

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



The photo shows Thanbayakan Oil Refinery run by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise.

Thanbayakan Refinery set to unveil 5 mln gallons of petrol

THANBAYAKAN Oil Refinery under Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) has called for a bid to sell five million gallons of petroleum.

From September to December, Thanbayakan Refinery will sell petrol to filling stations, oil distributing companies, vessel operators and entities engaged in road and bridge construc-

tion, transport business, factories and workshops, mining businesses and businesses running with the use of fuel oil. Additionally, anyone can directly purchase oil from the refinery through an official tender procedure.

One million gallons each will be sold per batch on 12 September, 3 and 24 October, 14 November and 5 December under the auction. Tender

forms can be submitted to the MPE Office No 44 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The deadline for tender submission is at noon on the designated sale dates.

The tender opening is scheduled for 2 pm on that day. For further details, enquiries can be made at the MPE's Production Division within office hours. — TWA/EM

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association creates task force to stabilize prices

A TASK force for edible oil price stability was formed on 28 August to steer the high volatility in edible oil prices, according to the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association (MEODA).

The MEODA has been planning to distribute the edible oil at a fairer price to the consumers in the market, as per the notification dated 28 August.

The objectives of the task force are to ensure that shops and traders in regions and states can buy edible oil at wholesale reference prices and that there is transparency in the public distribution system.

The task force comprises the administrative committee members from the MEODA, representatives from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and oil importing companies.

The task force aims to steer the volatile market, improve market access for the consumers and meet the consumers' demand and satisfaction of the end-users in the supply chain.

Six Winner Brothers Co Ltd out of 16 companies that hold palm oil stocks in hands earlier said at a meeting for edible oil price stability held at Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre on 26 August that it would sell the palm oil as per its own plan. However, it joined the task force on 28 August and highlighted that it would follow the instructions of the task force.

The task force is planning to ensure that 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

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MRF bolsters rice subsidy scheme across various regions and states

NATIONAL

MSME loans disbursed to import substitution, export businesses



A glimpse of workers inside one of the MSME workplaces.

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on Tuesday said they will grant MSME loans to import substitution businesses and businesses that can export.

UMFCCI, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Committee and AYA Bank cooperate to make loan disbursements to promote the production activities by sector and value-added import substitution production of local MSMEs.

The MSMEs that operate value-added production, and im-

port substitution production are eligible for the loan.

Moreover, businesses that meet domestic needs and certain businesses that produce import substitutions and exports can apply for the loan.

People can apply for the loan at the respective region/state chambers of commerce and Brother Associations no later than 30 September.

Businesses that want loans must have proper solvency and will face legal actions as per the existing law if they fail to pay back the loan. — ASH/KTZH

Chinese Embassy, China Media Group Myanmar to co-host 'Memorable China Trip' photo & video contest

ACCORDING to China Media Group Myanmar, the "Memorable China Trip" article photo and short video contest jointly organized by the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and China Media Group Myanmar will be held in October.

Those who wish to participate in the competition must be currently studying in China or have studied in the past, and they must mainly write and create content that they want to share and the memories they encountered during their studies.

In addition, those who are studying in China and those who have completed their studies can participate in the contest

regardless of age or gender. Contestants will be allowed to present and compete in short stories, singing and dance performances, poetry, painting, and short travelogue videos.

The best works among the contestants will be chosen and awarded up to 30 types of prizes, including one first prize, two second prizes, three third prizes, ten awards of excellence, one award for best creation, and the fan favourite prize. The acceptance date and due date for receiving the works of contestants, as well as the days of announcement of the winners list, will be notified further. — ASH/CT

Paddy husk gasifiers installed at 543 rice mills in Ayeyawady Region

THE Ayeyawady Region installed paddy husk gasifiers at 543 rice mills and now has 156.6 MW of power generation in the region.

The power generation rate using paddy husk in the region is 156.6 MW -108.6 MW at 453 rice mills each generates 0.2 MW, 6 MW at two rice husk boiler plants with Stream Turbine (Willmar 2.2 MW, Mapco 1.8 MW, SSBE 1.0 MW), 12 MW from 24 paddy husk-fired plants developed

by Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Co Ltd in Pantanaw Township, 42 MW from two (30 MW) paddy husk boiler stream turbines.

A total of 543 rice mills run their operations using gasifiers while four rice husk boiler steam engines generate power in the region. Moreover, the region uses gasifiers to pump water in agricultural sectors and at the fish farming sites.

The gasifier is mainly

used at the rice mills and other industries in inaccessible areas to the national grid and certain areas that do not get adequate power.

The biofuel produced by Gasifier can reduce the impacts of climate change and bring solutions to energy needs, and so the Ministry of Science and Technology works together with MSMEs that use gasifier and experts to establish gasifiers across the nation systematically. — ASH/KTZH



A paddy husk gasifier is pictured in Ayeyawady Region.

COVID-19 report, 29 August 2023

NEW TESTS 4,465

NEW CASE 0

CASUALTIES 0

NATIONAL

DPM MoPF UM inspects MFTB & MICB in Yangon Region



Deputy Prime Minister Union Planning & Finance Minister U Win Shein holds talks with the MFTB and MICB staff in Yangon yesterday.

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein visited the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank in the Yangon Region and had a cordial meeting with employees yesterday.

During the meeting, the bank's managing directors and departmental officials presented the organizational structure, strength of the staff, banking work and measures relating to the welfare of the employees of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Then, the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that state-owned banks must operate banking services in compliance with established laws, rules, and regulations. The importance of hu-

man resource development was underscored, while employees were reminded of the necessity to adhere to staff rules in the execution of their duties. Ensuring security vigilance was also emphasized. Furthermore, he called on the staff to carry out departmental functions in unity and coordinated their presentations.

Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank was established in 1976 and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank was founded in 1990. Both are state-owned banks. These banks handle export and import payments of governmental departments and private companies and banking services systematically. — MNA/KZW

Health Minister meets IOM Head to discuss healthcare collaboration

UNION Minister for Health Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win received Mr Dragan Aleksoski, the head of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and his delegation at the ministry's reception hall yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed the collaborative maternal and child healthcare initiatives between the IOM and the Ministry of Health, along with activities related to nutrition development. Additionally, they explored ways to enhance coop-

eration in preventing and treating malaria, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted diseases.

They also explored possibilities for collaboration in catch-up vaccination programs targeting children from families of migrant workers, an initiative led by the Ministry. The conversation also touched upon matters concerning the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), as well as the potential for increased cooperation in healthcare endeavors across Mon, Rakhine, and Kayin States. — MNA/KZW



The IOM Chief calls on Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win yesterday.

THSs eye Chinese technical support



Union Education Minister Dr Nyunt Pe delivers the speech at the 2023 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Ceremony.

MYANMAR has a great interest in receiving technological aid from China for its technical high schools — teaching technical, agriculture and livestock breeding — planned to open in 75 districts across the country, said Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe yesterday.

The minister expressed interest in his speech at the 2023 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Ceremony being held from 28 August to 2 September. He said Myanmar has already 51 such schools in

its 50 districts which are also in need of technical support, adding that the opportunity for educational cooperation between the two countries is enormous.

The minister also revealed his ministry's interest in arranging study tours for Myanmar teachers to China and ASEAN countries, involving cohort studies between universities within the region, conducting exchange programmes for teachers and students, symposiums, workshops and

conventions.

In his speech, the minister also noted the fact that educational cooperation between China and Myanmar will contribute not only to scholarship winners and Myanmar's education sector but also to Myanmar society.

The 2023 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Ceremony included the 2023 China-ASEAN Language and Culture Forum, where Yangon University of Foreign Languages runs a booth. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

SPTT holds peace talks with five NCA signatories

STATE Peace Talks Team-SPTT and five NCA signatories' representatives of EAOs (ALP, DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC, LDU, PNLO) held a peace talk yesterday at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. State Administration Council Member, Union Minister, National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae warmly welcomed the delegates from ALP, DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC, LDU, and PNLO.

