Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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A panoramic view of the Kenglat checkpoint along the Myanmar-Laos border.

Myanmar-Laos border trade still below US$1 mln in 8 months via Kenglat

MYANMAR'S Kenglat border trade with Laos registered less than one million US dollars (0.962 million) in the past eight months, as per the Ministry of Commerce.

Earlier, border trade was barely seen at the Kenglat checkpoint. Therefore, it was jointly opened as a temporary border point with Tachilek.

The Kenglat border post was temporarily opened in 2015. However, the border sees inactive trade activity as the Mekong River separates Laos and Myanmar. After opening the Myanmar-Lao friendship bridge, the trade has improved. The border crossing links Luang Namtha Province, Laos, to Kenglat.

Between April and August in the current financial year 2023-2024, 2,152.5 tonnes of shrimp shell powder and 17 tonnes of jujube were exported to Laos, the Commerce Ministry's statistics showed.

Shrimp shell powder is used as feedstuffs in Laos. The jujube is utilized in making traditional medicine as it has health benefits including maintaining blood pressure, anti-inflammation, boosting haemoglobin level, vasodilation, improving kidney function, lowering heart risks and brain-boosting effects. — TWA/KK

Gold price dips to K3.4 mln per tical

THE price of gold slumped to K3.4 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the grey market.

Along with the Kyat depreciation against the US dollar at K4,000, the pure gold price hit an all-time high of K4 million per tical in August.

The pure gold price fell again to K3.4 million per tical with the Kyat devaluation against the US dollar slowing at approximately K3,300 in the unauthorized market.

However, YGEA set the reference rate to over K2,253,700 per tical. There is a large price difference of over K1.1 million per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the price in the unauthorized market.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some additions, despite the US dollar being exchanged at around K3,300 in the unauthorized forex market. The US dollar exchange rate is, therefore, related to the domestic gold market value.

Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA) sold over seven visses of pure gold at a special price in two weeks of June to stabilize the gold price.

Myanmar's gold price is highly tied to the spot gold price and US dollar exchange rate. The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 drove the gold price up to a record high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.

To lower the gold price, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim of reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM

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Fam Trip for Thai visitors launched in Magway Region

NATIONAL

Postgraduate students urged to seize opportunity to enhance surgery knowledge in workshop

The workshop on flap surgery in combat medical care in progress yesterday in Yangon.

A pre-conference workshop on flap surgery in combat medical care before the 30th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference took place at the Defence Services Medical Academy in Mingaladon Township of Yangon yesterday, with attendance of more than 150 medical experts, physicians, professors and postgraduate students.

On the occasion, Literary Affairs Subcommittee Chair Rector Brig-Gen Khin Aung Tun and Professor Brig-Gen Tun Tun of the Orthopaedic Department made speeches.

Surgical gloves, blades, sutures and instruments have been collected in advance for the workshop. The course curriculum was updated to meet international standards through the collaborative efforts of relevant surgical specialists. Medical experts from the international community were invited to the workshop with the aim of improving the capacity and skills of orthopaedic specialists of the Tatmadaw in flap surgery in combat medical care which is of great importance in the combat medical care measures and improving the medical standard of the Defence Services Medical Corps.

The 30th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference will take place at the No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed) in PyinOoLwin from 3 to 5 October 2023. At the pre-conference, local and international experienced professors will hold a talk show on flap surgery in combat medical care techniques and theories with the use of silent mentors, and such a talk will be broadcast live online as part of holding a webinar for orthopaedicians.

The workshop aims to create chances for postgraduate students from the medical universities under the Ministry of Health and Tatmadaw Medical Corps to directly learn orthopaedic surgical knowledge from military and civilian physicians and experts at home and abroad with the use of silent mentors to have greater experiences in the flap surgery in combat medical care realm. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Aung Khin Myint as Rector of Loikaw University, Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, after the one-year probationary period.

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. Union Peace and Unity Party with its headquarters located at No 2, Tharaphi Street, Selmyaung extension ward near the Phayagyi Pagoda, Pyay, Bago Region, applied on 25-9-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In the application, it is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.

2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement. — Union Election Commission.

The flag design of the Union Peace and Unity Party

The emblem of the Union Peace and Unity Party

COVID-19 report, 26 September 2023

NEW TESTS	3,888
NEW CASE	7
CASUALTIES	0

NATIONAL

MoPF UM attends 74th anniversary of founding of People's Republic of China

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein exchanges a handshake with Ms Cao Jing, Charge 'd' affaires ai of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China at the celebration yesterday in Yangon.

THE ceremony to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China was held yesterday evening at the Amarapura Hall of the Wyndham Grand Yangon and was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein and his wife.

The ceremony was opened with the National Anthem of the Republic of Myanmar and the National Anthem of the People's Republic of China.

Ms Cao Jing, chargé d'affaires ai of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Myanmar, then extended her greetings.

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, together with Ms Cao Jing, also cut the cake commemorating the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The attendees were then treated to a dinner by the chargé d'affaires ai.

Commander of the Yangon Region Command Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and his wife, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Information Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun and his wife, Minister for Development of Yangon Region Government, the ambassadors and chargé d'affaires ai of the embassies in Myanmar, representatives of political parties, the patron and officials of the China-Myanmar Friendship Association (Central), businessmen and invitees attended the ceremony. — MNA/KZW

Registered SIM cards need to be properly re-registered

More than two SIM cards and SIM cards whose information is not registered correctly will be closed down.

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications announced on 25 September that SIM card sellers must sell to users only after proper registration, and if they sell without proper registration, legal action will be taken under the existing law.

Now, a large number of SIM cards are registered with a single citizenship scrutiny card and resold to others.

The easy purchase and use of sim cards that are not registered with the real user's name in the market is creating difficulties for the national government to effectively protect public security about the use of mobile phones.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications is making efforts to protect users who are using mobile communication services correctly and to protect users from fraud concerning financial services and e-commerce activities based on mobile communication systems. It is published to assist in the investigation and identification of the perpetrators of such crimes.

The Department of Communications has announced to the public to properly register and use SIM cards to be able to carry out these matters safely and effectively to protect the public's safety and to be able to easily recover and use SIM cards in case of damage or loss.

SIM card registration has been started since August 2016, and from time to time, the public is being informed to properly register and use it.

New SIM cards registered for more than two cards using citizenship scrutiny cards or Passports issued by applicable law and SIM cards not registered with correct information are being closed. — Htun Htun/KZL

SIM cards available for purchase at a vendor shop in Yangon.

IRD issues statement exempting healthcare recipients from income tax collection

The general view of the IRD Office.

THE Internal Revenue Department of the Ministry of Planning and Finance released a statement not to collect two per cent of income tax from the healthcare receivers.

The IRD launched a system that the private health businesses to withhold tax at the time of disbursement of income from professional healthcare providers on 1 September. Moreover, the duties and procedures for the person responsible for the disbursement, and doctors and healthcare providers of the private hospitals and clinics are also issued.

Currently, the people responsible for the disbursement of the private health businesses adopt the wrong method that they collect two per cent of income tax from the healthcare receivers instead of deducting two per cent income tax from healthcare providers on the payment, the statement said.

The private health businesses must not collect a further two per cent of income tax from the healthcare receivers at all, it said.

The owners of private health businesses must supervise the work plans of the people responsible for the disbursement. — Htun Htun/KTZH

NATIONAL

Television, print media, new media and economic development highlighted

Delegation from the Yunnan Province Party Committee visits the Ministry of Information.

