

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SAC reshuffles Union cabinet under Order No 61/2023

SAC refreshed its cabinet with newcomers and reshuffled ministries of existing Union ministers.

THE State Administration Council issued 10 orders dated 3 August 2023 under Section 419 of the Constitution, Order No 61/2023 which was signed by SAC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and nine remaining orders by SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, aiming to further expedite the implementation of the Five-Point Roadmap and 12 Objectives of the State adopted by the SAC.

With regard to Order No 61/2023, the Union cabinet is led by Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and Vice-Senior General Soe Win serves as Deputy Prime Minister as usual.

Order No 61 mentioned the re-constitution of the cabinet of the SAC with 29 Union Ministers, four of whom were concurrently appointed as Deputy Prime Ministers assigned to **SEE PAGE-3**



The photo shows some offshore fishing trawlers equipped with a vessel monitoring system (VMS) in Myeik, Taninthayi Region.

Fisheries Depart's VMS enhances safety, curtails illegal fishing

THE Department of Fisheries has mandated that offshore fishing vessels and fish carrier boats must be equipped with a vessel monitoring system (VMS). Failure to comply with this requirement or follow installation instructions will result in the confiscation of both vessels and business licences. **SEE PAGE-6**

MRF to offer reserved rice at below K60,000 per bag

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) will initially start to sell off the reserved rice (Emahta variety) at less than K60,000 per bag. The federation held a coordination meeting on 2 August at the Mingala Hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to sell the reserved rice at fairer price.



Reserved rice bags are well organized at the warehouse in Yangon.

The meeting highlighted the subsidy scheme that is set to sell-off the reserved rice to the low-income workers engaged in the industrial park and the related departments and to the blue-collar workers through the municipal shops and rice wholesale centres. **SEE PAGE-7**

TOURISM PAGE-5

Yearning for Travel: Locals Embark on Domestic Adventures During the Wet Season



LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-7

Above 1,300 Myanmar food businesses apply for GACC certification in 18 months

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 62/2023

2nd Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME
3 August 2023

**Appointment of Union Chief
Justice**

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Thar Htay as Union Chief Justice under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 63/2023

2nd Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME
3 August 2023

**Appointment of Chairman of Union
Constitutional Tribunal**

The State Administration Council has appointed U Aung Zaw Thein as Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 64/2023

2nd Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME
3 August 2023

**Appointment of Union
Auditor-General**

The State Administration Council has appointed Dr Khin Naing Oo as Union Auditor-General under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 65/2023

2nd Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME
3 August 2023

**Appointment of Chairman of Union
Civil Service Board**

Under Section 419 of the Constitution, the State Administration Council has appointed U Aung Thaw as the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 66/2023

2nd Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME
3 August 2023

**Appointment of Anti-Corruption
Commission Chairman**

Under Section 419 of the Constitution, the State Administration Council has appointed U Sit Aye as Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 67/2023

2nd Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME
3 August 2023

**Appointment of Nay Pyi Taw
Council Chairman**

Under Section 419 of the Constitution, the State Administration Council has appointed U Than Tun Oo as Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 68/2023

2nd Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME
3 August 2023

**Appointment of Myanmar National
Human Rights Commission Chairman**

Under Section 419 of the Constitution, the State Administration Council has appointed U Paw Lwin Sein as Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 69/2023

2nd Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME
3 August 2023

Appointment of Deputy Ministers

Under Section 419 of the Constitution, the State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Deputy Ministers of the State Administration Council Office and Union Ministries:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| (1) U Khin Latt | State Administration Council Office |
| (2) U Bo Bo Kyaw | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation |
| (3) U Phyo Zaw Soe | Ministry of Hotels and Tourism |

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 70/2023

2nd Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME
3 August 2023

**Appointment of Deputy Minister
and Deputy Attorney-General**

Under Section 419 of the Constitution, the State Administration Council has appointed Dr Htein Lin Oo as Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs and Deputy Attorney-General.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Prioritizing the National Cause: State service personnel's commitment to Constitutional disciplines

STATE service personnel have to work in line with the disciplines mentioned in the Constitution. They have to be loyal to themselves and their workmates as well as the State. As they are government service personnel, they have to prioritize the national cause rather than politics.

(The excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Rakhine State government and departmental officials at the state government office on 31 March 2023)

Steering committee to succeed in ASEAN cultural meeting



Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan is pictured leading the discussions for the successful holding of the 24th ASEAN Cultural Subcommittee Meeting in Myanmar.

THE steering committee recently convened at the National Library's Orientation Hall in Nay Pyi Taw to ensure a successful hosting of the upcoming 24th ASEAN Cultural Subcommittee Meeting. Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan led discussions on implementing cultural and artistic projects, exchanging views on new heritage initiatives, and allocating

the ASEAN Cultural Fund for the 2024 event.

During the meeting, Myanmar showcased its commitment to hosting the gathering, placing significant emphasis on invaluable cultural and fine art projects within the ASEAN region. Officials and committee members enthusiastically engaged in discussions, aiming for a fruitful outcome in organ-

izing the 24th ASEAN Cultural Subcommittee Meeting.

A high-ranking official from Myanmar's ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and the director-general of the Historical Research and National Library Department presented detailed plans for the successful execution of the meeting to the relevant subcommittees' attendees. — MNA/TS

SAC reshuffles Union cabinet under ...

FROM PAGE-1

Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe.

In reshuffling the Union Ministers with ministries, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae was assigned to Union Minister for Home Affairs, Lt-Gen Soe Htut for Union Minister at the Union Government

Office-1 and U Ko Ko Hlaing for Union Minister at the Union Government Office-2.

Moreover, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Thida Oo, U Maung Maung Ohn, U Min Naung, U Hla Moe, U Khin Maung Yi, Dr Charlie Than, U Myint Kyaing, U Aung Naing Oo, Dr Nyunt Pe, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Dr Thet Khaing Win, U Min Thein Zan, U Myo Thant and Jeng Phang Naw Taung are not reshuffled from their ministries.

The new cabinet was formed with newcomers U Tin Oo Lwin assigned as Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, U Nyan Tun as Union Minister for Electric Power, U Ko Ko Lwin as Union Minister for Energy, U Myint Naung as Union Minister for Labour, and Dr Soe Win as Union Minister for Social, Welfare, Relief and Resettlement while Dr Thet Thet Khine was moved to position of Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism. — GNLM

PGMF microfinance operations shut down for failure to transform into commercial entity

PACT Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF), an international nongovernmental organization (INGO) has failed to transform into a company in time and so their microfinance business activities will be suspended and the liquidation processes will be proceeded, according to the statement released by Microfinance Business Supervisory Committee of the Ministry of Planning and Finance on Thursday.

The proposal to do such action was submitted to the committee on 11-7-2023 and the committee will carry out that case as per the provisions of Microfinance Business Law.

The committee granted microfinance business licences to the local and foreign companies, partnership firms, INGOs and NGOs that register under the Myanmar Companies Law, Registration of Associations Law under Section 13 of 2011 Microfinance Business Law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 13/2011) by reviewing them.

The US Delaware-based INGO called Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) made

registration as an INGO at the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2012 and applied for a work licence to provide microfinance services at Microfinance Business Supervisory Committee. The committee granted a permit with business licence No 0022/2012 on 22-6-2012.

Under Registration of Associations Law 2014 and 2022, the organizations that register as INGOs and NGOs and seek business licences are not allowed to operate financial businesses. Therefore, the committee instructed the INGOs and NGOs to transform into cooperating entities in 2018, the statement said.

A total of 180 microfinance organizations provide microfinance services to over 4.496 million members in 267 townships, 2,308 wards and 27,773 villages of 15 regions/states with microfinance business licences in Myanmar until May 2023.