The meeting was attended by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Htun, NSPNC Vice-Chairman, Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing and its members, ALP Chairman Saw Mra Yarzar Lin, KNU/KNLA Peace Council Vice-Chair Dr Naw Ka Por Htoo, LDU Vice-Chair Kyar Phoo, PNLO Chairman Khun Thurain,



The peace talk between the State Peace Talks Team and delegations from NCA-signatory ALP, DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC, LDU, and PNLO in progress Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

DKBA Operational Commander Saw Ba Nyein Aung and representatives.

After Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and PNLO Patron Khun Okkar gave

greetings, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC and Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC agreed upon the

working group of the Constitution (2008) to amend the articles and amendment to provisions (sections) of the Constitution (2008) which the analysis and

development team considers should be amended.

The first day adjourned and the second day will continue on 30 August. — MNA/TS



Union Minister Dr Soe Win holds talks with the IOM chief and his delegation yesterday.

MoSWRR Union Minister receives IOM Chief

UNION Minister of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received the delegation led by the Chief of IOM Mr Dragan Aleksoski at the meeting hall of the ministry yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed issues of migrant workers between Myanmar and neighbouring countries and assisting victims of human trafficking, humanitarian assistance between IOM and the Ministry, cooperation in disaster risk re-

duction and community reintegration of human trafficking victims, the status of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry and IOM,

Moreover, they also exchanged views on the participation of UNOCHA in providing humanitarian assistance to Mocha victims in Rakhine State and matters about IOM to be able to give recommendations for entry visas for foreign staff. — MNA/KZW

Displaced households in Kayin State provided with food and cash

KAYIN State government provided 78 displaced households (3,333 people) with food and cash in Kamamaung town in Phapun Township, Kayin State on 26 August.

The displaced households received foodstuffs, cash aid of K6,999,300 which are enough to buy a one-week ration for all households, relief aids which contain 17 items and family

kits provided by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The Kayin State chief minister encouraged the households to live, maintain their well-being and help each other. He also said his government had compassion for households having many difficulties after displacing their homes more than a year ago.

The displaced households

presented their difficulties and needs and the chief minister responded to the situation by providing necessary arrangements for them.

The state government also donated food to Myingyungu NanU Monastery and also handed K182,000,000 donated by the Department of Highways under the Ministry of Construction for the maintenance of Hteephoe Khalone-Myingyungu road section, K9 million donated by the Ministry of Border Affairs for families who returned from abroad.

The state government also provides military regiments and BGF with K1 million cash and instant noodles each and supports the police force discharging their duties there with K500,000 and instant noodles. Government staff there also received instant noodles from the state government. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/TH



The Kayin State chief minister comforts the patient.

NATIONAL

Myanmar hosts 24th ASEAN Cultural Subcommittee Meeting

MYANMAR will cooperate with ASEAN countries to launch new cultural projects in the ASEAN region in 2024-2025FY, according to the 24th ASEAN Cultural Subcommittee Meeting.

The country hosted the 24th ASEAN Cultural Subcommittee Meeting for the third time in Yangon yesterday.

It hosted the 4th meeting in 2002 and the 14th meeting in 2013. Being a member of ASEAN, Myanmar pledges to gain the objectives of the founding of the ASEAN community including peace and prosperity together with the ASEAN member countries.

Since the establishment of the ASEAN Committee for Culture and Information in 1978, the enhancement of cooperation in

the fields of culture and information has played a key role.

The theme of the 24th ASEAN Cultural Subcommittee Meeting was Honour the ASEAN with Culture. The intention of the meeting was for the interests of the people of ASEAN regions as well as preserving the peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

The meeting focused on completed cultural-related projects, ongoing projects and new projects to be implemented in ASEAN regions in 2024-2025FY.

It was attended by the Union minister, the deputy minister, the Yangon Region social affairs minister, the Yangon mayor, heads of missions from embassies of the ASEAN countries, representatives and invitees. — ASH/KTZH



The 24th ASEAN Cultural Subcommittee Meeting in progress yesterday in Yangon.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, crude oil, industrial materials, foodstuffs, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated



Confiscated illegal goods in Kayin State.

THE combined on-duty teams nabbed a total of 0.54 tonne of illegal timbers worth K40,000 near Kywaldagah protected forest in Pwintbyu township and a total of 2.786 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K339,700 in Thettawshay Ward in Pwintbyu township and 912 gallons of illegal crude oil worth K2.736 million from a Skat vehicle (approximately worth K18 million) near Kyaukpal-Minbu road in Minbu (Saku) township on 25 August. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

On 28 August, an on-duty team at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint impounded 47,200 kilogrammes of pigment powder coating without an import licence from two containers. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the combined teams captured a Toyota Voxy car (estimated value of K8 million) carrying 25 bags of AFM smoked chicken sausage and 25 bags of smoked crispy skin Vienna chicken sausage cheese filling worth K3.25 million near Myaynigone traffic

light in Myawady township and an Isuzu Giga truck (estimated value of K60 million) carrying six kinds of goods worth K20.829 million including 430 hair clippers and 1,000 kilogrammes of photo paper without official documents at the Kamaukkasin combined checkpoint in Hpa-an township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, 15 arrests (estimated value of K130,045,100) were made on 25 and 28 August, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in Loilem, Lanmadaw townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and examined a Toyota Alphard driven by Naung Min Aye accompanied by Tin Maung Htun and Ma Hnin Hnin Aye on Loilem-Taunggyi Road in Loilem township at 8 pm on 26 August and captured 800,000 stimulant tablets.

After interrogating them, the police force arrested Than Naing and his wife, Ma Mya Mya Thi, who are the owners of seized drugs, together with a Toyota Kluger at the combined checkpoint in Kintha village in Tatkon township at 9:30 pm.

Similarly, the combined team examined a suspect Ma Kyi Kyi Naing at the corner of Strand Road and Lanmadaw 8 Street in 3 Ward of Lanmadaw township at 2:50 pm on 28 August and seized 0.22 kilogrammes of heroin.

The combined team continued to search an apartment hired by Ma Kyi Kyi Naing in Street 9 in Lanmadaw township at 3:20 pm on the same day and seized another 0.59 kilogrammes of heroin.

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



(L & R) Five offenders are seen along with seized drugs and vehicles.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

China removes pre-entry COVID-19 testing requirement for travellers

THE Chinese Embassy in Myanmar has announced that travellers entering China are no longer required to go through pre-entry COVID-19 testing effective on 30 August.

According to reports, the necessity for pre-entry COVID-19 testing, including PCR or Antigen tests, and the completion of the "China Entry/Exit Health Card" related to COVID-19, has been eliminated.

Previously, only individuals with negative test results were granted entry into the country.

As the requirement for COVID-19 testing has been lifted, travellers will not need to present negative test results or undergo testing procedures before their flights to China.

The Chinese Embassy notified on 8 August that the biometric fingerprint system will be suspended from fingerprinting starting from 9 August to 31 December 2023 to streamline the Chinese visa application process for foreigners. — TWA/MKKS

Notice released to relevant companies to fix complaints about EV chargers



The opening ceremony of the EV Quick Charging Station at the 115-Mile Post on 5 April 2023.

ACCORDING to the Consumer Affairs Department (CAD), the company concerned was notified to resolve the complaints of not being able to charge at designated charging stations on the expressway.

Vehicle owners of the MG ZS EV (4S-2095) and MG4 EV (4S-6388) travelled to Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay from Yangon on 3 and 4 June respectively. They stopped at the charging stations at the zero-mile and 115-mile posts to charge their EVs.

The CCS2 chargers were not working properly at the time, so they complained to the relevant authorities via email on 27 June to check and repair the chargers, as the

Consumer Affairs Department announced on 21 August.

CAD informed the Committee on the Development of Importation, Installation, and Investment of Electric Vehicles and associated businesses to instruct the relevant companies to perform the repair work as soon as possible regarding the complaints.

