

Senior General warns: National cultural erosion weakens national strength and vigour

The 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition was formally inaugurated in Nay Pyi Taw, graced by SAC Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing warned all people that, if our national cultural heritage is eroded, it can lead to loss of respect for our own nation and nationals and weakness of our national vigour and strength.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address on the key role of Myanmar culture at the opening of the 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

He continued that if the country faces a lack of national-spirited force, others will encroach on the sovereignty of the State.

As such, he explained that the government emphasizes exploration and preservation of national cultural heritage with the aim of ensuring the perpetual existence of prestige and traditions as well as national standards of Myanmar as long as the world exists.

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomingly greets music virtuosos at the opening event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



The Senior General, his wife and dignitaries watch the inaugural music performance at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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Putao expedition to conquer snow-covered Mount Hponkanrazi commences this Nov

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Myanmar delegation leaves for HLIC "Eurasian Security" in Belarus

BUSINESS **PAGE-7**



Myanmar imports over 16,400 tonnes of cement worth US\$1.44 mln in Sept

NATIONAL

Putao expedition to conquer snow-covered Mount Hponkanrazi commences this Nov

THE arrangements are being made to offer the tour to Putao and scale snow-capped Mount Phonkanrazi of Kachin State starting early November to May 2024, said Ko Min Khine from Trekking In Myanmar Company Limited.

The travel company will start two-night and three-day, and three-night and four-day tour packages to Putao and a six-night and seven-day trip to Mount Phonkanrazi starting November 2023, and the group trips to Putao will be from November 2023 to May 2024.

"Putao township in Kachin State in the northern part of Myanmar is a huge flat valley surrounded by ice-capped mountains and it has been so

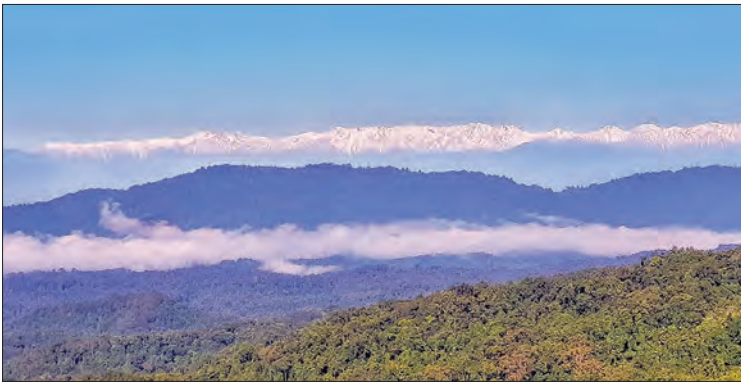


Adventurous travellers scaling the snow-capped peaks of Putao.

fore, visitors should prioritize the proper locations not only the scene of mountains. Currently, we arrange the tours to distinct locations in Putao and Machanbaw. We will start the ice-mountain scaling tour later," he said.

The Putao-Machanbaw trip includes visits to Maha Myat Muni pagoda, Putaung village, Khakaborazi National Museum, Mulashidi village and suspension bridge, Rawan Manaw compound, Rawan cultural museum, Heart-shaped Lake of Putao, Kaung Hmu Lone pagoda, Malikha suspension bridge, Kyauk Naga, ancient buildings and Gu Bar Guest House, Nat Kyun, Fairy Inland in Malikha River, Nat Kyun pagoda and Kyauk Phyar. — ASH/KTZH

cloudy, and so it is difficult to see the ice-capped mountain scenery. If the weather is fine and clear, travellers can see the ice-capped mountains from every location of Putao. There-



2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium continues its fifth day

THE 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium entered its fifth day at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Local and foreign merchants explored the displays of pearls,

jade, and gem lots within the hall, as well as uncut jade lots outside the hall, starting in the morning.

During the exhibition, a total of 4,045 lots were sold

through an open tender system each day. During yesterday's exhibition, 750 jade lots were sold through an open tender system to local and foreign merchants, while 702 jade lots were completely sold.

For the sixth day of the exhibition, a total of 750 jade lots will be exhibited, and examined by local and foreign merchants, and bids placed in the tender box. Officials will close the bids for 750 jade lots at 3 pm. The tender boxes will be opened, and the sale of jade lots will be announced at 8 am on 25 October. The remaining jade lots will be available for purchase at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw until 28 October. — MNA/ MKKS



A gem merchant evaluating the jade at the emporium yesterday.

Nay Pyi Taw to host Thadingyut music show, night market at Water Fountain Garden

NAY Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden will hold the Thadingyut Music Show and Night Market festival on 28, 29 and 30 October, according to U Shwe Win, general manager of the garden.

To entertain the visitors, the national singers will perform on the stage at the water fountain garden gate 1 from 3 pm to 10 pm.

"Our Night Market at Water Fountain Garden is held on public holidays before the rainy season. After a break during the rainy season, it

will be held again with the upcoming Thadingyut Festival. There will be an art stage as entertainment. Night Market will also be included. There will be a variety of games for children. There will also be beautiful lights lit inside the garden, so you can take photos and come and have fun," said U Shwe Win.

In addition to this, the event will include booths displaying and selling MSME products from eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

Senior General warns: National cultural erosion weakens national strength and vigour

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General underlined that holding the performing arts competition is one of the highest endeavours of all nationals with the participation of the entire people in exploring and preserving the national cultural heritage.

The Senior General expressed his pride in the existence of Myanmar’s religious advice, high cultural customs, subtle fine arts and own national culture alongside its prolonged history according to the mental and physical cultural heritage evidence, literary evidence and contemporary records of neighbouring countries and origins of firm Myanmar with national integrity and prestige.

He also noted that Myanmar’s forefathers have been creating and preserving their own literature, culture, traditions, customs and living styles for thousands of years.

The Senior General urged all to continuously preserve and uplift the national culture of Myanmar with national awareness and conscientiousness to enable the country to stand tall in the in-



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries cut the inaugural ribbon to unveil the competition signage yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

ternational community with fine traditions and national prestige.

At the ceremony, the Senior General, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin unveiled the signboard of the competition.

The Senior General and wife cordially greeted maestros from the panel of judges.

The ceremony was also attended by Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, the Council Joint Secretary, council members and their wives, Union level officials and officials among others. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar delegation leaves for HLIC “Eurasian Security” in Belarus

AT the invitations of Mr Sergei Aleinik, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, a Myanmar delegation led by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister of the Union Government Office 2, left the Mandalay International Airport by the Myanmar Airways International (MAI) flight on the evening of 24 October 2023.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at the Mandalay International Airport by officials concerned with the Union Government Office. — MNA

Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing is pictured before departing for the Republic of Belarus.



Objectives of 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2023



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

NATIONAL

MoI DM-led delegation arrives back after attending Asia Communication Forum



Deputy Minister U Ye Tint views round the Guangxi Radio and Television Station in China.

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint and his delegation have returned after attending the Asia Communication Forum (ACF). On 22 October, they visited Guangxi Radio and Television Station, exploring the Guangxi Radio and Television Information Cooperation Centre.

During the visit, Guangxi

Radio and Television and Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) signed agreements to collaborate on news and entertainment programmes, including ongoing teleplay series. Deputy Minister U Ye Tint held discussions with the director-general and deputy director-general of Guangxi Radio and Television to enhance

cooperation, promote reciprocal visits, facilitate study programmes, and expand filming and broadcasting initiatives.

MRTV has been working with Chinese television series, known as GXRTV, since the signing of an exhibition agreement on 14 May 2017. Weekly, these Chinese TV series dubbed into Myanmar are televised in Myanmar, resulting in the airing of 18 television series and seven cartoon episodes to date. Currently, two cartoon episodes titled "Layhninyakhayee" (Air Travel) and "Phyusinsatehla" (Pure Mind) are being broadcast with Myanmar dubbing.

