

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Archaeological team at work clearing vegetation from temples and stupas in the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone.

High-value Bagan temples cleared of invasive plants using chemicals

A chemical clean-up of the plants growing on ancient buildings in Bagan has been underway since mid-October.

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museums (Bagan Branch), habitual plants growing on the stupas and temples with high historical and architectural

value in the Bagan Archaeological Zone are being cleaned and removed with chemicals. The Bagan Heritage Trust team and the Department of Archaeology and Na-

tional Museums (Bagan Branch) have been carrying out a chemical clean-up of the plants growing on the ancient buildings in Bagan since mid-October. **SEE PAGE-5**

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Myanmar aims to achieve foreign trade worth US\$32.5 bln in H2

US\$4.316 bln bagged from garment exports in April-Sept

MYANMAR earned more than US\$4.316 billion from the export of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system during the period between April and September of the current 2023-2024 financial year, according to Daw Cho Thet Mu, deputy director of the Trade Policy Branch under the Ministry of Commerce. Among the countries investing in the CMP garment

sector, China ranks first. Notable investments also come from Chinese Taipei, Thailand, South Korea, and Japan, with finished products under the CMP being exported to the Republic of Korea (ROK), Japan, and European Union (EU) countries. "Currently, Japan and Korea are the key countries that purchase Myanmar garments under the CMP, with 37.5 per cent of orders from Japan and



Myanmar CMP workers primarily produce clothes, footwear, bags, sports wear and sports shoes that are mainly exported to foreign countries.

25.3 per cent from Korea," Daw Cho Thet Mu said. Most of the garment factories operating under the CMP system are located in the Yangon Region, comprising 505 garment factories, 48 footwear factories, eight wig manufacturers, and an additional 177 factories engaged in the manufacturing of bags, sports suits, sports shoes, and socks.— ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Chaungtha, Ngwesaung hotels, guesthouses overbooked during Thadingyut Holidays



Joyful beachgoers enjoy a day at Chaungtha Beach in Ayeyawady Region.

ACCORDING to U Aung Thu Oo, Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Ayeyawady Region), throngs of people are making reservations at hotels and guesthouses in Chaungtha and Ngwesaung beaches in Ayeyawady Region for the holidays of Thadingyut.

For the upcoming Thadingyut holidays, tourists who will visit Chaungtha and Ngwesaung beaches in Ayeyawady Region have registered in advance to stay at hotels and guesthouses along the beach, but almost all of the hotels and guesthouses are in a situation where there are no rooms available.

“As far as I know, the hotels are almost all full. Of course, they reserved the room. The sea-view rooms are already full. Only the back-side rooms will be left. It’s full because they reserved rooms in advance. These beaches are full of tourists every year, except for the COVID-19 pandemic period. We supervise the safety of visitors along the beach so that

they can have a peaceful stay,” U Aung Thu Oo continued.

There are many people who come on a day-trip to Chaungtha and Ngwesaung beaches in the Ayeyawady Region.

The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism licensed 35 hotels and guesthouses in the Ngwesaung area and 39 in the Chaungtha area of the Ayeyawady Region, where domestic and foreign tourists can stay.

There are 120 hotels and guesthouses licensed by the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in the region, of which 25 are temporarily closed, while the remaining hotels and guesthouses are all operating normally. — ASH/CT

OBJECTIVES of 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2023



- 1. To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- 2. To explore, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- 3. To explore and preserve the traditional cultural heritage for the young generation and further propagate the national spirit
- 4. To support measures in the field of national culture ensuring the development, peace and tranquillity of the State

Cane, bamboo handicrafts to be on display at hotels, motels and guesthouses in Ayeyawady Region

THE handicrafts which are made of cane and bamboo will be displayed at the hotels, motels and guesthouses in Ayeyawady Region for the coming tourist season, according to U Aung Thu Oo, director of the region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The display and sale of handicrafts made of cane, bamboo, water hyacinth, mudra and coconut at these hotels, motels and guesthouses in the region can create a tourist attraction and contribute to the development of tourism.

“We will instruct the hotels to use the cane and bamboo handicrafts to attract the travellers in the coming tourist season and we also arrange to sell the products,” he said.

Moreover, in addition to the handmade crafts, the Ay-



Skilled female artisans craft cane and bamboo creations in Ayeyawady Region.

eyawady Paw San rice and other local foodstuffs of the region will be sold in fine packaging.

The Ayeyawady Region boasts Ngwesaung and Chaungtha beaches and famous pagodas and so it hosted over 1.1million local and for-

eign travellers between January and September this year.

The government also makes efforts to supply electricity to the hotels, motels and guesthouses using solar, wind and hydropower. — ASH/ KTZH

COVID-19 report, 17 October 2023

NEW TESTS

2,863

NEW CASES

2

CASUALTIES

0

NATIONAL

MoE Union Minister inspects
No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin)



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin views round the No 1 Oil Refinery in Thanlyin of Yangon Region yesterday.

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin inspected the No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin) yesterday.

During the visit, the Union minister talked about the resumption of suspended plants for various reasons while the government carries out to promote the local manufacturing sector and the impacts of the suspension of factories like chemical plants.

He underscored that all should try hard to resume the operation of such factories and find solutions to reduce waste

and produce value-added products. International refineries transform over 90 per cent of raw materials into finished products.

The state-owned oil refineries produce only three per cent of local consumption and the rest are imported from foreign countries. It also needs to explore oil and natural gas to meet the county's needs and produce value-added products through systematic refining of oil and gas for commercial purposes.

Moreover, it also establishes new oil refineries and repairs

the existing ones, and there should be a target to be able to establish a petrochemical complex and the international companies will be invited to ensure the technologies and investment. He then urged the staff to be well-versed in refining and fertilizer production processes, share their skills and conduct research and development.

He also met staff and their families at the training school of the plant, highlighted the plans for the welfare of staff, and gave necessary instructions. — MNA/KTZH

Recruitment Notice for
Government Technical
Colleges and High Schools

MORE than 500 employees will be recruited to work in government technical colleges, institutes, and high schools in various regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw, according to the Department of Technical, Vocational Education, and Training.

Out of the 550 positions, 215 instructors with a bachelor's degree in Engineering (Civil, EC, EP, Mech, IT, MC), and 10 tutors with BCom, BEcon (ECO), and B.Act (qualified for a master's degree), as well as 75 tutors with BA/BSc (Myan, Eng, Math, Phys, Chem) (qualified for a master's degree), will be appointed.

Similarly, 150 diploma certifi-

cate holders from AGTI (Civil, EC, EP, Mech, IT) will be appointed as technicians (grade 4), and 100 certificate holders from GTHS (BT, EcT, ET, AMT, MT, IT, RACT) will be appointed as technicians (grade 5).

Application forms can be downloaded from the website of the Department of Technical, Vocational Education, and Training or obtained from the nearest government technical college and school starting from the date of the announcement. All applications must be submitted to the nearest government technical colleges, institutes, and high schools by 11 November. — TWA/KZW



A view of West Yangon Technological University.

Yangon Mayor surveys festival of lights preparations at
People's Park, mental health hospital

YANGON Region Minister for Development Affairs Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor U Bo Htay, along with Vice-Chair Deputy Mayor U Nyi Nyi, Secretary U Nyunt Pe, committee members, departmental heads, and officials, inspected the nursing of seasonal flowers, flower landscaping, decorative lights and trees, the entertainment stage, restaurants, and stalls for the Thadingyut festival in the People's Park on Pyay Road yesterday.

The deputy mayor and party visited the Mental Health Hospital in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, where they observed

flooding within the hospital compound caused by heavy rains. They also inspected the electric transformer room, where concrete flooring had recently been installed. During the visit, they observed water leaks from the hospital kitchen and coordinated with relevant departments.

They proceeded to Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and inspected the canal that flows into the Bago River. They also investigated the issue of garbage accumulation at the Ngamoe-yeik sluice gate and assessed the situation regarding the recovery and clearance of debris. — MNA/KZW



The deputy mayor inspects the Mental Health Hospital in Dagon Myothit (East) Township yesterday.