A delegation led by Ms Zeng Yan, Member of the Standing Committee of Yunnan Province Party Committee and Director of the Public Affairs Department, paid a courtesy call on U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Information, at the ministry office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides engaged in cordial discussions on various matters, including the expansion of media collaboration between the two countries. They also explored opportunities for cooperation with local media in Yunnan Province. The discussions aimed to enhance mutual understanding and familiarity between not only the governments but also the people of both nations. The talks covered various aspects, including television, print media, new media and economic development.

Ms Zeng Yan, Member of the Standing Committee of Yunnan Province Party Committee and Director of the Public Affairs Department, and the delegation views round the MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Following the productive meeting, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and the visiting delegation exchanged souvenirs to commemorate the occasion. The meeting was attended by Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and departmental heads.

Later, the Union minister hosted a luncheon for the delegation members at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the morning, the Yunnan Province delegation visited Myanmar Radio and Television in Nay Pyi Taw – Tatkon. They were warmly welcomed by Director-General U Ye Naing and officials from MRTV-NRC Channel. Discussions centred on media cooperation between the two countries, and souvenirs were exchanged.

The delegation also had the opportunity to witness the recording and broadcasting of news at the MRTV News Channel Studio and the recording of the song "Twaychin Thoet Htarnay Myanmarpyi" (Inhabitant Place of Myanmar for National Brethren) by Myanmar Radio and Television staff at the Auditorium.

Additionally, officials provided insights into the equipment used in various broadcasting eras, live televised vehicles, news presentation modules, historical photos, musical instruments, and other exhibits. A total of 40 items, including vintage records and radio equipment, were on display at the Diamond Jubilee Museum of Myanmar Radio and Television.

In the afternoon, the Yunnan Province delegation visited the Gem Museum.

In the evening, the delegation left Nay Pyi Taw by air for Yangon. — MNA/TS

RMAFC aims to strengthen Russia-Myanmar energy sector ties

IN their apparent effort to strengthen cooperation in the energy sector, the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation led by its President Mr Anatoly Bulochnikov exchanged views on opportunities and issues with the Union Minister for Electric Power and the Union Minister for Energy yesterday.

The delegation met Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their meeting, they talked about successful results in multi-sector as the fruits of Russia-Myanmar cooperation, and Russian contributions to the development of the electric power sector before exchanging views on the opportunity of cooperation for Russian companies in generating electric power employing hydro, solar, wind and thermal energy sources as well as Russian's opportunities to cooperate with local companies in electric power sector.

Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin holds talks with the delegation of the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation yesterday.

Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin also received the delegation of the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the development of the energy sector in Myanmar, technical cooperation ininland and offshore petroleum and gas exploration, boosting cooperation between Myanmar and Russia in the energy sector, the opportunity for Russian companies to distribute fuel in Myanmar, technical support for producing fertilizer using charcoal as a raw material, issues about the sixth Russia International Energy Forum, establishing oil and gas pipelines, Seismic works and opportunities for Russian companies to cooperate in petroleum refining. The meetings were also attended by senior officials from the ministries. — MNA/TH

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

An awareness event for promoting skills development in prgress on 25 September in Yangon.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector receives skills development boost via Mekong-Lancang Cooperation

CHAIRPERSON Daw Khine Khine Nwe of the Committee on Occupational Skills Standards for Manufacturing Industries has announced the successful production of skilled workers in Myanmar's manufacturing sector, with employment opportunities being facilitated through the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2021) programme.

The Mekong region encompasses countries such as Cambodia, Laos, China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Within the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, four major business sectors are highlighted: construction, manufacturing, metal and engineering, and hotels and tourism.

Daw Khine Khine Nwe elaborated, stating, "The manufacturing sector encompasses various industries, including garments, shoe and leather bag production, loom and textile manufacturing, food processing, milk and dairy product production, ceramic earthenware production, and other manufacturing activities. The Mekong-Lancang Project serves as a skill development programme, issuing skill certificates to enhance their recognition. The project covers four industries that already possess established skill standards, including the garment industry, welding, bricklaying, and electrical transmission. Training was provided to 1,000 workers to achieve skill level 1, resulting in 500 of them successfully connecting with employment opportunities. The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Project aims to boost worker skills, increase productivity, raise per capita income, and enhance the nation's economy. The skill recognition certificate aims to add more value."

Furthermore, an awareness event titled "Mekong-Lancang Cooperation: Project on Promotion of the Value of the National Skills Recognition Certificate through Skills Development System," conducted under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2021) programme, was held in Yangon Region on 25 September. The event was attended by 136 individuals, including the First Secretary of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, Ministry of Labour officials, representatives from various production industries such as garments, footwear, food, milk and dairy, and the Myanmar Engineer Society, proficiency test assessors, assessment center officials, and representatives from garment factories and workshops. — ASH/CT

Myanmar delegation attends 2023 Global Forum on Soil Health

AT the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, a Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tin Htut attended the 2023 Global Forum on Soil Health held in Yangling, Shaanxi Province, on 19 and 20 September.

The 2023 Global Forum on Soil Health is held with the aim of sharing experiences related to Soil Health Management, conducting policy discussions and technical exchanges to solve issues related to food security and climate change and to implement the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations for Sustainable Development.

During the meeting, the deputy minister discussed the implementation and enhancement of Myanmar-China cooperation in the development of the agricultural sector, the mutual exchange of crop genetic resources, and cooperation in the development of soil health technology and research activities.

In addition, the deputy minister acted as a leading panellist in the workshop on the improvement of soil health of rice-growing lands, and discussed bilateral research and technology cooperation and capacity building, as well as food security and nutrition market development activities.

The deputy minister and party visited the soil development galleries and modern agricultural industries and the trade fair held by Shanghai Cooperation Organization member countries in Yangling on 21 September and returned to Yangon on 23 September. — MNA/KZL

The 2023 Global Forum on Soil Health in progress on 19-20 September in China.

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.

MIFER Training of News Writing and Photography for staff concludes

MINISTRY of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations held the closing ceremony of news writing and photographic training in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 September 2023. MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw attended and delivered the concluding speech.

The Union minister emphasized that the lectures of training are effective and very useful for trainees, the subjects that were studied at training are the real requirement of news and are the important idea to announce public. He also highlighted although the duration of training time is too short, the trainees get capacity and capability for news writing and appreciated trainers from the Ministry of Information. The Union minister underlined all trainees to announce news writing the functions of our ministry with recorded photos on time.

The 15 trainees have already joined the news writing and photographic training of MIFER. — MIFER

NATIONAL

Kayin State aims to become a prime tourist destination with abundant natural attractions

Some home-grown tourists are seen visiting the ancient historical Maha Sadan Cave near Kotwarsuu Village in Hpa-an, Kayin State.

THE Kayin State Chief Minister stated during the September 2023 meeting of the Kayin State Regional Tourism Committee that Kayin State, boasting numerous natural caves and tourist destinations, is set to become a popular spot for both domestic and international tourists.

He expressed, "Given that our state offers exceptional tourism and recreational opportunities with its lush forests, mountains, springs, and natural caves, I encourage responsible officials to proactively prepare, ensuring that domestic and foreign tourists are enticed to visit again."

