

The GlobalNEW LIGHT of MYANMAR



Captivating panorama of the Muse 105-Mile Trade Zone along the Myanmar-China border.

Sino-Myanmar border trade skyrockets to US\$1.7 bln over last five months

THE border trade value between Myanmar and China jumped to over US\$1.7 billion in the past five months from April to August of the current financial year 2023-2024 from \$1.058 billion recorded in the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics showed.

The figure indicated a sharp increase of \$648.106 million this FY compared to that in the corresponding period last FY 2022-2023.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with the neighbouring country China via Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw,

Kampaiti and Kengtung. The Muse border saw a majority of the trade worth \$1.072 billion.

The trade value stood at \$540.091 million via Chinshwehaw, \$57.449 million via Kampaiti, \$32.78 million via Lweje and \$3.35 million via Kengtung respectively.

Myanmar has been carrying out border trade with the four neighbouring countries China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India via the border posts.

Export items are agricultural produce, livestock products, fisheries products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and other goods, while

capital goods, intermediate goods, manufacturing goods and raw materials by CMP enterprises are imported.

Sino-Myanmar trade volume is regularly growing at present, with approximately 200 trucks flowing in and out of the Muse trade zone daily.

Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, pulses, rubber, watermelon, mango, onion, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China and building materials, electrical appliances, pharmaceuticals, equipment and food products are imported into the country. — NN/EM

Myanmar uses yuan to pay for Russian oil products

MYANMAR uses the yuan to pay for supplies of Russian petroleum products, Minister of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations of Myanmar Dr Kan Zaw told Sputnik, adding that the parties are preparing an agreement on the mutual conversion of national currencies.

“We are using yuan and not (paying) with roubles at this moment. But we are trying to make the kyat-rouble agreement (on the mutual conversion) ... (the agreement) is going (to be signed) very soon,” Dr Kan Zaw said on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Vladivostok.

In addition, Dr Kan Zaw expressed hope that Myanmar would conclude an agreement with Russia on tourism on the sidelines of the EEF.

Last September, Myanmar’s Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told Sputnik that the country had begun purchasing Russian petroleum products.

Myanmar will begin accepting cards from the Russian Mir payment system in October, Dr Kan Zaw said.

“Mir cards could be used starting from October, I hope,” he said on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Vladivostok, adding that an agreement on this issue was signed between the central bank and six commercial banks.

The eighth EEF is taking place on the campus of the Far Eastern Federal University in the Russian city of Vladivostok from 10 to 13 September. RIA Novosti is the official media partner of the forum. — SPUTNIK

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Kawthoung, Myeik borders see US\$4.352 mln worth of trade with Thailand in three days

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Yangon palm oil wholesale reference price soars by over K360 per viss compared to last week

NATIONAL



File photo shows lorries and officials are seen on the Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge.

Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge promotes border trade

Border trade between the two countries has increased, earning over US\$900,000 from Myanmar's exports including tobacco, thanks to the bridge.

THE border trade between Myanmar and Laos has increased from April to July following the opening of the Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge and more than US\$900,000 have been received from exports including Myanmar tobacco, according to the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period when the bridge was not built, the trade between the two countries did not develop, but now that the bridge has been completed, it has increased.

"Trade has improved since the opening of the friendship bridge with Laos, which had

almost no trade with Myanmar. Since Laos is buying Myanmar's tobacco, we were able to export 22 tonnes of tobacco to Laos through the Kenglat-border station in the first week of September, earning \$35,000 in exports.

"During the period from April to July of this financial year, we were able to export aquatic products and agricultural produce from Myanmar to Laos through border trade," said Daw Cho Thet Mu, Deputy Director of the Department of Trade.

In the period from April to July of the 2023-2024 financial

year, more than \$900,000 was earned from shrimp exports, over \$14,000 from rice exports and over \$35,000 from tobacco exports totalling \$997,000.

The goods were exported through the export declaration of the Kenglak border station, and corn crops will also be exported in the next financial year.

The Myanmar-Laos border trade station named the Kenglak border in Tachilek District of Shan State (East) was opened on 26 August with the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund 2021.

— ASH/KZL

80 hospitals, clinics provide healthcare services to 600,000 workers

A total of 80 hospitals and clinics provided healthcare services to 600,000 workers with social security insurance as of July 2023, according to the Ministry of Labour.

There are over 890,000 workers who are members of the Social Security Board in Yangon Region, and Yangon Workers' Hospital, Htantabin

Workers' Hospital, 22 Township Social Security Clinics, 18 Departmental Clinics, a traditional clinic, 30 contracted clinics, and 10 maternity service clinics provide healthcare treatment to these workers.

Healthcare services are being expanded with 20 free-for-service payment clinics, 26 capitation-payment clinics,

and 12 maternity-service clinics signing contracts to make healthcare for insured workers more efficient. The hospitals and clinics that have signed agreements with the Social Security Board are open every day, and insured workers have the right to receive treatment for up to 26 weeks. — TWA/MKKS

Kinta Reservoir supports rain-fed rice, crop cultivation to achieve targeted water supply

THE Kinta Reservoir in Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, is a dam that supplies water to the cultivation of rice, rain-fed rice, and other crops every year and is a multi-purpose dam that benefits the region's drinking water, environmental greening, and power generation. According to the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management, the dam is supplying agricultural water to meet the target for crops.

In the three water intake systems of the Kinta Dam — the left canal, the right canal, and the Panlaung canal—83,427 acres of rain-fed rice and 13,382 acres of other crops have been earmarked to supply agricultural water. Since 20 June, the water distribution system has been carried out by group rotation, and until 10 September, 77,216 acres of rain-fed rice and 4,641 acres of other crops, totalling 81,857 acres, have been planted, meeting about 85 per cent of the targeted acres.

The current water storage capacity of Kinta Reservoir is 468,300 acre-feet, which is 110,000 acre-feet more than the same period last year in 2022, so it will be able to supply water to the acres earmarked for rain-fed crops without difficulty. Authorities are working with farmers who use the water to develop an irrigation system that can adapt to climate change in preparation for the situation where water may be scarce next year due to El Nino weather events; upgrade and maintain the irrigation system to reduce water losses; increase the productivity of a water unit by reusing water extracted from drainage canals as agricultural water; and perform effective and efficient water management activities. In addition, preparations are being made to successfully distribute agricultural water without any difficulties in the coming year of planting summer crops, like in previous years. — Maung Aye Chan/CT



An aerial view of the Kinta Reservoir in Myittha Township of Mandalay Region.

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.

Central Committee on Prevention of Human Trafficking holds meeting 1/2023

THE Central Committee on the Prevention of Human Trafficking convened its meeting 1/2023 at Myanmar Police Force Headquarters in Areindama Hall yesterday. State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae chaired the meeting, which saw 47 participants, including online attendees.

The chairman of the Human Trafficking Prevention Centre highlighted the abuse of technology, particularly social media, to incite political instability in Myanmar. He noted that criminals, including human traffickers, operate online. Myanmar faces challenges such as forced labour and online financial fraud,

necessitating robust preventive measures.

Foreigners encountering difficulties after entering Myanmar from border regions seek help through embassies and international police channels. Myanmar collaborates with China and Thailand on operations targeting human trafficking, forced labour, and illegal border crossings, as part of international efforts.