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation attends 2023 China-ASEAN International Forum on Traditional Medicine and Health Tourism

DEPUTY Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe, and high-ranking officials attended the 2023 China-ASEAN International Forum on Traditional Medicine and Health Tourism held in Guanxi Kum Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China on 15 October.

The forum was held under the theme of "Health Preserving Culture of Traditional Medicine and Industrial Development of Health Tourism", and the deputy minister for Health and the deputy minister of Hotels and Tourism delivered opening remarks.

Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun underscored the rich historical and cultural heritage of traditional medicine in Myanmar, the respect for and trust in tra-



The group documentary photo of the 2023 China-ASEAN International Forum on Traditional Medicine and Health Tourism in China on 15 October.

ditional medicine practitioners in Myanmar's society, combining traditional medicine and tourism, health tourism to be further developed, the possibility of providing healthcare with traditional medicine for patients abroad, and thereby support the economic development of the

region and the country.

Furthermore, Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe highlighted the philosophy of traditional medicine and health tourism between ASEAN countries and China's neighbouring countries, and the potential exchange of skills to meet the diverse needs of people and tourists and create a combination of ancient wisdom and modern healthcare by showing a video promoting Myanmar tourism.

On 14 October, the Myanmar delegation, together with representatives from ASEAN countries, observed the Guanxi Botanical Garden and Museum in Nanning.

Myanmar delegation arrived back on 16 October. — MNA/TS

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

THE combined team made inspections on 13 and 15 October and seized a Hino Profia truck (approximately worth K55 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying two kinds of goods worth about K13 million, including 2,754 kilogrammes of Queen orange cordial drink that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID), near Milepost Zero on Yangon-Mandalay expressway and an unregistered Toyota Ipsum car (approximately worth K3.5 million) on Bayintnaung road in Insein township. The action was taken under Customs procedures and relevant procedures.

On 14 October, an unregistered Toyota Crown car (estimated value of K10 million) was

impounded at the Milepost 21 combined checkpoint in Myitkyina township and action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

The on-duty teams made inspections on 16 October and captured a total of 1.685 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K125,848 in Shwepaukkan Ward in Minbu Township and an unregistered Honda Fit car (approximately worth K8 million) on the outskirts of Aunglan township, two kinds of goods worth K40.5 million, including 18,00 hammock springs 2 pins from a container that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID), at the Myanmar Industrial Port, 48,000 boxes of Tramadol HCL capsules and 2,000 bottles of Midozalam

injection IP worth K39.4 million without registration, at the 4th-Mile combined checkpoint in Tamu township, and 16 kinds of goods worth about K37.525 million, including 6,583 lady clothes (made in India), at the Yadana-bon bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing township. The action was taken under the Forest Law, the Export and Import Law, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and Customs procedures respectively.

The combined teams conducted inspections on 16 and 17 October and nabbed two kinds of goods worth K4.05 million, including 700 pairs of Panda blue slippers without official documents, from a vehicle traveling from Myawady to Yangon

at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint, a Hino bus (approximately worth K20 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying seven kinds of goods worth K11.955 million, including 200 bags of food wrap (plastic roll) and 385 bags of white coating for cakes, at the 26/4 Milepost on Yangon-Mandalay expressway and a total of 0.582 tonne of illegal timbers and 0.171 tonne of illegal hardwood worth K277,360 in Toungoo and Pyay districts. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

A total of 16 arrests were made, with an estimated value of K243,339,838, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

K950 mln worth of heroin blocks captured in Thazi township

A total of K950 million worth of 100 heroin blocks (38 kilogrammes) were captured in Thazi township, Myanmar Police Force stated.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Toyota Celsior car driven by Tin Maung travelling from Taunggyi to Thazi near Kywaltatson village in Thazi township at 7 pm on 14 October. Police seized 38 kilogrammes of heroin blocks worth K950 million.

According to the investigation, the offender admitted the seized drugs would be transported from Nyaung Shwe to Tatkon. — MNA/MKKS

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

NATIONAL

Plans to publish Atthakatha treatises, Tika treatises aligned with original copies approved by Sixth Buddhist Synod

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture stated that it will publish Atthakatha and Tika treatises of Tri Pitaka treatises aligned with original copies approved by the Sixth Buddhist Synod.

The original copies were published in lead letter typing, and newly-published copies will be computerized typing.

In such doing, a total of 51 books of Atthakatha treatises and 18 books of Tika treatises through computerized composing will be published. Film copies of metal typesetting for Atthakatha treatises were damaged in Storm Nargis, and so, it was a failure

to print more books for many years. Currently, new copies of treatises aligned with the copies of the Sixth Buddhist Synod will be published in accord with the advice of venerable member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

With regard to the work process, the ministry will seek the supervision of members of the Sangha from Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centres, Sayadaws from State Pariyatti Sasana Universities in Yangon and Mandalay and those from International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in editing the copies. — TWA/TTA



The supplication of the computerized typing process in progress on 13 October 2023.

Monastery of late Bhomo Sayadaw to be transformed into Memorial Museum

THE Vajrayana Monastery, where the late Bhomo Sayadaw resided, will be established as a museum, according to the museum committee.

The committee now makes preparations to open the monastery of Bhomo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa and collects the replica statue of Sayadaw, utensils, treatises, titles acquired from local and international sources, documentary photos, the treatises written by the Sayadaw for public study.

“Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Mra Nu Zan selected the utensils and other materials of Sayadaw such as walking stick and lacquerware desk depicting Vidhura story to display at the commemorative museum of the Late Bhomo Sayadaw.



Preparations underway for the smooth transformation.

The ministry will also provide the necessary assistance to open the Vajrayana Monastery as a commemorative museum,” said an official of the committee.

The silicon statue of Bhomo Sayadaw made by silicon artist U Aung Kyaw Tun was

placed at the Bhomo monastery for public obeisance.

Moreover, the replica of Ananda Temple in Bhomo monastery is still under construction and a memorial pagoda will also be built in Sayadaw’s native village Nabe in Taungtha Township. — ASH/KTZH

SIM registration update required to avoid disconnection

THE Department of Posts and Telecommunications has announced that SIM cards will be deactivated if their registration is not updated before the end of October.

Currently, SIM card registration data and information are undergoing verification against the National Database of the Ministry of Immigration and Population.

Regarding SIM card registration, the Department of Posts and Telecommunications announced its intention to deactivate SIM cards that had not been registered by 31 January this year, and some SIM cards were deactivated on 16 February.

On 26 September, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued orders and instructions to re-register SIM cards. This measure aims to protect the

interests of mobile communication service users, financial services, and e-commerce, as well as combat criminal activities. It has been explicitly informed that failing to systematically sell SIM cards and re-register them after transfer will result in action taken under Section 72 of the Telecommunication Law.

If SIM card users receive a notification message (SMS) urging them to re-register and prevent the deactivation of their SIM cards, they can do so at their respective mobile operators’ shops. Additionally, the Department of Posts and Telecommunications has issued a notice advising users to promptly re-register their SIM cards with the correct information from their citizenship scrutiny cards (CSCs) on the official websites of the respective operators. — TWA/KZW

High-value Bagan temples cleared of invasive plants using ...

FROM PAGE-1

“Our department and the Bagan Heritage Trust (BHT) are continuously cooperating in preservation activities to ensure the sustainability of the cultur-

al heritage in the Bagan World Heritage Area. Currently, we are conducting emergency response to the natural disasters in Bagan. In the process of removing the vegetation on the stupas with

chemicals, we are cooperating with BHT along with the staff of the laboratory department,” said U Kyaw Myo Win, Director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museums (Bagan

Branch). The BHT group is also planning to carry out the clearing of plants growing on the pagodas in the Bagan area in cooperation with the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Ba-

gan Branch) every month. According to the current requirements, the upper part of the stupas where the doors are placed is also regularly monitored. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

Floods damage 4% of 2.6 mln acres of paddy in Bago Region

ABOUT four per cent of the 2,600,000 acres of rain-fed paddy planted in Bago Region have been damaged by floods.