Inspectors from the Yangon Region Department performed field inspections of charging stations at the 0-Mile Post and discovered that CCS2 chargers at the Zero-Mile Charging Station had been defective since early June. Thus, they contacted Earth Renewable Energy Co Ltd for a quick repair.

The company found out that chargers for MG ZS model EVs had a software system failure in the charging section. MG ZS model EVs can now be charged using the Grasen brand 60 kW CCS2 chargers, which were installed at the charging stations at zero-, 115-, and 201-mile posts since the software of EV chargers has been upgraded with the help of foreign experts.

The complainants were informed that the replacement of Autel brand 60 kW CCS2 Dual Gun chargers (2 units) and Autel brand 120 kW CCS2 Dual Gun chargers (1 unit) manufactured by Autel Digital Power Co Ltd, which are more advanced than the currently installed chargers, is underway.

The notification received indicated that CCS2 11 kW AC level-2 chargers were installed at the charging stations at zero-, 115-, and 201-mile posts if there are EVs that cannot be charged with CCS2 chargers during the replacement process.

CAD officials informed the complainants of the conditions of the operation and removed the complaint. — TWA/CT

ME temporarily suspends passport renewals for nationals in Korea on 1 Sept

THE Myanmar Embassy in Korea has announced that the renewal of passports for Myanmar nationals in Korea will be temporarily suspended starting from 1 September due to the maintenance of the passport issuing machine.

The date for accepting renewals will be notified at a later time, and new passports will continue to be issued to individuals who have applied for passport renewals on the specified date.

The embassy has already announced an increase in the fine for lost or damaged passport applications from US\$75 to US\$105. — TWA/KZW



Front view of the Myanmar Embassy in S Korea.

Weekly update prices of Bayintnaung Commodity Market

Onion

ON 22 August, the Yangon market received various regional onions weighing 96,000 visses. The wholesale price per viss of Seikphyu and Monywa onions was K3,500 for the special size. The price has become the highest for stored onions in 2023. It dropped to K3,300 per viss on 24 August and rose again to K3,500 per viss on 28 and K3,700 per viss on 29 August.

The highest price per viss of onion was K3,170 at the Pakokku depot on 29 August, K3,250 at the Seikphyu depot on 29 August, and K2,900–K3,400 at the Myingyan market on 28 August.

Garlic

On 29 August, Shan garlic

was priced at K7,800 per viss for S2, K8,400 for S3, K8,900 for S4, and K9,100 for S5 in the Yangon market. Kyukok garlic is fetching K7,800 per viss.

Potato

The Yangon potato market only published the price of Chinese potatoes on 29 August. The wholesale price of Chinese potatoes was K2,150 per viss.

Chilli pepper

On 29 August, in the Yangon chilli pepper market, the prices per viss were K12,000–K12,500 for Eainme stored in pots, K14,200 for Panye long chilli peppers processed in the cold storage, K11,500 for Yayle Moehtaung chilli pepper, and Pyawbwe Moehtaung chilli pepper processed in



The picture shows a dry kitchen grocery.

the cold storage. Simphyukyun and delta region chilli peppers processed in the cold storage were valued at K19,500–K20,000 per viss.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil is K4,155 per litre from 28 August to 3 September. The remaining 3,396,184

visses of imported palm oil from 16 companies will be sold to the Bayintnaung Nyaungpinlay market, retail and wholesale outlets in Yangon, regions, and states from 28 to 30 August.

Beans and Pulses

On 29 August, the price of black gram was K2,465,000 per tonne for RC and K2,630,000 per tonne for SQ/RC. Meanwhile, a tonne of pigeon peas was valued at K3,500,000.

Additionally, the price of green gram (Kayan Shwewah variety) and Pakokku variety fetched K3,500 and K3,000–K3,085 per viss, respectively, while that of chickpeas was K5,800–K6,050 per viss. — TWA/CT

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar rice aimed for Bangladesh market under G-to-G pact

BANGLADESH has proposed to purchase Myanmar's rice on account of good quality under the government-to-government agreement this year, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Bangladesh's Ministry of Food bought Myanmar's rice last year and good quality appealed to them to buy it again this year. Bangladesh will sign rice deals by setting prices depending on the grain quality.

"Bangladesh is expected to make a contract again this year. If they send the government contract proposal through diplomatic channels, we will engage in the bilateral negotiation to reach the agreement," Naw Mutakapaw, Director-General of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

To negotiate the price depending on global rice prices,

Myanmar's rice market and foreign exchange rate and monetary policies, and sign a sale and purchase rice contract between Myanmar and Bangladesh, officials of the Myanmar Rice Federation have planned to go to Bangladesh in mid-September.

The coordination meeting for signing the sale and purchase rice contract between Myanmar and Bangladesh was held virtually in the third week of August, with the presence of officials from the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Bangladesh's Ministry of Food and the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Following India's ban on rice export, the global rice prices are soaring. Thus, Asian countries are eyeing Myanmar's rice and the Indonesian National Logistic Agency Bulog is also observing to buy Myanmar's rice. — ASH/EM



Rice bags are seen being loaded onto the vessel at the port in Patheingyi to export them to Bangladesh.

MRF bolsters rice subsidy scheme across various regions and states



Discerning shoppers embrace MRF-arranged affordable rice in Yangon.

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) added more places in the regions and states to offer Aemahta rice at a subsidized rate of K2,500 per pyi, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

The MRF commenced a rice subsidy scheme by selling off the Aemahta rice of export quality (well-milled, polished & sorted) at K2,500 per pyi at 42 shops in 17 townships in Yangon Region on 25 August. Furthermore, the subsidy scheme will expand the Ward 20 market in Hlinethaya Township and Tamway's tax-free market.

Moreover, the MRF, in cooperation with the region and state government, the Department of Consumers Affairs, Myanmar Rice Millers Association,

Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, is offering rice subsidy schemes in Mon, Kayin and Rakhine states, Mandalay, Bago and Magway regions.

The MRF launched a rice subsidy scheme on 7 August at Wahdan and Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centres. Each consumer is entitled to buy a sack of Pawsan rice and a sack of Aemahta rice per month, presenting the citizenship scrutiny card.

In addition to the rice depots, the MRF is selling off rice to the staff from government departments, factories and companies according to the relevant reports. The federation is also running a mobile market at the quarters in the townships,

with the fairer price of K2,500 per pyi of Aemahta rice.

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) notified on 7 August that it would sell off 170,000 rice sacks in August. The rice prices are set at K110,000-120,000 per sack of Pawsan from the Shwebo area, K94,000-97,000 for Pawsan from Ayeyawady, K65,000 for Aemahta (10 per cent broken) and K60,000 for Aemahta (25 per cent broken) respectively.

MRF, affiliated associations, rice exporting companies, rice mills and traders will exert concerted efforts to stabilize the prices in August and September and offer the fairer prices to the consumers of low income, as per its notification. — NN/EM

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association creates task ...

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Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service, 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.

Despite the reference price, the market price is exorbitantly high. If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face

legal action under the Essential Supplies and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

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

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July 2022 to offer palm oil

at a subsidized rate. They offer palm oil at a fairer price to the consumers directly depending on the reference price. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at reference rate depending on the volume quota.

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



Yangon residents queue up for the purchase of cooking oil at fairer prices.

OPINION

Preserve Bagan's cultural heritage for the future

IN THE heart of the Bagan region, a plethora of ancient stupas and temples have flourished, testifying to the virtuous acts of the devoted Bagan community. These sacred structures, now recognized as Myanmar's cherished cultural heritage, have suffered a fate wherein half of them vanished due to the passage of time, natural catastrophes, and human activities spanning various eras.

The architectural marvels of Bagan's existing ancient buildings showcase a blend of Indian influences and the exquisite cultural craftsmanship of Myanmar, a testament to the benevolence of both monarchs and citizens. These unparalleled architectural achievements continue to captivate archaeologists, scholars, historians, and explorers from around the world, vividly portraying the zenith of Theravada Buddhism in ancient Myanmar in the Bagan era.