Currently, 179 microfinance organizations that receive licences from the committee offer microfinance services across the nation. — Htun Htun/KTZH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Farmers in Rakhine State to have benefit from fertilizer sales



The basic price of the bags of fertilizer to be sold by Myanmar Agriculture is K30,000 per bag, and the transport costs will vary by township. The photo shows fertilizer bags in Rakhine State.

MORE than 5,000 tonnes of domestically produced fertilizer will be sold to the rice farmers in the storm-affected areas of Rakhine state at a lower rate, said U Tun Myint, Director of Rakhine State Department of Agriculture.

Farmers planting seed production plots and model plots in Sittway, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun, Pauktaw, MraukU, Kyauktaw, Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships will get the fertilizer at the affordable price.

“Fertilizers will be sold at a low price for the storm-affected farmers in Rakhine State. The type of fertilizer that will be sold is urea fertilizer produced by Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, and more than five thousand tonnes will be sold. We are cooperating with the state government to ensure that the fertilizer bags reach the farmers in time,” U Tun Myint highlighted.

Currently, rice farmers in Rakhine state are buying fertilizer at a price of up to

K150,000 per bag.

The basic price of the bags of fertilizer to be sold by Myanmar Agriculture is K30,000 per bag, and the transport costs will vary by township.

In addition to this, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has purchased and distributed more than 7,000 baskets of rice to the rice farmers in the storm-hit Rakhine State under the guidance of the National Disaster Management Committee. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar-Thai border trade registers US\$145.342 mln in July

MYANMAR'S border trade with neighbouring country, Thailand, registered US\$145.342 million in July alone in 2023-2024FY, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 to 31 July, the country earned \$46.361 million from the export through the Myawady border trade camp while the import reached \$98.981 million.

The Myanmar-Thai bilateral trade is conducted via the Myawady border using more than 500 trucks daily. Myanmar mainly exports corn, cassava, onion, marine products and agricultural produce and others while medicine and medi-

cal supplies, farming devices, machines and foodstuffs are imported to the country.

The imports consist of animal feed, medicine, bicycle, garments, stationary, car spare parts, construction materials, motorbike parts, medicines, packaging materials, electronic devices, foodstuffs, shoes, fruits, fertilizers, commodities, industrial materials, painting, lubricants, types of machinery, fishing devices and other goods.

The country mainly organizes border trade with Thailand through seven land borders – Myawady, Tachilek, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei. — ASH/KTZH



Lorries laden with export cargoes are seen at the Myawady border.

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, smuggled materials and confiscated

A combined on-duty team under the management of the Customs Department at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint confiscated a Mitsubishi Fuso van and a Hyundai van (approximately K55 million), headed to Myawady from Yangon, carrying 200 bags of white sesame and 300 bags

of peanut worth K54 million without official documents on the Moppalin-Sutpanu-Ingabo detour and a Higer bus (approximate value of K30 million), headed to Yangon from Hpa-an, carrying 7,560 bags of Wai Wai instant rice vermicelli worth K2.31 million on 1 August. The action was taken

under Customs procedures.

A combined team conducted inspections at the Kawka-reik (Tadakyoe) checkpoint on the same day and nabbed a Nissan Diesel vehicle (estimated value of K35 million), headed to Hpa-an from Myawady, carrying 250 bags of Xuemei Monosodium Glutamate with-

out official documents. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team led by respective District Forest Departments impounded a total of 14.494 tonnes of illegal teak and 3.103 tonnes of hardwood worth K5,238,272 in the Bago and Nyaunglebin districts on 2

August. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A total of eight arrests were made on 1 and 2 August, with an estimated value of K199,048,272, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,

Hotline - 09 454237515

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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TOURISM

DOMESTIC travel to beach towns, hilly regions and the Bagan ancient cultural zone is normal in the rainy season, according to travel agencies.

The number of local travellers to these regions has been increasing since October 2022 and Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine and Mon states hosted the highest number of visitors in April 2023, according to Myanmar Hoteliers Association.

Moreover, the outbound visits of Myanmar people became the highest after April 2022, especially the visits to Thailand and Singapore were higher than the previous years as well as to Bodh Gaya in Nepal and India also higher than in 2018 and 2019.

Overseas visits of Myanmar citizens

The Myanmar people visited neighbouring countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Nepal and India in 2022, according to Myanmar Tourism Federation.



Worshippers are pictured in the background of Shwezigon Pagoda.

Yearning for Travel: Locals Embark on Domestic Adventures During the Wet Season



Visitors are seen at the entrance to Pindaya caves.

“Starting April 2022, the number of overseas visits of Myanmar citizens increased. The visit to Bodh Gaya in Nepal and India in addition to Thailand and Singapore was high. At that time, it was the year of tourism in Dubai of UAE and the number of visitors was also high. According to the data, about 500,000 people make overseas trips from April 2022 to April

2023,” said U Soe Aung from the Myanmar Tourism Federation (Yangon Region).

Similarly, the overseas visits of Myanmar citizens were high during one year. The people go abroad temporarily for the purpose of medical treatment and education. Other people mainly go to Thailand, Singapore and India for medical treatment and further education.

Additionally, inbound travels are also on the rise and the people visited hilly regions in early 2023.

Changes in film city

The filmmaking rate in PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region which was known as Myanmar’s film city previously becomes fallen recently and movie production is mainly made in Taunggyi, Kalaw and Pindaya of Southern Shan State. Therefore, the tourist arrivals to these hilly regions are higher than in previous years.

“PyinOoLwin is described as a film city in the past. Most of the films are made there. Later, almost all the movie drama and series are made in Taunggyi, Kalaw and Pindaya. So, the visits of the artistes and their fans become higher. In the past, the movie-making procedures were

suspended in the rainy season but now, the people do not stop and are making the whole year round. So, the arrivals of travellers to these places are on the rise,” said U Sai Khun Naung, a member of the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Shan State).

Beach towns that host travellers all year round

The beach towns are one of the famous destinations for the local travellers and the arrivals to Ngwesaung and Chaungtha beaches in Ayeyawady Region and Ngapali beach in Rakhine State were normal starting early 2022.

“Since 2022, the beach areas have been crowded with people. The bookings were full at the beach hotels during the new year period, especially in the international new year month of January and Myanmar new

year month of April. It is also full during the long public holidays. The strange thing about this year is that there are travellers during the rainy season. Normally, there are no visitors to the beaches in monsoon. There are travellers to Gawringyi island in Ayeyawady Region even in the rainy season,” said U Aung Moe Kyaw, a member of the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Ayeyawady Region).

Currently, the number of visitors to beach towns of Rakhine State declines but the arrivals to Ngwesaung and Chaungtha beaches in Ayeyawady Region are normal. There are over 11,000 travellers to these beaches on weekdays and over 2,000 on weekends per day.

Bagan ancient cultural zone, the main destination of domestic visitors

Domestic travellers mainly visit the Bagan ancient cultural zone in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region. The place is crowded with visitors until the rainy season in 2022.

“The traveller arrivals to Bagan have not declined since early 2022. So, it eases our hardships of the COVID-19 outbreak to a certain extent. We also offer the same services to the local travellers as we do to the tourists at local service rate and so the number of travellers does not fall,” said U Zaw Weik, a hotelier from Hotel Zone (Bagan).

There are about 3,000 visitors to Bagan daily in the rainy season. The visitors also visit the vicinity areas of Bagan like Mount Popa.

Between January and June 2023, the Sagaing destination, Mingun, Mandalay and heritage sites of Bagan ancient cultural zone in Mandalay Region, sites in Yangon, beach towns of Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State, Pindaya, Aungban, Kalaw and Taunggyi of Shan State hosted more than 500,000 domestic travellers and about 30,000 tourists.