In Bago Region, in the second week of October, Bago, Thanetpin, and DaikU areas suffered the worst due to floods, and about 100,000 acres of paddy were destroyed, according to the Rice NGO.

Similarly, the flood also damaged around 70,000 acres; some of them were flooded for only a few days and then resurfaced.

More than 80,000 acres of monsoon rice have been reportedly harvested in some townships of Bago Region (West) until the last week of September.

Ripe paddy fields are usually damaged by being submerged in water for one day. At the begin-



Paddy fields are seen being submerged due to floods in Bago Region.

ning of October, the harvesting of rain-fed rice began in some townships around the delta region and Pathein, but there was no flood yet.

As of 10 October, floods occurred in Bago and Hlegu townships, and the cultivated monsoon paddy was flooded.

Paddy has been planted for only a few months in the years when the Ngawun River floods

in the western part of the delta region, so when the flood recedes, the damaged areas are replanted.

Since the status of paddy fields was close to harvest time in the Bago Region, where the flood occurred, there was only time left to plant beans instead of replanting the damage.

The amount of monsoon paddy damage around the Bago area is about 100,000 acres. It is only around four per cent compared to 2,600,000 acres planted and is about 0.7 per cent of rain-fed rice cultivation in the whole country.

Delta areas tend to flood around August, and there have been no floods for several years, but the Bago region experienced the worst flood in more than 60 years near the harvest season of rice this year. — TWA/CT

Traders sell old sugar stocks cheaply in Yangon’s wholesale market

AS the sugar mills will start running operations in December, the traders who kept the stocks in their hands are now selling them cheaply in Yangon’s wholesale market.

Ko Min Oo, a trader who sends the sugar to regions outside Yangon told the Global New Light of Myanmar that “I observed both purchase order and the market price to buy the sugar in the previous months. Now, I bought them as much as they are demanded.”

These days, the market sees price inquiry only. The sales dramatically fell in the second week of October in Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre. As some warehouses have old sugar stocks exceeding 5,000 bags, some of them offer lower prices, as per a warehouse from Yetama Street.

“Some warehouses no longer cut the price. The prices stayed the



The photo shows old sugar stocks at a retail outlet in Yangon.

same”, according to a warehouse from Nguwah Street.

The wholesale sugar prices are around K3,800 per viss at present in Yangon. Usually, the demand for the old stocks declines when fresh sugar is supplied in the market. The new sugar has low moisture content and better quality than the old one. So, the consumers prefer the new one.

Those traders involved in sugar and related industries reap a handsome profit this year. Nonetheless, the consumers face price rises. The sugar price at a grocery store increased to K1,200 per 400-g pack from K800 within one year, Daw Nwe Aye, a housewife from North Okkalapa Township told the GNLM. — TWA/EM

Highway accidents result in 70 deaths within 9 months

ACCORDING to the Expressway Police Force Office, more than 120 traffic accidents occurred on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in nine months of this year.

In the nine months from January to September, there were 126 traffic accidents on the expressway, resulting in 254 injuries and 70 deaths. Most traffic accidents are caused by the negligence of the driver.

Compared to the same period in 2022, there were 132 traffic accidents, 184 injured people, and 45 dead, and the loss value was K248,329,000.

Compared to the same period last year, the number of deaths due to traffic accidents in regions, states, and the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway was higher in Magway Region, Shan State, and the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, while it decreased in Nay Pyi Taw and other regions and states. — TWA/CT



An express vehicle was seen overturned due to rain between mileposts 352/1 and 352/2 on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on 15 October.

Universities’ classes to be opened on 23 Nov across country

ALL universities across the country will receive application forms commencing on 16 November from 9 am to 4 pm every day and all the classes of universities will be opened on 23 November; according to the Ministry of Education.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe instructed the rectors to focus on the good looks of the universities and prepare the needs of students to study peacefully at the meeting on the opening of universities and colleges virtually on 16 October. The Union Minister added that inter-region level/central-level sports competitions will be held as national sports activities in the three sectors – basic education, higher education and teacher education in the near future. — TWA/MKKS

Myanmar aims to achieve foreign trade worth US\$32.5 bln in H2

MYANMAR aims to attain foreign trade worth US\$32.5 billion in the second half (October-March) of the current financial year 2023-2024, comprising exports worth \$16.5 billion and imports valued at \$16 billion, said Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn.

He gave a remark during the meeting with exporters at the Mingala Hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 16 October.

The Union Minister encouraged exporters to bolster exports and achieve trade surplus in the H2.

He also urged them to exceed the export target for items such as rice and various pulses. Both self-sufficiency and reasonable profit for exporters need to be considered. The Union Minister also promised to help deal with difficulties in export. Myanmar's trade value accounts for 46 per cent of exports and 53 per cent of imports in H1 (April-September) of the current FY, showing some trade deficit. The trade value in H1 was down by \$1 billion compared to that of the corresponding period last FY 2022-2023.

The drop in exports was attributed to weak foreign demand in finished garment products, rice, broken rice, green gram, sesame and rubber, US dollar appreciation against the Kyat and illegitimate trade, the Union minister highlighted.



A general view of the container yard at Yangon Port.

UMFCCI President U Aye Win emphasized that the federation will have closer coordination with the businesspersons and ministries concerned with export promotion. There is a trade deficit with exports accounting for 46 per cent of overall trade value in the H1. This being so, the federation will generate ideas to boost exports in the remaining months. There is a high potential in export promotion for rice, and various pulses such as sesame, corn and rubber as El Nino impacts for Myanmar are unlikely to happen. UMFCCI will coordinate with its affiliates and associations to explore new potential export items. He also elaborated on fair competition between busi-

nesses and cooperate effectively with affiliated associations by making practical approach to export promotion activities. Exporters engaged in agricultural products (rice and various pulses), oil crops, vegetables and the CMP garment manufacturing sector also raised matters regarding export activities, contributing factors (foreign exchange rate and rise in commodity index) to export declines and suggestions for export promotion.

Additionally, importers also discussed matters related to difficulties in imports of pharmaceuticals, industrial raw materials, chemicals, feedstuff, paper, iron and steel. They generated ideas to bolster exports as well. — NN/EM

Fuel Oil Supervisory Committee reestablished

THE Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods reconstituted the Supervisory Committee on Fuel Oil Import, Storage and Distribution on 13 October 2023.

The committee was reestablished to effectively steer the oil import, storage and distribution sector and ensure standard quality for the imported fuel oil and stable prices for energy consumers, incorporating the stakeholders from the public and private sectors into the committee.

The deputy minister for Energy serves as chairman of the committee with seven members from the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce, Petroleum Products Regulatory Department under the Ministry of Energy and Foreign Exchange Management Department.

The functions of the committee are to prevent loss of revenue for the State, achieve price stability, supervise the application of import licences for fuel oil, issuance of licence and oil import, storage, sales and distribution of oil systematically, ensure meeting standard quality for imported oil, tackle delays in oil tankers docking, monitor the oil supply to the tanks and daily stocks on hand, and evaluate oil security period.

Additionally, the committee has to immediately inform the matters regarding quality suspicious activities to the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods and daily report the importing companies, exporting country, import volume (tonne), registration number and date of arrival of oil tankers to the Foreign Exchange Management Committee and the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods.

Also, the committee will frequently assess quality during the time of oil distribution from storage tanks.

Afterwards, the committee will have to inform the status of the stocks in the storage tanks to the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods. The committee will also have to keep a traceability record to check if any fraudulent and deceptive practices are found in the supply chain (from imports to distribution procedures) in an attempt to manipulate prices. — NN/EM

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price on downward trend

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set for another-week fall, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The wholesale price was set lower at K4,275 per viss for a week from 16 to 22 October from K4,340 per viss for a week ending 15 October, showing a decrease of K65 per viss.

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 every week.