Historical records indicate that the diligent hands of Bagan's

people erected around 5,000 stupas and temples, adorning a 20-square-mile expanse. Yet, lamentably, throughout a millennium, a significant portion of these spiritual sanctuaries has vanished into the annals of history. This loss unequivocally translates to a depletion of Myanmar's cultural legacy.

The pivotal moment came on 6 July 2019, when UNESCO bestowed World Heritage status upon the Bagan ancient cultural region. This recognition, achieved with unanimous approval from the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's 21 member nations, extended to individual pagodas as well as the encompassing Bagan expanse. As a result, the inhabitants of Bagan bear the responsibility of safeguarding their cultural precinct, averting the perilous decline of their ancient heritage.

In parallel, local authorities and concerned entities must adopt preemptive strategies to shield these time-honoured structures from natural calamities such as earthquakes and torrential downpours, preventing their degradation and eventual collapse. Just this year, Cyclone Mocha unleashed its fury upon various regions, including Bagan's cultural heart, inflicting damage, particularly in Rakhine and Chin states. Torrential rains infiltrated the precincts of these ancient sanctuaries, causing distressing harm.

A systematic dredging endeavour of drainage channels, both inlet and outlet, serves the purpose of maintaining proper water flow throughout the Bagan ancient cultural region. This essential undertaking, however, must meticulously adhere to established protocols and regulations to allay apprehensions about inadvertently harming these venerable structures.

In the spirit of foresight, comprehensive preservation strategies should be implemented to ensure the endurance of Bagan's ancient edifices while preserving their original artistic integrity. After all, Bagan stands as a jewel in Myanmar's crown, a cultural heritage treasured not only by its citizens but also by the global community.

IN THE quiet hours of early morning, when the world still slumbers under the veil of night, a singular figure emerges, embracing the gentle rhythm of his own artistic curve line of life. At about 3:20 am, the soft glow of dawn filtering through the curtains gently wakes him from his dreams. An early riser by habit and a seeker of knowledge by choice, he greets each day with a sense of purpose that has been cultivated through years of experience.

As the old man rises from his bed, a lifetime of routines unfolds like a well-rehearsed symphony. It is a dance of familiarity, a choreography of intention that speaks to the unwavering rhythm of his existence. He moves through the early hours with a sense of determination, no longer confined by the constraints of age. For him, the passage of time is not a limitation, but a canvas waiting to be painted with the strokes of his endeavours.

At 4 am, after dedicating a serene interlude to his prayers, he makes his way to a corner of his world that has become a sanctuary of knowledge and connection. The hum of the Wi-Fi router fills the room, a modern-day incantation that summons the digital realm into his midst. With purposeful precision, he awakens his trusty desktop computer, a faithful companion that has witnessed the evolution of his life's journey.

The screen flickers to life, revealing a mosaic of opportunities. Google Classrooms beckon, a virtual stage where his students' projects await his discerning gaze. The passage of time has seen his role evolve from that of a tradi-

tional teacher to a digital mentor, guiding young minds through the intricacies of a rapidly changing world. He assesses their efforts with the eye of an artisan, acknowledging their achievements and offering gentle guidance for improvement. In those moments, his age becomes irrelevant, and his wisdom becomes a beacon guiding others through the labyrinth of learning.

The story of this old man's life is intertwined with the evolution

of technology, a relationship that has been nurtured through the sands of time. His connection with computers began in 2012, long after he had completed his formal computer courses in 2001. The path he trod was not paved with ease; financial constraints barred him from the ownership of a new or even a second-hand computer. Yet, his thirst for knowledge and the unrelenting desire to stay relevant in a rapidly changing world propelled him forward.

Moreover, he realized, that in the grand tapestry of modern existence, there exists an intricate and indispensable thread, woven by the fusion of technology and connectivity. At the dawn of the 21st century, the computer and the internet have emerged as not merely tools, but lifelines that shape the very essence of human experience. As we traverse this landscape of innovation and interconnectedness, we unearth the fundamental reasons why the symbiotic relationship between man and machine has become an essential cornerstone of contemporary life.

The advent of the computer

and the internet has heralded a digital renaissance, bestowing upon humanity the ability to access, process, and disseminate information with unparalleled speed and efficiency. In a world where knowledge is power; these technological marvels have democratized learning, granting individuals from all walks of life the opportunity to expand their horizons and engage in lifelong education. From online courses and virtual libraries to interactive tutorials and informative videos, the digital realm offers a treasure trove of enlightenment, erasing the boundaries of time and space.

The virtual marketplace has evolved into a bustling global bazaar, with the computer and the internet serving as the very currency of trade. E-commerce platforms transcend geographical constraints, enabling consumers to explore a myriad of products and services, from the comfort of their homes. This borderless exchange fosters economic growth, empowers small businesses, and provides consumers with an unprecedented level of choice and convenience. Whether it's a rare antiquity, a bespoke garment, or a technological gadget, the computer, and the internet stand as gateways to a world of endless possibilities.

A Brushstroke of Life That Embraces Technology in the Golden Years

By Min Zan

of technology, a relationship that has been nurtured through the sands of time. His connection with computers began in 2012, long after he had completed his formal computer courses in 2001. The path he trod was not paved with ease; financial constraints barred him from the ownership of a new or even a second-hand computer. Yet, his thirst for knowledge and the unrelenting desire to stay relevant in a rapidly changing world propelled him forward.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic served as an inflexion point, reshaping the contours of his existence. His teaching metamorphosed into the

virtual realm, and the duration of his daily computer interactions grew exponentially. Where once he used the digital canvas to craft essays, articles, and poems, now he moulded the minds of his students through the ether of online classes. The transformation was both profound and poignant, a testament to the malleability of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

Yet, as the minutes unfurled into hours, the strain on his eyes

no boundaries and that the pursuit of knowledge is a journey that spans a lifetime.

As the sun ascends in the sky, casting its warm embrace upon the world, the old man's gaze remains fixed on the digital realm before him. He is a modern-day sage, a living embodiment of the adage that age is but a number. His life is a testament to the beauty of adaptation, the elegance of embracing change, and the enduring power of the human will.



AI revolution in video games has industry players treading warily

FROM generating story lines to coding entire games to turning ideas into animation, artificial intelligence is front and centre at Gamescom, one of the video game industry's biggest fairs.

But even the ultra-connected industry is eyeing the innovation warily, with fears growing that jobs could be made redundant and artistic creations usurped.

"AI is really a turning point," according to Julien Millet, an AI engineer and founder of United Bits Game studio, who attended the industry fair this week.

Responsive non-playable characters or the automatic generation of images, code and game scenarios are among the possible uses

for developers using AI.

AI is also capable of instantly producing illustrations from text, allowing producers to better "transmit their vision", according to Millet.

But the images dreamed up by AI could threaten the work of concept artists, who visualise the video game world before it is created digitally.

"I am worried for those jobs," Millet said.

'Dream world'

Attracting tens of thousands of video game lovers every year, Gamescom is an opportunity for studios to showcase their latest creations.

Many gamers turn up in cosplay costumes, as they throng the stands to try out the potential new hits — this year including some that prominently feature AI.

Club Koala from the Singaporean studio Play for Fun offers players the chance to "create their own dream world, a personalized paradise island with unique characters" generated using AI.

"AI has become an integral part of everyday life" and has a "huge potential to take the gaming industry to the next level", Play for Fun CEO Fang Han said in a statement.