The meeting resulted in recommendations and discussions on anti-human trafficking measures. Members acknowledged the evolving nature of human trafficking in Myanmar and pledged collaborative efforts to implement effective solutions for better outcomes. — MNA/KZW



The meeting 1/2023 of the Central Committee on Prevention of Human Trafficking in progress yesterday, chaired by SAC Member Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

SAC Member inspects Kachin's MSME development



SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu (C) is pictured during her inspection tours in Kachin State yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu, accompanied by Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, oversaw the MSMEs development activities in Bhamo Township of Kachin State yesterday.

During the visits to Nay Min Oil Mill, Bhamo Peanut Oil Trading, Shan Ma Lay preserved fruit jam and wine production site in Bhamo, she inspected the production procedures of oil, quince preserve and wine, saying the

needs to improve the quality of products and provide the assistance to produce as export quality products.

She then proceeded to 3-Diamond Rice Mill in Hante Ward of Bhamo and observed the working processes of the 60-tonne rice milling machine that generated 60 tonnes and grain dryer. She also viewed round the new concrete road paving works conducted by the township municipal officials. The road is 1,000 feet long and 18 feet wide entrance to Technological University.

On arrival at Sein Tharaphu Rice Mill in 3rd mile Shwepyitha Ward, she inspected the work progress, emphasizing the strategic location of Bhamo as there is easy transport, including air, sea and land transport, and it can also make border trade with China ensuring MSMEs development in a short period. She also fulfilled the necessary measures to promote product quality and provide technology and machinery. — MNA/KTZH

One-stop service open in Myawady, Kawthoung to send MoU U-Turn workers

ONE-STOP service processes were conducted at the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge II in Myawady Township and at the compound of the Ice Factory in Ayeyeiknyein Ward of Kawthoung Township yesterday morning.

The one-stop service system allows Myanmar workers in Thailand under the MoU system, who hold PJ passports valid for two years or more, to re-enter Thailand through the border using the MoU/U-Turn system.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Immigration and Population, and the Ministry of Labour collaborated to conduct the signing of labour employment contracts and the printing of overseas employment identification cards (OWIC) using the one-stop service (OSS) for MoU workers who have already completed four years of service.

The one-stop service processes in Myawady and Kawthoung aim to ensure there are no delays in OWIC printing and can be completed shortly after arriving in Myanmar and leaving for Thailand within a day. — MNA/MKKS



The opening of the one-stop service (OSS) for MoU U-Turn workers and OWICs underway.

NATIONAL

SAC Member conducts inspection tours in Loikaw

STATE Administration Council Member Porel Aung Thein, accompanied by Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin and other officials, inspected the urban development activities in Loikaw Township yesterday.

First, the SAC member and party visited the Monglon water plant in Loikaw Township and inspected the construction of a Slow Sand Filter that can filter 2.5 million gallons of water a day.

During the visit, they observed the drainage system and concrete road paving sites in Monglon Ward and offered the proper instructions.

At noon, he attended the meeting with members of ethnic literature and culture groups held at the Kayah State govern-



SAC Member Porel Aung Thein meets departmental personnel in Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday.

ment office.

During the meeting, the state chief minister presented the support of the state government in ethnic-related affairs and the SAC member and officials provided cash assistance to 12 ethnic literature and culture groups.

The ethnic literature and culture groups discussed the ethnic festivals to be held in the state, the need for roads and bridges and cooperation work for stability in the state.

Then, the SAC member joined the meeting with departmental officials and heard the reports of the state chief minister on regional development programmes and other matters. — MNA/KTZH

Tatmadaw (Navy) rescues tilted cargo ship in Myanmar waters

MEMBERS of Tatmadaw (Navy) conducting security operations in Myanmar waters near Hainggyikyun, Ayeyawady Region, rushed to the scene after receiving a notification that a cargo ship had tilted about 10 miles southwest of Hainggyikyun around 11 pm on 10 September. The cargo ship was identified as the MV Shwe Eain Thi, which had departed from Yangon and

headed to Sittway. Due to inclement weather and strong winds, approximately 4,000 tonnes of cement bags on board shifted, causing the vessel to tilt and water to enter the engine room. Tatmadaw (Navy) security forces pumped out the water from the engine room, provided the necessary assistance and conducted rescue operations. — MNA/CT



The photo depicts a tilted vessel 10 miles southwest Hainggyikyun on 10 September 2023.

SAC Member pays homage to Kyaikmaraw stupa, Kyaikthanlan pagoda in Mon State

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung along with ministers of the Mon state government and officials arrived at the Phayagyi monastery in kyaikmaraw yesterday. They paid homage and made donations to the monastery.

They also paid homage to the Kyaikmaraw Buddha image, observing historical Buddha statues, stupas, ancient stone inscriptions, ancient buildings and mural paintings in the precincts of the Kyaikmaraw Buddha image.

The SAC member along with Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein, South-East Command Commander Brig-Gen Soe Min, state



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung presents offerings to members of the Sangha in Kyaikmaraw yesterday.

ministers then paid homage to the Kyaikthanlan Pagoda. They viewed Buddha statues, decorative upright leaves along the retaining wall and ancient buildings at the Kyaikthanlan Pagoda. — MNA/KZW



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NATIONAL

31st FEIAP General Assembly & 7th Special Distinguished Lectures held



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than addresses the event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE 31st FEIAP General Assembly and the 7th Special Distinguished Lectures took place at the Grand Aster Villa Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, hosted by the Myanmar Engineering Council and the Myanmar Engineers Federation.

The event commenced with a video message from Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Vice-President of FEIAP and Panel of Patrons of the Myanmar Engineering Council. Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant, Panel of Patrons of the

Myanmar Engineering Council, expressed pride in hosting the assembly, emphasizing the rapid progress of Myanmar’s engineering recognition within FEIAP.

FEIAP’s mission to promote engineering best practices for socioeconomic development across Asia and the Pacific region was underlined, with a focus on sustainable engineering for the future of construction.

Conference attendees were encouraged to innovate by the union minister, and remarks were delivered by Professor Dr

Nyi Hla Nge, Panel of Patrons of the Myanmar Engineering Council, and Professor Mr Huang Wei on behalf of the FEIAP president.

The conference continued with discussions and paper presentations, involving local and international intellectuals and authors.

A dinner hosted by the Myanmar Engineering Council and the Myanmar Engineers Federation featured Myanmar cultural performances as a gesture of hospitality to conference representatives. — MNA/TS

Myanmar short film selected for Busan International Film Festival

DIRECTOR Sein Hlyan Htun announced that his short film, titled ‘Myaw Ta Lwint Lwint,’ has been selected for the Wide Angel Asian Short Film Competition at the Busan International Film Festival. The festival is scheduled to take place in Busan, South Korea, from 4 to 13 October.

The Myanmar short film, ‘Myaw Ta Lwint Lwint,’ is set in Paris, France, and tells the story of a Myanmar man who arrives in Paris with many traumas and finds love.

“The short film, shot amidst strangers in downtown Paris, was chosen for the Wide Angel Asian Short Film Competition at the Busan Film Festival, the largest film festival in

Asia. Ko Latt, who plays the main character in this film, dedicated four days to the filming process. I am grateful for his dedication, as it greatly contributed to the film,” said Director Sein Hlyan Htun.