Translated /KTZH

Two new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 August, total figure registers 641,076

MYANMAR’S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 641,076 after two new cases were reported on 3 August 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 11,041,317 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 641,076. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 619,870 including five new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 3-8-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade estimated at US\$4.45 mln in past four months

MYANMAR conducted cross-border trade worth US\$4.45 million with neighbouring Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtaw posts in the past four months (April-July) of the current financial year 2023-2024, according to the Rakhine State Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Export (\$3.57 million) sur-

passed imports (\$0.88 million) in the Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade.

Trade via Maungtaw is valued at \$2.52 million, while the value of trade via Sittway was estimated at \$1.93 million in the past four months.

The trade value in Myanmar-Bangladesh this FY was

down by 60 per cent compared to \$11.51 million recorded in the corresponding period in the 2022-2023 FY.

The freshwater fish demand has dropped from April 2023, driving the export value to plunge. Yet, the fresh ginger demand rose, residents said. — TWA/EM



The photo shows export items being loaded onto the vessel at the Maungtaw border's Kanyinchaung Port.



The photo shows the matrons who are assigned as civil service gazetted officers.

Matrons to receive gazetted officer assignments at central, regional, and state-level hospitals

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Health, 137 matrons will be appointed to central, regional, and state-level general hospitals, with the benefit of enjoying the pay scale of a gazetted officer. These matrons will be assigned management duties and responsibilities and are required to complete a three-day nursing management course.

Additionally, they will be expected to conduct lectures on nursing ethics, staff rules, and the compassionate treatment of patients, in addition to their main duties and responsibilities.

— TWA/MKKS

Rising foreign currency prices drive soaring costs of foreign medicines

CONSUMERS have reported that foreign medicine prices are increasing due to the rise in the price of foreign currency, particularly the US dollar. When the value of the US currency increases, it leads to higher prices for all imports, including fuel oil, edible oil, and other consumer goods. In the last week of July, the prices of foreign medicines doubled.

The impact is not limited to just fuel oil and consumer goods, which need to be imported from abroad, but also affects the domestic gold price, which has reached a record high due to the global surge in gold prices, as per reports from the pharmaceutical market.

The situation poses challenges for medicine retailers who have to buy medicines and medical equipment from abroad in dollars. They are compelled to sell the products based on currency fluctuations, leading to difficulties in reselling due to the drastic price changes. Ko Min Min, a medicine retailer, shared that some medicines are no longer available in the market, and if they have to buy them again, the buying price is significantly higher than their selling price, making it inconvenient to buy and sell medicines. Within the domestic medicine market, prices for medicines related to heart disease, cancer, and

diabetes have risen by 15 to 20 per cent. This price surge has created difficulties for patients who need these medicines, as the costs have significantly increased. For instance, Daw Thiri Swe, a resident of Thingangyun township, stated that the cost of medicines has risen from K100,000 per month to about K200,000 per month.

The Ministry of Commerce reported that between 1 and 30 June, about 1,900 tonnes of medicines worth US\$34.741 million were imported through maritime trade. Between 15 and 21 July, about 300 tonnes of medicines worth US\$7.245 million were imported through maritime trade. — TWA/MKKS



The photo of some people purchasing medications at a Yangon pharmacy.



Myanmar workers are seen legally going to work in Japan in June 2023.

Japan to recruit more than 800 Myanmar workers

THE Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo released a statement on 31 July, saying that Japanese companies have offered 283 demand letters for 884 Myanmar workers.

The embassy verified the demand letters to determine whether recruiting factories or companies are officially established in Japan and sent the findings and verification results to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar workers who want to work legally in Japan can inquire at the employment and labour offices in relevant districts, townships, regions, and states and have to follow the specified procedures. — TWA/CT

Fisheries Depart's VMS enhances safety, curtails illegal ...

FROM PAGE-1

To protect fishing vessels and fish carriers from natural disasters, curb illegal fishing and trading, and preserve fish resources, monitoring is conducted by the Myanmar Navy

and Maritime Police Force from control points in Myeik, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Rakhine, and Nay Pyi Taw.

As per the Department of Fisheries, Myanmar has more than 3,000 fishing trawlers and

fish carrier boats equipped with the VMS system.

Strict actions will be taken against fishing vessels and carriers found fishing in prohibited areas. However, access to islands at sea is permitted

for specific activities such as visiting clinics for crew health, obtaining freshwater, and other supporting tasks.

Violations of the rules will result in a two-month business suspension and a fine of

K20,000 for the first offence. Subsequent violations incur double the initial penalty, and repeated violations may lead to the complete revocation of the license. — TWA/CT

LOCAL BUSINESS

MRF to offer reserved rice at below K60,000 per bag



Officials from the UMFCFI and Myanmar Rice Federation met on 2 August 2023 in Yangon.

FROM PAGE-1

The federation declared to sell the Emahta rice variety (well milled, 25 per cent broken, polished and sorted) at the rate lower than K60,000 per bag in the initial stage.

The rice reserved under the cooperation of exporting companies and other schemes will be sold off in the market as soon as possible to control the rocketing price, according to the MRF's

notification on 28 July.

Approximately 50,000 50-kilogramme rice bags (25 per cent broken single polished and sorted) will be initially put for sale. More rice volume will be added in the scheme when necessary.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Commerce, MRF has been making efforts and participating in the development of the rice market, systematic registra-

tion for rice storage, fair market and price stability by leading the role of the private sector.

Myanmar has achieved self-sufficiency in rice and only the rice surplus is exported systematically. At present, rice crops are being harvested in western Bago Region and central Myanmar Region. With the electricity supply improving, rice mills could run operations fully. Therefore, the production

meets the consumption for sure. Nevertheless, those unscrupulous are spreading malicious rumours and fake news to trigger consumers' concerns and spark panic buying. The federation hereby requested the consumers to stop panic buying and buy the rice when one needs.

The rice prices are moving onwards and the price of high-grade Pawsan rice from the Shwebo area surged to K130,000 per bag, according to Myanmar Rice Wholesale Centre (Wahdan).

Similarly, the prices of other rice varieties were also rising. The prices of old Pawsan rice touched K100,000 per bag of special Kyarpyan, a high of K96,000-97,000 per bag depending on producing areas (Myaungmya, Patheingyi, Pyaw and other regions), while rice prices stood at K86,000 per bag of Kunni, K65,000 for Ngasein, K86,000 for Pawkywe, K66,000 for rice grown under intercropping system and K96,000 for new Pawsan rice variety, as per the price data released by Myanmar Rice Wholesale Centre (Wahdan).

Myanmar Rice Federation will endeavour to stabilize the rice price and steer the market for the right price and the right product. The MRF will join hands with the rice millers, rice traders and companies. The federation called on them to balance the short-term and long-term benefits in trading, as per the MRF's notification dated 24 April.

Individuals and family entities can contact the rice wholesale centres for fair price and right product. For any difficulties, please contact the office of the MRF, as per the statement.

Myanmar Rice Federation notified on 24 April that tips-off about those manipulators who spread malicious rumours on digital platforms in order to spark concerns of the consumers and raise the rice prices can be done for the sake of long-term benefit of the rice industry. The federation will forward the reports of those manipulators to the relevant authorities if they refuse to be persuaded. Those stakeholders in the supply chain need to exert concerted efforts in this as well. — NN/EM

Above 1,300 Myanmar food businesses apply for GACC certification in 18 months

A total of 1,326 Myanmar food processing companies and factories submitted over 2,400 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) over the past one and a half years, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to GACC Decree 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022.

Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding

milk-based formula, functional foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and livestock animal businesses need to apply for the GACC licence to place their goods in China's market.

The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration.

Between 1 December 2021 and 28 July 2023, 2,405 applications by 1,326 factories have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (2,262 applications), the Fisheries Department (120), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (14) and the



Workers are seen working in the fishery processing line at the cold storage in Kawthoung.

Food and Drug Administration Department (nine).

Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn>

by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed on those aforementioned 18 groups.

As of 28 July 2023, a total of 949 applications have been

successful in registering with the GACC with the approval of the competent authority.

Regarding the registration of the importing companies, the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine under the GACC will check quarantine access for the imported grains (raw coffee beans, cocoa beans, vegetables, spices, edible grains, pulses, oil crops and herbal animal products and plant for their origins).

The companies cannot directly proceed with registration and they need to carry out this step through competent authorities and departments concerned by sending an email via dapq@customs.gov.cn or submitting a letter to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar or Myanmar Embassy to China. — NN/EM

OPINION

Avoid prioritizing selfishness in the workplaces

WORKPLACES are composed of diverse workforces, each possessing varying capacities to carry out their duties efficiently. This interdependence between workforces and workplaces forms the backbone of daily manufacturing processes. In this context, employers evaluate their employees' capabilities to handle workloads and determine their salaries, exercising their authority in managing the workplace.

Unfortunately, some employees have misconceptions about their roles. Some are driven solely by the desire to obtain higher

salaries without putting in the corresponding effort to justify such rewards. They prioritize their own selfish interests, neglecting the concerns of their employers. Another group of employees deliberately defies workplace instructions, displaying insubordination. Yet, another segment fails to invest sufficient effort in improving workplace processes, leading to persistent disappointment.

In truth, every employee accepts a job role after understanding the workplace's rules and contractual agreements. They agree to their designated salaries upon joining, along with the commitment to abide by workplace rules. As such, engaging in actions contrary to the interests of the workplace and its owners is inappropriate.

On the other hand, employees must assess their employees' capabilities and duly recognize them for their skills and contributions. This recognition should take the form of incentives, fair compensation, and acknowledgement of their efforts. Such positive reinforcement fosters employee happiness and motivates them to excel in their roles.

Indeed, employees must demonstrate their work capabilities in their respective domains to achieve success. Seeking salary increments should be a result of exceptional performance rather than a mere wish. Employers will naturally reward outstanding achievements with increased salaries and bonuses. Thus, it becomes essential for employees to eliminate selfishness from their mindset and focus on enhancing work processes and finding efficient ways to complete tasks in the workplace. Positive actions will yield positive reactions, enabling deserving employees to receive entitlements without demanding their rights.

Promoting a culture of mutual respect and collaboration between employees and employers is vital. Employers should acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of their workforce, fostering a sense of loyalty and dedication among employees. In return, employees should be committed to maximizing their potential and contributing to the growth and success of the workplace.

Workplaces thrive when employees and employers work together in harmony. Employees must abandon selfish pursuits and concentrate on excelling in their roles, while employers must recognize and incentivize outstanding performance. By emphasizing cooperation and mutual respect, workplaces can become centres of productivity and job satisfaction.

Time to Eliminate Bad Online Shopping Practices

By U AC

POST February 2021 e-commerce scene was dominated by pygmy shops of all kinds, most of them selling shading goods or selling snake oils at exorbitant prices. The giants of the recent past, such as shop.com or rgo47 have been forced to hibernate through no fault of their own, but because of the felonious actions of NNCP terrorists, ever trolling online, to slander businesses and government officials. Yet the most ignominious persons of this insurrection are the terrorist who committed treachery against their own country and fellow countrymen.

Without the leaders to set the standards, the online marketplace is now mostly acting like a headless chicken, with most sellers on Facebook making dubious claims about their dodgy products. A thorough examination of the online shops revealed that most of the shops are committing multiple of the following unethical practices in order to exploit and defraud potential customers.

No stating of price

Most of the Facebook ads will not show the prices, asking people to head to the chat box. This could only be one thing; there is no price transparency. Besides wasting consumers' time having to write a comment 'price please', the objective was for the seller to rip the uninformed buyer off, through overpricing. Without competent market knowledge, the buyer is at a disadvantage if he is to negotiate 121 through Chat Box with the seller.

Remedy: Try to avoid shops or sellers that do not display the price of goods and ask you to come to the Chat Box. Display a bit of personal social responsibility by encouraging the seller to display the price (through the comment). Please note that asking the potential buyers to go to the seller's website or telegram page, to promote its own platforms, is perfectly ethical and legal.

Not clarifying genuine or a replica

Especially in relation to



Before you purchase a branded product, specifically ask if the item being put on offer is genuine or a replica. If you do not get a response, do not risk your money. ILLUSTRATION FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

branded sportswear and gear, such as shoes, golf clubs, etc., Myanmar consumers are sold mainly replicas. With limited disposable income, all citizens of developing countries have to choose between affordability and a daily meal. Yet a lot of sellers sell these replica products without stating this critical fact, at a price close to a used genuine item. This is purely cheating, hence the bromide for all buyers: Buyers Beware!

Remedy: Before you purchase a branded product, specifically ask

if the item being put on offer is genuine or a replica. If you do not get a response, do not risk your money.

Faking up circumstances for sale

Replicating the strategies from the NNCP terrorist group seeking donations through crocodile tears, online sellers are also stating the sob stories, such as closing down businesses, having to leave Myanmar, loss of jobs, etc. Who would not want to hear a good story? How can the per-

ennial contender of the world's top three most generous nations and its mainly Buddhist citizens can ignore the chance to do some Dharma for the better of one's next life, by helping those in despair?

Remedy: Ignore the emotional appeals and hardship tales. See-through all these unverifiable statements and focus on the pricing only.

Creating fake sales

This happens in live sales. Human beings have the tendency to follow the crowd and subliminal

etching on the mind that if everyone is doing, then it must be true or good. Fraudsters take advantage of that by asking associates or relatives to bid or buy during a live sales event, intending to drag along unsuspecting buyers to buy overpriced goods.

Remedy: Avoid buying at live sales. They will be products left in inventory. Do not believe the words, limited stocks, pre-orders and ignore the crowd.

False claims/unsuitable items

From products claiming to enhance your manhood to those that claim to be able a cure for all, Facebook online shops are filled with items with unverifiable and dubious acclaims. Some of the products being sold are also totally unsuitable for the environment in question e.g., cherry plants being sold as if they would survive monsoon and extra hot weather down south.

Remedy: Avoid buying medicinal and health-related products online. There would not be any recourse should something go awry. If you are buying living things, such as plants, seeds or animals, do yourself a favour and research via Google or ChatGPT, to figure out the suitability in your environment.

Overpricing

This has been the most common issue since the advent of online shopping; attracting customers with double-digit discounts, via raising the pre-offer price. Even if this huge discounting approach is not used, the pricing may significantly vary among online shops, especially for novelty or popular products. One shop may be sell-

ing the same product at twice the price. Remedy: Do your homework and search the correct pricing via Google or Ai, before you commit to a purchase.

What is the government doing?

Recently there was an announcement from MoC, designating online shops/sales under the category of special goods, requiring a separate registration of online shops operating within the country. This comes after years of working out on e-commerce guidelines, regulations, etc., and after thousands of consumer complaints relating to online shops to the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry.

The registration cost is likely to be between 50,000 - 100,000 Kyats. Those shops that do not register may face legal action and registered shops also fall under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Consumer Affairs Department. These steps are a move in the right direction to reduce the above fraudulent activities. The gap still exists for those selling personal properties or second-hand goods through one-off posts.