Myanmar boasts numerous tourist attractions across its regions and states, and in Kayin State, one such attraction is the historic Mahar Sadan Cave located near Kotwarsuu Village in Hpa-an. The Chief Minister further emphasized the importance of collaborating with committee members to promote regional tourism development. Key considerations include facilitating convenient access to the ancient historical Maha Sadan Cave, the ancient reclining Buddha, unique natural rock formations, cave wall carvings, and stupas within the cave.

Kayin State is endowed with vast natural forests and offers around 20 notable tourist destinations, including the iconic Mount Zwekabin, Bayinnyi Cave, Yathaypyan Cave, Sanda Cave, Kawgon Cave, Kawkathaung Cave, and the Chitthumyine Resort. — TWA/CT

Nearly 1,500 natural disasters strike nationwide in eight months

THE Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, has reported nearly 1,500 natural disasters across the country over the past eight months.

Between January and August, these natural disasters included over 300 fire outbreaks, more than 70 floods, over 600 storms, and nearly 500 other occurrences such as landslides, lightning and threats from wild elephants. In total, there were almost 1,500 natural disasters, impacting more than 230,000 individuals.

The department's statistics reveal that storm disasters peak during April and May, with most of them occurring in the Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Ayeyawady Region, Shan State, Kayin State, and Mon State. The highest number of flood incidents took place from May to August. — TWA/CT

Magway Region harvests 152,746 acres of rain-fed peanut crops in September

ACCORDING to the Department of Agriculture, the harvest of 152,746 acres of rain-fed peanut crops in Magway Region began in September.

Pakokku District in Magway Region is known for producing oil crops and various beans. Rain-fed peanuts, categorized as an oil crop, were planted last May and have now started to be harvested this September.

According to the Department of Agriculture's statistics, a total of 25,146 acres in Pakokku Township, 9,322 acres in Yesakyo Township, 56,478 acres in Myaing Township, 50,307 acres in Pauk Township, and 11,493 acres in Seikphyu Township have been cultivated, adding up to 152,746 acres.

The cost of cultivation is approximately K777,000 per acre, with a yield of about 40–45 baskets per acre. The price of a basket of groundnuts (when wet) is K23,100, resulting in a profit of about K260,000 per acre. Farmers are expected to earn even more profit by drying and processing the groundnuts into peanuts for sale.

Peanuts serve multiple purposes, including the production of peanut jam, roasted peanuts, and peanut oil. Peanut paste, derived from ground peanuts, is also produced and sold as fermented sesame oil cakes. Additionally, peanut stems and decayed husks from the peanut plant can be used as animal feed, leading to an expansion in peanut crop cultivation. — TWA/CT

Disciplinary action taken against YBS company vehicles for traffic violations

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC), YBS company vehicles have committed 16,699 traffic rule violations within the first nine months of 2023. The Disciplinary and Inspection Department has taken action against YBS bus lines operating in the Yangon Region. Between 1 January and 25 September, a total of 16,699 cases have been reported. These cases encompass 11,909 instances of violations observed through surveillance records, six cases reported via Facebook complaints, 1,761 incidents of running red lights, 791 cases of speeding, 55 instances of deviating from prescribed routes, 86 cases of reckless driving, 122 cases of prolonged stops at bus stops, 496 cases of improper overtaking, and four cases of unprofessional conduct towards passengers and 810 other cases. Out of these cases, 8,186 have been resolved, while 8,513 remain pending, as per YRTC records.

U Lyan Cin Mang, Joint Secretary of the YRTC, emphasized that running red lights is the most serious traffic offence, and YBS companies have been instructed to dismiss drivers who commit this offence three times. The objective is not merely to impose fines but to ensure the safety of passengers. — TWA/CT

A YBS vehicle is seen being inspected by traffic police.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The picture shows the harvested corn.

Corn prices in steep decline

CORN prices are in sharp fall owing to abundant fresh supply, export halt to Thailand and weak demand by China.

The FOB prices are US$270-290 per tonne of corn at present. The corn prices stand at K1,130-1,150 per viss in the domestic market, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Centre).

Myanmar delivers corn to China and Thailand through the border and also ships corn to China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines via maritime trade at present, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Thailand nodded corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

China has been purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution program. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted for corn exports. This being so, Myanmar will export 60,000 tonnes of corn that are produced as an alternate crop replacing opium poppies in Shan State in October 2023, the association stated.

Myanmar exported more than two million tonnes of corn in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

More than two million tonnes of corn are expected to be shipped to foreign trade partners in the 2023 corn season, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM

Myanmar Customs seizes smuggled goods worth over K67 bln in 8 months

MYANMAR Customs Department revealed that smuggled goods with an estimated market value of over K67 billion were confiscated in the past eight months (Jan-Aug) 2023.

The Customs Department conducted customs procedures at the Yangon International Airport, International Ports, General Post Office in Yangon and multiple checkpoints by Customs, where the undeclared goods without customs formalities were found. Myanmar Customs seized those illegal goods worth over K67 billion in the past eight months.

The Customs Department seized smuggled goods with an estimated value of K10.589 billion from 333 cases in August, goods worth over K9 billion in July, goods worth nearly K6 billion in June, goods worth over K9 billion in May, goods worth over K4 billion in April, goods worth over K11 billion each in March and February and goods worth K6.221 billion in January respectively. — NN/EM

A vehicle laden with smuggled commodities was seized at the Chinshwehaw trade post in 2022.

Yangon market witnesses abundant bell pepper supply with elevated prices

ALTHOUGH the market of chilli pepper is slow-moving, the bell pepper entered the Yangon market at a higher price this month, a chilli pepper depot owner told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The wholesale prices of bell pepper from China were K18,000-20,000 per viss depending on varieties in the last week of September.

The long chilli pepper fetched K8,500-11,000 per viss depending on producing areas (delta regions, Yamethin, Thaetaw, Moehtaung). Newly harvested Moehtaung chilli pepper is priced at K11,500-12,000 per viss. The price of Moehtaung chili pepper processed in cold storage was K14,000 per viss yet the demand for that is lower than the new ones. The wholesale price of the red long chilli pepper processed at cold storage was K13,000-14,500 per viss.

The prices of chilli pepper stood at K16,000-17,000 per viss for the Moehtaung variety, K19,000 for red chilli pepper, K18,000 for bell pepper and K19,000 for bell pepper processed at cold storage on 26 September 2022.

The Bayintnaung market witnessed sluggish trading of chilli peppers in September 2022, with chilli peppers piled up in the warehouse.

Although the chilli pepper hit a record high at the end of 2022, the prices in late 2023 are expected to stay lower than those recorded in the corresponding period last year. — TWA/KK

The photograph depicts a shipment of chilli pepper bags arriving at a warehouse.

OPINION

Analyze Myanmar tourism industry to seek better success

THE tourism industry, a dynamic and ever-evolving sector, caters to the innate human desire to explore and experience new places. It thrives on the movement of people and, in turn, offers a multitude of services to facilitate these journeys. Tourism flourishes thanks to travellers, and the symbiotic relationship between tourists and the tourism sector is one of mutual benefit.

In recognition of the pivotal role played by tourism, the United Nations World Tourism Organization has chosen the theme "Tourism and Green Investment" for World Tourism Day 2023. This theme underscores the imperative need for increased and well-targeted investments to support the Sustainable Development Goals — a global roadmap for a better world by 2030.

The World Tourism Day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the significance of tourism within the international community and its profound impact on social, cultural, political, and economic values across the globe. As part of enhancing the tourism sector, this newspaper will feature the monthly special issue highlighting the tourism stories.