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 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 region and state departments concerned.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association formed a task force for edible oil price stability and started informing the

lists of wholesale/retail shops of each company on 28 August, including the address of the shops in the respective townships and the number of available barrels.

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

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

OPINION

Ease effects of El Nino and climate change

MYANMAR is on the brink of confronting the harsh impacts of the impending El Nino season, which is expected to unleash a wave of disastrous weather events, including droughts, floods, strong winds, storms, and squalls. As we brace ourselves for these challenges, it is crucial for every citizen to understand the gravity of the situation and take proactive measures to protect our environment.

During the Weather Summit held in New York on September 20th, UN Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez sounded the alarm about the terrifying consequences of rising temperatures caused by El Nino. Farmers, already grappling with a changing climate, are witnessing their croplands submerged in water, and the entire world is grappling with health issues stemming from extreme heat.

It is imperative for all global citizens to shoulder the responsibility of reforestation and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels to curb soil, water, and air pollution, as well as preserve our water circulation systems. Failing to do so could lead to catastrophic temperature increases, jeopardizing our very survival.

As a result, our world's temperature has already surged by 1.2 degrees Celsius compared to the 19th century. Environmentalists have reported a staggering 50 per cent increase in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. These alarming statistics underscore the unprecedented climate challenges we face.

Climate change is causing a cascade of problems worldwide, including recurrent floods, droughts, heat waves, forest fires, storms, glacial melting, rising sea levels, and food and water shortages. The relentless deforestation, which can absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, is exacerbating the global warming process.

A UN Food and Agriculture Organization survey on global forest resources revealed that between 1990 and 2000, the world lost 7.8 million hectares of forests annually. This number reduced to 5.2 million hectares in the following decade and 4.7 million hectares from 2010 to 2020. These figures paint a grim picture of our forests' future.

It is imperative for all global citizens to shoulder the responsibility of reforestation and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels to curb soil, water, and air pollution, as well as preserve our water circulation systems. Failing to do so could lead to catastrophic temperature increases, jeopardizing our very survival.

In light of these challenges, it is incumbent upon everyone to actively participate in environmental conservation efforts. By doing so, we can collectively work towards safeguarding our planet and ensuring a sustainable future for ourselves and generations to come.



HONEST to say, the term 'time planning' is a misnomer, in a lexical sense. Our lifetime is constantly going slowly, steadily and naturally second after second as we are getting age. This means that we can neither control nor manage our time in any way. Despite this, we humans would like to plan our future potential time as much as we could, of course. In actual fact, a thing called time can be widely used, protected, and budgeted in that time is not only one of the most valuable capitalizations in life but also the limited resource available.

How to strategically plan time is founded on our personality, learned skills, self-motivation, self-control, self-discipline, and self-reflection. Here are given ten better strategic time planning for all.

1) See how we spend our time.

Keeping a time log helps determine how we are using our time. We should start the log by recording what we are doing within a time interval and evaluating its results, asking if we did everything that was needed, concluding which tasks require the most time, deciding on the time of day which makes us productive at most, and analyzing to which most of our time is devoted, such as our job, family, recreation, and even personal case. Identifying our time-consuming tasks and settling on where we are investing our time may well run a course of action. Additionally, having a good sense of the amount of time necessary for routine tasks will let us be more realistic about planning and estimating how much time is accessible to other activities.

2) Get our priorities right.

Managing our time effectively and efficiently requires a distinction between what is important and what is urgent. Not all the most important tasks are the most urgent ones, but we like to allow the urgent to dominate our lives. Those activities in our daily lives are categorized into four quadrants in a time management matrix: urgent, not urgent, important, and not important. The activities that are both urgent and important must be done, needless to say. Less time should be spent on unimportant activities regardless of their urgency to gain ample time to focus on those activities that are not urgent, only impor-



Investing time in self-care and smart time management is a recipe for a more fulfilling and successful life. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

Better Strategic Time Planning

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

tant. One of the easiest ways to get priorities straight which is urgent and important is to make a list of all the jobs we have to do in order of priority and serial number. Care should be taken to let the list get out of control and not keep multiple lists at the same time. Our very goal is to mark off the highest priority items. In down-to-earth situations, setting a prioritized to-do list motivates us to be able to say no to activities which may be interesting or give a sense of success despite not fitting our priority cases.

3) Make use of a planning tool.

Using a self-planning tool, like electronic planners, pocket diaries, calendars, computer programs, wall charts, index cards, and notebooks, is recommended by experts on time management to develop our productivity. Writing down our tasks, schedules, and memory joggers can free our minds to centre around our priorities, whereas auditory learners would prefer dictating their thoughts instead. The key to one planning tool is that it works for us and can be used consistently.

Some remainders of taking up a planning tool are always recording our information on the tool itself while jotting notes elsewhere that have to be transferred later is inefficient, reviewing our planning tool every day, carrying our tool with us, not forgetting to keep a list of our priorities in our planning tool, referring to it often, and holding a back-up system.

4) Get organized.

Disorganization leads to poor time management, that is, it is a classic case of bad planning. Professional organizers get rid of the clutter as usual. A frequently applied method is to set up three boxes or corners of a room - 'Keep', 'Give Away', and 'Toss' - by separating the clutter into these items, then immediately discarding items in 'Toss'. 'Give Away' may include items to sell, delegate, or discontinue, thus finding a way to eliminate these items, such as a yard scale, a charitable donation, and gifts to friends. With the clutter gone, the next step is to implement a system for handling information, based upon five options: i) Throw it away, delete it, or otherwise

give it up, ii) Delegate it, give it to someone else to do, file, or respond, iii) Act on it yourself, then throw it away or file it, iv) File it temporarily until it calls for action or until additional information is received, where follow-up, a tickler file, can be useful for keeping temporary information, and v) File it permanently where we can easily find it later.

5) Schedule our time appropriately.

Even the busiest people find time for anything important that they also want to do. Certainly, scheduling is not merely recording what we have to do, assignments and appointments in particular, but it is making a time commitment to the things which we would like to do. Good scheduling could do with that we know ourselves. Using our time log, we should have agreed on the time period of a day in which we are productive and alert to the maximum before planning our most challenging tasks first, blocking out time for our highly prior activities, and protecting that time from interruptions. If we have waiting time or commuting

time, we need to schedule such small tasks as writing a letter, jotting down a shopping list, or reading to capitalize on the time loss, but trying to limit scheduled time, and leaving time for such creative activities as planning, dreaming, or thinking.

6) Delegate help to others.

Delegation refers to assigning responsibility for a task to anyone else, freeing up some of our time for tasks that meet our expertise and beginning with identifying tasks that others can do, then selecting the eligible persons with the respective skills, experience, interest, and authority needed to accomplish the tasks. Being as specific as possible in defining the task and our expectations but permitting the person some freedom to personalize that task is needed. How well this person is progressing and provides any assistance, not taking over the responsibility, occasionally ought to be checked. At last, rewarding the person for a job well done or making suggestions for improvements should be conducted whenever necessary.

7) Stop procrastinating.

We may be putting off our tasks for various reasons, but for the partly possible reason that these tasks themselves sound overwhelming or unpleasant. In the meantime, we had better try breaking down the task into smaller segments that demand less time commitment and result in specific, realistic deadlines. If we are getting trouble started, we may have to complete a preparatory task such as collecting materials or organizing our notes, after which we had best try building in a reward system as we complete each small segment of the task.

8) Manage external time wasters.

Our time might be impacted by external factors imposed by other people and things. However, we can decrease or eliminate the time spent on those factors by implementing such simple tips as

- using voice mails and setting aside time to return calls,
- avoiding small talk and staying focused on the reason for the call,
- standing up while we are talking on the phone, more likely keeping the conversation brief,
- taking any necessary action immediately following the call,
- letting others know that we are at our convenience,
- setting a mutually agreeable time limit for a visit,
- knowing the purpose of the meeting in advance,
- arriving on time,
- using a timed agenda, if needed,
- creating a central area for posting communications such as appointment reminders, announcements, or messages, and
- answering written messages by responding on the margins or bottom of the page.