"Zine" culture hits Japan as small-scale publishing trend takes off

Zines are typically produced in limited batches, with writers and creative artists catering to a small-scale audience.

SMALL-CIRCULATION, self-published works known as "zines" are quietly gaining traction in Japan, as a growing number of writers and artists are moving away from showcasing their creations on social media and are instead gravitating towards making more community-driven content.

Specialty shops that stock troves of literature, comics, and art in zine format have been holding specialist events for fans in recent years, with the movement growing particularly among the social media generation due to its ability to bring together small community subcultures with specific interests.

Typically produced in limited batches by writers and creative

artists with a small-scale audience in mind, the format spans many genres — including art, poetry, photography, writing and other forms of expression to share common ideas and subjects.

Crafting Artistic Zines with a Unique Printing Press

On a Saturday in early June, a small group of men and women from the Zine Farm Tokyo shop in Musashino, western Tokyo, were hard at work, producing zines using a printing press capable of generating unique colors.

Ko Nakanishi, 44, owner of the store, began organizing the Kichijoji Zine Festival in 2021. With a wide selection of publications, including novels, poem anthologies and photo collections,

each event draws some 1,500 people, including many from abroad, he said.

The word "zine" originated in the United States during the 1940s after science fiction fans began using the term as shorthand for "fan magazine". Due to Japan's rich self-publishing history and culture, the format has developed significantly since the 1960s.

Zines are distinctive from coterie magazines, which are related to manga, given the versatility of their subject matter and have proliferated at specialty shops and events over the past five years.

Last year, Keisuke Nagura, a 29-year-old company employee residing in Tachikawa, western Tokyo, published a zine chron-

icling his time working as a barista in Melbourne, Australia, for a year.

"I didn't want to end it by just posting on social media, but instead, I wanted to leave people with something they can hold in their hands," he said.

From Tokyo to the World

Having had no previous editorial experience before undertaking the project, Nagura lost many hours of sleep to complete the work. Because he had used expensive printing paper and other materials to make the publication, it was ultimately an unprofitable venture, but he managed to sell about 50 copies.

For Nagura, the costs were less important than the fact that

he had created something he could share that was tangible. "It reaffirmed my love for coffee culture and the joy of having something I can hold in my hands and share with others," he said.

For the past six years, Takako Masuki, a 49-year-old graphic designer living in Akishima, Tokyo, has been making zines by compiling illustrations of Asian cuisine, which she sells at events both at home and abroad.

Masuki says she likes the freedom provided by the format, which allows her to decide on all of the content herself, unlike in regular publishing, where a lot of the creative process is done in line with the initial publication offer: "I love the fact that I can decide everything, from the theme to the

designs," she said.

Akiko Horii, 51, of Misato, Saitama Prefecture, publishes zines about board games from around the world. Though Horii used to post her work on social media, she failed to see the point in displaying her content to a random mass of people on the internet, something she likened to throwing it "into a bottomless well."

Publishing zines, on the other hand, is a completely different experience. "I can see the faces of my readers, and see first-hand that my work has reached them," she said.

Zines with Specialized Research Topics

SOURCE: Kyodo

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 16:30 hrs M.S.T on 3-8-2023)

Flood Condition of Thaungyin River
 According to the (16:00) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thaungyin River at Myawady has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (5) feet during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory
 It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Myawady Township, to take precaution measure.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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SCI/TECH WORLD

AI could halve time reading breast cancer scans, study suggests



Regular screening is vital to identifying early signs of cancer. In Europe, women aged 50 to 69 are advised to get a mammogram every two years, with the resulting scan analysed by two radiologists. **PHOTO: ANNE-CHRISTINE POUJOLAT/AFP**

ARTIFICIAL intelligence could help almost halve the workload of radiologists when it comes to searching routine scans for signs of breast cancer, a large Swedish study suggested on Wednesday.

The interim results of the trial were hailed as promising, but the authors cautioned that more research was needed before AI can be used to screen for breast cancer on a wider scale.

While increasingly convincing chatbots such as ChatGPT have driven speculation about

the future potential applications of AI, one area in which the technology has already shown proficiency is in reading medical scans.

With many countries suffering from a shortage of radiologists, there are hopes that AI could make the time-consuming job of analysing routine scans quicker and more accurate.

This could have a particularly large impact for breast cancer. More than 2.3 million women were diagnosed with the cancer in 2020 alone, accord-

ing to the World Health Organization, and it caused 685,000 deaths.

Regular screening is vital to identifying early signs of cancer. In Europe, women aged 50 to 69 are advised to get a mammogram every two years, with the resulting scan analysed by two radiologists.

The study in Sweden involved the scans of 80,000 women who had mammograms at four sites in southwest Sweden between April 2021 and July last year.—AFP

AFP sues Musk's X over copyright

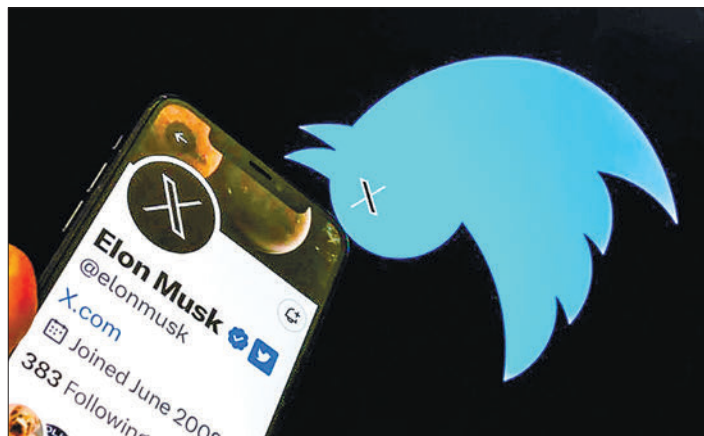
AFP news agency launched a copyright case in France on Wednesday against social media giant Twitter, recently rebranded X, part of a global struggle to get tech firms to pay for news.

Media groups have long argued that their stories and images bring value to platforms like X, Facebook and Google, meaning they should get a slice of the profits.

Their cause was boosted by a 2019 EU law that allowed for payments for sharing content under a regime called "neighbouring rights", and Google and Facebook eventually agreed to pay some French media outlets. But AFP has accused X, owned by billionaire tycoon Elon Musk, of a "clear refusal" to engage in discussions on neighbouring rights.

AFP said in a statement it had lodged a case with a judge in Paris to force the platform to hand over data that would allow the French news agency to estimate a fair level of compensation. "As a leading advocate for the adoption of neighbouring rights for the press, AFP remains unwavering in its commitment to the cause," the statement said.

"The Agency will continue to employ the appropriate legal means with each relevant platform to ensure the fair distribution of the value generated by the sharing of news content." Contacted by AFP, the company was not immediately available for comment. Although media groups in France have won some victories, big tech firms have pushed back hard in other regions.—AFP



AFP news agency launched a copyright case in France on Wednesday against social media giant Twitter, recently rebranded X, part of a global struggle to get tech firms to pay for news. **PHOTO: AFP**

Zimbabwe election disinformation spreads on WhatsApp



Zimbabwe heads to the polls on 23 August to elect the president and legislature. **PHOTO: ZINYANGE AUNTONY / AFP**

FROM doctored photos making small crowds big to posts praising government accomplishments that never were, WhatsApp has become the channel of choice for disinformation in Zimbabwe before this month's

elections.

The landlocked southern African country heads to the polls on 23 August to elect the president and legislature in what analysts expect to be a tense affair amid a crackdown on the

opposition and rigging fears.