This collaboration involves technical staff from Guangxi and audio dubbing experts from MRTV, who have been visiting each other's countries to ensure the success of this partnership.

Upon their return, the deputy minister and his delegation flew through Guangzhou, arriving at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening. They were warmly welcomed by officials from the Ministry of Information and Ms Feng Liping, Head of the Department of Information and Public Relations of the People's Republic of China. — MNA/TS

Teachers, students from Shwemyo visit MRTV, Kyemon newspaper office

AS part of the Global Media and Information Awareness Week programme, a total of 55 students along with their teachers from Shwemyo No 3 Basic Education High School visited Myanmar Radio and Television in Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) yesterday morning.

At the main building's auditorium, MRTV staff performed songs like "Shin Than Nay Mye MRTV" and "Tawthu Aachit". The MRTV modern band group also presented modern music. The study team then observed news filming at the MRTV News Channel Studio, receiving clear answers to their questions from the officials.

Afterwards, the team visited the MRTV Diamond Jubilee Museum to view historical broadcasting equipment, live broadcasting vehicles, various

news presentation formats, documentary photos featuring individuals who participated in past programmes, and the news studio facilities.

Following their participation in the Global Media and Information Awareness Week, the study group visited the News and Periodicals Enterprise on Khayaybin Road in Zeyathiri Township. An official explained the history of newspapers, newspaper production, and distribution. They also presented a video recording showcasing the operations of the News and Periodicals Enterprise.

The study group then observed and studied the printing rooms and newsrooms of the Myanma Alin, the Kyemon newspaper and the Global New Light of Myanmar newspapers. — MNA/KZW



Students keen on the publications during their study tours.

MNHRC pays field visit to training school for girls

THE inspection team, led by Commissioners U Kyaw Soe, Dr Than Myint and Dr Myint Thu Myaing from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, inspected the Training School for Girls in

Mayangon Township, Yangon Region on 24 October 2023.

The inspection team inspected the Training School for Girls (Malikha), under the MNHRC Law and procedures whether the girls in the

Training School can get fundamental rights including the status of Covid-19 vaccination and healthcare services, food supply, adequate dormitories, availability of Citizenship Scrutiny Card, provision of purified

drinking water, support programme for physical and mental development, as well as the right to education, vocational training, communication with their families, reintegration with their families, and free-

dom of religion.

MNHRC will send recommendations to the relevant development on the findings during the inspection visits. — MNHRC

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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NATIONAL

24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) kicks off

THE 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) took place at designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The township-level, district-level, regional and state-level competitions have been held. Altogether 2,306 contestants will participate in the central-level competition and will be evaluated by 172 experts. The competition will be from 24 to 31 October.

“Maha Gita” singing competitions for basic education level female (aged 15 to 20), amateur level (first class) male and higher education level female were held in Banquet Hall of Myanmar International Convection Centre-II yesterday.

“Kar la paw tay (modern song)” singing competitions for amateur-level (first class) male and basic education level female (aged 10 to 15) were held in the Signing Room of the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II.

Amateur level (first class)



At the piano competition.



At the singing competition.



At the dancing competition.

female’s dance competition and higher education level male’s dance competition were held in the Plenary Hall of MICC II.

Composing competitions for amateur level (first class), amateur level (second class), higher education level and basic education level (aged 15 to 20) were held in Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Piano competitions for basic education level female (aged 10 to

15), basic education level female (aged 15 to 20), and amateur level (first class) male and female were held in the News Briefing Room of MICC II.

Harp competitions for higher education level male and female, amateur level (first class) male and female and basic education level male aged (15 to 20) were held at the Mini Theatre of the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).

Moreover, short-drum competitions for amateur-level (second class) male, higher education-level male, amateur-level (first class) male, and basic education-level male (aged 15 to 20) were held in Wunzin Min Yarzar Hall of the National Library (Nay Pyi Taw).

Myanmar orchestra group competitions for higher education level male and female and basic education level (aged 10 to 15) male and female were held at the training theatre of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

“Yote Sone” theatrical group competition of amateur level (first class) was held in Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The Mahawthahta play competition for the amateur level (first class) was held at the training theatre of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

State Administration Council Members, Union-level officials, Deputy Minsters, Ministers for Ethnic Affairs and Ministers for Social Affairs of regions and states, Advocates-General, relevant officials, departmaletal staff and parents of contestants

attended the competitions.

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions started in 1993 to protect national cultural heritages, and Myanmar traditional arts and ensure the prosperity of the country and its people.

Moreover, the State Administration Council restarted the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition in 2022 as the competitions support the unity among the ethnic people, empower five kinds of strength of young people and prevent the disappearance of national cultural heritage. — MNA/KTZH



At the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Peforming Arts Competition.



At the composing contest.



At the Myanmar traditional orchestra group competition.

NATIONAL

Weekly updated prices of Bayintnaung
Commodity Market

BETWEEN 19 to 24 October, the price of mung bean in the Yangon market briefly exceeded K2,800,000 per tonne before returning to that level.

The price of garlic is high, while wholesale sugar has dropped to K3,730-3,750 per viss. The reference price of palm oil has increased and was published twice on consecutive days.

Onion

Only 138,000 visses of onions arrived at the market on 24 October, and the depot opening prices of Seikphyu and Monywa onions in wholesale ranged from K1,700 to K3,250 per viss. The highest price of onions in regional markets was K2,700 per viss. A total of 65,400 visses entered the Myingyan market on 24 October at the highest price of K2,000-2,700 per viss.

Garlic

On 24 October in the Yangon market, a viss of Shan garlic was priced at K8,000 for S2, K9,000 for S3, K9,300 for S4, and K9,600 for S5, while Kyukok garlic was valued at K7,400-7,500.

Potato

The Yangon potato market only published the price of Chinese potatoes on 18 October, with the wholesale price of Chinese potatoes at K1,700-1,800 per viss.

Chilli Pepper

On 24 October, in the Yangon chilli pepper market, Eainme and Panye long chilli peppers were priced at approximately K6,000-K8,000 per viss, while new Pyawbwe Moehtaung chilli peppers were priced at K10,500 per viss. Sinphyukyun and delta region bell peppers



FDA officials check the kitchen groceries retail outlet.

were valued at K14,000-K16,000 per viss.

Rice

On 24 October, the price per bag of old monsoon non-premium rice was K60,200 in Bayintnaung, K60,100 in Watan, old non-premium rice grown under multiple cropping was K66,000, the 90-day rice variety was K72,000, and the Pawkywe rice variety was K88,000. Pawsan rice varieties ranged from K98,000 to K125,000 per bag, depending on the rice-producing regions.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil from 23 to 30 October is K4,395

per viss, increasing by K120 per viss compared to the previous week. A tonne of palm oil on the foreign market down to US\$807.5

Beans and pulses

On 23 October, the price of black gram was K2,805,000 per tonne for RC and K3,095,000 per tonne for SQ/RC. Meanwhile, a tonne of pigeon peas was valued at K4,075,000. Additionally, the price of green gram (Kayan Shwewah variety) and Pakokku variety fetched K3,630 and K3,080-K3,250 per viss, respectively, while that of half of chickpeas was K5,850-K6,100 per viss. — TWA/KZW

List of townships
for tax clearance
certificate issuance
revealed

INTERNAL Revenue Department has announced the townships in Yangon and Mandalay regions where PJ and PS passport holders can obtain tax clearance certificates.

Passports for jobs (PJ) and passports for seamen (PS) can be renewed only with the tax clearance certificate from the respective township revenue offices.

The township revenue offices where the tax clearance certificate can be obtained are Yankin, Dagon Myothit (South), Insein and Dawbon townships in Yangon Region, and Maha Aungmyay and Chanyathazi townships in Mandalay Region.

In other regions, states or the union territory, tax clearance certificates can be obtained from the revenue offices in the townships where the passport issuing offices are located.