The revenue generated by Myanmar's tourism businesses can significantly contribute to the government's economic endeavours. A thriving tourism sector bolsters the state's economy, leading to increased budgets for multifaceted development projects across various sectors, ultimately benefiting the welfare of the people and the nation at large.
The tourism industry is a dynamic force with the potential to drive economic growth and empower disadvantaged communities. Myanmar, with its unique cultural and natural assets, stands poised to seize this opportunity for sustainable development and progress in the years to come.

Myanmar, with its natural wonders, diverse ethnicities, rich customs, and unique way of life, boasts a wealth of attractions. Its traditional cuisine, ancient religious sites, and cultural heritage serve as the backbone of its tourism industry, setting it apart from other nations. These tangible and intangible cultural treasures capture the imagination of both domestic and international tourists. Now, Myanmar is ready to allow travellers to explore new attractive sites across the nation in addition to notify all travellers of 14 deserved destinations.

Myanmar's Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is executing a strategic roadmap for the recovery of its tourism sector from 2021 to 2025. This comprehensive plan encompasses 18 strategies and 93 detailed action plans, charting a course for short-, medium-, and long-term success. Collaborating with member countries of the WTO, Myanmar aims to implement projects addressing climate change, carbon emissions reduction, sustainable management of natural resources, socioeconomic development, and the application of internet technology to enhance tourism services.

The revenue generated by Myanmar's tourism businesses can significantly contribute to the government's economic endeavours. A thriving tourism sector bolsters the state's economy, leading to increased budgets for multifaceted development projects across various sectors, ultimately benefiting the welfare of the people and the nation at large.

The tourism industry is a dynamic force with the potential to drive economic growth and empower disadvantaged communities. Myanmar, with its unique cultural and natural assets, stands poised to seize this opportunity for sustainable development and progress in the years to come.

■

ARTICLE

Straightening the Art of Gossip Which Are from Scandal to Social Bonding

By Min Zan

IN A world where our teachers often urged us, "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything," the legendary socialite and gossip enthusiast, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, offered a contrasting perspective. Her sofa proudly displayed a needle-pointed pillow bearing the enduring motto, "If you can't say something good about someone, sit right here by me."

Gossip, a topic that has long been tinged with disapproval, spans a spectrum from the mean-spirited to the benign. Yet, as we navigate the intricate web of human relationships, it becomes evident that gossip serves both as a guilty pleasure and a social adhesive. Here, let us delve into the multifaceted world of gossip, exploring its motivations, the impact it has on our lives, and the art of distinguishing between constructive chatter and harmful slander. Join us on a journey to straighten the art of gossip, transforming it from scandal to a tool for strengthening social bonds.

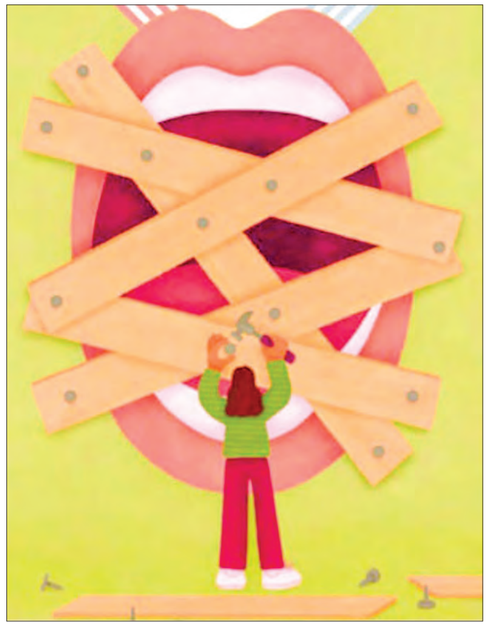

PHOTO CREDIT: READER'S DIGEST

Gossip is also a common and often controversial aspect of our society. It refers to the act of discussing other people's private lives, behaviours, or secrets, especially when they are not present. Gossip can be both positive and negative, and its impact on our social fabric is a topic of debate.

Positive gossip can help build social bonds. When we share positive stories about others, it can strengthen our relationships and create a sense of unity within our communities. Compliments and praise shared through gossip can boost someone's self-esteem and make them feel valued.

On the other hand, negative gossip can be harmful. It can damage reputations, hurt feelings, and lead to misunderstandings. Spreading false or malicious rumours can destroy trust and create conflicts within families, workplaces, and communities.

In today's digital age, gossip has taken on a new dimension with social media platforms. Information can spread rapidly, often without verification, leading to online harassment and cyberbullying.

In addition, gossip is a double-edged sword in our society. It can be a tool for building connections and sharing positivity, but it can also be destructive when used negatively. We should be mindful of the impact our words can have on others and strive for a culture of respectful and responsible communication.

People who study gossip define it as any talk about people who are not present. It can be positive, neutral, or negative, but it's the mean-spirited variety – Alice Longworth, a famous socialite and gossip, whose favourite has traditionally inspired disapproval. For many of us, hearing and telling scandalous stories counts as a guilty pleasure.

And yet, gossip is by no means a black-and-white affair. We naturally need human connection, and gossip feeds that for good and ill. There is even evidence that negative gossip can have merit, as it reinforces social norms. Much depends on the motivation of the gossiper: are they aiming to warn people about a bad actor or enjoying the malicious pleasure of spreading a harmful story? It all comes down to learning how to curb the mean variety while benefiting from the useful.

Why We Gossip

The reasons why people indulge in gossip or shun it are as individual as we are. In 20 years of friendship, I have never heard Lyndsay Green, a sociologist, and author of *You Could Live A Long Time: Are You Ready?*, dish the dirt on anyone. When I asked her why she never gossips, she traced her behaviour back to her school days – and her sense of security.

"People telling hurtful secrets seem vulnerable," she says. "They use gossip like a chip in gambling: 'I'm going to throw this in and I hope you will like me more'." It's a tactic that might work to gain connection in the short-term, Green surmises, but even as a kid, she doubted that it built a true friendship.

Still, it's a tempting habit – and many people can attest there's something undeniably seductive about being the bearer of scandalous news. For better or worse, a feeling of superiority can accompany having a juicy – and exclusive – piece of news to share. Dishing the dirt can feel fun and it can also bring us together, tightening social bonds. The trick is learning the benign from the bad.

Some Gossip Is Good

Despite its longstanding bad name, the past few decades have seen a surprising appreciation of gossip. Psychologists, sociologists, and experts in organizational behaviour write that even snarkier gossip can be a powerful aid in bonding and social education.

Criticizing those who have transgressed social norms, for example, encourages good conduct and serves as a deterrent to bad behaviour.

Scholars also hypothesize that the informational value of gossip was important for our ancestors: the people who knew what was going on in the next cave were more likely to survive than more isolated individuals.

While it's not a life-and-death matter today, gossip's informational function remains useful. Your colleagues' speculation about the company's change in leadership or focus can keep employees in the loop. The same goes for potential developments in your communities and neighbourhoods.

Studies have also shown that gossip can alleviate loneliness, serve as a safety valve for frustration, and stimulate the part of our brains that helps us deal with complicated relationships. It even calms down our bodies when it's used to help others, says Matthew Feinberg, a professor of organizational behaviour at the Rotman School of Management in Canada.

In one study, his subjects observed people cheating at a game. When they simply watched, their heart rates sped up. But when they were able to warn others, their heart rates returned to normal.

