewable energy in China have greatly reduced the cost of renewable energy.

For example, China supplies 50 per cent of the wind power equipment and 80 per

cent of the photovoltaic module equipment in the world. In 2021, the installation cost of global photovoltaic equipment had decreased by about 82 per cent compared with the cost in 2010, while the installation cost of wind power equipment had decreased by at least 35 per cent.

TECH UPGRADES

China's green energy industry has been developed through continuous technology upgrades.

According to Li Chuangjun, director of the new energy and renewable energy department of the NEA, China's new energy innovation has gone through technology introduction, digestion and absorption, and re-innovation. — Xinhua

EU fossil fuel energy production hits record low: report

THE European Union's fossil fuel energy production hit a record low the first half of the year, think tank Ember Climate reported Wednesday, although green sources are struggling to fill the gap.

The decline in coal and gas generation was driven by a drop in electricity consumption across the bloc of 4.6 per cent amid high power prices, which surged after Russia invaded Ukraine, upending gas supplies.

"The decline in fossil fuels is a sign of the times," said Ember analyst Matt Ewen.

Coal generation was down 23 per cent, accounting for less than 10 per cent of the EU's total electricity production for the first time ever in May, Ember reported.

While gas prices have fallen from "crisis highs" last year, they remain double the cost compared with the first half of 2021, the report said.

The drop in electricity consumption resulted from emergency measures implemented by nearly all EU members between November and March to combat rising prices.

Industrial demand, notably in Germany, had also declined over the period, the report said.

Fossil fuels now make up the "lowest share ever of the power mix" at 33 per cent, Ember said.

The greatest declines in fossil fuel use year-over-year for more than 30 percent were seen in Portugal, Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia and Finland. — AFP



The proposals follow a damning report by the European Court of Auditors on Monday showing that the EU is lagging far behind in its transition to a circular economy. **PHOTO: SEBASTIEN SALOMGOMIS/AFP**

UP to soon become India's second largest economy: Yogi Adityanath



A rickshaw driver at the Rumi Darwaza gateway in Lucknow. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has stated that his state is on a trajectory to become India's second-largest economy among all states.

Addressing the National Executive Committee Meeting (NECM) of industry body FICCI in Lucknow on Tuesday, the Chief Minister further emphasised Uttar Pradesh's ambitious journey towards industrialisation.

Uttar Pradesh is not just progressing; it is advancing rapidly to become a revenue-sur-

plus state, said Yogi Adityanath, as per a FICCI release. He emphasised that the once-stigmatized 'Bimaru' image of UP is changing as the state transitions into an economic powerhouse.

CM Adityanath, as per the release, highlighted that Uttar Pradesh's substantial working-age population, comprising 56 per cent of its total demographic, fuels its economic aspirations.

Key initiatives like the 'One District One Product' scheme, along with robust infrastructure

development and the provision of essential amenities to residents, are turning UP into a burgeoning industrial hub.

Recalling his initial days in office, Adityanath remarked that the first business meeting he attended as the Chief Minister in 2017 was convened by FICCI.

He expressed gratitude towards the FICCI for hosting its National Executive Committee Meeting in Uttar Pradesh after a gap of 38 years, signalling the state's increasingly business-friendly climate. — ANI

UBS to absorb Credit Suisse domestic unit, eyes 3,000 job cuts

BANKING giant UBS said Thursday it plans to fully absorb Credit Suisse's century-old Swiss division and slash thousands of jobs across Switzerland, as it seeks to redress its recently-swallowed rival.

Switzerland's largest bank, which was straggled into a \$3.25-billion takeover of its closest domestic rival in March to keep it from going under, said it aimed to complete most of the integration by the end of 2026, with more than \$10 billion in cost savings by then.

"Two and a half months since closing the Credit Suisse acquisition, we are wasting no time in delivering value for all our stakeholders from one of the biggest and most complex bank mergers in history," UBS chief executive Sergio Ermotti said. — AFP

Flagship Seibu dept store in Tokyo closes due to labour strike

LABOUR union members at Japanese department store operator Sogo & Seibu Co went on strike at its flagship Tokyo store Thursday in a rare work stoppage amid job security concerns stemming from the parent company's plan to sell the chain to a US fund.