To obtain a tax clearance certificate, photocopies of the passport proof, the citizenship scrutiny card, the household list, the proof of salary income (such as a portage bill for a seafarer) and the proof of OWIC number (or) CDC/SIRP number are required. — TWA/KZW



The signage of the Internal Revenue Department Yangon Region.

Extended YBS bus services for
Thadingyut Festival in Yangon

U Lian Cin Mang, Joint Secretary of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC), announced during a meeting with the media on 23 October that certain YBS lines would operate with extended hours for the Thadingyut festival.

Following the instructions of the Yangon Region government, seven YBS buses will offer public transport between downtown and uptown townships to facilitate travel for visitors to the Thadingyut festival at People's Park.

YBS lines providing this shuttle service include YBS 21, YBS 61, YBS 37, YBS 116, YBS 62, YBS 7, and YBS 4. — TWA/KZW

Yangon Region palm oil reference price increased
by K330 this week

This is the first time that palm oil reference prices are published twice a week.

THE palm oil reference price was released again this week, and the price has increased by K330 compared to the previous day, according to the Ministry of Commerce statement on 24 October.

The Edible Oil Import, Storage and Distribution Supervision Committee further announced that the wholesale reference price of palm oil in Yangon was set at K4,725 per

viss from 24 to 30 October.

The Yangon's price of palm oil was announced as the wholesale reference price of K4,395 per viss on 23 October, and a day later, it was announced that the reference price was K330 per viss higher than the previous day. This is the first time palm oil reference prices have been published twice in one week, palm oil sellers said. The Edible Oil Import,

Storage and Distribution Supervision Committee is working to regulate palm oil prices as per the global price changes. The committee monitors the current FOB prices daily as Palm oil is mainly produced and exported in Malaysia. It is also releasing basic wholesale reference prices to be traded in the domestic market after calculating transport costs, bank charges and taxes. — TWA/KZL

Oil production cost declines as peanut price drops

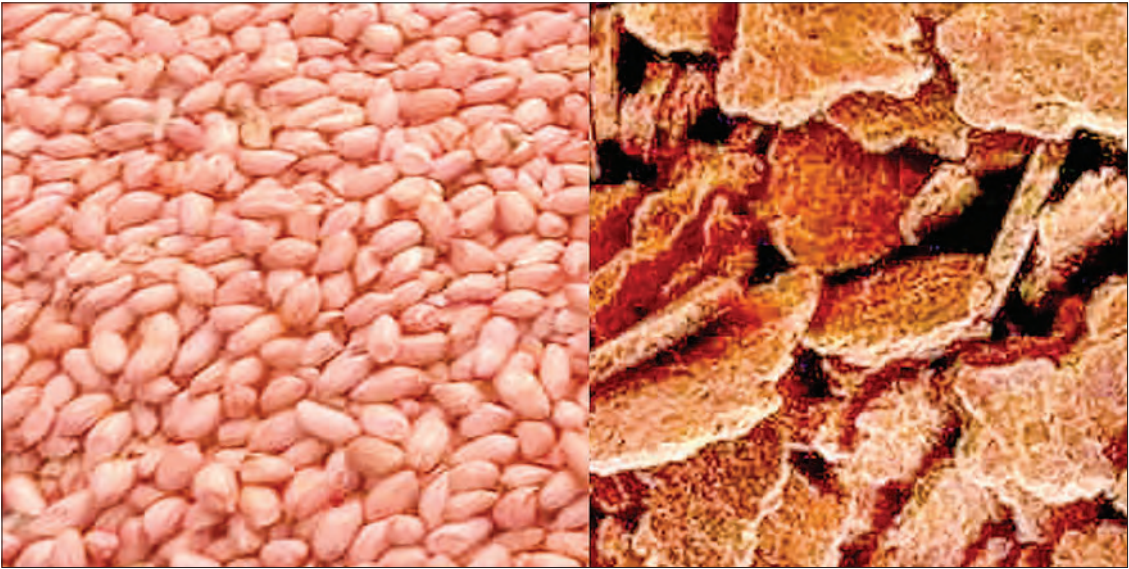
PEANUT price drop cut the cost of peanut oil production, oil millers said.

China's weak demand for pulses drove the price down to K5,500 from K7,500 per viss in October. The price of peanut meal also decreased to K2,500 from K3,300 per viss. Consequently, the cost of peanut oil production significantly declined, an oil miller told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Depending on peanut quality, about 38 to 42 tical of peanut oil are produced when a viss of peanut is milled. After extraction of the oil, about 50 ticals of peanut meal were obtained.

The oil production cost is estimated at K10,000-11,500 per viss. Capital cost is around K14,000-15,000 per viss.

The peanut oil prices vary depending on the quality of pea-



The photo shows peanut and Myanmar's peanut snacks in the market.

nut and oil production volume. On 18 October, the peanut oil wholesale prices moved in the range between K12,500 and K16,000 per viss depending on regions. Meanwhile, the palm oil

prices are K4,500-5,500 per viss. The peanut oil, sesame oil, sunflower oil, soybean oil, niger seed oil, mustard oil and olive oil are unsaturated fats, whereas palm oil, coconut oil, pork oil

and grease are saturated fats. Unsaturated fat is healthier than saturated fat. There is no self-sufficiency in the production of peanut oil, sesame oil and sunflower

oil. Therefore, palm oil is still imported.

There are over 230 large oil mills, over 920 medium-sized oil mills and over 3,000 small oil mills in early 2021. The prices stood at US\$1,627.277 per tonne of peanuts and \$2,104.166 per tonne of white sesame in October 2023. The palm oil price was \$815 per tonne on 20 October. As palm oil adulteration with peanut oil flavour is found in the market, some oil millers suffer.

A drop in peanut prices resulted in a decline in peanut oil prices. This being so, the demand for peanut oil and sesame oil has risen. When the price of raw materials for oil is on the decline, millers should ramp up production. This way, it might cover domestic cooking oil demand to a certain extent. — TWA/KK

Avocado market sees high potential upon foreign demand, high prices



Avocado is primarily grown in northern and southern Shan State and PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region. The picture shows Myanmar's avocados at the market.

PROPOSALS from foreign countries and high prices in the opening season raised market potential this year, according to the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association.

The floor price of avocado is K3,500 per kilogramme, which rose from K2,500 per kilo registered last year, showing an increase of K1,000 per kilo.

The price is likely to move up depending on the quality.

Harvest season for Hass avocado commenced. Avocado

yield might increase as well, the association stated.

Hass avocado will enter the market at the end of October. Thailand proposed to buy Myanmar's avocado. The stakeholders in the avocado supply chain will make efforts to have a strong market and penetrate more international markets.

Beyond the beverage industry, the creation of an avocado-based products market needs to be supported. An awareness campaign for avo-

cados is required to pick if the avocado is ripe or not.

Efforts are being undertaken to achieve government-to-government (G-to-G) pacts for legitimate trade with China and Thailand.

Avocado is primarily grown in northern and southern Shan State and PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region. It is a perennial crop and it can be harvested after three years of cultivation. The harvest season commences in October. — NN/EM

Myanmar imports over 16,400 tonnes of cement worth US\$1.44 mln in Sept

MYANMAR brought in over 16,400 tonnes of cement worth US\$1.44 million in September, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar imported over 400 tonnes of cement worth \$0.075 million by sea and over 16,000 tonnes of cement worth \$1.365 million via the border.

Last August, Myanmar also imported over 3,000 tonnes of cement worth \$0.302 million from foreign trade partners by sea and about 20,000 tonnes of cement worth \$1.585 million via the border, totalling over 23,000 tonnes of cement worth

\$1.887 million. Myanmar mostly imports cement from Malaysia, China and Thailand through maritime trade and border posts.