Large-scale disinformation campaigns in the run-up to a vote are now a staple across the continent. Zimbabwe is no exception, but the situation there is more opaque.—AFP

First test images from Euclid space telescope unveiled

THE Euclid space telescope, launched 1 July on a mission to shed more light on elusive dark matter and dark energy, has reached its destination orbit and on Monday its European opera-

tors revealed its first test images.

The star-filled snapshots were taken during the space telescope's commissioning — a phase during which its powerful instruments are finely calibrated

— and therefore not representative of its full potential. But the European Space Agency (ESA) says the tests already show it will be capable of fulfilling its massive mission.—AFP

Japan's elderly 'gateball' players unbeaten by the heat

UNDER a scorching sun in Tokyo, octogenarian Katsuko Morita swings her mallet and whacks a ball through a small "gate". The diehard gateballer plays almost every day, even when the mercury soars.

"Some of my friends in my generation tell me I must be crazy to go out playing gateball in this heat," Morita, 81, told AFP at a practice session of the croquet-inspired game.

"When I'm playing the game, the heat doesn't bother me," she said, her face shaded by a wide-brimmed hat.

Near-record temperatures across Japan this summer have sparked frequent heat-stroke alerts and warnings for

people, particularly the elderly, to use air-conditioners and stay cool.

Japan has the second-oldest population in the world after the tiny state of Monaco, and official data show the elderly made up more than 80 per cent of heatstroke deaths in the past five years.

Old people are among the most vulnerable during heatwaves because they are less able to control their body temperature.

While gateball requires little physical exertion, players have to spend time in the punishing sun as two opposing teams carefully hit balls through gates. — AFP



The croquet-inspired game of 'gateball' is a popular popular pastime for the elderly in Japan. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hollywood writers to resume talks over strike



Actors including Sean Penn have joined members of the Writers Guild of America on the picket lines. **PHOTO: AFP**

HOLLYWOOD studios will meet with writers this week to discuss reopening talks for the first time since a strike began nearly 100 days ago.

The Writers Guild of America (WGA) walkout, which kicked off 2 May over pay and the threat of artificial intelligence, has brought US film and television production to a halt. Writers have been joined on the picket lines since last month by the much larger Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA) — including A-list stars such as Sean Penn — ramping up pressure on the likes of Disney and Netflix

to return to negotiations.

Studios "reached out to the WGA today and requested a meeting this Friday to discuss negotiations," the union said in an email to members on Tuesday. "We'll be back in communication with you sometime after the meeting with further information." The first Hollywood "double strike" by writers and actors in six decades has meant movie productions are shut down, glitzy premieres are scrapped, and events such as the Emmys are delayed as stars are banned from promoting TV shows. — AFP

No fish in the seas

AROUND war-torn Syria's biggest freshwater dam reservoir, fishermen say their catch is now a fraction of what it used to be as environmental pressures have decimated aquatic life.

Ismail Hilal, 50, sat on the hull of his rowboat — now lodged firmly on the shores of Lake Assad — as gentle waves washed in, talking about the way of life he has lost.

After 37 years as a fisherman, he has retired his nets, declaring defeat as fish stocks have declined, water levels have dropped and pollution has worsened in the Euphrates and the dam reservoir it feeds.

"I have spent my whole life on the water, since childhood," said Hilal, a father of seven. "But I was forced to stop this year. I couldn't live on fishing anymore."

Syria has endured more than a decade of civil war, and the nearby town of Raqa was the centre of the Islamic State group's brutal "caliphate" until their ouster in 2017. The battered country, where half a million died in the conflict, has also suffered the impacts of climate change, from searing summer heat to prolonged drought.

The flow of the Euphrates — one of the region's mighty streams, where the world's ear-

liest civilisations flourished — has been further impacted by upstream dams in Turkiye.

Other fishermen AFP spoke to also blamed the river's low water levels, lack of rainfall, worsening pollution and overfishing for the sharp decline in fish stocks.

Fishermen now "barely take in five per cent" of their catch from former times, Hilal said. He now works in a restaurant in Tabqa, on the eastern edge of the lake, toiling in front of a flaming hot oven and preparing and grilling fish instead of catching them.

The Euphrates, said to have nourished the biblical Garden of

Eden, runs for almost 2,800 kilometres through Turkiye, Syria and Iraq, where it empties into the sea.

From the Turkish border, it flows southeast across Syria, irrigating its breadbasket region and filling the reservoirs of three hydroelectric dams that provide drinking water and electricity for millions.

Lake Assad is the biggest reservoir, stretching across 600 square kilometres.

But its water level has dropped by four metres since last year, says Dutch peace-building group PAX, which blames a "downward spiral of drought and water shortages". — AFP



A young man shows off his catch in Syria's northeastern city of Raqa; and Ismail Hilal stands on the banks of Lake Assad. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

Japan insurers suspected of price-fixing for corporate contracts

JAPAN'S major property insurers are suspected of having colluded over insurance premiums for corporate customers such as oil refiners, steel companies and public transportation operators, sources close to the matter said Wednesday.

The Financial Services Agency is expected to order Japan's four major insurers, including Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co, to submit records of contracts for which they allegedly arranged premium levels to avoid competition,

according to the sources.

The agency suspects that alleged cartel activities took place when the insurers jointly underwrote coverage for large infrastructure companies such as ENEOS Holdings Inc, East Japan Railway Co and Narita International Airport Corp, the sources said.

The other three insurers are Sompo Japan Insurance Inc, Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co and Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Co. — Kyodo



File photo taken in 2015 shows the building housing the Japan Fair Trade Commission in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

10 years on, China-Europe freight trains deliver booming e-commerce trade

WHEN Juan Carlos in Malaga, Spain, ordered a made-in-China ceiling light using the cross-border e-commerce platform AliExpress, he never imagined he would receive the product the next day.

"I have to admit, that was faster than I expected," said Carlos in surprise.

The ceiling light came from a warehouse belonging to Qxbox Technology Warehousing Ltd in Madrid, which explains the rapid delivery. However, like 100,000 other products at the warehouse, it had already travelled over 5,000 miles from China. The speedy shopping experience of Carlos and millions of other Europeans like him would be impossible without highly efficient logistics.

Departing from their point of origin in south



In 2013, China put forward the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Since then, the China-Europe freight train service was launched, becoming the modern day "steel camel caravans" linking 108 Chinese cities with 208 European cities in 25 countries. **PHOTO: PEOPLE DAILY/FILE**

China's Guangdong Province, these items were first transported overland to a distribution hub in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's

Shaanxi Province. They then headed to Spain via Chang'an China-Europe freight trains.

"Before 2017, it took more than 40 days to

transport goods by ship. But freight train services help us to cut the time in half, and at a lower cost," said Mou Jinwen, chairman of Qxbox. — Xinhua

US private hiring hotter than expected despite July easing

HIRING in the US private sector decelerated in July but was nearly twice as high as analysts expected according to payroll firm ADP on Wednesday, sig-

nalling strength in the jobs market. The US labour market has proven resilient even as the central bank hiked interest rates rapidly since March 2022 to

cool demand — with higher lending costs making it pricier to borrow funds for activities like business expansion. Job gains came in at 324,000 last month ac-

cording to ADP, down from a revised 455,000 figure in June and well above analysts' consensus estimate of 185,000 on Briefing.com. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC YANGON VOY.NO. (328W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC YANGON VOY.NO. (328W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (328W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (328W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (N157)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (N157)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

Nigerian workers suspend strike over cost of living crisis

NIGERIAN workers have suspended a nationwide strike over the rising cost of living following the removal of a petrol subsidy scheme, the government and union leaders said Thursday.

Hundreds of workers across all sectors went on strike on Wednesday in compliance with the directives of the two main unions — the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC).

The presidency said Thursday's strike had been suspended following talks between the two union leaders and President Bola Tinubu late on

Wednesday.