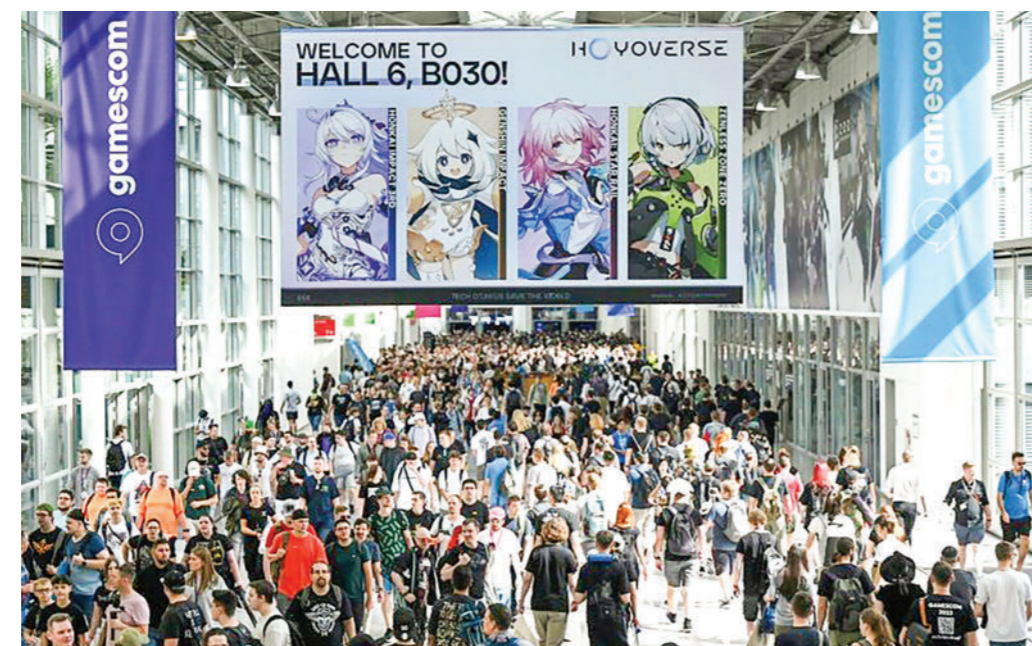
Berlin-based Ivy Juice Games also said it now uses AI through its game creation process.

"We use it to generate lines of text... to get some more storytelling into the game," Linus Gaertig from Ivy Juice Games told AFP at Gamescom.

It is also using AI "to generate code", Gaertig said, offering a new way for developers to build the games themselves.

"(AI) makes the game more unpredictable and so the game feels more real," said Sarah Brin of Kythera AI, which uses the technology to generate character movements. A case in point was demonstrated by US chipmaker Nvidia when it introduced the world to ACE, a software aimed at developers to create "intelligent in-game characters" using AI.

SOURCE: AFP



The crowd at this year's Gamescom fair in Cologne, Germany. PHOTO: AFP

ARTICLE/SCI WORLD

Scientists voyage to Greenland's melting sanctuary

WITH rugged red mountains rising on either side, a sailboat carrying scientists deftly snakes between icebergs brimming Greenland's Scoresby Fjord, as they rush to document this understudied region on the frontline of climate change.

After the warmest July ever recorded at Summit Camp atop Greenland's ice sheet, the expedition members sailing the country's east coast are acutely aware of the urgency.

"The risk that we have here is the disappearance of the complete ecosystem," Eric Marechal, director of research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), tells AFP on board the sailboat Kamak.

In addition to the icebergs — which in some areas blanket over half of the fjord — the scientists also need an armed escort to protect against polar bears.

But for the researchers, facing the harsh environment is a risk worth taking for rare access into one of the world's most iso-



Captain of the 'Kamak', France's David Delample, looks for a way between icebergs released by glaciers around Milne Land in the Scoresby Sound Fjord, Eastern Greenland on 15 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

lated ecosystems.

"We see that global warming is really entering a strong phase here. So we need to document

that," says expedition leader Vincent Hilaire. The expedition, arranged by the volunteer-run French initiative Greenlandia,

aims to understand climate change's effects on Scoresby Fjord and its inhabitants.

Frozen in ice for eleven

months of the year, the planet's largest fjord system, which remains vastly understudied, is a challenge to manoeuvre even for a seasoned crew.

"There is a big gap between what we see on the maps and the reality, so we have to move forward carefully," says Kamak's captain David Delample.

The warm sunlight carves pathways of melting snow on the sides of the icebergs, while the thundering sound of calving glaciers surrounding the fjord fills the air. Some icebergs are chiselled monoliths of blue ice towering above the sea taller than the Arc de Triomphe monument in Paris, others smooth mounds with cascading layers of white snow.

The danger of the boat getting crushed between the mammoth blocks of ice is tangible, and the sound of the frozen giants banging against the ship's hull ensures an uneasy slumber. — AFP

A Brushstroke of Life That Embraces Technology in the Golden Years

FROM PAGE-9

The digital age has woven a profound fabric of health and wellness, with the computer and the internet acting as catalysts for informed decision-making and self-care. Online health resources, fitness apps, and telemedicine services offer unprecedented access to medical information and support. Patients can consult experts, access medical records, and manage chronic conditions, ushering in an era of personalized healthcare that places individuals at the helm of their well-being.

In the grand symphony of existence, the computer and the internet emerge as harmonious notes, orchestrating the crescendo of progress and connectivity, he knows very well. Their indispensability extends beyond the confines of convenience, embedding themselves into the very fabric of our lives. From education and commerce to relationships and professional pursuits, this digital duet shapes his narratives and amplifies his potential. As one

stands at the confluence of the tangible and the virtual, one must embrace the profound truth that in this era, the computer and the internet are not mere accessories, but navigational instruments guiding people through the uncharted waters of the 21st century.

In the soft twilight of life, where memories blend with aspirations, the old man stands at the crossroads of his digital journey. Time has etched its mark upon his visage, and the radiance of youth has dimmed, making way for deeper wisdom born of experience. With a heart laden with both nostalgia and anticipation, he contemplates bidding adieu to the realm of computer-mediated teaching, guided by the whispers of his waning power of vision.

For over a decade, his days — from 2012 to 2023 — have been punctuated by the gentle hum of the computer, a faithful companion that illuminated the path of knowledge for both him and his eager students. The screen served as a gateway to a world of ideas and insights, facilitating

connections beyond geographical boundaries. Through its pixelated canvas, he mentored, guided, and shaped minds, leaving an indelible mark on the lives he touched.

Yet, as the sands of time trickle onward, a sombre realization has gently unfurled its wings — his power of vision, once sharp and unyielding, has begun to waver. The very instrument that has been his ally now presents a paradox — while it opens doors to boundless knowledge, it also bears a cost, a toll exacted on the delicate canvas of his eyes. The once-clear lines on the screen have started to blur, a reminder that every chapter, no matter how cherished, must inevitably find its conclusion.

In this juncture of transition, the old man's resolve is unwavering, and his spirit is undaunted. He embraces change not with resignation, but with the quiet strength that comes from a life well-lived. As he contemplates the prospect of reducing his screen time, he reflects upon the myriad other avenues that await his

exploration.

The world beyond the computer screen beckons with its own allure. He envisions afternoons spent immersed in the tactile pleasure of books, feeling the weight of each page between his fingers as words come to life in the theatre of his mind. The tranquillity of the natural world invites him to partake in leisurely strolls, where the melody of birdsong and the rustle of leaves become his companions. The canvas of his imagination, once complemented by digital hues, now yearns for the strokes of paint and the textures of traditional art forms.

In this new chapter, the old man's wisdom takes centre stage. He knows that adaptation is not a sign of defeat, but a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. As he bids farewell to the digital classroom, he leaves behind a legacy of learning and a foundation for future generations to build upon. The echoes of his guidance will linger in the corridors of cyberspace, a testament to his dedication and his unwaver-

ing commitment to the pursuit of knowledge.

With the computer gently dimming in his life's theatre, the old man sets his sights on the horizon, where the sun still casts its warm embrace. He navigates this transition with grace, guided by the inner compass of his heart. As he embraces the art of reducing screen time, he embodies the essence of adaptation, demonstrating that the power of the human spirit remains undiminished, even as the eyes may falter.

At times, he finds it challenging to instruct students to use a computer until the age of 70 may not be suitable for someone like him and it could be regrettable. His ability to see clearly is becoming less distinct with each passing day. Nevertheless, with a heart full of gratitude and anticipation, he steps onto a new path, where each moment becomes a brushstroke on the canvas of his existence.