Myanmar's seaborne trade saw imports of over 250 tonnes of cement from Malaysia, over 150 tonnes from China and over 16,000 tonnes from Thailand brought into the country in September via the border. As open season is drawing near, the construction businesses are expected to thrive. Therefore, the cement import is tremendously rising. — NN/EM



Imported cement sacks are stacked at the warehouse.

OPINION

Ensure a polio-free future for children

THE World Health Organization's declaration that polio has been eradicated worldwide is undoubtedly a cause for celebration. However, the risk of resurgence remains, especially in remote and inaccessible regions where children are deprived of polio treatment and vaccinations. Poliomyelitis poses a real threat to children, and it can reemerge in communities that face vaccination challenges.

While it is rare, the polio virus can attack crucial parts of the central nervous system, including those responsible for breathing, potentially leading to death. Even children under five, who have received polio vaccinations, can still be susceptible to poliomyelitis. Though there is no cure for the disease, widespread vaccination and immunization campaigns are essential to prevent outbreaks.

Reports from the WHO show significant progress in reducing polio outbreaks since 1988, with cases decreasing by over 99 per cent. In 1988, more than 350,000 people worldwide suffered from poliomyelitis, whereas in 2021, only six cases were reported. Nevertheless, the disease still persists in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Regrettably, some countries previously declared polio-free have experienced new infectious forms of the disease. For instance, although African countries were declared polio-free in August 2020, cases emerged in Malawi and Mozambique in 2022. The United States of America and Malaysia have also reported cases in recent years.

The WHO celebrated Myanmar's polio-free status on 27 March 2014. However, due to lapses in immunization, polio has reappeared in children from remote areas. In June 2019, derived Polio-virus Type 1 was detected in a child residing in Papun Township of Kayin State. Subsequently, the Department of Public Health initiated extensive immunization efforts in 12 townships to curb the infection's spread.

It's crucial to emphasize that every child is susceptible to the polio virus, making prompt vaccination a necessity. Failure to do so may result in an alarming prediction by the WHO – if we don't completely eliminate polio, as many as 200,000 people worldwide could face infection annually within a decade.

The World Polio Day, observed on 24 October each year, serves as a reminder of the importance of maintaining vigilance. Polio is caused by a highly contagious virus, and oral polio immunization is key to ensuring that Myanmar's children remain free from infection.

The global battle against polio has made remarkable progress, but the threat of its resurgence, especially in underserved regions, demands continuous efforts to ensure that every child receives timely vaccination. Let World Polio Day be a call to action, motivating us to protect our children and secure a polio-free future for all.

■

I NEVER really thought about dementia until my mom got it. It was strange because I didn't even realize she had Alzheimer's until one day she asked me when we first met. I didn't understand the full extent of her memory loss, partly because I didn't want to believe it, and partly because she was clever at hiding her brain problems. She found ways to work around her memory issues, even though her brain was getting worse due to Alzheimer's. She had done something similar before when she had a stroke four years ago. Back then, she lost the ability to read, but she worked hard and learned to read again.

I wondered why she could adapt so well after the stroke but struggled with dementia. This got me thinking about my own brain health and what I could do to protect it. For nearly 30 years, scientists have known about a mysterious ability called "cognitive reserve." Some people can keep their brains working normally even when there are problems like plaques from Alzheimer's. But it's been hard to figure out how this works in the brain.

Now, we're finally starting to understand how cognitive reserve works. This new knowledge might lead to better treatments for dementia and help us keep our minds sharp as we get older. Surprisingly, it turns out that just learning a new language or doing crossword puzzles might not be enough.

The idea of cognitive reserve first came about 30 years ago when a neuropsychologist named Yaakov Stern and his team at Columbia University in New York discovered that people with more education or challenging jobs were less likely to get Alzheimer's. They thought that all the mental effort over the years created a "reserve" that delayed the signs of Alzheimer's.

At first, people didn't take this idea seriously. Stern said that his colleagues even made fun of it because it seemed unbelievable that something like education could fight against the problems caused by Alzheimer's.

Stern called this ability "cognitive reserve" to make it different from another idea called "brain reserve" created a few years earlier by Robert Katzman at the University of California, San Diego. Katzman looked at the brains of elderly people who had passed away and found that some of them had a lot of plaques linked to Alzheimer's, but they still had good thinking abilities. He thought this happened because they had bigger, heavier brains with more neurons. This extra "brain reserve" helped protect their brains from the damage caused by plaques.

Brain reserve relates to the size of the brain, which means how many neurons and connections there are for information to move around. It's like the computer's hardware – the stuff you can touch and see. But we used to think that the brain's hardware had a set limit, and it couldn't change. However, now we know that the brain can create new neurons, even when we're adults. Also, many things can influence how well the brain's hardware works. This brings us to the third part of the puzzle, brain maintenance, which means the things we do in our lives and the environment

that help keep our brains in good shape.

So, there are three things that work together to help some people keep their thinking skills as they get older: cognitive reserve, brain reserve, and brain maintenance. They're all connected and work together. Dorina Cadar from the UK says these three things are very related.

We've seen through many studies that these things really do protect our thinking skills. For example, a study in 2020 followed over 12,000 people who were 50 or older. It found that things like education, the kind of job you have, and the choices you make in life, like how you spend your free time and who you're with, all add up to create a higher level of cognitive reserve. This helps lower the risk of dementia.

Cognitive reserve is hard to see in the brain or measure directly, but researchers like Stern have found ways to identify the

By Min Zan

Building A Stronger Brain

brain networks linked to it. We often measure it using things like cognitive tests. We've learned a lot about what can make it stronger. Some things, like our genes, are mostly out of our control. But other things, like being social and staying engaged with people when you're older, can really help. Socializing challenges your mind because you need to remember names, faces, and how to chat with others, and it reduces stress. A lack of social interaction might have contributed to my mom's dementia. She suffered from depression and isolated herself from others for months.

Stress, being overweight, and eating unhealthy food can harm our reserves because they cause ongoing inflammation, which messes up many brain functions. It makes it hard for the brain to use glucose and messes with how our nerves work. Also, it makes the effects of "inflammation" worse, which is the low-level inflammation that happens as we get older.

On the flip side, a good night's sleep can really help our brain stay sharp. A study from this year found that a specific part of our sleep, called non-rapid eye movement (NREM), is super important. This is because it helps us remember things and gets rid of harmful stuff in our brain that messes with how it works.

Something surprising is that staying active is also great for our brain. A study in 2020 looked at almost 130,000 people in the US. It found that people who don't move around

much have nearly double the risk of losing their thinking abilities compared to active people. Exercise is like a superhero for our brain. It keeps our heart and blood flow in good shape, reduces brain inflammation, and boosts a special thing called neurotrophic factor, which helps our memory centre (the hippocampus) get bigger. Exercise also helps us sleep better, which is important for our memory.

Doing activities that make your brain work hard is also a big help. Speaking more than one language is like a super brain workout. Bilingual people can keep their thinking skills longer, even though they may eventually have the same risk of Alzheimer's. But you don't need to rush to learn a new language. What matters is doing activities that challenge your brain, not a specific thing. For example, a study in 2015 looked at people aged 60 to 90 who spent time quilting or doing digital pho-

tography. Their brains worked more efficiently, like younger brains, compared to a group that didn't do these activities.

Other studies show that learning and staying engaged help protect our brain's size and memory centres. In 2023, a Swiss study found that doing music for six months improved memory and made our brains more flexible and bigger.

Our brain's ability to change and reorganize itself is called neuroplasticity. It helps us become more efficient at things. Doing challenging tasks builds new pathways in our brain that can offset the loss of function due to brain problems. We used to think that only young people could do this, but now we know that even as we get older, our brains can still change, just not as quickly.