Additionally, Director Sein Hlyan Htun previously won an International Competition award with his film ‘Pyay Lyaut Nway’ at Clermont-Ferrand 2021 in France. This film has also been screened at Winterthur 2021 in Switzerland, the Leiden Shot 2022 International Short Film Festival in the Netherlands, and the Locarno Filmmakers Academy, which is a programme of the Locarno Film Festival 2022 in Switzerland. — ASH/MKKS



A poster of the short film.

COVID-19 report, 11 September 2023	
NEW TESTS	4,501
NEW CASE	1
CASUALTY	0

Illegal foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials, motorbikes and vehicles confiscated

THE combined on-duty teams captured an unregistered Toyota Corolla car (approximately worth K3 million) in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 7 September and three Sunlong buses (approximately worth K120 million) carrying 16 kinds of goods worth K26,808,400 including 1,440 bottles of Brand’s bird nest and a Yamaha R15 motorbike near the Shwe Thanlwin Tollgate on 8 September.

The Customs on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections on 8 September

and seized 7,000 boxes of Boni D tablet that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) and a total of six kinds of goods worth K40.602 million including 150 sets of multi-fashion electric pot that were not declared in the ID from seven containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and a Changlong tractor head, an Isuzu tractor head, two trailers and a Toyota HiAce vehicle (estimated value of K115 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying K17.358 million worth of 55 Shen Yuan inverter welding machines that were not declared

in the ID, 4,000 kilogrammes of LLDPE linear low density polyethylene that exceeded the ID and 5,000 bottles of M-150 energy drink without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint.

The combined teams confiscated a Nissan Condor (estimated value of K30 million), travelling from Myawady to Mawlamyine, carrying five kinds of goods worth K6.24 million including 2,400 bags of smart softener fragrance liquid and 5,400 bags of Yum Yum instant noodles without official documents at the

Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint on 8 September and a Dongfeng tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K85 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying two kinds of goods worth K24.141 million including 330 sets of Yang Khun electric motor and 225 sets of BIFA submersible water pump without official documents in Hpa-an township on 9 September.

A total of 25 arrests were made from 7 to 9 September with an estimated value of K468,149,400. — MNA/ MKKS



Confiscated illegal items.

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Kawthoung, Myeik borders see
US\$4.352 mln worth of trade with
Thailand in three days



Fishery products are seen being prepared at the port before being exported to Thailand through the Kawthoung border.

KAWTHOUNG and Myeik border trade posts conducted trade worth US\$4.352 million with Thailand in the first three days of September, according to the statistics from the Ministry of Commerce.

The Kawthoung border had US\$2.747 million in exports and \$0.708 million in imports, result-

ing in a total trade volume of \$3.455 million from 30 August to 3 September.

The Kawthoung border is also an export-advantaged post, primarily exporting fishery products to Thailand through the FOB system.

Similarly, the Myeik trade post recorded exports worth

\$0.013 million to Prachuap Khiri Khan province, Thailand, through the Mawtaung trade post by obtaining a certificate of country of origin for Customs relief (Form D) in the first three days of September. It is reported that diesel oil worth \$0.884 million was imported. — TWA/CT

Task Force implements
Warehouse Receipt
Financing System under
operating procedures

A task force on implementing the Warehouse Receipt Financing System (WRFS) is committed to creating effective operating procedures, highlighted Task Force Leader Deputy Minister U Nyunt Aung of the Ministry of Commerce, at the first meeting held on 9 September at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The deputy minister called for harmony and concerted efforts from all the stakeholders concerned in the warehousing including the government departments, growers, producers, warehouse owners and traders by fulfilling the needs to establish the WRFS successfully.

This system will tackle warehousing problems during harvest time, allow the use of commodities as collateral to secure loans to avoid selling for quick cash and allow the farmers to repay the loan when the goods fetch high prices.

The task force will write operating procedures, lay down policies and standard rules, establish separate funds, carry out pilot projects and assist domestic and foreign warehouse investors.

Additionally, to enhance the rice sector, crop insurance implementation to protect farmers from disaster risks can also help stabilize the rice and paddy prices. — TWA/EM



The photo shows the first meeting of task force on implementing Warehouse Receipt Financing System - WRFS.

Research papers describe Rakhine eras, history of
Rakhine calendar, Rakhine textbook

THE Rakhine Literature and Culture Association (Yangon) marked the 84th Abhidha Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Ashin Uttama in conjunction with the Rakhine research paper-reading session at Rakhine State Dhammayon near the eastern archway of Shwedagon Pagoda on 9 September.

Resource person May Oo Thein Nyunt read the paper on the Rakhine eras and history of the Rakhine calendar and resource person Yan Naing Min on the Rakhine textbook.

The paper of May Oo Thein Nyunt comprised Danyawady, Wethali, Laymyo and MraukU



The paper-reading session on Rakhine eras, calendar and textbook in progress.

eras of Rakhine history based on past Rakhine era, Maha era, Sasana era, Suriya Citra king's era, Kaliyugga era, Kawza era or Asambhita era. The calendar of Rakhine ethnic



mentions day and date periods.

The paper of Yan Naing Min consisted of writing called Rakkhawunna and reciting rules and regulations used in successive eras of Rakhine ethnics. Writing signs of Rakhine ethnics were based on the usages of their forefathers.

The paper-reading session was joined by Rakhine historian Dr Aye Chan, Rakhine historical researcher Dr Saw Tun Aung and the chairman of the association and officials. At the ceremony, documents related to the papers were put on display. — TWA/TTA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Yangon palm oil wholesale reference price soars by over K360 per viss compared to last week

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set at K4,524 per viss for the week ending 17 September, showing an increase of K364 per viss recorded last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The wholesale price was set at K4,160 per viss for a week from 4 to 10 September.

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 to issue the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Yet, the market price was higher than the reference price.

To tackle the overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce apprised the consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the Call Centre's Hotline in late August. The department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer



Yangon residents are seen lining up for the purchase of cooking oil at the reduced price. PHOTO: HTUN HTUN

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 Hotline: 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 edible oil price stability was held on 30 August at the Ministry of

Commerce (Office No 3). Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo for the Commerce gave the remark that the State provided a cheaper way to buy 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 of 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 how the Commerce Ministry issues the wholesale reference price every week. 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 on them to prioritize the consumers' interests, not for self-interest only. Additionally, the Union

minister encouraged all the stakeholders in the supply chain to cooperate with the ministry to reduce the palm oil prices in the coming days as the ministry would try to achieve the meeting outcomes practically.

A task force for edible oil 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 that palm oil sales at wholesale prices are not higher than two per cent of the net profit margin and retail prices are not higher than the 10 per cent margin.

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

Global surge drives September spike in rice export prices

WITH the global rice prices surging, the export rice prices surged to approximately US\$600 per metric ton (MT) during the week ending 12 September 2023, the Myanmar Rice Federation's reference rice prices indicated.

The price of Myanmar long-grain white rice (five per cent broken) was set at \$525 per MT only.

At present, Aemahta, Kayinma, Tunpu and Ngasein rice varieties are designated for export markets. Rice export has not been suspended. Rice exporting companies with 100 per cent cargo readiness are processed and after pre-shipment inspection, an export licence is granted.



Export rice bags are loaded onto the lorry.

India's export ban on some rice to meet domestic needs triggered growing demand in the global market. Consequently, rice-exporting countries such as Thailand, Viet Nam

and Myanmar witnessed an increase in export prices.