Despite the first strike by a major department store union in 61 years amid an intensifying labour dispute, the parent Seven & i Holdings Co said it decided at an extraordinary meeting the same day to sell the struggling department store chain to Fortress Investment Group LLC on Friday. — Kyodo

Japan PM unveils relief package for fishery sector amid China ban

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida on Thursday announced an additional rescue package for the fishery industry following China's import ban on Japanese seafood due to the release of treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

The support measures include steps to expand domestic consumption and ensure the sustainable production of seafood, responses to mitigate reputational damage, strategies to find new overseas markets, and provision of swift and thorough compensation.

The government will make efforts to "diversi-

fy" seafood sales channels instead of depending on sales in "specific countries" so that Japan will not rely heavily on China, Kishida said at his office, while calling on Beijing to engage in discussions to evaluate scientific evidence of the environmental impact of the water release.

Earlier in the day, Kishida visited Tokyo's Toyosu fish market to exchange views with seafood wholesalers about the potential adverse effects of import bans imposed by China and Hong Kong, both of which are primary markets for the Japanese fishery sector.

— Kyodo



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (C) visits a seafood wholesaler in Tokyo's Toyosu fish market on 31 August 2023. PHOTO: POOL / KYODO



Employees walk past the Adani House corporate building at the institutional area in Gurugram. PHOTO: AFP

India's Adani hits back at new 'stock manipulation' report

INDIA'S Adani Group hit back Thursday at a new report investigating alleged manipulation of the conglomerate's share prices, accusing its authors of conspiring to drive down its stocks for profit.

The globe-spanning

ports-to-power conglomerate saw around \$120 billion wiped from its market value after US short-seller investment firm Hindenburg Research accused it of "brazen" corporate fraud.

On Wednesday, the Organized Crime and Cor-

ruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) said it had uncovered financial documents backing Hindenburg's claims that Adani had used offshore tax havens and related party transactions to drive up its share price.

— AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VOY.NO. (208W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (208W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

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Announcement

Booking.Com (Myanmar) Company Limited hereby announces its intention to give notice of an extraordinary general meeting to approve the reduction of its capital in accordance with the notice and documents filed with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following three pesticides distributed by **Taw Win Dar Co.,Ltd** and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. **Taw Win Dar Co.,Ltd** Tel:09-401573814

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	ALB-Fo Quiza	Pe'GyarPaungShin	Fomesafen 16% + Quizalofop-P-ethyl 6% EC	E2021-5396

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD



The Korean People's Army holds a tactical nuclear strike drill in North Korea on 30 August, 2023. PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO

N Korea launched 2 ballistic missiles late Wed: KCNA

NORTH Korea launched two ballistic missiles Wednesday night as part of a tactical nuclear strike drill in response to the deployment of US strategic bombers to the Korean Peninsula during an exercise with South Korea, the country's state media reported.

The official Korean Central News Agency said Thursday a missile unit of the Korean People's Army "fired two tactical ballistic missiles northeastward" and "correctly carried

out its nuclear strike mission".

North Korea slammed the US-South Korean exercise as a "serious threat" and tantamount to plans for a pre-emptive nuclear strike by the United States, according to KCNA.

The projectile launches came after US B-1B bombers were deployed to the region for a joint exercise with South Korean forces on Wednesday as part of the countries' annual Ulchi Freedom Shield large-scale military exercise from 21 August

KCNA also reported that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited the training command post of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army on Tuesday and observed a command drill involving the whole army.

The drill was "aimed at occupying the whole territory of the southern half by repelling the enemy's sudden armed invasion and switching over to an all-out counterattack," KCNA reported. — Kyodo

Thai ex-PM Thaksin applies for royal pardon: govt source

THE 74-year-old billionaire, twice elected PM and ousted in a 2006 military coup, was sent to prison last week immediately after returning to the kingdom from 15 years of self-exile.

His homecoming coincided with his Pheu Thai party returning to government in alliance with several pro-military parties, sparking widespread speculation

of a deal to cut his jail time.

Caretaker justice minister Wissanu Krea-ngam said Thaksin had applied for a pardon from the eight-year jail term he is serving for convictions for graft and abuse of power.

"We have received (the request), the rest will be according to the procedure," Wissanu told reporters. — AFP



Thaksin is one of the most influential but divisive figures in modern Thai history. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Building fire in central Johannesburg kills at least 73

A fire that engulfed a five-storey building killed at least 73 people including children in central Johannesburg on Thursday, the South African city's emergency services said.

Another 43 were injured, some suffering from smoke inhalation, and were taken for treatment at local hospitals,

Emergency Management Services spokesman Robert Mulaudzi said.