Motive Matters

Is your gossip empathetic, compassionate, or appreciative? Or is it something intended to wound or, as Green recognized, to increase your status? John Fraser, a journalist and author, relishes and values gossip. Fraser's gossiping ticks some familiar boxes: he uses it to bond with people, to inform, to humiliate those he thinks deserve scorn, and to celebrate 'the human circus'. "Only in very rare circumstances do I believe in secrets," he says. He likes 'sharing stuff', which includes other peoples' secrets as well as his own.

While Lisa Schmidt, a coach and consultant, believes secrets should be respected, she agrees with Fraser on a key point: "Informational gossip greases the skids of the world."

If permission is given, sharing sensitive information may even provide an opportunity for compassion. Say you learn that two friends are getting a divorce. Passing on the information may spare your friends the emotional exhaustion of telling everyone themselves. The listener may also respond by reaching out in kindness to one or both members of the couple to assure them of support.

Break The Habit

Delicious as it can be to share gossip, the malicious kind can – and often should – leave a bad taste in your mouth. Pay attention to your conversation. How much of it is sneering, or embroidering a discreditable story to make it even more shameful? Are you knowingly passing on information that is incomplete or incorrect?

When someone approaches her for coaching, Schmidt asks them, "Who do you want to be in the world?" As they work together, she keeps tugging them back to that ideal self. If she notices a client disparaging other people, she'll hold a mirror to the behaviour and say, "This is the language you're using. Does that align with the person of integrity you say you want to be?"

Also, try to analyze yourself as a listener. As Schmidt tells her clients, "What you permit, you promote."

When people regularly come to you with sniping gossip and you allow it, you're creating a culture that feeds on meanness. You may simply say that you don't want to engage in that kind of talk. But even a more subtle response works.

Whenever I bad-mouthed someone, I had a friend who reminded me what was good about that person or the difficulties in their life. Without ever commenting directly, she taught me that my gossiping was not going to be reciprocated. So I stopped.

Schmidt acknowledges that we won't always get it right. But if we keep pulling ourselves back to the person we want to be, it will get easier to chat about people in ways that are still fun, but never mean.

In the ever-evolving landscape of human interaction, gossip has proven itself to be a complex and powerful force, capable of both binding and dividing us. From Alice Roosevelt Longworth's provocative pillow motto to the intricate web of motives that drive our chatter, it's clear that gossip's role in our lives extends far beyond mere scandal. As we conclude this exploration into the art of gossip, let us remember that our words have the potential to elevate us, building bridges of empathy and understanding, or they can drag us into the murky depths of negativity. The choice, it seems, is ours to make. So, in the spirit of forging meaningful connections and nurturing the bonds that enrich our lives, let's strive to straighten the art of gossip, transforming it from a source of scandal into a potent tool for fortifying the very fabric of our social world.

Reference: Reader's Digest April 2023

■

Japan to introduce new system on disaster info sharing from April

The system, led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, will enable public authorities to share live images and vital information in real-time during disasters.

JAPAN will introduce a new communications system in April, enabling public authorities to share live images and other information, such as locations, in the event of a disaster, a source familiar with the matter said Sunday.

The digitized system, led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, is expected to facilitate smoother communication and swift rescue and recovery efforts among organizations such as local governments, police, fire authorities and the Self-Defence Forces, according to the source.

The absence of a cohesive system across various organizations has posed challenges to their ability to coordinate during emergencies.

The technology, known as "Public Safety LTE," has already been implemented in countries such as the United States and South Korea and will be provided in Japan by telecommunications company Internet Initiative Japan Inc.

Verification Tests Planned in Fiscal 2023

The ministry plans to conduct verification tests with local authorities and other organizations during fiscal 2023 in preparation for the system rollout.

Through the new technology, authorities at disaster scenes will be able to send images through smartphone apps, as well as hold online meetings with disaster response headquarters.

The ministry aims to digitize communications while the police and fire departments will continue to use their existing means of radio communications.

Internet Initiative Japan does not have its own communications network. Instead, it pays to borrow lines from telecommunications firms NTT Docomo Inc. and KDDI Corp.

According to the source, if communication on one line is disrupted, the other line will provide backup, and a system is in operation to ensure continuous connectivity, even during emergencies or when communication networks are congested.

A "priority telephone service for disasters," which is not subject to communication restrictions, will also be available, the source said.

The system can be accessed by inserting a SIM card into a readily available smartphone, which helps in cost savings as it eliminates the need for additional equipment, the source explained.

SOURCE: Kyodo

NATIONAL

Art exhibition marking 93rd birthday of artist U Lun Gywe held

AN art exhibition commemorating the 93rd birthday of painter U Lun Gywe was organized at the Artist Life Art Gallery in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, on 25 September, according to artist U Lun Thit, one of the organizers of the exhibition.

The event displayed a total of 86 paintings and strokes of artist U Lun Gywe.

"We started to arrange this exhibition six months ago. We arranged for the people to observe a variety of Sayagyi's artworks in one place. I make it a field of art that he created. Although we successfully organized the event, Sayagyi could not receive the visitors because of his health. We displayed 86 paintings," said artist U Lun Thit.

The pupils of Sayagyi Dr U Lun Gywe, colleagues, artists and media friends joined the event. — ASH/KTZH

Some of the Sayagyi's artworks.

Fam Trip for Thai visitors launched in Magway Region

THE Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Magway Region) launched a Fam Trip for Thai tourists to introduce the tourism market in the region, according to U Zaw Lwin Htet, director of the department.

The Fam Trip was made for the Bangkok-Yangon-Magway-Minbu-Yenangyaung-Yangon-Bangkok route in July.

"We invited a three-member Thai group including Ms Petchsri Nonsiri for Fam Trip in Magway Region aiming to create a tourism market and attract more Thai visitors. We arranged Bangkok-Yangon-Magway-Minbu-Pwintbyu-Minbu-Minhla-Yenangaung-Yangon-Bangkok trip between 28 and 31 July," he said.

On the first day of the trip, they visited Magway Mula Myathalun Pagoda, the night market at Strand Road and Kankar Lake while Minbu Shwesettaw, Minbu Ngapwattaung and Setkainte Pagoda on the second day and also enjoyed canoe rowing in Mann creek, fed elephants, star tortoises and gold deer.

On the third day, they observed the Minhla fort and Kway Chaung fort and bought the local products. On the fourth day, they proceeded to stone inscription chambers, colonial buildings, Gyatkya in Yenangyaung and studied the lifestyle of locals.

Thai tourists who participated in the three nights four days package tour enjoyed the tour and they will share their experiences with their friends and travel agents in Thailand. — ASH/KTZH

LIFESTYLE

Picasso masterpiece begins pre-auction tour in Dubai

A Pablo Picasso masterpiece expected to fetch at least $120 million at auction went on show Monday in Dubai, kicking off a set of rare viewings outside the United States.

"Femme a la montre", the 1932 portrait of Marie-Therese Walter, Picasso's mistress and "golden muse", is being exhibited for two days before heading to Hong Kong and London, a boon for the United Arab Emirates' bid to establish itself as a cultural powerhouse.

The viewing is "the first time a painting of this calibre by the world-renowned artist has ever been exhibited in the UAE", Sotheby's Dubai said in a statement, noting it is the first time the portrait had been shown outside the United States in half a century.