Low-grade rice varieties such as Aemahta, Ngasein, and Sinthuka exported to China via the Muse border fetch up to

3,450-3,600 Yuan per tonne depending on the ratio of broken rice content.

From 6 and 12 September, the export prices of long grain white rice, broken rice and parboiled rice tremendously rose. The prices moved up to \$600 per MT of white rice, \$430-475 per MT of broken rice and \$610-640 per tonne of parboiled rice, indicating a significant increase compared to those of the previous month.

The value of Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports totalled US\$166 million from over 380,000 tonnes in the past five months (Apr-Aug) of the current financial year 2023-2024, comprising 350,070 tonnes in maritime trade and 29,314

tonnes in border, MRF's statistics showed.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of robust rice export in the current FY, generating an income of US\$1 billion.

Additionally, Shwebo Pawsan, Ayeyawady Pawsan, and Pawsan from various regions, Ayeyamin, Ayeya Padaytha, Anyatha, and Pakhan varieties that are highly consumed domestically are prioritized for the domestic market only at present. There is no export of those rice varieties and the federation is making a concerted effort with the stakeholders in the supply chain to stabilize the rice price in the domestic market. — KK

OPINION

Accurate data: The backbone of sound policies

IN the realm of thriving businesses, the significance of accurate data and statistics cannot be overstated. A business can only thrive when it possesses precise records of export and import activities, trade metrics, income, and expenses. Success in operations hinges on this data. Furthermore, the formulation of national development policies and strategic planning depends heavily on the bedrock of accurate data and statistics.

For policies to be effective, it is imperative that the data and accounts provided by relevant ministries, regions, and states closely align with the real-world situation. It is only through this alignment that we can gain a clear understanding of the state of affairs. Subsequently, the government can make informed

Therefore, it is incumbent upon all personnel from relevant departments, organizations, and private firms to dutifully fulfil their roles in compiling statistics based on accurate data and evidence. This collective effort is vital for the betterment of the entire nation.

ministries, regional and state authorities, and stakeholders.

It is imperative that departmental personnel and company staff undergo training to enhance their capacity to compile accurate statistics. This ensures that the data collected becomes a reliable tool for project implementation. Consequently, the government can rely on this data and statistics when assessing the nation's progress, including metrics like gross domestic product, per-capita income, and other economic indicators that annually reflect the country's development status.

Union ministries, the Nay Pyi Taw Council, regional and state governments, and national-level organizations must come together to guarantee the accuracy of statistics that reflect the ground reality. These statistics should be compiled in real time. In this context, these organizations must strengthen their collaborative mechanisms for statistics to craft sound policies that drive state development.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon all personnel from relevant departments, organizations, and private firms to dutifully fulfil their roles in compiling statistics based on accurate data and evidence. This collective effort is vital for the betterment of the entire nation.

IN a hospital, the Outpatient Department (OPD) is the main link of the hospital with the community. It reflects the public image as well as the shop window of the hospital. For a person who visits the hospital, the first point of contact is the Front Office or Desk which can vary depending on the size of the hospital, and the number of employees that work there.

The front office includes a reception desk to greet patients and visitors as they enter the hospital and provide information about where to go, or the services that are provided. Registration services may also be available in the front office of the hospital; patients can provide their name and contact information, as well as any other information requested, such as emergency contact details. Certain administrative tasks may also be completed in a hospital front office, such as the maintenance of records and paperwork throughout the hospital. Generally, the purpose of a front office is to provide assistance for people when they first enter the hospital.

The receptionist in the front office of a hospital will greet people when they enter and determine how he or she can help them. Providing directory assistance is

The Crucial Wing of a Hospital: Front Desk and Outpatient Department

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

another common task for someone who works in a hospital front office. People coming into the hospital might need directions to certain areas to visit someone, or they may need to get in touch with a particular person. Security staff might also be stationed at the hospital front office so they are ready to be called to a specific area if needed. Working in the front office of a hospital can be a stressful, fast-paced job, and it is necessary for anyone in this position to enjoy working with people, and to be able to remain calm in challenging situations.

The OPD is a crucial wing of any hospital, offering a range of medical services to patients who do not require overnight hospitalization. It plays a vital role in healthcare delivery by providing essential medical care, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up services. The following is the overview of the crucial role of the outpatient department in a hospital;

- **Primary Access Point:** The OPD serves as the primary entry point for most patients seeking medical care. It provides accessible and timely medical attention to a wide range of medical issues, including minor illnesses, injuries, routine check-ups, and chronic disease management.
- **Diagnosis and Treatment:** OPD services encompass various medical specialties, including internal medicine, paediatrics, dermatology, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, ENT (ear, nose, and throat), and more. This allows for comprehensive diagnosis and treatment across different medical conditions.
- **Early Detection and Prevention:** Regular OPD visits facilitate early detection of diseases and health issues, which can significantly improve patient outcomes. Health screenings, vaccinations, and health education play a role in preventive
- care and disease management.
- **Chronic Disease Management:** Patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and arthritis require ongoing medical care. OPD services provide continuous monitoring, medication adjustments, and lifestyle guidance to manage these conditions effectively.
- **Reduced Hospitalization:** By providing prompt medical attention in an outpatient setting, many patients can avoid unnecessary hospitalization. This helps reduce healthcare costs, minimizes the strain on hospital resources, and allows hospitals to prioritize more critical cases.
- **Convenience for Patients:** OPD services offer flexible appointment schedules, reducing waiting times and providing convenience for patients. This is particularly important for patients who have busy schedules or need to balance work and
- health appointments.
- **Specialist Consultation:** Hospitals often have specialist doctors available in the OPD, allowing patients to consult with experts without the need for referral. This is especially valuable in cases where a second opinion or specialized treatment is required.
- **Follow-Up Care:** After being discharged from the hospital or after a surgical procedure, patients often require follow-up care. OPD services offer this follow-up care, ensuring that patients recover properly and any complications are addressed promptly.
- **Emergency Care:** While not as extensive as an emergency department, the OPD can handle certain minor emergencies, providing immediate medical attention for injuries, infections, and other acute conditions.
- **Health Promotion and Education:** OPD staff can provide

patients with valuable health information, guidance on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and advice on managing chronic conditions effectively.

• **Reduced Wait Times:** With the appropriate management and allocation of resources, OPD services can help reduce the burden on emergency departments and inpatient units, leading to reduced wait times and improved overall patient care.

In addition, one of the Missions of the Department of Medical Services (DMS), the Ministry of Health is improving the quality of medical services in public hospitals. The Outpatient Department including Font Office or Desk is a fundamental component of a hospital's healthcare services. It provides for a wide range of medical needs, promotes early detection and preventive care, manages chronic conditions, and ensures that patients receive timely medical attention.



The Receptionists (Pink) and Medico-social Workers (White) at the Reception of a Hospital. PHOTO-DMS

Study shows how microdevices can be used to treat brain cancer

Scientists at Brigham and Women's Hospital have created a miniature device, about the size of a grain of rice, capable of simultaneously conducting hundreds of studies to evaluate innovative treatments for difficult-to-treat glioma brain and spinal cord tumours.

THE innovative device, which is the size and shape of a grain of rice, can perform hundreds of studies at the same time to examine the impact of novel treatments on some of the most difficult-to-treat brain tumours.

Researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital, a founding member of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, have created a device that can help in therapy testing in patients with gliomas, which are brain or spinal cord tumours.

Phase 1 Clinical Trial

The device, which is meant to be used during standard-of-care surgery, provides unique insight into the impact of drugs

on glioma tumours in a phase 1 clinical trial with no adverse effects on patients.

Results from the pilot clinical trial for the device are published in Science Translational Medicine.

"In order to make the greatest impact on how we treat these tumours, we need to be able to understand, early on, which drug works best for any given patient," said co-principal investigator and co-corresponding author Pierpaolo Peruzzi, MD, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

"The problem is that the tools that are currently available



This innovation aims to facilitate therapy testing in patients with gliomas, potentially offering new insights into treatment approaches for these tumours. ILLUSTRATION: TEK IMAGE/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY/FREEPIK

to answer this question are just not good enough. So we came up with the idea of making each patient their own lab, by using a device which can directly interrogate the living tumour and give us the information that we need."

About 20,000 people in the US each year are diagnosed with gliomas, a type of tumour that affects the brain and spinal cord. Gliomas are also among the deadliest brain cancers and are notoriously difficult to treat.

One challenge in developing targeted therapies for glioma is that it can be difficult to test many different combinations of drugs in tumour cells because it's only possible to treat patients

with one approach at a time. This has been a significant barrier for hard-to-treat cancers like gliomas, for which combination therapies are a promising avenue.

Precision Medicine Challenges

Peruzzi worked closely with co-principal investigator Oliver Jonas, PhD, an associate professor in the Department of Radiology at Brigham, to develop a device that can work around some of the barriers to precision medicine in gliomas. These microdevices are implanted in a patient's tumour during surgery and removed before the surgery is complete.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

MoTC Deputy Minister attends XVIII World Water Congress in Beijing

AT the official invitation of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) and the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Tun attended the XVIII World Water Congress held on 11 September 2023 in Beijing, China.

The opening ceremony of the World Water Congress was attended by representatives from over 60 countries. Besides, technical experts and scholars from more than 30 international and regional organizations also participated in the event.

The deputy minister attended the opening ceremony of the XVIII World Water Congress and took part in the photo session of the congress together with the other leaders of the delegation. Furthermore, the Myanmar delegation led by the deputy minister exchanged views on water resources cooperation with dig-



The group documentary photo of the 18th World Water Congress held on 11 September in China.

nitaries and resource persons from the participating countries and organizations.

The XVIII World Water Congress will be held for five days from 11 to 15 September 2023 in Beijing, China. The congress will adopt the “Beijing Declaration” as an outcome document of the

congress, after incorporating views and comments from all participants and stakeholders. Congress participants will exchange views on ways and means to work collaboratively in achieving the water-related goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun also visited the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing and met Ambassador U Tin Maung Swe and staff of the Embassy on 9 September 2023.

On the afternoon of 11 September, the Myanmar delegation visited the Miyun reservoir as well as the Demonstration Project in Heishansi Village, Miyun District in Beijing together with other delegates.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation led by the deputy minister attended a welcome reception of the XVIII World Water Congress together with congress participants. — MNA

Complaints allowed unless contracted workers reach destinations in 90 days

IF foreign employment agencies are delayed or unable to deliver workers to the contracted country and workplace within the 90 days specified after signing the contract, the workers can file

a complaint with the office of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF).

On 29 August, the Union Minister for Labour informed workers who are going to

work abroad that they can contact the MOEAF office and request assistance if they encounter any difficulties.

Workers are advised to only engage with officially licensed agencies. It has been warned that if they contact illegal agencies or fraudulent brokers, they may become victims of fraud and suffer financial losses.

As of 23 August, there are a total of 457 licensed foreign employment agencies and 150 Thai-licensed agencies in Myanmar. It is reported that foreign employment guidance courses for workers who will be working in foreign countries are being conducted at skill training schools in Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

— TWA/CT



Myanmar entrepreneurs invited to attend 2nd International Smart AGTECH Expo

THE Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization has invited Myanmar entrepreneurs to attend the 2nd International Smart AGTECH Expo, which will be held in Jeju, South Korea.

The Expo, conducted by the Global e-Mobility Association Network, will take place at the Seogwipo Agricultural Technology Centre from 1 to 3 November. Its aims are to reduce carbon emissions for climate change and to establish an effective and profitable business network by adopting electronic systems instead of traditional farming machinery.

The exhibition includes events on self-driving and eco-friendly tractors, along with other future agricultural machinery and infrastructure, featuring 250 booths from 150 companies.

Moreover, participants in the



A poster of the expo.

exhibition will have access to on-line galleries related to the exhibition, opportunities to engage in business discussions, and events focusing on the agricultural sector's use of technology, along with accommodation. — ASH/MKKS

Robot fried chicken : entrepreneur seeks to improve S Korea’s favourite food

IN fried-chicken-obsessed South Korea, restaurants serving the nation’s favourite fast-food dish dot every street corner. But Kang Ji-young’s establishment brings something a little different to the table: a robot is cooking the chicken.

Eaten at everything from tiny family gatherings to a 10-million-viewer live-streamed “mukbang” — eating broadcast — by K-pop star Jungkook of BTS fame, fried chicken is deeply embedded in South Korean culture.

Paired with cold lager and known as “chimaek” — a portmanteau of the Korean words for chicken and beer — it is a staple of Seoul’s famed baseball-watching experience.

The domestic market — the world’s third largest, after the United States and China — is worth about seven trillion won (\$5.3 billion), but labour shortages are starting to bite as South Korea faces a looming demographic disaster due to having



In this photo taken in Seoul on 13 June 2023, South Korean entrepreneur Kang Ji-young (C) poses in her Robert Chicken restaurant franchise, where a robot is used to fry chicken. In fried-chicken obsessed South Korea, restaurants serving the nation’s favourite fast-food dish dot every street corner. But Kang Ji-young’s establishment is a little different: a robot is cooking the chicken. **PHOTO: AFP**

the world’s lowest birth rate.

Around 54 per cent of business owners in the food service sector report problems finding employees, a government sur-

vey last year found, with long hours and stressful conditions the likely culprit, according to industry research.

Korean fried chicken is

brined and double-fried, which gives it its signature crispy exterior, but the process — more elaborate than what is typically used by US fast food chains —

creates additional labour and requires extended worker proximity to hot oil. Enter Kang, a 38-year-old entrepreneur who saw an opportunity to improve the South Korean fried chicken business model — and the dish itself. “The market is huge,” Kang told AFP at her Robert Chicken franchise.

Chicken and pork cutlets are the most popular delivery orders in South Korea, and the industry could clearly benefit from more automation to “effectively address labour costs and workforce shortages”, she said.

Kang’s robot, composed of a simple, flexible mechanical arm, is capable of frying 100 chickens in two hours — a task that would require around five people and several deep fryers. But not only does the robot make chicken more efficiently — it makes it more delicious, says Kang. “We can now say with confidence that our robot fries better than human beings do,” she said. — AFP

Savoy dynasty daily life on display with Geneva auction

PORCELAIN figurines, a white faux-leather sofa and a foosball table: these are among the items in a House of Savoy auction, providing a rare glimpse into the everyday life of royals.