Reference: Based on my own experiences

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Fast-graying Japan's births fall 3.6% to 370,000 in Jan-June

THE number of babies born in Japan and to Japanese expatriates in the January to June period fell 3.6 per cent from a year earlier to 371,052, government data showed Tuesday. The number of births in the six-month period suggests that the annual total in the country this year is likely to stay below 800,000, after the figure hit a new record low 799,728 last year.

But the pace of decrease in births for the first half of 2023 slowed from 5.0 per cent in the same period last year, the preliminary data by the Ministry

of Health, Labor and Welfare showed.

The data include figures for Japanese nationals living abroad and foreigners residing in Japan.

The growing trend of people marrying later in life or not marrying at all is thought to have exacerbated the birthrate decline, according to the health ministry.

The number of marriages in the six months to June fell 7.3 per cent to 246,332, while the number of deaths rose 2.6 per cent to 797,716, leading to a population decline of 426,664. — Kyodo

Australian doctors find live parasitic worm in woman's brain

A parasitic roundworm typically found in snakes has been pulled "alive and wriggling" from a woman's brain in a stomach-churning medical first, Australian doctors said Tuesday.

Baffled doctors performed an MRI scan on the 64-year-old Australian woman after she began suffering memory lapses, noticing an "atypical lesion" at the front of her brain.

It was an eight-centimetre (three-inch) roundworm, called *Ophidascaris robertsi*, which researchers said was a common parasite in kangaroos and carpet pythons — but not humans.

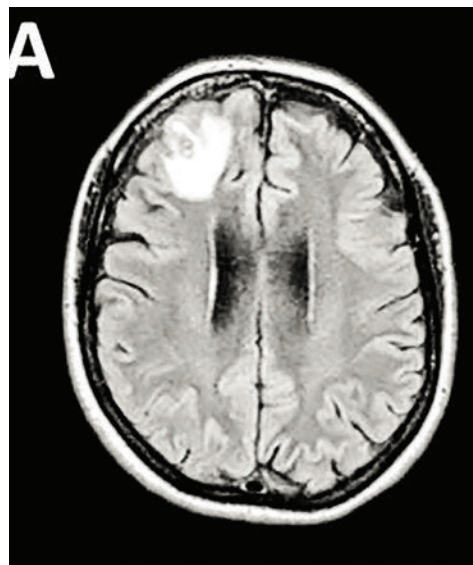
"This is the first-ever human case of *Ophidascaris* to be

described in the world," said infectious disease expert Sanjaya Senanayake. "To our knowledge, this is also the first case to involve the brain of any mammalian species, human or otherwise."

Researchers believe the woman was infected after foraging for edible shrubs near her house, which were likely contaminated with parasitic larvae shed in snake faeces.

The parasite, which appeared as a "stringlike structure" on brain scans, was then identified through DNA testing.

"It is never easy or desirable to be the first patient in the world for anything," Senanayake said. — AFP



An undated and unplaced handout photo received from The Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra on 29 August 2023 shows a brain scan. A parasitic roundworm typically found in snakes has been pulled "alive and wriggling" from a woman's brain in a stomach-churning medical first, Australian doctors said on 29 August 2023. PHOTO: HANDOUT / THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY / AFP

Air pollution greatest global threat to human health, says benchmark study



Commuters make their way amid heavy smog along a road in Multan on 16 February 2023. PHOTO: AFP

AIR pollution is more dangerous to the health of the average person on planet Earth than smoking or alcohol, with the threat worsening in its global epicentre South Asia even as China fast improves, a study showed Tuesday.

Yet the level of funding set aside to confront the challenge is a fraction of the amount earmarked for fighting infectious diseases, said the research from the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC).

Its annual Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) report showed that fine particulate air pollution — which comes from ve-

hicle and industrial emissions, wildfires and more — remains the "greatest external threat to public health".

If the world were to permanently reduce these pollutants to meet the World Health Organization's (WHO) guideline limit, the average person would add 2.3 years onto his or her life expectancy, according to the data, which has a 2021 cutoff.

Fine particulate matter is linked to lung disease, heart disease, strokes and cancer.

Tobacco use, by comparison, reduces global life expectancy by 2.2 years while child and maternal malnutrition is responsible for a reduction of

1.6 years.

Asia and Africa bear the greatest burden yet have some of the weakest infrastructure to deliver citizens timely, accurate data. They also receive tiny slices of an already small global philanthropic pie. For example, the entire continent of Africa receives less than \$300,000 to tackle air pollution.

"There is a profound disconnect with where air pollution is the worst and where we, collectively and globally, are deploying resources to fix the problem," Christa Hasenkopf, director of air quality programs at EPIC, told AFP. — AFP

UAE's PureHealth acquires British hospital operator Circle Health for US\$1.2 bln

PUREHEALTH, an integrated healthcare network headquartered in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has signed an agreement to acquire Circle Health Group, the largest independent operator of hospitals in Britain, in a deal worth 4.41 billion dirhams (1.2 billion US dollars), UAE's official news agency WAM reported on Monday. The acquisition, which is

part of PureHealth's global expansion programme, marks the company's first entry into Britain, it said.

Under the deal, PureHealth will gain 100 per cent of Circle Health Group's assets, including specialties such as orthopedics, oncology, cardiothoracic surgery, ophthalmology, neurosurgery and general surgery, and the new

hospitals that Circle Health Group is building, according to the report.

"This acquisition marks an important milestone in our journey towards creating a global healthcare network which revolutionizes patient care," Farhan Malik, managing director and group CEO of PureHealth, was quoted as saying. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Markets build on global rally ahead of key US data

TRADERS extended a global rally Tuesday ahead of US data this week that could be key to the Federal Reserve's decision-making on interest rates.

Hong Kong and Shanghai enjoyed big gains following fresh promises of help for China's economy, but worries about the outlook continue to dampen sentiment, with authorities facing growing calls for bigger stimulus to revive growth.

After a painful August on trading floors, investors have enjoyed a positive start to this week, with Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell's insistence that monetary policy would be based on a range of indicators fuelling hope the tightening cycle has drawn to a close.

This week sees the release of the US central bank's preferred gauge of inflation, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, as well as jobs creation and factory activity.



People walk past an electronic board showing a share price of the Tokyo Stock Exchange along a street in Tokyo on 25 August 2023. PHOTO: AFP

"The trio should tell investors where critical factors in the Fed's decision tree on rates lie following the central bank's gath-

ering in Jackson Hole last week and ahead of a scheduled meeting in September," said Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.

While inflation is easing, Fed officials have warned it remains too high at 3.2 per cent — well above their two per cent target —

and that borrowing costs might have to rise or at least remain elevated until they are satisfied prices have been tamed.

That, however, has led to concerns that they could deal a blow to the economy.

Anthony Saglimbene, at Ameriprise, said: "Investors want to see economic releases this week that suggest activity is slowing enough to keep further rate hikes at bay, but not too slow to indicate the economy is headed for a recession."

Asian markets were up across the board.

Hong Kong climbed more than one per cent thanks to a surge in tech giants, while Tokyo, Sydney, Seoul, Singapore, Mumbai, Bangkok, Manila, Wellington, Taipei and Jakarta were also up.

London returned from a long weekend to see healthy gains, while Paris and Frankfurt extended their Monday advance. — AFP

S Korea's retail sales rise 5.9% in July

SOUTH Korea's retail sales rose in single digits in July on robust food demand in summer holiday season, government data showed Tuesday.

The combined revenue for offline and online retailers gained 5.9 per cent in July from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Sales by offline retailers grew 3.9 per cent last month as demand increased for food in

summer holiday season, offsetting a weaker demand for home appliances and sports items amid still high inflation.

Sales by department stores, discount outlets and convenience stores all marked single-digit growths in July.