We should think about cognitive reserve as more than just getting good grades in school or having a successful career, says Sommerlad. It's like the result of keeping your brain active throughout your life, and it's not just about education – although that's what we've studied the most. Other things also matter, like living a healthy life, staying physically active, socializing with others, and doing mentally challenging activities. There isn't one magical thing that boosts cognitive reserve, says Grundy.

But, how does our brain stay strong against dementia? It all comes down to one

PHOTO: NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE



important thing: synapses.

In recent years, scientists have learned that Alzheimer's disease is related to the loss of synapses. These synapses are the connections made by little branches (dendritic spines) that come out from our brain cells to connect with other brain cells. The density of these little branches is crucial for memory and learning. Here's the key insight: some people's brains, even if they have Alzheimer's disease in there, still have good synapses, and they can think clearly. "The more synapses you have, the better you can fight Alzheimer's disease," says Patricio Opazo at the University

of Edinburgh.

It's not just about having more synapses from the start; our brains have a way to protect themselves. Jeremy Herskowitz at the University of Alabama at Birmingham thinks our brains can repair themselves if something bad happens, like Alzheimer's disease building up. "The brain has its own way to fix things and keep working well," he says.

Some interesting new research is showing how this fixing process works. Those little branches can be of two types: thin ones that are good for learning new stuff and mushroom-shaped ones that are better for keeping

long-term memories. People with thinking problems from Alzheimer's disease have fewer of the thin branches, but people who think clearly have more of them, even when they have Alzheimer's in their brains.

What's even more surprising is that the thin branches are longer in people with good thinking skills, which Herskowitz says is a big deal. Longer thin branches seem to help protect against Alzheimer's disease. Plus, this research has found some things that control the number and length of these branches in our brains, which might help as a treatment.

One of these things is neuritin (NRN1), a special protein that brain cells release. NRN1 seems to help our brains fight Alzheimer's disease. They saw this in a study of older Catholic brothers, nuns, and priests who agreed to have their brains studied after they passed away. When Herskowitz and his team looked at the results of these people's tests, they found that those with higher levels of NRN1 in their later years had better thinking skills and more of the thin branches. "It's like a vitamin for brain cells," he says. They also discovered another protein called Twinfilin-2 that influences the length of these branches.

But how do these things help make our cognitive reserve stronger? The idea is that activities that make our brain work, like reading, socializing, and staying mentally active, can raise the levels of special proteins such as NRN1. These proteins help create new connections between brain cells or keep the ones we have in good shape. It's a bit like how exercising makes your muscles stronger. If you keep using your brain, you keep it strong. If you stop, the connections between your brain cells might disappear, even without Alzheimer's disease.

It's still early days, but Herskowitz thinks that one day we might be able to take NRN1 as a supplement to support our brain and protect it from Alzheimer's disease and dementia. This would be a different approach from the current focus, which is mainly on getting rid of plaques and tangles in our brain cells.

Other experts agree with this idea. Instead of just trying to get rid of the problems, we should boost the brain's own defences against these issues, like fixing and rebuilding connections between brain cells, says Opazo.

It's important to know that having a strong cognitive reserve can delay the time when thinking problems start, but when the problems do come, they might get worse faster, says Stern. That's what happened to my mom, who was very smart and stayed active until she had a stroke. She could speak both English and French and loved doing challenging crossword puzzles.

For me, I'll keep adding to my cognitive reserve each day, whether by writing articles, staying mentally active, or playing my Yamaha Keyboard. I hope that our new knowledge about how mental effort builds connections between brain cells will lead to new ways to protect my brain as I get older.

Reference: New Scientist Magazine 21 October 2023

ARTICLE

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NATIONAL

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm News, No 12, 2023
24 October 2023 19:00 MST Today

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “HAMOON” Condition

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “HAMOON” over the Northeast Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal has moved East-Northeastwards and is centred at about (255) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Thandwe, (140) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Sittwe, (105) Nautical miles West of Maungdaw (Myanmar), (175) Nautical miles East-Southeast of Digha (India), (80) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Khepupara and (125) Nautical miles Southwest of Chittagong (Bangladesh).

The present stage of the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “HAMOON” is coded yellow stage. Although it is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, Chin and northern Rakhine States, Myanmar will be affected due to the banding features of the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “HAMOON”.

Position of Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “HAM-

MOON”, centre pressure and wind

Very Severe Cyclonic storm “HAMOON” is located at Latitude (20.7) degree North and Longitude (90.5) degree East, centre pressure of Severe Cyclonic storm “HAMOON” is (985) hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is (75-80) miles per hour at (17:30) hrs MST today.

During next (24) hrs forecast

The Very Severe Cyclonic storm “HAMOON” is likely to move Northeastwards and weaken into a Severe Cyclonic storm “HAMOON” during next (3)hrs. It is likely to cross Bangladesh coast close to the South of Chittagong as a Cyclonic storm “HAMOON” during next (12)hrs. Thereafter, it is likely forecast continuous to move Northeastwards as a Land Depression.

General caution

Due to the Very Severe Cyclonic storm “HAMOON”, rain or thundershowers will be widespread

in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin, (northern and southern)Shan, Chin, Rakhine States, scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Eastern Shan State with regionally and isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States. Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45-50) mph. Wave height will be about (10-13) feet in off and along Rakhine Coast from commencing tonight to (26.10.2023).

Advisory

Under the influence of the Very Severe Cyclonic storm “HAMOON”, people should be aware and avoided of strong wind, heavy rain, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flights, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Rakhine Coasts. — DMH

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

THE combined on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections on 19 and 22 October and nabbed an ownerless Auman tractor head with a trailer (approximately worth K45 million), that was parked near the Myanmar-China border friendship cave (Myanmar side) at the Kanpaiti border trade, carrying 72,000 bottles of Mikailo beer worth K60 million). Two kinds of goods worth K45.4 million, including 85 Relx e-cigarette devices (made in China) piled up by the side of a detour near Panson village, at the Yepu permanent checkpoint, a Chenglong tractor head with a trailer (approximately worth K70 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying 2,250 Camel motorcycle tubes

worth K11.25 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID), at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint and 4,000 cat feedstuffs worth K3.1 million that exceeded the quantity mentioned in the ID from a vehicle at the Myawady Trade Zone. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 21 and 23 October, the on-duty teams seized 2.760 tonnes of illegal teak, 1.852 tonnes of other timbers worth K2,241,864 in Pathein district, 1.762 tonnes of illegal other timbers worth K123,354 in Pyapon district and an unregistered Honda Civic car (estimated value of K4 million) in Pathein township. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law.

The combined teams nabbed 400 boxes of plant tonic (made in China) worth K32 million that were piled up by the side of road near Namkhon village beyond the Asia World Tollgate on 22 October and 32.601 tonnes of illegal other timbers worth K21,417,716 in Monywa township and an unregistered Yinxing motorbike (approximately worth K150,000) in the Industrial Zone Ward of Monywa township on 23 October. The action was taken under Customs procedures, the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law.

A total of 20 arrests were made on 19,21,22 and 23 October, with an estimated value of over K294 million, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

319 deaths resulted in traffic accidents within 9 months

THE Yangon Region chief minister said that 319 people died due to traffic accidents in nine months in the Yangon Region at the coordination meeting of the Yangon Region Traffic Safety Council and four sub-committees held on 17 October.

From January to September of this year, there were 64 accidents involving 657 injuries and 319 deaths in Yangon Region.

“There is a need to issue licenses only to professional drivers who know the rules of the road, constantly check drivers and pedestrians who violate the rules, take action against those who commit traffic accidents, and impose effective penalties according to the law,” said the chief minister.

In addition, he added that the relevant departments and organizations should coordinate properly to prevent accidents, along with the skills of the drivers, the strength of the vehicles, the pre-inspection measures taken by those in charge, the environmental conditions, the road structure, and the complete and correct installation of the guides, road signs, and signals. — TWA/CT



Seized illegal goods in Kawkareik (L) and at the Myawady Trade Zone (R).