9) Desist from multi-tasking.

According to psychological studies, multi-tasking does not really save time now that we tend to lose time when switching from one task to the next, resulting in a loss of productivity. What is more, routine multi-tasking is responsible for difficulty in concentrating and maintaining focus when absolutely necessary.

SEE PAGE-10

ARTICLE

AI chatbot giving farmers tool to help navigate changing world

The AI chatbot, Farmer.CHAT, is emerging as a valuable tool for farmers facing agricultural challenges, offering hope for addressing food insecurity caused by global heating and conflicts like the Ukraine war, especially in regions with marginal lands.

ANew artificial intelligence chatbot is proving invaluable for farmers struggling to overcome modern agricultural challenges, with food and climate experts seeing the technology as key in dealing with food insecurity caused by the challenges of global heating and the Ukraine war.

Ismail Serageldin, former vice-president of the World Bank, said at a meeting of corporate, academic and political leaders in Tokyo that he has high hopes AI app Farmer.

Innovation for Cool Earth Forum, hosted mainly by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in early October.

Currently, it is difficult for agricultural extension service specialists, who provide farmers advice on suitable crops and cropping management systems, to visit every remote farm.

By introducing a multilingual AI tool available on mobile phones, farmers will have access to decision-making assistance to help them optimize crop management, increase



Smart robotic farming and artificial intelligence (AI) are transformative technologies that are revolutionizing the agricultural industry in several ways. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREEPIK

CHAT will bring a significant change to producers who work marginal lands.

AI-powered chatbots are expected to quickly transform agriculture and food systems to be more resilient and sustainable by assisting in the development of drought-resistant crops, early-warning systems against climate change-driven weather disasters and sustainable land management systems.

The role of AI in sustainable farming was among the topics raised by participants at the

yields and reduce losses, and improve irrigation, fertilizer use and pest control. Digital Green, one of the developers of the AI application, said on its website, "Now, any government extension agent or farmer can type or talk in their own language and get clear answers with links to relevant Digital Green videos."

The AI chatbot further boosts the efforts of the extension workers "to bring the best knowledge to these remote areas," Serageldin said.

SOURCE: Kyodo

ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON
WORLD

China’s Baidu says its upgraded
AI bot rivals latest ChatGPT



People examine an AI product of Baidu during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in Shanghai on 6 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHINESE internet giant Baidu unveiled the newest version of its AI chatbot ERNIE on Tuesday, claiming it rivals the capabilities of OpenAI’s latest ChatGPT.

Baidu led Chinese tech firms in rolling out generative artificial intelligence apps, which are trained on vast amounts of data and interactions with users to answer questions, even complex ones,

in human-like language.

Released to the public in August, ERNIE marked a major step for China’s tech sector, which is aiming to compete with the likes of Microsoft and ChatGPT maker OpenAI while staying within strict government controls.

Robin Li, Baidu’s founder and CEO, said during a presentation that ERNIE’s “comprehension, creation, logic,

and memory... are in no way inferior to those of GPT-4”, referring to OpenAI’s latest model.

AFP was unable to independently verify the claim.

Li then grilled ERNIE with a series of puzzles, and asked it to write the outline for a martial arts novel.

The bot set to work, gradually creating new characters as the audience followed the composition in real time on a giant screen.

The latest version of ERNIE is currently open to select developers and not available to the public.

Chinese tech firms have ramped up investments in the technology after the success of ChatGPT sparked a global AI gold rush.

The internet is tightly controlled in China, however, and ahead of the rollout of domestic chatbots such as ERNIE, the government published guidelines on the development and use of generative AI. — AFP

NASA’s Webb space telescope detects tiny
quartz crystals in clouds of hot gas giant

RESEARCHERS using NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope have detected evidence for quartz nanocrystals in the high-altitude clouds of WASP-17 b, a hot Jupiter exoplanet 1,300 light-years from Earth, NASA said on Monday.

The detection, which was uniquely possible with Webb’s Mid-Infrared Instru-

ment, marks the first time silica (SiO₂) particles have been spotted in an exoplanet atmosphere.

“We knew from Hubble observations that there must be aerosols - tiny particles making up clouds or haze - in WASP-17 b’s atmosphere, but we didn’t expect them to be made of quartz,” said David Grant, a

researcher at the University of Bristol in Britain and first author on a paper being published today in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

Silicates make up the bulk of Earth, the Moon and other rocky objects in our solar system and are extremely common across the galaxy. — Xinhua

EU to seek virtual elimination of fossil
fuels at COP28

THE EU will seek a global phase-out of fossil fuels and for their use to reach a peak in this decade, according to the member states’ common position adopted unanimously late Monday. At the COP28 UN climate talks in November, the

bloc will also call for eliminating “as soon as possible” subsidies for fossil fuels which do not serve to combat energy poverty or ensure a “just transition” — but without setting a deadline as NGOs hoped. “(The European) Council stresses that the

transition to a climate-neutral economy will require a global phase-out of unabated fossil fuels and a peak in their consumption in this decade”, said a statement released after the meeting of EU environment ministers. — AFP

Better Strategic Time Planning

FROM PAGE-9

10) Stay healthy.

An important investment of time is nothing but the care and attention we give ourselves. Time to relax or do nothing can rejuvenate both our physical and mental conditions, enabling us to finish tasks more quickly and easily. By our biological clock, priority tasks during our peak time of day, and the time our energy or concentration is at its best should have been scheduled very well. The main reason why it is said is that poor time

management will give rise to fatigue, moodiness, and more frequent illness.

I am strongly of the opinion that those who practice a few or more of the above-mentioned better strategic time planning techniques will often find that they are more productive than before, have more energy for the things they need to accomplish, feel less stressed, are able to do whatever they want, get more matter done, relate more positively to others, and even feel better about themselves. ■

Remaking an old Swedish
oil depot into a giant
underground ‘thermos’

WORK lights strung up along railings illuminate a dank cavern where workers are preparing to transform a former oil depot into a hot water “thermos” to heat a Swedish town.

Originally dug out in the early 1970s, the three caverns with a combined volume of 300,000 cubic metres served as an oil storage until the site was abandoned in 1985.

“We are now converting it into a giant thermos to store hot water in,” explained project

manager Rickard Svensson at power and district heating company Mälarenergi in the city of Västerås.

The site will “store energy, which we sometimes have an excess of, and ... use that at times when there is a shortage,” he said.

The caverns are close to Mälarenergi’s combined heat and power plant, which supplies electricity and especially heat via district heating, to Västerås’ 130,000 or so inhabitants. — AFP



A worker walks at the site of a former oil storage cavern on 11 August 2023 in Västerås, Sweden, which is repurposed by Swedish energy company Mälarenergi and to be turned into a hot water storage facility. Mälarenergi, a Swedish energy company that provides various energy services to the region surrounding Lake Mälaren, is repurposing the former oil storage cavern into a massive energy storage facility for district heating, set to become Europe’s largest hot water storage at temperatures reaching 95 degrees Celsius, with a capacity of 300,000 cubic metres, upon its 2024 completion. **PHOTO: AFP**

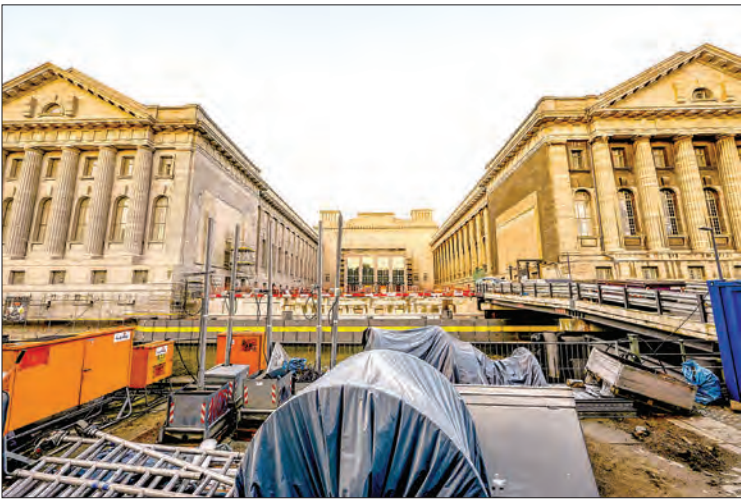
WORLD

Babylon Berlin: antiquities museum shuts for 14-year facelift

ONE of Berlin’s top tourist attractions, the Pergamon Museum and its world-class collection of antiquities, will close this month for a top-to-bottom restoration not due to be completed before 2037.