"The death toll is at 64... (including) seven children," Emergency Management Services spokesman Robert Mulaudzi said, with some left burned beyond recognition. — AFP

China braces for super typhoon Saola ahead of new semester

IN response to the approaching super typhoon Saola, multiple cities in coastal Chinese provinces, including Guangdong and Fujian, have postponed the start of the upcoming new school semester, suspended train and ferry operations, and directed fishing boats in the affected waters to return to ports for safety.

Cities including Shantou, Shanwei, Jieyang and Chaozhou in eastern Guang-

dong Province, and Quanzhou and Zhangzhou in Fujian Province have pushed back the start of the new semester for primary schools, middle schools and kindergartens to 4 September.

The use of Guangdong sections of railway lines, including the Guangzhou-Shenzhen intercity line and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed railway line, is set to be suspended

from Thursday to Monday, according to the China Railway Guangzhou Group Co., Ltd.

To cope with the typhoon, Guangdong's provincial flood, drought and typhoon control headquarters raised its emergency response to Level II at 8 am Thursday.

Similar adjustments and suspensions of train operations have also been implemented in the neighboring Fujian Province. — Xinhua



Hong Kong is facing the threat of a super typhoon named Saola. The city has been warned that it may have to shut down, including its stock market, due to the approaching storm. Saola has already caused damage in the northern Philippines. A boat (centre) is seen in a typhoon shelter in Hong Kong. PHOTO: AFP

SPORTS

Shan United draws Myanmar U-23 in friendly match

MYANMAR National League defending champion Shan United played a test match against Myanmar U-23 football team at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday and the game ended in a goalless draw.

As many of Shan United's core players are participating in the Myanmar national team's international matches, the team only competed with reserve players in this match.

Shan United lineup includes

Hein Thiha Zaw, Myo Ko Tun, Zin Phyo Aung, Zwe Min Khant, Thi Nyein Min, Mark, Aung Kyaw Thu and Lin Htet Soe.

Meanwhile, strong players participated in the Myanmar youth team.

Every player from both sides showed their good performance in the friendly match.

Both sides were eager to win, but the match ended in a goalless draw.

Shan United will face Macarthur FC of Australia in the first match of the AFC

Cup group stage on 21 September. In turn, the Myanmar U-23 team is taking training with 25 preliminary players for the 2024 Asian Cup U-23 qualifiers to be played in September.

The team has been reorganizing since 23 August after the 2023 ASEAN U-23 tournament. U Aung Naing is handling it as the interim head coach as

German head coach Michael Feichtenbeiner will also supervise the U-23 team. — KZL



A Shan United player (No 7) speeds up for the ball during the friendly match against the Myanmar junior team at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 31 August 2023. PHOTO: SUFC



Benjamin Pavard has left Bayern Munich after four seasons. PHOTO: FIFA/AFP

France's Pavard signs for Inter Milan from Bayern Munich

BENJAMIN Pavard has signed for Inter Milan from Bayern Munich, the Serie A club announced on Wednesday.

In a statement, Inter confirmed that France full-back Pavard has moved to Italy in a permanent deal for which local media report last season's losing Champions league finalists will pay 30 million euros (US\$32.7 million) plus a potential two million euros' worth of add-ons.

Pavard, who landed in Milan on Tuesday, has been in limbo waiting for Bayern to agree

to the transfer for a week.

Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel said on Sunday that Pavard would not leave the Bundesliga champions unless a replacement was found for the 27-year-old. Pavard was in the last year of his contract after spending seven seasons in Germany with Stuttgart and then Bayern, with whom he won four German league titles and the Champions League in 2020.

Inter have started the new Serie A season with two wins from their opening two matches. — AFP

Zhang makes history to send Ruud crashing out of US Open

ZHANG Zhizhen sent fifth seed Casper Ruud crashing out of the US Open on Wednesday, creating tennis history by becoming the first man from China to beat a top-five player.

The 26-year-old from Shanghai -- ranked 67th in the world -- produced the match of his life to defeat last year's US Open finalist 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 0-6, 6-2 in 3hr 19min. Zhang's victory was the first time any male Chinese player has beaten a player ranked in the world's top five.