Filipino listeners cheered by last surviving radio dramas



This photo taken on 6 July 2023 shows voice actors recording their part for a radio drama at a studio of a radio station in Manila **PHOTO: AFP**

STANDING in front of a microphone, voice actor Phil Cruz pretends to wield an amulet to defeat the Devil for the latest instalment of one of the Philippines’ few surviving radio dramas.

Cruz is part of a small team of voice actors and technicians producing shows that are broadcast in Tagalog by DZRH, one of the oldest radio stations in the country.

Radio dramas were the main source of entertainment for Filipino families after World War II, just like the rest of the

world, but their popularity faded with the rise of television, social media and video livestreaming.

Many longtime listeners, including retirees, farmers, factory workers and taxi drivers, still tune in to catch the latest episode of their favourite horror or drama.

“We’re the only ones left,” Cruz, 64, said during a break in recording at a modern studio incongruously located in a Manila theme park.

Cruz followed his father into voice acting in 1979, back

when DZRH aired 18 drama programmes over nine hours a day in stiff competition with other broadcasters.

Now it produces seven.

Among them is “Night of Horror”, the station’s oldest series that has been terrifying audiences for 66 years with tales of devils, vampires and murderous skeletons.

Love, family and poverty are among the themes tackled in other long-running dramas, such as “You’re My Only Life” and “This Is Our Life”. — AFP

Sony says ‘Spider-Man 2’ videogame sales set record

“MARVEL’S Spider-Man 2” videogame was snapped up so fast that it set a record for PlayStation Studios, Sony Interactive Entertainment (SIE) said Monday.

The title, developed in collaboration with Insomniac Games, became the fastest selling PlayStation Studios game in the 24 hours after its release on Friday, with more than 2.5 million copies bought, according to SIE. “I want to say thank you to the fans,” SIE global marketing vice-president Eric Lempel said in a release. “With an epic storyline, two playable superheroes, a visually-stunning Marvel’s New York, and so much more, this is a game you can get lost in for hours.”

“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.

Sony spent heavily developing “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2”, its graphics pushing the PlayStation 5’s technical capacities to the max to battle Kraven the Hunter and other villains. “Spider-Man” can be played in the “skin” of the original Peter Parker or in the guise of the Hispanic-African-American teenager Miles Morales created in 2011. — AFP



(FILES) The Spider-Man PS4 game, scheduled for release in 2018, is previewed during the Sony PlayStation E3 2017 Media Showcase at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California on 12 June 2017. 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**

Intl conference in China’s Wudang Mountains promotes Tai Chi

THE World Conference on Wudang Tai Chi opened on Monday at the foot of Wudang Mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in central China’s Hubei Province.

Over 2,000 participants from 33 countries and regions gathered in the Wudang Mountain Tourist and Economic Special Zone, Shiyan City for the conference, which aims to promote Chinese traditional culture and exchanges between civilizations.

The conference runs through Wednesday and major events include an international Tai Chi competition, a forum on Tai Chi culture, a youth arts festival, a cultural heritage exploration, and health consultations by traditional Chinese medicine experts.

An opening ceremony, featuring traditional Taoist music, international video connections, and a mass Tai Chi



Krtinov Sergei from Russia competes during the 7th Wudang Taichi International Fellowship Competition in Shiyan, central China’s Hubei Province, on 23 October 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

demonstration, was held at the Yuxu Palace, one of the largest monasteries among the Wudang architectural complex. This showcased the historical significance and profound influence of Wudang Tai Chi culture to on-site and online audiences.

For centuries, the Wudang

Mountains have been known as an important centre of Taoism, especially famous for its Taoist versions of martial arts or Tai Chi. The ancient palaces and temples here represent the highest standards of Chinese art and architecture over a period of nearly 1,000 years. — Xinhua

Norway launches Sami Language Week to promote indigenous culture

NORWAY launched Sami Language Week on Monday, aiming to bring the Sami languages into the public spotlight, increase public knowledge of these indigenous languages and enhance their status.

“I encourage everyone to take part in this important language effort and join in the marking of Sami Language Week,” Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Erling Sande said in a

press release.

Various events centred on the Sami languages will take place across Norway this week, including an open-air photo exhibition held in Oslo by Sande’s ministry. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD



Tourists wait in line for a visit of the Clock Tower of the Old Fortress on the Greek Island of Corfu, during a heatwave, on 28 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Record tourist numbers in Greece despite heatwave, fires

THE number of tourists visiting Greece has hit a record high since the start of the year, despite a heatwave and fierce wildfires over the summer, according to official statistics released Monday.

From January to the end of August, 22.65 million people visited the Mediterranean country renowned for its Aegean islands and ancient sites such as the Acropolis in the capital Athens.

It was an 18.4 per cent in-

crease over last year, the country's central bank, the Bank of Greece, said.

The visitor numbers for the first eight months of the year also exceeded the record set in 2019, which saw 21.84 million visitors.

Arrival numbers then plunged in 2020 and 2021 after travel restrictions imposed to combat the Covid-10 pandemic.

Officials had feared that several forest fires that broke out starting in July, when

Greece was hit by a prolonged heatwave with temperatures reaching 46 degrees Celsius (115 degrees Fahrenheit) in the south of the country, would again deter tourists.

The fires led to the evacuation of tens of thousands of people, including many tourists, from two top Greek island resorts, Rhodes and Corfu, in the face of the advancing flames.

The country was again hit by fires the following month. — AFP

Eurozone business activity going from 'bad to worse'



A person walks past the Euro currency sign in front of the former European Central Bank (ECB) building on 14 September 2023 ahead of the meeting of the governing council of the ECB in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

EUROZONE business activity slumped at a faster pace in Oc-

tober, resulting in job losses, a closely watched Purchasing

Managers' Index (PMI) survey put out by S&P Global showed Tuesday.

The PMI score for October slumped to 46.5, lower than the revised 47.2 given for September. A figure under 50 indicates a contraction of business activity, while one over 50 suggests growth. "In the eurozone, things are moving from bad to worse," said Cyrus de la Rubia, chief economist at the Hamburg Commercial Bank which partners with S&P for the PMI.

"We wouldn't be caught off guard to see a mild recession in the eurozone in the second half of this year," he said. — AFP

IMF projects Japan's GDP to fall to world's 4th in 2023 after Germany

JAPAN'S nominal gross domestic product in 2023 is expected to slip from third to fourth in the world on a US dollar basis, to be overtaken by Germany, on the back of the yen's depreciation, recent International Monetary Fund projections showed.

As the nominal GDP figure is impacted by inflation, Japan's expected fall from the No 3 spot, which it has held for more than a decade, is also believed to reflect higher price increases in Germany than in Japan.

The IMF's projections for the period through 2028 say that India, which has surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation with more than 1.4 billion people, is likely to have a larger GDP than Japan in 2026.

While Japan is expected to

be the world's fifth-largest economy between 2026 and 2028, India's GDP is projected to rank fourth in 2026 and third in 2027.

In 1968, Japan eclipsed West Germany in terms of gross national product, also known as GNP, which was the main indicator at the time, and became the world's second-largest economy after the United States.

Japan held the position until it was overtaken by China in 2010, falling to third place.

Regardless of foreign exchange rates, which have a significant influence on GDP, Japan has seen a long period of low growth. Germany's population is about two-thirds of Japan's, but the growth gap between the two countries has been narrowing in recent years. — Kyodo



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) headquarters are seen in Washington, DC on 10 January 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Paper giant Stora Enso reports 'historically low' results

STORA Enso reported Tuesday losses for the second consecutive quarter, burdened by weakened demand for its wood and paper products as the construction and retail sectors suffer a slowdown.

The Finland-based company said it lost 34 million euros in the third quarter, down from the 367-million-euro net profit during the July to September period last year.