The institution on the German capital’s UNESCO-listed Museum Island houses treasures including the Great Altar of Pergamon, built in the second century BC, the 2,600-year-old Ishtar Gate of Babylon and a vast millennium-spanning collection of Islamic art.

The museum, which opened in 1930 and was named for the Ancient Greek masterpiece, attracts more than one million visitors a year when all its exhibits



A general view shows the main entrance to The Pergamon Museum in Berlin on 5 October 2023 as renovation work progresses **PHOTO: AFP**

are accessible.

The impending 14-year clo-

sure beginning on 23 October has prompted a rush by Berliners

and tourists alike to catch one last glimpse.

Gudrun von Wysiécki, who grew up on the western side of the Berlin Wall, said she began crossing into the Communist east when it became possible in the 1970s just to see the Pergamon Museum.

“I’ve always loved this place. Seeing it for the first time was an absolute epiphany,” the 75-year-old retired teacher told AFP, standing in the shadow of the ancient Roman Market Gate of Miletus.

“We were very lucky to get some of the last tickets this week. At my age, who knows if I’ll be alive for the reopening.” **‘In bad shape’**

German archaeologists discovered the ruins of the Pergamon Altar between 1878 and 1886 and sent them back to Berlin based on an agreement between the German government and the Ottoman Empire.

Its reconstruction took until 1902.

The temple-like museum building was erected to showcase the ornate altar and the Ishtar Gate, with the spectacular lion reliefs of its Processional Way, to the fullest dramatic effect.

However the strains of time and the sheer weight of the collections, resting on a porous Ice Age riverbed, have caused the museum to crumble. — AFP

How a Bronze Age rock became a ‘treasure map’ for researchers

A piece of rock with mysterious markings that lay largely unstudied for 4,000 years is now being hailed as a “treasure map” for archaeologists, who are using it to hunt for ancient sites around north-western France.

The so-called Saint-Belec slab was claimed as Europe’s oldest map by researchers in 2021 and they have been working ever since to understand its etchings – both to help them date the slab, and to rediscover lost

monuments.

“Using the map to try to find archaeological sites is a great approach. We never work like that,” said Yvan Pailler, a professor at the University of Western Brittany (UBO).

Ancient sites are more commonly uncovered by sophisticated radar equipment, aerial photography or by accident in cities when the foundations for new buildings are being dug. — AFP



An archaeology student excavates a burial mound in Leuhan, western France, on 11 October 2023. This burial mound dating from ancient Bronze age was discovered in 1900 by French archeologist Paul du Chatellier. On this site du Chatellier also found a carved granite slab that could be the oldest map in Europe. The actual searches are conducted to understand the architecture of the tumulus and the way it was built. A new piece of the old slab was also found during these searches. **PHOTO: AFP**



An archaeological worker cleans a mummy inside a rock-cut tomb at a cemetery in Minya Governorate, Egypt, 15 October 2023. A cemetery dating back to the New Kingdom of ancient Egypt was unearthed at Tuna El-Gebel necropolis in southern Egypt’s Minya governorate, the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities announced on Sunday **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Egypt discovers 3,400-year-old cemetery in Minya

A cemetery dating back to the New Kingdom of ancient Egypt was unearthed at Tuna El-Gebel necropolis in southern Egypt’s Minya governorate, the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities announced on Sunday.

The cemetery, dating back about 3,400 years to ancient Egypt’s New Kingdom, belonged to senior officials and priests, said Mostafa Waziri, secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA). The cemetery was dis-

covered in the Al-Ghuraifa area of Tuna El-Gebel necropolis in Minya by an Egyptian archaeological mission led by the SCA. It consists of a large quantity of rock-cut tombs, and hundreds of other archaeological finds, said Waziri.

It is the first cemetery finding of the New Kingdom in the 15th nome, a territorial division in ancient Upper Egypt. The region was previously known for cemeteries belonging to the Old Kingdom, the First Intermediate Period and the Middle King-

dom. “We have been looking for this New Kingdom cemetery for seven years and we finally found it in this excavation season,” Waziri told Xinhua at the necropolis.

Among the finds was a complete, well-preserved papyrus that is approximately 16-18 metres long, according to preliminary studies, with texts about the Book of the Dead, and an engraved, colored wooden coffin of a daughter of a high priest of Djehuti, an ancient Egyptian god. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD



A pilot boat (L) guides a container vessel to dock at the Pasir Panjang port terminal in Singapore on 30 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Singapore’s key
exports decline for 12th
consecutive month

THE non-oil domestic exports (NODX) in Singapore declined by 13.2 per cent year-on-year in September, marking a contraction for the 12th straight month, government agency Enterprise Singapore announced Tuesday.

In September, electronic exports contracted by 11.6 per cent year-on-year, and non-electronic exports declined by 13.6 per cent, according to the government agency.

NODX to Singapore’s top markets as a whole declined in

September, though exports to the Chinese mainland, China’s Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the United States rose, the data showed.

The oil domestic exports of the city-state also declined by 17.0 per cent year-on-year in September, following the 24.7 per cent contraction in August, said the Enterprise Singapore.

On a year-on-year basis, Singapore’s total trade declined by 12.3 per cent in September. — Xinhua

Shanghai, LA mull building world’s 1st
green shipping corridor spanning Pacific

A meeting on jointly building the “Port of Shanghai-Port of Los Angeles Green Shipping Corridor” was concluded Monday, with several agreements reached on building the world’s first trans-Pacific green shipping corridor.

Wang Weiren, deputy secretary-general of the Shanghai Municipal Government and leader of the delegation, told Xinhua that the meeting focused on the pilot application of green methanol and other new marine fuels, the use of shore power for vessels, the construction of smart terminals, and the digital transfor-

mation of shipping.

The Port of Shanghai is the world’s busiest container port and the Port of Los Angeles the biggest one in the United States. The Shanghai-Los Angeles shipping route is one of the most dynamic routes in the global economy, with nine weekly international container liner services between the two ports. In 2022, the container throughput between the two ports exceeded 1.3 million TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units).

In January 2022, the two ports jointly proposed the initiative of the Green Shipping

Corridor aimed at achieving port-to-port cargo transportation between each other in the cleanest and lowest carbon manner.

During Monday’s meeting, Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Erin Bromaghim expressed the hope of working together with Shanghai to establish a closer and regular working dialogue and collaboration mechanism, so as to jointly promote the construction of the project and use this as an opportunity to further enhance personnel exchanges and economic and trade cooperation between the two cities. — Xinhua

Honda names new plane
“HondaJet Echelon”, plans
first flight in 2026

THE aircraft unit of Honda Motor Co revealed Monday that its new small business jet will be named the “HondaJet Echelon”, with the company aiming for its first flight in 2026.

The 11-seater jet, categorized as a “light jet” that is bigger than the existing HondaJet that can carry up to eight people, is designed to be the first single-pilot light jet capable of flying across the United States without refueling, Honda Aircraft Co. said.

The US-based company said it is aiming to obtain flight certification from US aviation authorities in 2028.

“The HondaJet Echelon was born to create a new category that transcends the travel experience on conventional light

jets,” said Honda Aircraft President and CEO Hideto Yamasaki in a statement.

The new jet will have one engine on each wing and will be 20 per cent more fuel efficient than its rivals, it said.

The new aircraft will be assembled at the company’s factory in North Carolina, with early build processes scheduled to begin in 2024, it said.

The price of the light jet has not been determined and it has yet to decide whether to sell it in Japan, according to the company.