"Over the years the UAE has earned the status of being a global art destination, which receives a further boost as this rare Picasso is unveiled here," said UAE Culture Minister Sheikh Salem bin Khalid al-Qassimi. "Femme a la montre" will be sold in November as part of a two-day auction of late New Yorker Emily Fisher Landau's prestigious collection. — AFP

A visitor looks at Pablo Picasso's painting 'Femme à la montre' displayed for viewing at Sotheby's Dubai on 25 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Belgium students' love story with Taylor Swift

(FILES) US singer Taylor Swift arrives for the MTV Video Music Awards at the Prudential Centre in Newark, New Jersey, on 12 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

A hubbub grips the class in the Belgian city of Ghent as university students eagerly discuss whether US pop star Taylor Swift is a "literary genius".

The question elicits passionate responses from students, and it's an exercise their professor hopes will enliven their engagement with more traditional figures of the English Literature canon.

The course is among a handful that have popped up at universities around the world as pop titan Swift has racked up hits and awards and as her Eras Tour is expected to set a record for the first billion-dollar tour.

"To read her lyrics without the context of the song, it can feel like poetry," one student says, after the teacher opens the floor to discussion.

Another student pipes up to suggest it's too soon to say Swift, 33, has had the same cultural impact as William Shakespeare, known around the world for many centuries. While Shakespeare wrote at least 38 plays, Swift has recorded 10 albums.

Some will wonder what Shakespeare and his peers share in common with today's biggest US singer-songwriter. Well, they are all the subject of Elly McCausland's course called "Literature (Taylor's Version)" for Master's degree students at Ghent University, which will run until the end of the year. — AFP

Paris Fashion Week opens with drama and dashes of humour

MILAN Fashion Week was not even over and the fashionistas were already back in Paris on Monday for another 100-plus shows in the hectic womenswear season.

The spring-summer 2024 collections in the French capital run until 3 October, with 107 brands presenting, of which 67 are giving runway shows.

All eyes are on Balmain's show on Wednesday night after the dramatic theft of 50 of its outfits.

Armed robbers seized the clothes on their way from Charles de Gaulle Airport to Balmain's Paris headquarters, leaving creative director Olivier Rousteing racing to pull together a replacement collection.

A model walks the runway of the Pierre Cardin show during the Paris Fashion Week Womenswear Spring/Summer 2024 in Paris on 25 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

This week also sees final shows for two big name designers.

Gabriela Hearst is leaving Chloe after fewer than three years. Her sustainable focus was critically acclaimed but did not bring a major boost to sales.

It will also be the last show for Sarah Burton, who took over at Alexander McQueen following the founder's suicide in 2010.

Paris is the last of the big four fashion weeks in the busy September calendar that sees back-to-back events in London, New York and Milan.

The biggest story this season has been a new creative director at Gucci.

The debut by Sabato de Sarno in Milan on Friday was a relatively low-key affair but gave a boost to the share price of French parent company Kering, which has been struggling lately to keep up with its major rival, LVMH.

The first day of Paris Fashion Week always focuses on emerging designers and there was excitement this year about avant-garde newcomer Marie Adam-Leenaerdt from Belgium, who brought a dash of much-needed humour to the opening show. It opened with a chorus singing "Let's go to the beach!" only to follow it with a series of decidedly un-beachy grey, formal and structured outfits before introducing some more summery Barbie pink and sky-blue dresses. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Japan keeps economic view in September, cautious about global outlook

THE government on Tuesday maintained its assessment of the Japanese economy as recovering moderately, supported by resilient domestic demand, while it warned of downside risks from slowing Chinese growth and monetary tightening abroad.

The same assessment has been used for the fifth straight month in September. The Cabinet Office upgraded its view on corporate profits for the first time since March 2022, saying they are "improving as a whole". But rising material costs led the view on housing construction to be cut for two months in a row to "weak".

Japan's economy grew for a third straight quarter in April-June, but economists expect the momentum will slow in the current quarter to September.

The government plans to draw up a fresh economic package in October to cushion the blow from inflation to households and businesses. The Cabinet Office used the same expression that consumer prices are "rising" in the monthly report, though it now says wholesale prices have been "flat" recently, a change from "declining" in August.

The report retained assessments on other key components of the economy. Private consumption and capital investment are both "picking up". Exports, which have aided the recent economic recovery, show "movements of picking up". China's slower-than-expected economic recovery since the end of its "zero-COVID" policy and troubles in the real estate sector have raised concerns about growth prospects for the global economy. — Kyodo

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (2nd from R, front row) prepares for a meeting on the government's monthly economic report in Tokyo on 26 September 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

UK cost-of-living crisis set to increase early deaths: study

THE UK's inflation-fuelled cost-of-living crisis is set to "cut lives short" and "significantly widen the wealth-health gap", according to a study published by open access journal BMJ Public Health on Monday.

Modelling conducted for the study predicted that the proportion of people "dying before their time" (under the age of 75) will rise by nearly 6.5 per cent due to the sustained period of high prices.

The most deprived households will experience four times the number of extra deaths than the wealthiest households, it forecast, with the poorest having to spend a larger proportion of their income on energy, the cost of which has soared.

The researchers studied the impact of inflation on death rates in Scotland in 2022-3, with and without mitigating measures such as government support to help cut household bills.

The collected data was then used to model various potential future outcomes on life expectancy and inequalities for the UK as a whole if different mitigating policies were implemented. — AFP

A customer shops for milk inside a Sainsbury's supermarket in east London on 20 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

ADB to provide $140 mln in loans to Cambodia

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday signed an agreement to provide 140 million US dollars in loans to Cambodia to boost the calibre of the country's labour force and to enhance public service delivery. The loan agreement was inked in Phnom Penh between Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economy and Finance Aun Pornmoniroth and ADB country director for Cambodia Jyotsana Varma, it said in a press statement.

"ADB is pleased to partner with Cambodia in advancing industry-led skills development that readies the country's labour force, especially women, for the challenges and opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and in aligning local government planning with national and provincial budgets to achieve more effective and equitable public service delivery," Varma said. "The two programmes these loans support will drive Cambodia's efforts to advance growth, employment, equity, efficiency, and sustainability nationwide," she added. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka to re-contract 30 to 40 suspended FDI projects as investor confidence grows

Sri Lanka will re-contract 30 to 40 foreign direct investment (FDI) contracts that were suspended due to the economic crisis as foreign investors have expressed their willingness to do so, state media reported on Tuesday. Investment Promotion State Minister Dilum Amunugama was quoted as saying that the government expects to attract about two billion US dollars this year, which is higher than previous investment target.

The state minister said that foreign investors are attracted to Sri Lanka due to political stability and economic programmes of the government. – Xinhua

Nissan to make all new cars sold in Europe fully electric by 2030

Makoto Uchida (R), CEO of Nissan Motor Co, is pictured with a new Nissan concept car in London on 25 September 2023. **PHOTO: GETTY/KYODO**

NISSAN Motor Co said Monday it will make all of its new models sold in Europe fully electric by 2030 as part of efforts to accelerate a shift away from gasoline-run vehicles and adhere to strict environmental regulations in the region.

"EV is the ultimate mobility solution. More than a million customers have already joined our journey and experienced the fun of a Nissan electric vehicle," CEO Makoto Uchida said in a statement. "There is no turning back now."

The new target comes after the Japanese automaker said in February that it would increase the share of hybrid and all-electric vehicles it sells in Europe to 98 per cent.

Nissan aims to launch 27 electric-powered models globally by 2030, 19 of which will be fully electric, it said. Currently, Nissan's EV lineup includes the Leaf compact and the Ariya sport utility vehicles.