This follows 257 million euros in losses in the second quar-

ter of 2023. "Our financial performance and result have quickly decreased to a historically low level," CEO Hans Sohlstrom said in a statement.

After experiencing sales growth in 2021 and 2022, Stora Enso saw sales tumble by 28 per cent in the third quarter compared to the same period last year, to 2.1 billion euros.

"The global pulp demand is still weak, and the supply is high," Sohlstrom explained. — AFP

Japan to extend gasoline, energy subsidies through April

THE Japanese government is planning to extend subsidies aimed at curbing gasoline and other fuel prices as well as utility bills from the end of this year to the end of April, a source familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

The government will

consider phasing out gasoline subsidies if economic conditions allow, and it plans to reduce support for electricity and gas bills from May while keeping an eye on global fuel price trends, according to the source.

The plans have been

included in the draft of a new economic stimulus package that the Cabinet is expected to approve on 2 November, the source said.

The government introduced the current subsidy programme for fuel prices in January 2022

and the programme for electricity and gas bills a year later.

The two programmes were originally scheduled to end in September, but as prices started to increase again, the government extended them until the end of the year. — Kyodo



File photo taken in August 2023 shows a person pumping gas into a vehicle at a gas station in Moriguchi, Osaka Prefecture **PHOTO: KYODO**

Novartis raises outlook after Sandoz spinoff

SWISS pharmaceutical giant Novartis raised its annual profit guidance Tuesday after posting strong third-quarter growth in sales and earnings following the spinoff of its generic unit Sandoz.

Its third-quarter performance beat expect-

tations, with sales rising 12 per cent excluding Sandoz from the comparison to \$11.8 billion and net profit jumped 18 per cent to nearly \$3.6 billion.

“We have successfully executed the spinoff of Sandoz, allowing us to fully focus on high-value innovative

medicines,” chief executive Vas Narasimhan said in a statement.

Novartis spun off Sandoz, one of the world’s leading makers of generic and biosimilar medicines, and listed it on the Swiss exchange at the beginning of October. — AFP

Norway says sovereign fund loses \$34 bln in third quarter

NORWAY’S sovereign wealth fund saw a negative return of 2.2 per cent in the third quarter, the country’s central bank said Tuesday, losing the equivalent of nearly \$34 billion.

The Norway Government Pension Fund Global lost 374 billion kroner during

the three-month period, with its value falling to the equivalent of \$1.34 trillion at the end of September.

“The stock market saw a weaker quarter compared to the two previous quarters,” the fund’s deputy chief, Trond Grande, said in a state-

ment. “It was particularly the tech, industrials and consumer discretionary sectors which contributed negatively to the return,” he added.

An appreciation of the Norwegian krone also crimped the fund’s value. — AFP

Mitsubishi Motors to invest 200 mln euros in Renault EV venture

MITSUBISHI Motors Corp said Tuesday it will invest up to 200 million euros (\$212 million) in Renault SA’s electric vehicle venture in an effort to speed up the development of zero-emission vehicles.

The move comes as Nissan Motor Co decided in July to invest 600 million euros in the venture,

Ampere, as part of its partnership review with the French company.

Mitsubishi’s decision means the three alliance partners will join hands in launching the new EV venture. Previously, Mitsubishi was not clear on its interest in the firm, although it kept saying it was considering investing in it. — Kyodo



A cyclist passes signage for Japanese automaker Mitsubishi Motors in Tokyo on 2 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (055N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (055N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-10-2023** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2318S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2318S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-10-2023** 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

Notice for Change of Trade Name

We, Anhui Zhongshan Chemical Industry Co.,Ltd. would like to change the Trade Name of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from Gengwei 550 SC to ပြောင်းဘီလူး, If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from here to next (2) weeks.

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1	Gengwei 550 SC	ပြောင်းဘီလူး	Atrazine 50% + Mesotrione 5% SC	Provisional	P2022-4685

Address: **SEINN LAE THWIN CO.,LTD.** No.(525), First Floor, Corner of Merchant Street & 38th Street, Ward No.(6), Kyauktada T/S, Yangon. Tel 09-455188188

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

IAEA conducts 1st safety review on Fukushima water since discharge

THE International Atomic Energy Agency on Tuesday began its first safety review on Japan's discharge of treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea since it began in August.

The IAEA task force involves experts from 11 countries, including China and Russia, which have severely criticized the discharge and imposed bans on Japanese seafood imports.

The Japanese government said the same day that the bans are not based on scientific evidence and are "extremely regrettable", calling for an immediate lift of the restrictions.

The task force includes experts from Argentina, Australia, Britain, Canada, France, the Marshall Islands, South Korea, the United States and Viet Nam.

They exchanged opinions with officials from Japan's industry ministry, the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc, and the Nuclear



Gustavo Caruso (L), head of an International Atomic Energy Agency task force, speaks at a meeting with Japanese government officials at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo on 24 October 2023 as the IAEA starts its safety review on the discharge of treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea. PHOTO: KYODO

Regulation Authority in Tokyo on the first day of the review, which will last through Friday.

Gustavo Caruso, the IAEA director who heads the task force, told the meeting that their "independent, impartial and science-based safety review based

on international standards" will examine whether the discharge has been carried out safely in accordance with the plan.

The task force is scheduled to inspect discharge facilities at the disaster-hit plant on Wednesday, in addition to assessing the

environment monitoring and a plan for the upcoming discharge rounds, which will last around 30 years or more.

The IAEA will publish a report on the first safety review by the end of the year, its officials said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno, Japan's top government spokesman, said at a press conference that Tokyo will continue to inform the international community of how the water discharge is proceeding.

Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura told reporters that the government will continue financially supporting the country's fishermen, who have expressed concerns that the water release erodes the reputation of seafood from Fukushima and nearby areas.

On Monday, TEPCO finished the second round of water discharge, which started on 5 October. — Kyodo

Thai ex-PM Thaksin has second surgery in weeks: officials

JAILED former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has undergone orthopaedic surgery, prison officials said — his second operation in the space of a few weeks.

The 74-year-old billionaire, ousted as PM in a 2006 coup, returned to Thailand from 15 years of self-exile in August and was immediately jailed on old graft and abuse-of-power charges.

Thaksin was transferred to a police hospital just hours after being jailed, because of his poor health, and last month his daughter said he had had an operation, without giving details.

The Department of Corrections said in a statement late Monday that earlier in the day Thaksin had undergone five hours of orthopaedic surgery.

He was recovering in an intensive care unit, the statement added, without giving further details. — AFP

Trump expected to come face-to-face with former confidant at NY trial

DONALD Trump is expected to attend his New York civil fraud trial on Tuesday to face off with his former lawyer and confidant Michael Cohen.

Cohen, who has become one of the former president's most vocal critics, had planned to testify at the trial last week but had to delay his appearance for health reasons.

Trump is not required to attend the proceedings, but he has showed up sporadically and used his appearances to portray himself as the victim of a Democratic Party plot to interfere with his 2024 presidential campaign.

Trump and his two eldest sons are accused of vastly inflating the value of the Trump Organization's real estate assets to receive more favourable bank loans and insurance terms.

The former president does not risk going to jail in the fraud

trial, but New York Attorney-General Letitia James, a Democrat, is seeking \$250 million in penalties and the removal of him and his sons from management of the family empire.

Cohen, who served as Trump's personal lawyer and fixer for years, earning him the nickname "The Pitbull," has been taunting the former president on X, formerly Twitter, ahead of his testimony. "It appears that I will be reunited with my old client @realDonaldTrump when I testify," he said. "See you there!"

"I will continue to speak truth to power... no matter Donald's continued smear and harassment campaign against me," he added. It was Cohen's testimony before Congress in 2019 that sparked the investigation by the New York authorities into whether Trump artificially inflated his net worth. — AFP

Chinese medical team to Tunisia holds free clinic at local university



A Chinese doctor performs acupuncture treatment for a Tunisian student in Tunis, Tunisia on 27 October 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE 26th batch of Chinese medical team to Tunisia on Thursday put on a free clinic here at the University of Carthage.