Revenue for online retailers expanded 8.1 per cent last month due to the double-digit increase in sales for food and household items. — Xinhua



A vendor waits for customers at her stall along the platform of an underground metro train station in Seoul on 20 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Glitch halts Toyota factories in Japan

TOYOTA said Tuesday it has been hit by a technical glitch that forced it to suspend production at all of its 14 factories in Japan.

The world's top-selling automaker said the "malfunction in the production order system" occurred during the daytime on Monday and forced stoppages starting Tuesday morning.

The company said that the problem did not appear to be caused by a cyberattack, but that an investigation was ongoing.

The glitch prevented Toyota's system from processing

orders for parts, resulting in a suspension of a dozen factories or 25 production lines on Tuesday morning, it said in a statement.

The company later decided to halt the afternoon shift of the two other operational factories, suspending all of Toyota's domestic plants, or 28 production lines.

The incident affected only Japanese factories, Toyota said.

Later in the day, the company announced in a statement that production at 12 domestic plants would resume Wednes-

day morning, with all plants expected to be operational from the second shift of the day onwards.

Outsized impact

News of the suspension briefly sent Toyota's stocks into the red in the morning session before recovering.

Last year, Toyota had to suspend all of its domestic factories after a subsidiary was hit by a cyberattack.

The company is one of the biggest in Japan, and its production activities have an outsized impact on the country's economy. — AFP

Italy govt approves stake in Telecom Italia network

THE Italian government gave the green light Monday to a stake worth up to 2.2 billion euros in Telecom Italia's (TIM) fixed-line network, through a joint bid with US investment fund KKR.

Economy Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti said the council of ministers had ap-

proved a decree guaranteeing funds for the state to take an up to 20-per-cent stake in the network.

The stake, "of up to 2.2 billion euros" (\$2.4 billion) will enable Italy to play a role in "what we consider to be a decisive infrastructure for the country's future", Giorgetti

told journalists.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed in early August with KKR provided for the economy ministry to take a minority stake in TIM's future company combining its fixed network and submarine cable subsidiary. — AFP

Operations at all Toyota plants in Japan halted after system failure



File photo taken in March 2022 shows Toyota Motor Corp's Motomachi plant in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Tuesday operations at all 14 of its group's vehicle assembly plants in Japan have been halted after a computer system failure earlier that it said was unlikely to have been caused by a cyberattack.

Twelve plants were

halted earlier in the morning, before operations at the Miyata plant in Fukuoka Prefecture and Daihatsu Motor Co's Kyoto plant were later suspended, it said.

The plants, which utilize the same system, were unable to process

orders for vehicle parts from early Tuesday, it said. Toyota shut all of its plants in the country in March last year after its domestic suppliers Kojima Industries Corp suffered a system failure caused by a cyberattack. — Kyodo

Lao, Thai PMs discuss boosting economic ties in phone conversation

Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone on Monday congratulated Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin on his appointment by telephone, and the two leaders held talks on further cementing Lao-Thai ties and cooperation.

During their talks by phone, the two heads of government reached consensus on continuing bilateral economic cooperation and creating an environment conducive to trade and investment cooperation, Lao National TV reported on Tuesday. — Xinhua

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

We, OMO Family Co.Ltd would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by Agro Icon Cropscience Pte.,Ltd to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor Aka Yarzar Co.Ltd. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. OMO FAMILY CO.LTD 09-5029796

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of pesticide	Registration No.
1.	AK 404	Cypermethrin 4% + Profenofos 40% EC	Insecticide	P2023-6053
2.	Daung Yar Zar	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 7.5% EC	Herbicide	P2022-5535

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

We, OMO Family Co.Ltd would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by Agro Icon Cropscience Pte.,Ltd to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor Agri Idol Co.Ltd. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. OMO FAMILY CO.LTD 09-5029796

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of pesticide	Registration No.
1.	Hmoe Queen	Epoxiconazole 5% + Pyraclostrobin 13.3.% SE	Fungicide	P2021-5441

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

We, OMO Family Co.Ltd would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by Agro Icon Cropscience Pte.,Ltd to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor Marga Min Co.Ltd. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. OMO FAMILY CO.LTD 09-5029796

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of pesticide	Registration No.
1.	Lamda Min	Lamda-cyhalothrin 2.5% EC	Insecticide	P2023-6068

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Announcement

AMMK Investment Holdings Company Limited hereby announces that a reduction by an amount of MMK 10,000,000,000 has been approved by its members on 29 August 2023.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB333A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB333A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KAMA BHUM VOY.NO. (304W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KAMA BHUM VOY.NO. (304W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1156)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1156)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 LAND AND INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD



This picture taken on 27 August 2023 and released from North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 29 August 2023 shows North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (3rd L) being accompanied by his daughter (2nd R) as he visits the Naval Command of the Korean People's Army to mark Navy Day, at an undisclosed location in North Korea. **PHOTO: STR / KCNA VIA KNS / AFP**

N Korea's Kim says nuclear weapons to be deployed to navy

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un said the country's navy would become "a component of the state nuclear deterrence" as he visited the service's command, state-run media said Tuesday.

In a speech delivered Sunday commemorating Navy Day which fell the following day, Kim denounced the leaders of Japan, the United States and South Korea as "gang bosses" and stressed the need for the navy to "get prepared to break the enemy's will for war," the official Korean Central News

Agency reported.

Earlier this month, the leaders of the three countries agreed to conduct joint military exercises regularly. Kim said their "reckless confrontational moves" made the waters off the Korean Peninsula "the most unstable waters with the danger of a nuclear war."

Pyongyang is believed to be accelerating its efforts to deploy submarine-launched ballistic missiles with strategic nuclear warheads as well as nuclear-equipped underwater drones. — Kyodo

Tripartite talks over Nile dam dispute end with no tangible results: statement

THE Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation on Monday said the latest round of negotiations on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) dispute concluded in Cairo with no "tangible results".

Stalled talks between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan resumed on Sunday in the Egyptian capital Cairo over the long-running dispute regarding the GERD.

After years of fruitless negotiations, "the new talks aimed to reach an agreement on the rules of filling and operation of

the GERD," the statement said.

However, "tripartite talks did not witness any tangible change in the Ethiopian positions", it added.

"Egypt continues to exert utmost efforts to reach, as soon as possible, a legally binding agreement on the filling and operation of the dam that serves Cairo's interests and positions of safeguarding water security, and avoiding the infliction of harm, while realizing the mutual benefit of all three countries," it added. — Xinhua

Cambodia reserves US\$100 mln for boosting agriculture: PM

CAMBODIA'S Prime Minister Hun Manet said on Tuesday that the government has reserved 100 million US dollars for boosting the country's agricultural sector.

"We have prepared a budget of 100 million US dollars to intervene in agricultural products such as paddy rice, milled rice and vegetables", he said in a speech during a get-together with some 18,000 garment fac-

tory workers in Phnom Penh.

Hun Manet said the prices of agricultural products have fluctuated based on demands in the international market, adding that however, the budget will help stabilize the prices of agricultural products for farmers.

The budget will also be used for the improvement of the irrigation system and for training agricultural specialists, he said. — Xinhua

7.1-magnitude quake, aftershocks rattle Bali residents

A strong, deep 7.1-magnitude earthquake and several aftershocks rattled Bali and other Indonesian islands on Tuesday, the USGS reported, sending panicked tourists into the streets but causing no major damage.

The quake struck at a depth of around 515 kilometres

off the northeastern coast of Bali at around 3:55 am local time (1955 GMT Monday), according to the US Geological Survey.

The tremors were felt across Bali, and also in the nearby islands of Lombok and Sumbawa.

Bali residents said a sec-

ond aftershock sent "longer and stronger" tremors than the first.

"When the first earthquake struck, I woke up my husband. Not long after that, the second earthquake struck, so we immediately took our children outside", said Ardylla Yuliacitra, 31. — AFP

UN seeks to revive Cyprus peace talks: senior UN official



UN Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and Americas Miroslav Jenca (C) meets with Cyprus' President Nikos Christodoulides (R, Front) in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 28 August 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A high-ranking UN official met here separately on Monday with Cyprus' President Nikos Christodoulides and Turkish Cypriot

leader Ersin Tatar in a bid to restart the stalled Cyprus peace negotiations.