More than 200 objects are going under the hammer this week, drawn from the former Geneva home of Vittorio Emanuele of Savoy — the son of the last king of Italy, Umberto II — and his wife Marina.

Royal aficionados may be interested in a delicate 18th century tea cup, a modernist game of chess, or two motorcycles owned by the couple’s 51-year-old son, Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy.

A portion of the lots are being sold off online until 18 September, while others will feature in an in-person auction two days later hosted by the Geneve Encheres auction house.

In all, the objects being sold by the couple are expected to fetch between 100,000 and 150,000 Swiss francs (\$112,000-\$168,000).

But Cyril Duval, a partner at Geneve Encheres, told AFP the value estimates were not really important, since the collection was more about “falling in love”.

This auction, he said, “makes it possible for collectors to obtain certain objects they may have dreamt about after seeing them in magazines or on the screen”.

The collection comprises of historical memorabilia and some household items from the villa the Savoy family had built in the 1970s in Vesenz, on the outskirts of Geneva.

Vittorio Emanuele is the 86-year-old head of the House of Savoy, whose family was forced to leave Italy after the monarchy was abolished in 1946. — AFP



A cup adorned with the coat of arms of the royal family of Savoy is displayed in a showcase ahead of sales at Geneve Encheres auction house, in Geneva on 8 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

German doctors recommend return to face masks as COVID-19 cases rise again

CITING the recent increase in COVID-19 infections, doctors in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany’s most populous state, are urging the public to voluntarily wear face masks again to protect themselves and others.

“As daily life moves more indoors in the autumn and winter, masks may again become medically useful, especially for the protection of vulnerable groups,” Frank Bergmann, head of the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians in the North Rhine region, told the Rheinische Post newspaper on Monday.

However, there is no reason for politicians to reintroduce mandatory mask use, Bergmann added. Except the pandemic years between 2020 and 2022, hardly any medical face masks have been seen in everyday life in Germany.

It would also be important

to offer free COVID-19 testing again to better monitor infections, according to pharmacists. “For many families, it is not financially possible to buy coronavirus tests,” Thomas Preis, chair of the North Rhine Chamber of Pharmacists, said.

“We continue to see concerning trends for COVID-19 ahead of the winter season in the Northern Hemisphere,” WHO Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus warned last week, urging people with higher health risks to refresh their vaccinations.

Looking to meet seasonal demand, German vaccine manufacturer BioNTech has produced a vaccine adapted to the new variants. It “aims to further improve protection against severe illness and hospitalization,” BioNTech Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ugur Sahin said at the end of August. — Xinhua

ECONOMY

WORLD

EU cuts eurozone 2023 growth forecast, sees German recession

THE European Commission cut its 2023 and 2024 eurozone economic growth forecasts on Monday, with the single currency area weighed down by Germany's poor performance.

The commission, the EU's executive arm, predicted the German economy would contract by 0.4 per cent in 2023, compared to a previous forecast of 0.2 per cent growth.

Germany faces recession in its vast industrial sector and a lacklustre performance in exports, both of which have significant impacts for the whole of the economy.

In its report, the commission pointed to manufacturing weakness and said Germany was "hit particularly hard" by energy price shocks linked to the war in Ukraine.

The International Monetary Fund had already predicted Germany would be the only major advanced economy to shrink in 2023.

Growth in the eurozone and the European Union as a whole will continue but will be lower than predicted earlier this year.

In May, the commission said the eurozone would grow by 1.1 per cent in 2023 — but revised that on Monday to 0.8 per cent.

"The multiple headwinds facing our economies this year have led to a weaker growth momentum than we projected in the spring," EU economy



A customer does her shopping in a REWE shopping supermarket bus delivering daily needs in the village of Lohne near Fritzlar, central Germany, on 6 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said, pointing to the "economic disruption" caused by the war in Ukraine.

The growth forecast for the 27-nation EU as a whole was also cut for 2023 to 0.8 per cent, from an earlier prediction of around one per cent.

The single currency area made up of 20 countries will grow by 1.3 per cent in 2024, the commission said, down from a previous forecast of 1.6 per cent. — AFP

Viet Nam's rice exports hit record high in 8 months



A farmer works in a rice field in Hanoi on 6 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

VIET Nam's rice exports in the first eight months of 2023 surged to an all-time high of nearly six million tonnes, up 20 per cent year-on-year, according to the General Department of Customs.

This has brought Viet Nam's total rice export turnover in the first eight months to almost 3.2 billion US dollars, a 34-per-cent increase in value.

With that achievement, Viet Nam has reached 89 per cent of the whole year's rice export target.

An enterprise CEO said that rice supply in the Vietnamese market will remain relatively stable in the fourth quarter, while demand in many countries has increased significantly.

Thanks to the Southeast Asian country's favourable conditions, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has set a target of exporting 7.5-7.8 million tonnes of rice this year.

According to the Vietnam Food Association, prices of Viet Nam's exported rice are still the highest in the world, with that of 5 per cent broken rice reaching 638 US dollars per tonne, and 25 per cent broken rice at 623 dollars per tonne. — Xinhua

LNG exports from Russia increased by several per cent since year start

EXPORTS of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Russia have already increased by several per cent since the year start, Russian Energy Minister Nikolai Shulginov said in an interview with Sputnik at the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF).

"They (LNG export supplies) are already showing positive dynamics. We are talking about a few per cent, but nevertheless. There are buyers of Russian LNG all over the world. And these are not only our new partners in Southeast Asia, but also European consumers," Shulginov said.

He said the current LNG production in Russia is not enough to satisfy all the demand for it on the foreign market, adding that all capacities in Russia are loaded.

The EEF was established in 2015 as an international platform to facilitate business cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and stimulate investment in Russia's easternmost regions. The eighth EEF is taking place 10-13 September in the Russian city of Vladivostok. Sputnik is the official media partner of the forum. — Sputnik

Russian banker urges Global South to create new financial system

THE Global South countries should coordinate their efforts to establish a new international financial system that would reduce the risks for developing economies arising from reliance on Western currencies and infrastructure in trade and investment, a Russian banker said here Monday.

This would involve using national currencies, and eventually digital currencies of central banks, for cross-border transactions, as well as creating an independent global system based on existing national systems for transmitting financial messages — an alternative to SWIFT, said Andrey Kostin, president and chairman of the board of Russia's VTB bank, in an interview with Xinhua on the sidelines of the eighth Eastern Economic Forum.

Kostin also proposed developing direct correspondent relations between commercial banks of the Global South countries, forming an alternative cross-border banking network, and setting up a new international depository and settlement hub, which would facilitate investment in developing markets and make it more flexible and secure. — Xinhua

Vietnam Airlines signs \$7.8 bln deal with Boeing: White House

VIETNAM Airlines has signed a \$7.8 billion deal with US aircraft manufacturer Boeing, the White House said in a statement Monday.

Following a meeting in Hanoi, US President Joe Biden and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh “welcomed a landmark deal” between Boeing and Vietnam’s national carrier, the White House said.

The deal “will support more than 30,000 jobs in the United States”, the statement added.

Vietnam Airlines will purchase 50 of the 737 aircraft, Biden said during a roundtable with senior executives from top American and Vietnamese firms — including from both aviation companies.

Vietnam Airlines

currently has a fleet of 100 aircraft, with 15 Boeing 787 Dreamliners.