Acupuncturists from the medical team offered the clinic service, which was warmly

welcomed by teachers and students. Many of them said that it was their first time trying acupuncture and they felt amazing.

Fati Hosny, vice-director of university's higher institute

of language of Tunis, said that many Tunisians have received Chinese medical treatments during the event, including acupuncture and moxibustion, which greatly relieved their aches and pains. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Team Myanmar leaves
for Thailand to join World
Golf Championships

THE Myanmar Golf Team left Yangon on the morning of 24 October to compete in the 14th Singha Thailand Junior World Golf Championships 2023 in Thailand from 26 to 29 October. The team was seen off by officials from the Myanmar Golf Federation and their family members at the Yangon International Airport.

Nine junior golfers along with team leader U Kyaw Ko Ko Chit and coach U Min Sitt Thway were included in the team. The Myanmar Golf Federation sends players to international tournaments to gain experience, according to the federation. — Ko Nyi Lay/ KZL



The Myanmar junior golfers are seen at the Yangon International Airport before departing for Thailand for the 14th Singha Thailand Junior World Golf Championships 2023. PHOTO: MGF

Son, Maddison star as Spurs go
top of Premier League



Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker (7) Son Heung-min (R) shoots to score the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London on 23 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

TOTTENHAM surged to the top of the Premier League as Son Heung-min and James Maddison sealed a 2-0 win against Fulham on Monday. Ange Postecoglou's side extended their unbeaten start to nine league games thanks to Son's opener and Maddison's first goal at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium since his close-season move from Leicester. Tottenham leapfrogged Manchester City, Arsenal and Liverpool to go two points clear at the top of the table. Fulham are the only team to beat Tottenham this season, knocking them out of the League Cup on penalties in August.

But they avenged that loss by recording a third successive league victory to strengthen their unexpected title challenge. Saluting Son and Maddison, Postecoglou said: "They are both quality players. They are both leaders at the club. "They work hard for the team and it is a credit to them." The north Londoners' superb start to Postecoglou's debut season have awoken dreams of the club's first top-flight title since Bill Nicholson's 1961 double winners. While that ambitious target may yet prove beyond Tottenham, who haven't won a major trophy since 2008, the Australian

has undoubtedly had a huge impact on a club that was in turmoil when he arrived from Celtic. A toxic combination of Tottenham's poor results and dour displays under Antonio Conte last term, combined with Harry Kane's close-season move to Bayern Munich, left many expecting another year of turmoil. Yet Postecoglou has astutely guided Tottenham to calmer waters, winning over doubters with his down-to-earth personality and attacking game-plan. "It was a good result against a tough opponent. We maintained our patience and our pressing was really strong," Postecoglou said. — AFP

Dortmund adjusting to life
after Bellingham as crunch
Newcastle match looms

BORUSSIA Dortmund travel to their crucial Champions League clash at Newcastle on Wednesday still adjusting to life after Jude Bellingham. Bellingham, who joined Dortmund aged 17 in 2020 from boyhood club Birmingham City, moved to Real Madrid this summer for a fee in excess of 100 million euros (\$108 million). The England midfielder's form in the Spanish capital, where he has scored 10 goals in 11 matches including several late winners, has shown the world just what Dortmund lost in the summer.

For their part, Dortmund have had a puzzling start to the season. The eight-time German champions are unbeaten in the league but have failed to impress, often grinding out wins against less-fancied opponents. In the Champions League, the 1997 winners are not only winless but goalless, having gone down 2-0 at Paris Saint-Germain and played out a 0-0 draw with AC Milan. The Germans currently sit bottom of Group F and cannot afford another defeat at St James' Park. At a club which has recently seen superstar youngsters Erling Haaland, Jadon Sancho, Achraf Hakimi and Ousmane Dembele



Dortmund's English midfielder Jude Bellingham reacts after the German first division Bundesliga football match between Borussia Dortmund and 1 FSV Mainz in Dortmund, western Germany on 27 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP

move elsewhere, it may end up being Bellingham that Dortmund miss the most. He was a vital player last season as Dortmund came within a whisker of winning the Bundesliga title for the first time since 2012, falling agonizingly short with Bellingham injured and unable to feature in the last two matches. — AFP



An Israeli Merkava tank takes part in a military drill near the border with Lebanon in the upper Galilee region of northern Israel on 24 October 2023 amid increasing cross-border fire between Hezbollah and Israel. PHOTO: AFP

Survivors of 1983 Beirut attack horrified by Mideast violence

ON 23 October 1983, attacks on French and US military in Lebanon’s capital Beirut left hundreds dead — 40 years on, survivors are horrified at today’s upsurge in violence.

“What’s going on now in the Middle East just stirs up all those memories,” said Eric Mohamed, a former French soldier.

He was just 20 when the Drakkar, the hotel housing French troops, was

razed to the ground. Fifty-eight died, and Mohamed was among 15 survivors.

Moments earlier, he and his colleagues had heard a massive explosion elsewhere in the city and gone to the balcony to look — it was an attack on a US base that killed 241.

“We barely had enough time to turn around and ‘boom’, it was our building that was blown up,” Mohamed recalled at a memorial ceremony in Paris on

Monday.

In Beirut, the US and French ambassadors laid a wreath at the US embassy’s memorial for those who were killed.

“Today, we reject, and the Lebanese people reject, the threats of some to drag Lebanon into a new war,” US ambassador Dorothy Shea said in comments posted on the embassy’s website. — AFP

Pakistan to collaborate with ASEAN on confidence-building, conflict prevention

PAKISTANI caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani has highlighted the importance of a peaceful and stable Asia Pacific, and emphasized that Pakistan is ready to collaborate with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states in achieving the goals of confidence-building and conflict prevention.

The foreign minister made the remarks on Monday during the inauguration of ASEAN Corner at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), an Islamabad-based think tank.

Jilani reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to its special relations with ASEAN member states, and stressed the need for common solutions to shared challenges, including climate change and terrorism.

He emphasized the need to avoid bloc politics and geopolitical constructs that did not align with unique geographical, historical, and cultural realities of regions spanning Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Speaking on the occasion, Sohail Mahmood, director-general of ISSI, noted that Pakistan has been keen on strengthening hard and soft connectivity between the two sides, besides increasing trade and investment ties.

In this context, exploring the potential of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is of crucial importance, he added. — Xinhua



Ajay Banga, President of World Bank Group, takes part in a press conference during the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG), in Marrakech on 12 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Israel-Hamas war risks ‘serious’ economic damage: World Bank president

of the World Bank told an investor conference in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

“What just happened recently in Israel and Gaza — at the end of the day you put all this together, I think the impact on economic development is even more serious,” Ajay Banga said, adding: “I think we’re at a very dangerous juncture.”

Hamas militants stormed into Israel from the Gaza Strip on 7 October

and killed at least 1,400 people, mostly civilians who were shot or burnt to death on the first day of the raid, according to Israeli officials.

The militants also took 222 people hostage, among them elderly people and young children, according to the Israeli authorities’ latest count.

The hostages include dozens of dual nationals and foreigners. — AFP

Kremlin says no success in freeing Russian hostages from Hamas

THE Kremlin said Tuesday it had not succeeded in freeing Russian hostages being held by Hamas and did not know how many of its citizens had been taken.

Russia has working relations with Israel as well as Hamas, and when the Palestinian militant group took more than 200 hostages during its attack on Israel this month, Moscow launched a diplomatic effort to try to free them. “Indeed, we have not succeeded so far, but we will continue,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, when asked about Moscow’s efforts to secure the release of Russian citizens. — AFP

THE war between Israel and Hamas could deal a “serious” blow to global economic development, the president