Miroslav Jenca, UN assis-

tant secretary-general for Europe, Central Asia and Americas, was dispatched by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to assess the prospects of resuming negotiations for a solution to the Cyprus problem.

After meeting with Christodoulides, Jenca told journalists that "the most important thing that I would mention is that the UN Secretary General is paying utmost attention to the situation on the island".

He said that he discussed with Christodoulides ways of resuming talks, adding that "the Secretary General will use all his good offices in order to help this process to find a solution to the Cyprus issue". — Xinhua

SPORTS

Djokovic back on top after US Open return, Swiatek rolls



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a backhand return against France's Alexandre Muller during the US Open tennis tournament men's singles first round match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York City on 28 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

NOVAK Djokovic ensured he will return to the top of tennis's world rankings with an emphatic first round victory at the US Open on Monday as women's world number one Iga Swiatek and American rival Coco Gauff advanced.

Djokovic, chasing a record-extending 24th Grand Slam singles title in New York, shrugged off a late-night start on the Arthur Ashe Stadium to demolish France's Alexandre Muller 6-0, 6-2, 6-3 in just 1hr 35min.

The win means Djokovic is guaranteed to replace defending US Open champion Carlos Alcaraz as world number one when the tennis rankings are next updated after the tournament. Djokovic is playing in New York for the first time since suffering an agonising defeat in the 2021 final in New York.

He was barred from entry to

the United States in 2022 for his refusal to get vaccinated against Covid-19, meaning he was unable to play the US Open.

On Monday the 36-year-old played like a man making up for lost time, reeling off 32 winners and breaking Muller eight times in a lopsided encounter that finished at around 12:40 am local time. Djokovic, who will face Spain's Bernabe Zapata Miralles in the second round, said he was unfazed by the late start to his game.

"I didn't care if I started after midnight because I was looking forward to this moment for few years, to be out on the biggest stadium in our sport, the loudest stadium in our sport, playing night session," Djokovic said. "It was a great joy to be stepping out on the court.— AFP

Myanmar female footballers receive training for XIX Asian Games

THE Myanmar women's national football team has started training for the XIX Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou, China.

Team Myanmar will begin camp training only after the completion of the Myanmar Women's League.

Yuki, head coach of the Myanmar women's national team, has selected 30 preliminary players based on the team that won the silver medal in the XXXII SEA Games and will have

more than 20 days to prepare for the competition.

The Myanmar national women's team is participating in the Asian Games for the first time and is preparing for good results. Myanmar is placed in the same group as South Korea, Hong Kong and the Philippines. The women's tourney will run from 21 September to 6 October.

The newly formed Myanmar national women's team includes many preliminary players. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Smith says winning Australian Open is 'number one' priority

MAJOR winner Cameron Smith said Tuesday that winning a first Australian Open was his "number one" priority for the rest of the year.

Proud Australian Smith, golf's world number 11, will defend his Australian PGA Championship crown in Brisbane in late November before tackling the Australian Open

a week later in Sydney.

"That's probably number one for things that I want to win, definitely in the next four months," said the 30-year-old of his Australian Open ambitions.

Smith has won the Australian PGA Championship three times, but his home Open has so far eluded him. — AFP

Myanmar to compete in 55th Asian Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championship

MYANMAR bodybuilders were selected yesterday at the headquarters of the Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation in Yangon to compete in the 55th Asian Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championship to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 1 to 7 September 2023.

First, the bodybuilders show off in seven different postures. The officials of the Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation encouraged and asked them to live and eat healthily before entering the competition.

Hein Htet Zaw will compete in the U-21 75-kg event while Pyae Phyto will go for the 55-kg category.

Meanwhile, Maung Maung Myint will participate in the 65-kg event while Ye Htun Naung will take on the 70-kg event and Aung Than

Htay in the 75-kg event.

Hein Htet Kyaw will contest in the Men's Athletic Physique (up to 182 centimetres) while Nyein Chan will compete in the Men's Sports Physique (up to 175 cm),

In the Physique contest, Mi Mi Kyaw Naing will join the Senior Women's Model Physique (up to 160 cm) event while Aye Thandar Khaing will tackle in the Senior Women's Athletic Physique (up to 165 cm) event and Wuttyi Phyto will be in the Senior Women's Athletic Physique (up to 165 cm) event. — Bala Soe/KZL



Ye Htun Naung (pictured) will compete in the Men's 70-kg event of the 55th Asian Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championship. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

N Korea's Kim says nuclear weapons to be deployed to navy

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WORLD



A student exhibits the model of 'Chandrayaan-3' during an exhibition at a school in Amritsar on 29 August 2023.

PHOTO: AFP

Storm Idalia strengthens into hurricane, barrels towards Florida

STORM Idalia strengthened into a hurricane Tuesday as forecasters predicted it would intensify and become "extremely dangerous" before making landfall in the US state of Florida.

"Idalia now a hurricane. Expected to rapidly intensify into an extremely dangerous major hurricane before landfall on Wednesday," the National Hurricane Centre (NHC) said in a 0900 GMT public advisory. Major hurricanes are usually a Category 3 or higher on the five-level Saffir-Simpson scale — storms that the NHC says can cause "devastating" and "catastrophic" damage.

At the time of the advisory, Idalia was about 370 miles (600 kilometres) south-southwest of Tampa, Florida, and packing maximum sustained winds of 75 miles per hour (120 kilometres per hour).

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis warned the storm could have major impacts along the Gulf of Mexico, telling a news conference on Monday that evacuations would take place and residents should prepare. US President Joe Biden spoke with DeSantis earlier on Monday and approved an emergency declaration for the state, promising it would have his full support, a White House spokesman said.

Various NHC warnings have been put in place in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina as heated Gulf of Mexico waters turbocharge the storm. — AFP

DAYS after becoming the first nation to land a craft near the Moon's largely unexplored south pole, India's space agency said on Monday it will launch a satellite to survey the Sun. "The launch of Aditya-L1, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun, is scheduled for 2 September," the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said on X, formerly known as Twitter:

Aditya, meaning "sun" in Hindi, will be fired into a halo orbit in a region of space about 1.5 million kilometres (930,000 miles) from Earth, providing the craft with a continuous clear view of the Sun.

After Moon landing, India eyes the Sun

"This will provide a greater advantage of observing the solar activities and its effect on space weather in real time," ISRO said.

The spacecraft will be carrying seven payloads to observe the Sun's outermost layers — known as the photosphere and chromosphere — including by using electromagnetic and particle field detectors.

Among several objectives, it will study the drivers for space weather, including to better understand the dynamics of solar wind. While NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) have previously placed orbiters to study the Sun, it will be the first such mission for India.

The unmanned Chandrayaan-3 — "Mooncraft" in

Sanskrit — touched down on the lunar surface last week, making India only the fourth country behind the United States, Russia and China to land successfully on the Moon. That marked the latest milestone in India's ambitious but cut-price space programme, sparking celebrations across the world's most populous country. — AFP

Putin, Modi discuss BRICS summit, bilateral ties over phone

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held phone talks Monday on the outcomes of the recently held BRICS Summit and bilateral cooperation.

Noting the importance of the agreements reached during the 15th BRICS Summit

held recently in Johannesburg, South Africa, the two leaders said the expansion of the bloc will contribute to its growing global influence, the Kremlin said.

They further exchanged views regarding the upcoming Group of 20 Summit to be held in New Delhi.

Putin congratulated Modi on the successful landing of India's Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft on the moon, and reaffirmed readiness to strengthen cooperation in the space sector.

The leaders also discussed bilateral trade ties, and cooperation in the transport, logistics and energy sectors. — Xinhua



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) leaders' summit in Samarkand on 16 September 2022. PHOTO: AFP