The Boeing jets will replace aircraft that are more than a decade old, according to state media.

The communist country’s aviation sector has boomed in recent years thanks to a rapidly expanding middle class with growing appetites — and budgets — for air travel. — AFP



Parked passenger aircraft adorned with Vietnam Airlines, Bamboo Airways, and Pacific Airlines livery are seen on the tarmac at Noi Bai international airport in Hanoi on 18 November 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Instacart seeks \$10 bln valuation amid industry woes: WSJ

US grocery delivery startup Instacart is seeking a valuation of under \$10 billion as it goes public later this month, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday, substantially less than its \$39 billion valuation in 2021.

The company is to start pitching its initial public offering to investors at the lower valuation as early as Monday, “in the latest sign of diminished investor enthusiasm” for tech IPOs, the financial daily reported, citing sources close to the matter.

Shares trading under the symbol “CART” are expected to debut on the tech-rich Nasdaq the following week.

The valuation — which the company is targeting at \$8.6 to \$9.2 billion — could change between now and then as the company receives investor feedback, the Journal reported.

Founded in 2012, the venture capital backed startup saw its business soar early in the coronavirus pandemic as people avoided grocery stores due to the risks from Covid-19.

The company’s business went on to cool, however, leading to a cut to its workforce of shoppers. — AFP



An Instacart delivery driver loads cases of bottled water for a customer’s order as people buy emergency supplies ahead of Hurricane Hilary at a Costco warehouse in Hawthorne, California, on 19 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

BMW to make ‘multi-million’ pound investment in UK plants: govt



(FILES) The new MINI electric car is unveiled at the BMW group plant in Cowley, near Oxford on 9 July 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMAN car giant BMW Mini plants in the UK, the government in London said Monday.

The money will be used to “transform” BMW’s plant in Oxford, southern England, “securing 4,000 high-quality jobs and strengthening the electric vehicle supply chain,” the government said in a press release.

“BMW’s investment is another shining example of how the UK is the best place to build cars of the future,” said Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

“By backing our car manufacturing industry, we are securing thousands of jobs and growing our economy right across the country,” he added, with his government having offered tens-of-millions of pounds in support for BMW.

The first generation of the iconic British vehicle’s electric model was launched at the Oxford plant in 2019, but last year BMW announced most of its electric cars would be made in China.

The investment is expected to be used to make the plant fit for making electric vehicles, with all Minis set to be electric by 2030. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HAPAS VOY.NO. (KHPS0395N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HAPAS VOY.NO. (KHPS0395N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-9-2023** 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

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GOLDEN ATLANTIC VOY.NO. (10164)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GOLDEN ATLANTIC VOY.NO. (10164)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Moroccan citizens step in to help quake victims

ORDINARY citizens are stepping in to do their bit for victims of the deadly earthquake in Morocco, after some complained that the authorities were slow to act.

Maria Boujdig lives in Agadir but is originally from Tafeghaghte, one of the villages hardest hit in mountainous Al-Haouz province, the epicentre of Friday’s quake.

She loaded her car with food and drove the more than 200 kilometres (125 miles) east to distribute it to needy villagers in the aftermath of the strongest earthquake ever to hit the North African country.

The quake killed at least 2,122 people, injured more than 2,400 others, and flattened entire villages.

Faced with the level of destruction, the insurance broker felt she had to act. “I got calls from families saying they had nothing to eat,” Boujdig told AFP. “So I spent 10,000 dirhams (\$980)



A man sits by salvaged items in the aftermath of the deadly 6.8-magnitude 8 September earthquake in the village of Ighermane near Adassil in central Morocco on 10 September 2023. PHOTO: AFP

on food to help in my own small way.”

“The tragedy of the dead is

made worse by the terrible conditions faced by the survivors,” she said.

“It’s catastrophic and serious to be hungry in these conditions. It was only natural for me

to help.”

Tafeghaghte is around 60 kilometres from the tourist centre of Marrakesh and accessible only by a narrow dusty track.

‘Something to eat’

In a small warehouse spared by the quake, three villagers stored packs of water, sacks of flour, tea, canned goods and cakes that Boujdig and like-minded benefactors brought to the village.

One of them, Mohammed, who asked that his last name not be used, lost his 16-year-old daughter in the tragedy.

“Twenty-four hours after it happened, we decided to take things into our own hands because there was no one else to help us,” he said.

“We made sure that everyone had something to eat.”

Mustapha El-Machmoum said: “There’s no sign of the authorities for the moment. We’re so isolated here. Without benefactors we would starve.” — AFP

Iran ready to help foster ties between EU, regional states: FM

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Sunday said Iran is ready to help establish strong relations between regional states and the European Union (EU).

He made the remarks when meeting with Luigi Di Maio, the EU special representative for the Gulf region, in the Iranian capital of Tehran, according to

a statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Amir-Abdollahian said Iran welcomes any EU initiative to enhance cooperation between the block and regional states.

Describing the current circumstances in the region as “a new chapter in preparing the ground for promoting cooperation among regional countries,”

the Iranian top diplomat underlined his country’s proposal to hold a forum for dialogue and cooperation among regional states.

The EU representative, for his part, highlighted Iran’s “important” regional status, noting that the forum for dialogue and cooperation among regional states is important. — Xinhua

Biden leads US tech push in Viet Nam

PRESIDENT Joe Biden and senior executives from top US tech firms including Google and Intel met Vietnamese business leaders Monday after the two countries agreed to deepen cooperation as Washington seeks to counter China’s growing clout.

Biden and Viet Nam’s ruling Communist Party chief — the country’s paramount leader — struck a “comprehen-

sive strategic partnership” as Washington pushes to boost its network of allies around Asia and the Pacific.

The United States sees manufacturing dynamo Viet Nam as an important part of its plan to decrease reliance on China for supplies of strategic resources, and the new pact includes agreements on semiconductors and rare earths.

Executives from tech be-

hemoth Google, chip makers Intel and GlobalFoundries, and aviation giant Boeing joined Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken for an “innovation and investment summit”.

They held talks with senior figures from a host of leading Vietnamese tech and manufacturing companies including electric car maker VinFast, internet firm VNG and digital wallet Momo. — AFP

1st round of treated water release off Fukushima plant completed



Aerial photo taken in August 2023 shows Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc’s crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO

ABOUT 7,800 tonnes of treated radioactive water has been discharged into the sea from the wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in the first round of disposal as planned, the plant operator said Monday.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc began the discharge of water that, despite

concerns voiced by local fishermen and strong opposition from China, contained tritium levels below the prescribed limits. The release, which started on 24 August, is carried out under the monitoring of the Japanese government and the International Atomic Energy Agency. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Myanmar crafts slim victory over Nepal in FIFA Friendly

MYANMAR men’s national football team garnered a 1-0 win over Nepal in their second FIFA friendly match for 2023 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

With the rain, both teams played competitively, and the Nepalese team was able to create more scoring chances in the first half.

In the 16 and 21 minutes of the match, goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Phyو was able to protect the Nepal team’s kicks in the penalty area, so the Myanmar team did not concede a goal.

In the 33 minute of the game, Myanmar team’s midfielder Lwin Moe Aung’s kick hit the Nepalese defender, and the first half ended in a scoreless draw.

In the second half, the Myanmar team made player changes, and at the 55-minute mark of the match, substitute Win Naing Tun’s kick went off the goalpost and they lost a goal.

Goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Phyو was deftly defending the Nepalese

team’s scoring opportunities. In the 86 minutes of the game, Win Naing Tun scored the only winning goal for team Myanmar.

Myanmar team head coach Michael Feichtenbeiner has revealed his feelings upon the match.

“Thank you to the audience for supporting this event. The support of the fans motivates the players. This kind of fan support is also needed in the World Cup qualifiers against Macao. The Nepalese team improved more than before and the current generation has a different skill, so Myanmar had to play difficultly.

“If we can score in the first half, the match will be different. As I said before, some players in my team have fitness issues. We will do reviews after this event. Only those who can play the best will be selected for the national team,” the head coach stated. — KZL



Myanmar’s Ye Min Thu (white) tries to get the ball from the Nepal player during their second FIFA Friendly match of 2023 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 11 September 2023. PHOTO: MFF



South Korea’s national football team head coach Jurgen Klinsmann speaks during a press conference at the Korea Football Association House in Seoul on 22 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Klinsmann in trouble after seven months and no wins with South

SOUTH Korea face Saudi Arabia in a friendly at Newcastle United’s St James’ Park on Tuesday with Jurgen Klinsmann under severe pressure after a wretched start as coach.

The German legend was only appointed in February but his South Korea side have failed to win in the five games since, losing twice and drawing three times.

The latest disappointment was a drab 0-0 stalemate away at an equally off-colour Wales last week, after which skipper Son Heung-min came to the defence of 59-year-old Klinsmann.

“I understand where fans come from, as someone who’s been on the national team for a long time,” the Tottenham Hotspur forward told reporters in Cardiff.

“I am not saying the coach is always right, but I also don’t think fans are always right either.” — AFP

Djokovic downs Medvedev at US Open to win record-tying 24th Slam

NOVAK Djokovic defeated Daniil Medvedev in straight sets on Sunday to win his fourth US Open and a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title, cementing his claim as the greatest tennis player in history.

The 36-year-old Djokovic won 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to become the oldest men’s champion in New York in the Open era and match Margaret Court’s all-time mark for most Grand Slam victories.

“I don’t know where to start. It obviously means the world to me,” said Djokovic, wearing a white jacket with the number 24 on his chest during the trophy presentation.

“It’s hard to describe. I’m really living my childhood dream to compete at the highest level in this sport.

“I never imagined I would be standing talking about 24 Grand Slams but the last couple of years I’ve felt I have a chance and I have a shot at history and

why not grab it.”

The Serbian is the first man to win three Grand Slam events in the same season four times, crowning his impending return to world number one in the most fitting of ways inside Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The victory added to his wins at the Australian and

French Opens earlier this year, with the only blemish his five-set defeat to Carlos Alcaraz in the final of Wimbledon in July.

“You know, some people who are born, he’s a genius. He’s one of kind. Not too many people in this world like him in sport-wise,” said Djokovic’s coach, Goran Ivanisevic. — AFP



Serbia’s Novak Djokovic kisses the trophy after defeating Russia’s Daniil Medvedev during the US Open tennis tournament men’s singles final match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York City, on 10 September 2023. PHOTO: AFP



WORLD

With AU’s entry, G20 broadens cooperation, development opportunities in Global South

HAVING admitted the African Union (AU) as a permanent member, the Group of 20 (G20) took a historical step forward in improving global governance and revitalizing international economic cooperation.

The expansion, agreed by G20 members on Saturday, gives developing countries a greater voice and more representation. More cooperation and development opportunities will gravitate towards the Global South as China and other major economies have pledged staunch support for the region to shine in the global arena.

TAKING THE SEAT

Amid cheers and applause from the global leaders in attendance, AU Chairperson, Comorian President Azali Assoumani, assumed his seat representing the 55-member continental body at the inaugural session of the 18th G20 summit held in New Delhi on Saturday.

AU Commission Chairperson Mousa Faki hailed the entry, saying it would amplify the continent’s advocacy and contributions to meeting global challenges.

The G20, founded in 1999 in response to several world economic crises, is a major forum to discuss financial and economic issues. It previously comprised 19 countries plus the European Union (EU).

Granting membership to the AU will give it the same status as the EU, up from its previous designation of “invited international organization”.

Experts said permanent G20 membership signals the rise of the African continent, whose young population of over one billion is set to double by 2050 and make up a quarter of the world’s total.

“This move really boosts the G20’s influence on the global economy and underscores its contribution to human social development,” said Wirun



This photo taken on 9 September 2023 shows the buildings of the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PHOTO: XINHUA

Phichaiwongphakdee, director of the Thailand-China Research Centre of the Belt and Road Initiative.

PAVING THE ROAD

Mathapelo Monaisa, a member of the South African delegation to the G20 summit, appreciated China’s role in supporting the AU’s entry into the group. “I’m seeing something really great happening,” Monaisa said.

China was the first country to explicitly express its support for the AU’s membership of the G20, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a regular press conference on Thursday.

At the China-Africa Leaders’ Dia-

logue in Johannesburg last month, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that China would work actively to support the AU’s full membership of the bloc.

China supports the AU in playing a more significant role in global governance, Mao added.

Joseph Matthews, a senior professor at the Beltei International University in Phnom Penh, said the move would inject fresh impetus into China-Africa ties.

“Through this staunch support, the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Africa will be deeper-rooted,” he said, noting that China has been the biggest investor and donor to the continent for decades. — Xinhua

Modi hails Saudi ties after ‘historic’ route unveiled



Indian President Droupadi Murmu (2R) looks on as India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi (3L) and his Saudi Arabian counterpart and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (R) shake hands during a ceremonial reception at the President House a day after the G20 summit in New Delhi on 11 September 2023. PHOTO: AFP

INDIA hailed its “strategic” partnership with oil-rich Saudi Arabia on Monday, days after unveiling a major trade and transport

route linking Europe, the Middle East and India as part of a broad alliance.

“Together, we made the historic start

to establish an economic corridor,” Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Saudi Arabia’s de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in New Delhi.

On Saturday, the pair took part alongside other G20 leaders in the unveiling of ambitious plans to create a modern-day Spice Route, boosting trade ties with potentially wide-ranging geopolitical implications.

“This corridor will not only connect the two countries, but economic cooperation, digital connectivity between Asia, West Asia and Europe,” Modi added, in talks following the end of the two-day Group of 20 leaders’ summit he hosted.

India and Saudi Arabia, along with the United States, the European Union, the United Arab Emirates and others launched the initiative to link railways, ports, electricity and data networks and hydrogen pipelines.

Although heavily trade-focused, the scheme could have wide-ranging implications — including developing contacts between long-time foes Israel and Saudi Arabia. — AFP

Chinese embassy urges relevant parties in Britain to stop anti-China political manipulation

THE Chinese embassy in Britain on Sunday urged relevant parties in Britain to stop anti-China political manipulation.

Responding to a question concerning recent reports by British media about the arrest of two British people on suspicion of providing intelligence to China, a spokesperson for the embassy said, “The claim that China is suspected of ‘stealing British intelligence’ is completely fabricated and nothing but malicious slander.”

“We firmly oppose it and urge relevant parties in the UK to stop their anti-China political manipulation and stop putting on such self-staged political farce,” the spokesperson said. — Xinhua