The move comes as rival Japanese automakers seek to hasten their shift towards the EV market. Toyota Motor Corp. said it aims to launch 10 new all-electric models, with plans to sell 1.5 million EVs annually by 2026, while Honda said it will make all of its new cars either EVs or hydrogen-driven fuel cell vehicles globally by 2040.

Nissan's new plan was unveiled at an event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of its design centre in London. — Kyodo

Singaporean manufacturing production shrinks for 11 months

SINGAPORE'S manufacturing output fell 12.1 per cent year-on-year in August, marking a contraction for the 11th straight month, according to data by the Economic Development Board (EDB) Tuesday.

The output in the electronics cluster decreased 20 per cent in August compared to a year ago, becoming the top contributor to the total contraction, according to the EDB.

As for the performance of other clusters, biomedical manufacturing declined by 1.8 per cent, chemicals output fell by 5.9 per cent, general manufacturing decreased by 6.1 per cent, and precision engineering decreased by 14.4 per cent.

Transport engineering output recorded a growth of 16.2 per cent in August. — Xinhua

Ford pauses work on $3.5 bln battery plant

FORD is halting work on a major battery plant in the northern US state of Michigan, the automaker said Monday, just seven months after launching the project with a Chinese partner.

The stoppage, which a Ford a representative confirmed to AFP, comes as the company faces a major strike along with both of the other "Big Three" US automakers, Stellantis and General Motors.

This handout photo provided by Ford Motor Company shows presenter Cristy Lee (L) and Andrew Frick, Vice-President, Sales, Distribution and Trucks speaking during the Ford F-150 Fest at Hart Plaza during the 2023 North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan, on 12 September 2023. **PHOTO: JEFF KOWALSKY / FORD MOTOR COMPANY / AFP**

The Ford spokesperson insisted the decision about the $3.5 billion battery plant had not been related to the ongoing strike, but rather the site's future economic viability.

"We're pausing work and limiting spending on construction on the Marshall project until we're confident about our ability to competitively operate the plant," the spokesperson said. "We haven't made any final decision about the planned investment there," he added. — AFP

Air France-KLM to order 50 long-haul Airbus A350s: group

AIR France-KLM announced Monday that it was going to place a "major order" for 50 long-haul Airbus A350s, as part of its effort to introduce more fuel-efficient planes.

The Dutch-French group said the planes, which represent an order of more than $16 billion (15.1 billion euros) at the given listed price without counting any discounts applied, will be delivered between 2026 and 2030.

The order is also accompanied by acquisition rights for 40 additional aircraft.

The statement said the order was "an evolutionary order, providing the group with flexibility to allocate aircraft within its portfolio of airlines, according to market dynamics and local regulatory conditions."

An Air France Boeing 777 plane is seen at gate in Paris Charles de Gaulle international airport (CDG) on 17 September 2023 **PHOTO: AFP**

Air France-KLM CEO Benjamin Smith said the order was "a major step in the renewal of the group's fleet".

He said the Airbus 350 "is a quieter, more fuel efficient and more cost-effective aircraft compared to previous generations" that would be "instrumental in helping the group reach our ambitious sustainability targets".

The order aims to replace 33 older generation Boeing 777-200s and A330s from the two airlines.

The Airbus 350 is one of several more fuel efficient long-distance jets, along with other later generation planes including the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. — AFP

Correction

Please read "above at the closing on 04.10.2023 as set by MCB Board of Directors" instead of "above at the closing on 04.10.2022 as set by MCB Board of Directors" in the second paragraph of the Announcement of Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd on page-13 of September 26 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—Myanmar Citizens Bank

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (108N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (108N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

South Korea stages first military parade in a decade

SOUTH Korea on Tuesday staged its first military parade in a decade, showcasing its advanced arsenal in the face of plummeting ties with nuclear-armed North Korea.

Pyongyang regularly puts on huge military parades but such events in Seoul are traditionally arranged every five years to mark South Korea's Armed Forces Day.

The last parade was in 2013. Five years later, then-president Moon Jae-in chose to hold a celebratory ceremony instead of a military event, in line with his conciliatory approach to North Korea.

On a rain-soaked afternoon, around 6,700 troops marched through central Seoul, cheered by umbrella-bearing crowds who waved South Korean flags.

Military vehicles take part in a military parade to celebrate South Korea's 75th Armed Forces Day in Seoul on 26 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

They were accompanied by 340 pieces of military equipment, including air and sea drones, tanks and missiles.

A flight display by South Korean warplanes, including US-made F-35 stealth fighters, was cancelled because of poor weather conditions.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol watched the parade from a platform, applauding troops as they marched past.

"To demonstrate the strong foundation" of Seoul's alliance with Washington, around 300 US military personnel also participated in the parade.

Yoon, who was elected last year, has pulled South Korea closer to the United States and the longstanding allies have ramped up defence cooperation -- including large-scale drills -- to counter growing threats from North Korea.

During an Armed Forces Day ceremony earlier at an air base south of Seoul, Yoon hailed the expansion of US-South Korea defence ties.

"If North Korea uses nuclear weapons, its regime will be brought to an end by an overwhelming response from the ROK-US alliance," he said at the base, repeating a warning the partners have issued in the past. — AFP

Iran to continue "peaceful" nuclear activities despite sanctions: atomic chief

President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami delivers a speech at the 67th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria, on 25 September 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

IRAN'S atomic chief said on Monday that despite the unilateral cruel sanctions, the country will continue "peaceful" activities in the field of nuclear science and technology to promote the well-being of the Iranian people.

President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami made the remarks while delivering a speech at the 67th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the Austrian capital Vienna, according to the Iranian Students' News Agency.

Iran will continue the peaceful design and development of nuclear research reactors, accelerators, and irradiation systems as planned, and is committed to increasing its nuclear electricity generation to 20,000 megawatts per year by 2040, he said.

He said Iran stays committed to its obligations under the safeguards agreement Iran reached with the IAEA and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and has done its best to enable the agency to easily carry out its verification activities of the country's nuclear programme.

Thus, he added, Tehran seriously expects the IAEA to maintain neutrality and professionalism in its verification reports on Iran's activities, adopting a realistic approach in this regard, and close the case pertaining to a number of differences between the two sides as soon as possible.

Iran signed the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to put some curbs on its nuclear programme in return for the removal of sanctions on the country. — Xinhua

Police misconduct adds fuel to "broken Britain" debate

THE recently reported police misconduct allegations, along with a long list of problems facing Downing Street, have intensified the British media debate about whether "Britain is broken".

More than 1,000 Metropolitan Police (Met) officers are currently suspended or on restricted duties due to alleged misconduct or such crimes as violence against women and girls, according to the British capital's police force.

The Met launched a vast vetting and review process of its tens of thousands of officers and staff after the 2021 rape and murder of 33-year-old Sarah Everard by former Met officer Wayne Couzens.

The latest development is an attempt to restore the public's trust, but it seems to have failed to alleviate the anxieties of Britons facing a catalogue of problems. It has also fuelled the attack line that "Britain is broken" directed at Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his Conservative government. The list of other problems includes more than 170 schools closed or partially closed because of unsafe concrete used during their construction; the pending scrapping of the Northern section of the HS2 high-speed rail line that would link London and northern England; and the highest-ever number of people in 21st century Britain relying on food banks to feed families in a cost-of-living crisis.

Adding to the concerns, Sunak has announced that the plan to phase out petrol-driven cars by 2030 is to be extended to 2035 to help poorer families prepare for the switch.