Honda Aircraft, which entered the business jet market in 2015 and sells its products globally including in Japan, announced in June a plan to offer a small business jet. — Kyodo



A rendered image shows a HondaJet Echelon business aircraft. (Courtesy of Honda Aircraft Co). **PHOTO: KYODO**

German investor morale improves
in October

GERMAN investor confidence improved more than expected in October, a key survey showed Tuesday, thanks to slowing inflation and growing hopes that the European Central Bank is done hiking interest rates.

The ZEW institute’s economic expectations index surged by 10.3 points month-on-month to reach minus 1.1 points, the third consecutive monthly rise.

Analysts surveyed by Fact-

Set had expected a smaller increase, pencilling in a reading of minus seven points. A negative reading means most investors are pessimistic. “It seems that we have passed the lowest point,” ZEW president Achim Wambach said in a statement.

Although the assessment of Germany’s current economic situation remained bleak, brighter expectations for the months ahead were driven “by the anticipation that inflation

rates will decrease further and the fact that now more than three-quarters of respondents anticipate stable short-term interest rates in the eurozone,” he said.

“Negative factors such as the Israel conflict — cited by some respondents as a reason for revising their growth forecasts downward — had only limited impact on the overall more optimistic outlook,” he added. — AFP

Toyota partially halts production in Japan after explosion

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Tuesday it has halted 10 production lines at six factories in central Japan as it is having difficulty procuring springs following an explosion at one of its suppliers.

The automaker said it will keep the affected production lines shut through Wednesday and has decided to stop operations at another plant in the region in addition to

the six factories, it said. It is unknown when it can resume operations at the plants.

The accident happened Monday afternoon at Chuo Spring Co's factory in the city of Toyota, Aichi Prefecture, the automakers said. Two male workers, one in his 30s and another in his 40s, were injured with one taken to hospital for treatment, according to Chuo Spring.

The explosion damaged part of the supplier's facility, including its drying furnace, and the cause of the accident is still being investigated, Chuo Spring said. Toyota has 14 assembly factories across Japan which produce cars for both domestic and overseas markets. The affected lines include those that assemble the popular Land Cruiser and RAV4 sport utility vehicles. — Kyodo



File photo taken in August 2023 shows Toyota Motor Corp's Tsutsumi plant in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Nintendo, Sony face off with new Mario and Spider-Man games

NINTENDO and Sony have a lot riding on two new releases this Friday, "Marvel's Spider-Man 2" for the PlayStation 5 and "Super Mario Bros Wonder" on the Switch.

That's where the similarities stop: the two games on rival consoles and their target audiences could hardly be more different.

Veterans

Mario, the moustachioed plumber in a red cap created by Shigeru Miyamoto, revolutionized gaming in 1985 with "Super Mario Bros".

It was one of the first



(FILES) An employee wearing a face mask stands next to a screen displaying characters from the Nintendo video game Super Mario at a store for Japanese games giant Nintendo in Tokyo on 3 February 2022. Nintendo and Sony have a lot riding on two new releases on 20 October 2023, "Marvel's Spider-Man 2" for the PlayStation 5 and "Super Mario Bros Wonder" on the Switch. **PHOTO: AFP**

"side-scrolling" games allowing horizontal movement in an evolving landscape. The charac-

ter became one of the best-known in gaming, fuelling the success of Japan's Nintendo, with more than 420 million units sold for the "Super Mario" series alone. "Spider-Man" emerged as a superhero in the Marvel comics of the early 1960s and first appeared in video games in the 1990s, but without major success.

Blockbuster superhero movies in the 2000s led to the character headlining a series of games developed from 2018 by Insomniac for Sony, which bought the studio the following year. — AFP

Engine maker Rolls-Royce to axe up to 2,500 jobs

ROLLS-ROYCE, the British manufacturer of aircraft engines, said Tuesday it plans to axe up to 2,500 jobs worldwide, or about six per cent of its staff, to further slash costs. "It is estimated that 2,000-2,500 roles will be removed globally" under "plans for a simpler, more streamlined, organization", the group said in a statement.

Chief executive Tufan Erginbilgic, who began restructuring the group on taking the helm at the start of the year,

said the company was "building a Rolls-Royce that is fit for the future."

"That means a more... efficient organization that will deliver for our customers, partners and shareholders."

The statement said the latest restructuring would "help Rolls-Royce build enhanced capabilities in key areas such as procurement and supply chain management, ensuring they are as strong as the company's engineering and technical excellence". — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (339W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (339W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (205N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (205N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-10-2023** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2314S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2314S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-10-2023** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO.,LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

India's apex court declines to give legal recognition to same-sex marriage

INDIA'S apex court, the Supreme Court of India, on Tuesday refused to give legal recognition to marriages among same-sex couples, but told the country's parliament to form a committee to ensure the protection of such couples' rights in society.

Hearing a bunch of petitions over same-sex marriages, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud gave a three-to-two split verdict, saying the government should protect same-sex couples entering into marriages, but refusing to recognize it as a fundamental right.

Giving out his opinion during the hearing, Chandrachud said that trans-gender persons in heterosexual relationships had the right to marry under the existing laws of the land.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Adish Aggarwala welcomed the apex court's ruling, saying that the court accepted the federal government's version on the matter. — Xinhua

Greek PM declares 'national danger' over birth decline

GREEK Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Tuesday said the country's declining birth rate constituted a "national danger" as data showed the population falling by over a million by 2050.

Greece effectively recorded just one birth per two deaths in 2022, Mitsotakis told a demographics conference, adding that a "national danger is in full evolution". "Our people is one of the oldest in Europe. Greek women aged 20 to 40 declined by 150,000 over the past five years," the PM said.

"If we do nothing... by 2050 we could be fewer by up to 1.4 million people," demographer Byron Kotzamanis, author of a recent study on Greece's projected population, told state TV ERT.

Mitsotakis's conservative government, re-elected in June, has formed a separate ministry to tackle family issues and promised to increase child support benefits. — AFP

China and BRI partners promote green development through IP cooperation

INTELLECTUAL property (IP) cooperation has played a role in green development pursued by China and its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries, according to the country's top IP regulator.

Data released by the National Intellectual Property Administration (NIPA) on Tuesday showed that from 2013 to 2022, a total of 3,549 invention patent applications for green and low-carbon technologies from China were filed in BRI partner countries, with an average annual growth rate of 16.7 per cent. This growth has accelerated since 2020, in particular, reaching an average annual growth rate of 37.3 per cent over the past three years.

Energy storage, energy conservation and recovery, and clean energy were the top three sectors in terms of the number of filed patent ap-



Journalists look at exhibits of Chinese intangible cultural heritage at the Media Centre of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, capital of China, 16 October 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

plications.

During the same period, the number of granted patents for green and low-carbon technologies in BRI partner countries reached 1,884, with an average annual growth rate of 15.8 per cent, NIPA data revealed.

As the world's largest clean energy market and equipment manufacturer, China will actively leverage its advantages in green technology innovation to support BRI green development, the NIPA noted. — Xinhua

Cambodia hosts 3rd global landmine victim assistance conference



This handout photograph taken and released by the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) on 5 May 2022 shows a CMAC staff examining a 2000-pound US-made bomb after it was uncovered from a river bed opposite to the Royal Palace in capital Phnom Penh. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / CAMBODIAN MINE ACTION CENTRE (CMAC) / AFP**

CAMBODIA hosted the third global conference on assistance to the victims of mines and other explosive ordnance here on Tuesday.

The three-day conference brought together delegates from 45 countries and regions, which are parties to the Mine-Ban Convention, known as the "Ottawa Treaty". Ly Thuch, senior minister and first vice-president of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), said the conference gave an opportunity for all stakeholders to deliberate the assistance to victims of landmines and other explosive ordnance and their families.

"It is a moral imperative that calls upon our collective conscience to take action and support those whose lives have been shattered by these indiscriminate weapons of war," he said in a speech during the open-

ing ceremony of the conference.