“Consequent upon the fruitful and frank discussion with President Tinubu and their confidence in his ability to encourage open and honest consideration of all the issues put forward by the Labour Movement, the Labour Leaders resolved to stop further protest,” the presidency said in a statement.

The presidency added that union leaders had “opted for further constructive engagement with the government to resolve all outstanding issues as they affect the working people and Nigerians in general.” — AFP



Hundreds of workers in Nigeria across all sectors went on strike on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Adidas books profit as it sells off Kanye inventory

ADIDAS said Thursday it booked a profit in the second quarter, showing tentative signs of recovery as it sells off its huge inventory of rapper Kanye West's Yeezy merchandise. The German sportswear giant reported a net profit of 84 million euros (\$92 million) from April to June, following two consecutive quarters of losses.

But this was still substantially lower than in

the same period a year earlier. Adidas has endured a period of chaos since October last year when it ended its lucrative tie-up with rapper Kanye West — now known formally as Ye — after he made a series of anti-semitic outbursts. The group ended production of the highly successful Yeezy line designed with West, and was saddled with a vast stock of surplus trainers. — AFP

Traders struggle to recover from selloff as Fed rate fears linger

ASIAN markets fluctuated Thursday following a plunge on Wall Street as a forecast-beating US jobs report revived worries about the Federal Reserve's interest rate-hiking campaign.

While the fallout from Fitch's US debt rating downgrade settled, profit-taking and rising Treasury yields kept pressure on investors heading into what is considered a less appealing time of year for equities. The ratings agency's decision to lower Washington's gold-plated AAA classification rattled markets, fuelling a race out of riskier assets, though analysts said there was unlikely to be much long-term impact from the move.

Still, traders were struggling to get back in the



The Bank of England is expected to raise interest rates for a 14th time as it battles to rein in inflation that is the highest in the G7. **PHOTO: AFP**

saddle — having enjoyed a strong run-up in recent weeks — as they reassess what some consider to be too-high valuations and the outlook for the US economy.

Data from private

payrolls firm ADP showing companies created 324,000 new jobs last month — smashing forecasts of 190,000 — suggested the labour market remained tight. That jolted optimism

that the Fed might have announced its last rate hike in July, as a string of recent reports showed inflation continuing to fall and parts of the economy appearing to slow. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (103N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (103N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V THERESA PRIDE VOY.NO. (06/23)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V THERESA PRIDE VOY.NO. (06/23)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S RAFFLES SHIPPING INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD

Notice for Change of Distributor

Notice is hereby given that official distributor have been changed for the following pesticides distributed by **Agro Green Land Chemical Co. Ltd.** to **Aung Linn Animal Health Ltd.**

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Guang Cyper	Alpha-Cypermethrin 100 g/l EC	Provisional	P2021-5245
2	Guang Xam GR	Thiamethoxam 5% GR	Provisional	P2019-4774

Agro Green Land Chemical Co. Ltd., invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days form the publication of this notice.

Agro Green Land Chemical Co. Ltd.

No.61, Gayunar Road, Near (Ka Nya Na) office, Dagon Myo Thit (South) Township, Yangon.
Tel: (+95)9777758847

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Call
09251022355

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Australia's return of stolen artefacts 'rights a historical wrong'

AUSTRALIA'S national gallery said Thursday it will return three sculptures to Cambodia after an investigation found they were likely to have been "illegally exported" from the country.

The bronze sculptures from the 9th-10th century were bought for \$1.5 million in 2011 by British art dealer Douglas Latchford, who was later "convincingly implicated in the illegal trade of antiquities", the gallery said.

Latchford died in 2020, a year after being charged with trafficking in stolen and looted Cambodian antiquities. Charges have also been laid posthumously related to works of art he sold, the gallery said.

At a handover ceremony, Susan Templeman, Australia's special envoy for the arts, said handing the sculptures back to Cambodia was "an opportunity to put right a historical wrong".



The sculptures acquired in 2011, on loan from Cambodia from 2023 to 2026, Canberra. **PHOTO: NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA**

She said the Cambodian government had worked with Australia on the issue with a "cooperative spirit and graciousness".

Chanborey Cheunboran, Cambodia's ambassador to Australia, described the handover as "an historic occasion and an

important step towards rectifying past injustices, reinforcing the value of cultural properties, and acknowledging the importance

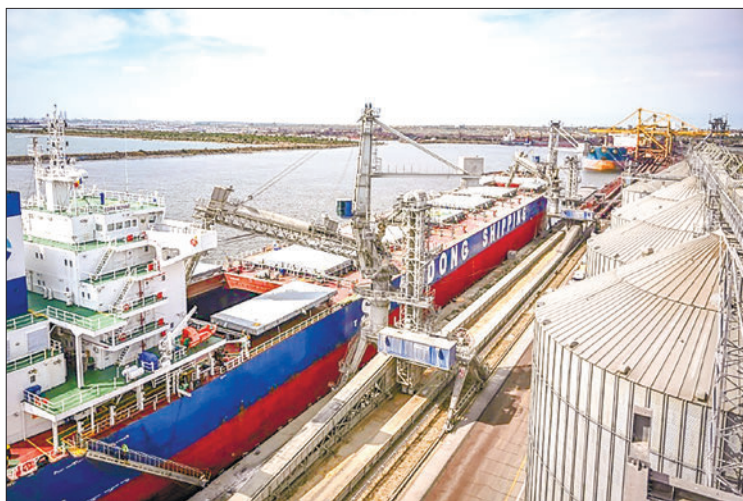
of preserving and protecting cultural heritage".

The sculptures — Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara Padmapani, Bodhisattva Vajrapani and Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara Padmapani — will remain on display in Australia for up to three years while the Cambodian government prepares a new home for them in Phnom Penh.

Museums worldwide are returning stolen artefacts as they acknowledge the wrongs inflicted on many countries under colonial rule.

Amsterdam's famed Rijksmuseum vowed last month to return hundreds of stolen Indonesian and Sri Lankan items, and late last year, London's Horniman Museum promised to hand some of its treasures back to Nigeria more than 100 years after they were stolen by British forces. — AFP

Romania Black Sea port braces for more Ukrainian grain



Romania's Constanta port has been racing to adapt to the influx of Ukrainian grain. **PHOTO: DANIEL MIHAILESCU / AFP**

AT the deepest berth of the Black Sea in the Romanian port of Constanta, the belly of a massive cargo ship bound for Belgium is fed tonnes of rapeseed through a huge steel hose as more vessels queue up.

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine, Constanta port, the largest for cereals in Europe, has been racing to adapt to the influx of grain diverted from traditional shipping routes that have been cut off by the conflict.

In the first half of 2023, it registered 7.5 million tonnes of Ukrainian grain compared to 8.7 million tonnes for all of last year.

After Moscow withdrew from a grain deal last month that allowed Kyiv to export around 36 million tonnes of grain despite the war, the port braces to play an even bigger role in shipping out globally vital crops.

"We are ready for a larger quantity of Ukrainian grain," said Dan Dolghin, a director at Comvex, one of the companies

at Constanta that receive grain from trains, barges and trucks to load them onto ships.

Dolghin points to a three-million-euro (\$3.3 million) investment his company made last summer to speed up its barge unloading capacity.

"We can load ships with a speed of 3,000 tonnes an hour, which is the equivalent of two trains," he said, as he fielded constant phone calls.

Comvex also plans to grow its storage capacity in the coming months by almost 50,000 tonnes to close to 250,000 tonnes.

The company has about 3,600 tonnes of Ukrainian corn in its silos. Dolghin said wheat should also arrive soon.