At the recent annual conference of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), which represents millions of workers, General Secretary Paul Nowak told delegates: "Nothing works in this country any more, and no one in government cares. The Conservatives have broken Britain."

The Guardian newspaper said in a recent editorial that "Broken Britain won't be fixed with the status quo." "State-led public investment is needed to repair a decade of cuts," it added. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar competes in martial arts competition at Asian Games

Union Minister U Min Thein Zan relishes watching a Myanmar Wushu athlete Ma Aye Thitsar Myint compete in the Wushu competitions held at the Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre in Hangzhou, China yesterday.

THE XIX Asian Games, hosted by the People's Republic of China continued in stadiums and gymnasiums in various cities.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan who is also the Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, and officials from the governing body watched Myanmar's Ma Aye Thitsar Myint competing in the Nang Chuan (hand-to-hand combat) and Nang Thaung (sword combat) competitions in the Wushu competition held at the Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre in Hangzhou, China, yesterday at 10 am China Standard Time.

In the knockout match of the Taekwondo competition held at the Lin'an Sports Culture & Exhibition Stadium in Lin'an City, Ma Moe Myint Myat of Myanmar lost to Thailand in the (-53 kilogrammes) category with a score of 0:12 in the first round and 2:13 in the second round.

Myanmar's Sandi Oo will also compete in two events of Wushu today. — MNA/KZL

Guardiola tempers Foden's Man City quadruple ambitions

PEP Guardiola said Tuesday it was a "big mistake" to think about trophies so early in the season, after hungry Phil Foden said Manchester City were targeting a unique quadruple.

City completed a historic treble last season, winning the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League.

England winger Foden, 23, has said the club are targeting a repeat of the treble or even a quadruple by adding the League Cup. City have started the season in sparkling form, winning all six matches to top the Premier League and launching their Champions League defence in style.

But Guardiola attempted to temper the ambitions of his players as he prepares for a tough trip to Newcastle in the third round of the League Cup on Wednesday.

The Catalan was asked at his pre-match press conference about Foden's gung-ho statement.

"Phil is so young," he said. "He will understand with time. It's nice to have those ambitions but always I said to the players 'ambition is the next game'.

"So maybe in April, May if you are still in all competitions you can start to think about it but right now at the end of September to think about titles is a big mistake.

"But if he believes that, I will not be the guy to let him think the opposite." — AFP

Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola speaks with Manchester City's English midfielder (47) Phil Foden at the end of the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Newcastle United at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 19 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hosts China win Asian Games' first-ever eSports gold

Chinese team prepare to compete in the "Arena of Valour" Asian Games version final match against Malaysia during the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou in China's eastern Zhejiang province on 26 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

HOSTS China on Tuesday won the Asian Games' first-ever gold in eSports in a landmark for gaming, beating Malaysia 2-0 in the smartphone game Arena of Valour.

ESports is making its debut as a medal event at the Games in Hangzhou, seen as a major step towards the Olympics one day.

Medals are up for grabs in seven gaming titles, including Arena of Valour, League of Legends and EA Sports FC Online.

In the fantasy-themed Arena of Valour, players take on virtual avatars, each with different traits and strengths, and work together with teammates to destroy enemy towers before reaching the ultimate target, the opposing team's crystal.

"Being able to stand on the podium, I felt very honoured and proud," Chinese player Jiang Tao told reporters after his team's historic victory. "Everyone performed really well today," he said of his teammates.

Emotions were high at the packed 4,500-capacity Hangzhou Esports Centre, where the crowd was dominated by China fans.

The young spectators waved flags and banners in support of the host country, as well as photos of their favourite players.

"Chinese eSports, step onstage and create legends!" one banner read. Team China stepped out on to the stage to roars, while Malaysia were greeted with polite applause. China immediately outpaced Malaysia in destroying enemy towers in the first round of the best-of-three match, putting the Southeast Asian team on the defensive. — AFP

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South Korea stages first military parade in a decade

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Solar panels and wind turbines work in an integrated power station in Yancheng city, in Jiangsu province, on 14 October 2020, during a media tour organized by the local government. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rich nations, China must accelerate race to net zero: IEA

RICH and developing nations alike must sharply improve their net-zero targets, the International Energy Agency said Tuesday, warning that a clean energy surge was the main reason the world's climate goals are still within reach.

Wealthy countries must now reach carbon neutrality in around 2045, five years early, and China should speed up by a decade to 2050 to keep to the Paris goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the IEA said.

"The world has already delayed too long to avoid hard choices," the global energy watchdog said. The report, which comes ahead of crunch UN climate talks, updates the IEA's landmark 2021 "Net Zero Roadmap", which said new fossil fuel development was incompatible with global decarbonization by mid-century and the 1.5C target. Two years later the IEA has seen progress in the form of record growth in solar power capacity and electric car sales.

These are in line with the IEA's pathway to net-zero emissions, as are the plans put in place by industry to roll out new manufacturing for them.

The energy sector is "changing faster than many people think", the IEA said, adding that together these clean energy technologies are projected to deliver a third of the emissions reductions needed by 2030. But it warned of the negative impact of increased fossil fuel investments and "stubbornly high emissions" during the same period, which saw a post-pandemic economic rebound and the energy crisis driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

Singapore detonates WWII bomb likely dropped by Japanese army

SINGAPORE'S military on Tuesday detonated a 100-kilogramme bomb, which could have been dropped by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II, after evacuating nearby residents.

Singapore police said in a statement issued the previous day the unexploded bomb was discovered during excavation activities at a construction site Wednesday. The police added the Singapore Armed Forces has confirmed it was a World War II aerial bomb but did not elaborate on its origin.

The Straits Times newspaper reported that the bomb was most likely dropped by an aircraft supporting the Japanese army on the ground during the war.

According to the daily, the construction site is located where the Battle of Bukit Timah took place in 1942, during the final stages of the fall of Singapore, then a British colony, to the Japanese army.

Before the armed forces' bomb disposal team detonated the explosive, more than 4,000 people living or working near the site were evacuated, according to local media reports.

Teh Gek Huat, a retired polytechnic lecturer who lives in the area, said he was surprised to know a bomb had remained there, adding many residents had routinely walked along a path around the construction site. – Kyodo

Saudi Arabia, amid Israel talks, sends envoy to West Bank

SAUDI Arabia, which has engaged in US-brokered talks with Israel to potentially normalize relations, Tuesday sent a delegation to the occupied West Bank for the first time in three decades.

It was led by the Saudi non-resident ambassador to the Palestinian territories, Nayef al-Sudairi, who was to meet Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and top Palestinian diplomat Riyad al-Maliki.

Sudairi, the oil-rich kingdom's envoy to Jordan, was last month also named for the Palestinian territories post and appointed consul general for Jerusalem.

The delegation, which crossed overland from Jordan, was the first from Saudi Arabia to visit the West Bank since the 1993 Oslo Accords, which had aimed to pave the way for an end to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

The Saudi visit comes as Washington has been leading talks between Israel and Saudi Arabia — guardian of Islam's two holiest sites — on a normalization that would mark a game changer for the Middle East.

The talks include security guarantees for Saudi Arabia and assistance with a civilian nuclear programme, according to officials familiar with the negotiations who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity. — AFP

Nayef bin Bandar al-Sudairi (C), Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Palestine, speaks to journalists while accompanied by Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki (C-L) at the Palestinian foreign ministry headquarters in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank on 26 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**