Thuch said the conference was not only an exploration of academic insights, but also a show of unity and collaboration to assist the victims of landmines and other explosive ordnance.

Cambodia is one of the countries worst affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERWs). An estimated four million to six million landmines and other munitions had been left over from three decades of war and internal conflicts that ended in 1998. According to Yale University, between 1965 and 1973, the United States had dropped some 230,516 bombs on 113,716 sites in Cambodia. According to the CMAA's latest report, from 1979 to August 2023, landmine and ERW explosions had killed 19,822 people and either injured or amputated 45,209 others, making Cambodia one of the countries with the most casualties. — Xinhua

SPORTS



A tackle between a Myanmar player and a Macau player in the second-leg match yesterday.

Myanmar advance to next round despite tie with MSAR in World Cup qualifier

MYANMAR played a 0-0 draw against Macau in the second leg of the first-round qualifiers in the Asian Zone of the 2026 World Cup at the Olympic Sports Centre Stadium in Macau yesterday. The Myanmar team, which previously won the first-round home match against the Macau team 5-1, played comfortably in the away match yesterday.

Along with the draw, team Myanmar won by 5-1 in aggregates and secured a spot in the next round. Team Myanmar launched an attack yesterday but stuck to the defence properly. The Macao team played at home, but could not make any difference and ended in a goalless draw after the first half. In the

second half, the Myanmar team changed players and attacked high. The Myanmar squad had some more chances to score but could not capitalize on them, so they were satisfied with a draw. In the second round of qualifiers, Myanmar is included in Group B with Japan, North Korea and Syria. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

MFF Futsal League II 2023 qualifiers to be launched with nine teams

THE qualifiers for MFF Futsal League II 2023 organized by the Myanmar Football Federation Futsal and Beach Committee will be held with nine teams. The MFF Futsal League II 2023 qualifiers will be played in three groups from 20 to 22 October at the MFF Futsal Stadium. Group A will see Seven FC, Noka FC, and Black Cross FC while Group B features SGF FC, Sun Far FC and City Dragon FC. Group C includes Royal Yangon Group, Maryar FC and KKY FC. Futsal and Beach Committee will hold the MFF Futsal Women Cup 2023 on 3 November, MFF Futsal League I on 24 December, MFF Futsal Championship 2023 on 18 November and MFF Futsal League II on 24 December respectively. — TWA/KZL



Team Myanmar (red) competed in the previous AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers against India. PHOTO: MFF

Belgium v Sweden Euro qualifier abandoned after Brussels shooting

BELGIUM'S Euro 2024 qualifier against Sweden was abandoned at half-time and fans were kept in the stadium for security reasons after two Swedes were shot dead in an attack in Brussels on Monday. Spectators at the King Baudouin stadium in the Belgian capital were told to remain inside the ground following an announcement that the players would not return for the second half. "Following a suspected terrorist attack in Brussels this evening, it has been decided after consultation with the two teams and the local police authorities, that the UEFA EURO 2024 qualifying match between Belgium and Sweden is abandoned," UEFA said on its website. Sweden's football association said Belgian police had told supporters "to stay in the arena for security reasons". Two Swedish nationals were shot dead by a suspect who remains at large, in an attack the Belgian prime minister described as "terrorism". Several Belgian media outlets said the two individuals killed were wearing the jersey of the Sweden national team. "Our thoughts go out to all the relatives of those affected in Brussels," a



Swedish supporters wait in the stand during the Euro 2024 qualifying football match between Belgium and Sweden at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels on 16 October 2023 after an 'attack' that targeted Swedish citizens in a street of Brussels. PHOTO: AFP Swedish FA social media post said. The Belgian national team's account wrote: "Our thoughts are with all those affected." Belgium, who had already qualified for next year's tournament, had equalized through a Romelu Lukaku penalty after Viktor Gyokeres opened the scoring for Sweden before the match was halted with the score at 1-1. Belgian media reported that the Swedish players did not want to continue the game after learning of the attack. Austria had earlier Monday become the eighth team to book their place at the finals in Germany courtesy of a 1-0 win in Azerbaijan in the other Group F game. Borussia Dortmund midfielder Marcel Sabitzer scored a penalty three minutes after coming on as a half-time substitute for Ralf Rangnick's side. — AFP

Ronaldo hits two as Portugal thrash Bosnia and Herzegovina

CRISTIANO Ronaldo struck twice as Roberto Martinez's relentless Portugal thrashed Bosnia and Herzegovina 5-0 on Monday in Euro 2024 qualifying. Portugal, who booked their place at the tournament in Germany next summer with a win over Slovakia last Friday, continued their superb form under the Spanish coach with their eighth victory in eight games since he arrived. Ronaldo netted his 126th and 127th Portugal goals, further extending his record as the top all-time men's international goalscorer. Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes added the third before Barcelona duo Joao Cancelo and Joao Felix joined in the fun, all before half-time. Bosnia, led by veteran target-man Edin

Dzeko, languish fifth and can no longer progress from the group, after Slovakia beat Luxembourg 1-0. Bosnia have two games remaining and are seven points behind second-placed Slovakia in Group J, with Portugal the runaway leaders. Martinez's side have scored 32 goals and only conceded twice, racking up all 24 points possible so far. — AFP



WORLD



A screen in the media centre for the Belt and Road Forum shows news coverage of Russia's President Vladimir Putin arriving at Beijing Capital International Airport are seen on 17 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Putin says Russia ready to coordinate with partners to end violence, stabilize situation in Middle East

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said Monday that Russia is ready to coordinate efforts with all constructively minded partners to bring an end to the violence in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and stabilize the situation.

The Russian leader made the statement during separate telephone

conversations with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi on Monday, in which the leaders discussed the recent escalation in the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Putin stressed the unacceptability

of any form of violence against civilians, adding that Moscow is ready to provide all necessary humanitarian assistance.

He noted that Russia's draft resolution, recently proposed to the United Nations Security Council, calls for the implementation of an immediate humanitarian truce, adding that the resolution is not politicized in any way. — Xinhua

Five killed in Thai floods with more heavy rain expected

FIVE people were killed in floods in Thailand's north this week, with authorities warning on Tuesday that more heavy rain was on the way.

Since the beginning of the monsoon season in September, a total of 23 Thai citizens have died in floods and 33 have been injured, the public health ministry said in a statement.

Earlier this week, floods in Thailand's northern province of Phayao killed five people, the ministry said.

Thai authorities issued flood warnings for 32 provinces on Tuesday.

Heavy rain is also forecast for Bangkok and the popular resort island of Phuket.

"The monsoon from the southwest is blowing over the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand and will increase rainfall in Thailand," the Ministry of Interior said in a statement.

More than 62,000 Thai households have been impacted by floods this wet season, the statement said.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin has regularly visited flood zones in recent weeks as local authorities scramble to hand out survival kits to evacuees.

In 2011, widespread flooding killed more than 500 people and damaged millions of homes around the country. — AFP

Four or five days of food left in Gaza shops: WFP

THE UN's World Food Programme said the food situation in the besieged and blockaded Gaza Strip was worsening, with only four or five days of stocks left in the shops.

WFP said stocks were getting low in warehouses inside the Palestinian enclave, but at the shop level, the situation was even more acute. "The situation in Gaza is getting worse by the minute: the humanitarian situation but also of course the food security situation," WFP's Middle East spokeswoman Abeer Etefa, told reporters at the UN in Geneva via vid-

eo-link from Cairo. "The current stocks of essential food commodities are sufficient for only two weeks — and that's at the wholesalers' level," she said, with the warehouses located in Gaza City in the north of the territory and shops having difficulties replenishing supplies.

"Inside the shops, the stocks are getting close to less than a few days, maybe four or five days of food stocks left."

Gaza-based Hamas fighters broke through Israel's heavily fortified border on 7 October, killing more than 1,400 people, most of them civilians. — AFP



A Palestinian reacts as he is helped across the rubble following an Israeli airstrike on buildings in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip on 17 October 2023 amid the ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas. PHOTO: AFP