Zhang will face Australia's Rinky Hijikata in the third round on Friday, bidding to reach the



Zhang Zhizhen of China powers towards victory over Norway's Casper Ruud at the US Open. PHOTO: AFP

last 16 of a Grand Slam for the first time. — AFP

Blow for Messi, Miami MLS playoff hopes as Cincinnati clinch

FC Cincinnati led the way into the Major League Soccer playoffs on Wednesday as the slim post-season hopes of Lionel Messi's Inter Miami took a hit with a goalless draw against Nashville. Second-half goals from Luciano Acosta and Brandon Vazquez lifted Cincinnati to a 2-1 victory at Atlanta, where Colombian Edwin Mosquera's first MLS goal had put the hosts ahead in the 10th minute. The victory was Cincinnati's first at Mercedes-Benz Stadium and took the Eastern Conference

leaders to 57 points and the first berth in the MLS Cup playoffs with eight matches remaining in the regular season.

Miami, meanwhile, made little headway in their unlikely bid to make the playoffs as they were held scoreless for the first time in the 10 games of the Messi era.

The Argentine star had scored 11 goals in nine appearances since joining Inter Miami -- including their run to the Leagues Cup crown, in a US Open Cup semi-final and

in his regular-season debut off the bench in New York on Saturday. The workload may have finally caught up with him on Wednesday as he was unable to work the magic again in front of another star-studded crowd at a blustery DRV PNK Stadium, where boxing great Floyd Mayweather and FIFA chief Gianni Infantino were among the spectators.

The draw left Miami 10 points out of the final playoff spot with 10 games remaining. — AFP



WORLD



Niger army sergeant and artist Maman Sani Maigochi performs as supporters of the coup gather at Place de la Concertation in the capital Niamey on 25 August. PHOTO: AFP

Sweden rocked by four blasts in one night

BOMB squad experts have been called in after Swedish cities were rocked by four explosions in just over an hour, police said, with the country struggling to rein in a surge of gang-related violence.

Just after 1:00 am local time (2300 GMT), police in Gothenburg received reports of two explosions at separate addresses, just 10 minutes apart.

"Both sites have been cordoned off and technical investigations are ongoing," police said, adding that the national bomb squad had been called to the scene.

"There are no reports of people being injured, only material damage," police added.

An hour later another two explosions were reported minutes apart in Norsborg—a suburb south of Stockholm—and in Nykoping, about 100 kilometres south of the capital.

In both cases, police said no one was hurt. All four blasts were at residential buildings.

Sweden has struggled to rein in a surge of shootings and bombings in recent years as gangs settle scores fuelled by the drugs trade. — AFP



Police is seen at the site of an explosion in Olskroken in Gothenburg, Sweden, 31 August 2023. PHOTO: ADAM IHSE / TT NEWS AGENCY / AFP

French troops reportedly given until 3 September to withdraw from Niger

Supporters of the troop withdrawal plan to hold an indefinite protest against the French military's presence in Niger. They are also demanding that essential services such as water, power, and food supply be cut off from the French base.

NIGER'S National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) has reportedly demanded the complete withdrawal of French troops from the West African country by 3 September.

Earlier in the day, Saudi media reported the CNSP had announced the annulment of all security and military agreements with France.

By the end of the week, supporters of the pullout are going to stage an

indefinite protest against the presence of the French military in Niger. Some residents have reportedly demanded that the authorities cut water and power supply to the French base, as well as halt food deliveries. Last week, the Nigerien Foreign Ministry called on French Ambassador Sylvain Itte to leave the country within 48 hours. Paris said it took note of Niger's request to the ambassador, but noted Niger's military leadership has no

authority to make such decisions.

On 26 July, Niger's presidential guard ousted and detained President Mohamed Bazoum. The guard's commander, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, proclaimed himself the president of the caretaker CNSP-led government. Most Western countries as well as ECOWAS condemned it. In early August, ECOWAS adopted a plan for a potential military intervention in Niger. — SPUTNIK



Seafood is a significant part of the Korean diet and is consumed in various forms, such as raw, grilled, boiled, and fermented. Seoul has prohibited the import of all fishery products from eight Japanese prefectures, including Fukushima, and 27 agricultural products from 15 other prefectures. PHOTO: AFP

S Korean govt to promote seafood sales amid Fukushima water fears

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said Thursday the government will allocate 80 billion won (\$60.4 million) to help boost consumption of domestic seafood, which has been hit following Japan's release of treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea.

The allocation comes amid

opposition among many in South Korea to the water release, which commenced a week earlier, due to concern over seafood safety.

The South Korean government has said it has found no scientific or technical issues with the discharge.

Yoon unveiled the funding, covering up to a 60-per-cent discount on domestic seafood

products, at a regular meeting on the economy and people's livelihoods.

South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck Soo urged Japan on the day the discharge commenced, which is expected to last around 30 years, to disclose relevant information "in a transparent and responsible manner". — Kyodo