Under attack

Most of the grain handled by Comvex comes by train and on barges from the Ukrainian Danube ports of Reni and Izmail.

But these ports have also become targets: Ukraine said Wednesday that Russia had struck port facilities and industrial infrastructure on the Danube. — AFP

Canada wildfire smoke smashes emission record: monitor

MASSIVE wildfires in Canada have already spewed out twice the smoke emissions than the previous whole-year record, the EU's climate monitor said Thursday, with the blazes expected to continue to scorch their way through forests for weeks or even months.

The devastating wildfires have burned some 30 million acres (12 million hectares) this year so far, incinerating an area larger than the size of Cuba or

South Korea. Enormous plumes of smoke have choked the air in Canada and neighbouring United States, affecting more than 100 million people and at times disrupting flights and forcing the cancellation of outdoor events. Europe's Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) said it had tracked the fires since the season began at the start of May, as the blazes scorched across large areas of the country. — AFP



Enormous plumes of smoke have choked the air in Canada and neighbouring United States, affecting more than 100 million people and at times disrupting flights and forcing the cancellation of outdoor events. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Myanmar face Barcelona in U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge

THE Myanmar national U-12 team, which will compete in the U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2023 to be held in Chiba, Japan from 24 to 27 August is meeting with Barcelona Junior FC.

Along with the Barcelona Junior team, the Myanmar youth team is in the same group as the Daiwa House Dream youth team and the JEF United Chiba U-12 youth team in Group C.

Myanmar Football Federation selected 25 shortlisted players from 40 preliminary players on 26 July to compete in the U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2023 tournament. They have been taking training in the camp at the Thuwunna Stadium elite dormitory.

The 25 shortlisted players played friendly matches as well as training for the international tourney. In the second week of

August, the best 18 of 25 players will be reselected and sent to Japan. They will compete in the U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2023 tournament to be held in Chiba.

Head Coach U Aung Kyaw Zan is overseeing the Myanmar youth team ahead of the tourney. The Myanmar U-12 team's trip to Japan will be sponsored by AYA Bank, as stated by the MFF — KZL



Myanmar youth footballers are seen preparing for the U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge to be held in Chiba, Japan this month. PHOTO: MFF

Germany suffer earliest Women's World Cup exit as Morocco advance



South Korea's midfielder Cho So-hyun celebrates after scoring. PHOTO: AFP

A Women's World Cup full of shocks had its biggest yet when Germany were dumped out in the group phase on Thursday following a stalemate with South Korea, with debutants Morocco progressing instead.

Germany's 1-1 draw with the Koreans coupled with Mo-

rocco's surprise 1-0 victory over Colombia saw the European side suffer their earliest exit in Women's World Cup history. Germany follow Brazil and Italy out of the competition in double-quick time.

Colombia topped Group H despite losing and will face

Jamaica in the last 16.

Morocco progressed into the knockouts on their World Cup debut also with two wins and a defeat, and meet France next. Germany were third and condemned to an early flight home.

The two-times former champions Germany came into the game in front of just under 39,000 in Brisbane knowing that a win over South Korea would put them in the last 16.

But they started badly, conceding to a smart Cho So-hyun finish after just six minutes and looking shaky at the back early on.

Colin Bell's South Korea looked nothing like the team that lost 2-0 to Colombia and 1-0 to Morocco. — AFP

Svitolina reaches Washington WTA quarter-finals with another win over Kasatkina

UKRAINE'S Elina Svitolina continued her dominance of Daria Kasatkina, taking her career record over the Russian to 8-0 with a 6-2, 6-2 victory Wednesday in the WTA hardcourt tournament in Washington.

Unseeded Svitolina's second victory over her fifth-seeded Russian rival saw her into the quarter-finals, where she'll face either top-seeded American Jessica Pegula or lucky loser Peyton Stearns.

"I just try to fight each time I play Dasha," said Svitolina, who also beat Kasatkina in straight sets in the fourth round at Roland Garros this year. "She's a tough opponent to face, and each time I try to play just one extra ball over

the net, to take and dictate the game. I'm really happy I won the match today."

Svitolina, playing her eighth tournament since returning from maternity leave, belted 29 groundstroke winners, including 22 on her forehand.

She saved all 10 break points she faced, nine of them coming in just two games — her gritty hold to claim the opening set and a marathon game for a 5-1 lead in the second.

When the match ended, Svitolina stuck to her policy of declining to shake her Russian opponent's hand, although at Roland Garros she commended Kasatkina for speaking out against the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

Time to take us seriously, says Jamaica's World Cup goalkeeper Spencer

GOALKEEPER Rebecca Spencer says Jamaica's historic run into the knockout stages of the World Cup will put pressure on football bosses at home to take the women's team seriously.

The Reggae Girlz dished up a defensive masterclass to get the point they needed against Brazil to reach the last 16 in Melbourne on Wednesday.

The 0-0 draw saw ninth-ranked Brazil dumped out of the tournament in the group

stage, their poorest performance since an exit at the same early stage in 1995.

Lorne Donaldson's 51st-ranked Jamaica have defied turbulent preparations to reach the last 16 for the first time.

The team have been in open dispute with their football federation over a lack of support, including issues over pay and poor planning in the build-up to the World Cup.



Jamaica's goalkeeper Rebecca Spencer (C) celebrates after her team qualified for the last 16. PHOTO: AFP

"Obviously we fight a constant battle," said the London-born Spencer, saying the players felt they had "a point to prove".

"The better we do, the more pressure it creates (on the Jamaica federation).

"We hope that they're looking at us and taking us seriously now, which they should have been doing, and they can give us what we deserve out of everything." — AFP

Australia's return of
stolen artefacts 'rights
a historical wrong'

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WORLD

Hun Sen says he has chosen his son as next PM due to fear of chaos

CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Hun Sen said Thursday he has chosen his son as the next premier to prevent a "chaotic situation" from happening after his death.

Hun Sen announced his resignation following the 23 July general election, adding that he would be handing power to 45-year-old Hun Manet, who won his first parliamentary seat in the ballot.

The 70-year-old leader spoke at the opening of a ring road in a suburb of Phnom Penh and said the speech would be his last as prime minister.

Hun Sen, who has ruled Cambodia for 38 years, said he was concerned that "bloodshed" could occur if senior members of his ruling Cambodian People's Party try to "grasp the prime ministerial post" following his death.

On 26 July in a televised address, Hun Sen said his son would assume the post of prime minister on 22 August and that he would run in the Senate election slated for February, in the hope of becoming the speaker of the upper house.

The CPP won a landslide victory in the election, a second consecutive National Assembly election to be held without a viable opposition force, the previous one having taken place in 2018. The main opposition Candlelight



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen speaks at the opening of a ring road in a suburb of Phnom Penh on 3 August 2023.

PHOTO: KYODO

Party was barred from taking part after they were disqualified by the country's

election committee in May.

The committee said the party failed

to submit the proper registration documents.—Kyodo

Austria farmers up in arms over Brussels GMO plans

THE European Commission's proposal to ease current restrictions on genetically modified crops has riled up EU organic farming leader Austria and its farmers.

"I think it's outrageous... They have a nerve even considering this," organic farmer Beate Brenner told AFP on her farm in a small village surrounded by grain and sunflower fields some 100 kilometres (60 miles) northwest of Vienna.

With about a fourth of all agricultural land certified as organic in Austria, the government has said it would lobby to block Brussels' proposal.

Under the plan, the commission wants to allow gene editing with a plant's existing DNA to escape the tough restrictions that apply to plants which have been modified using genes from another organism (genetically modified organisms or GMOs) in terms of authorizations, la-

belling and monitoring.

'Danger'

"The Commission's proposal is a danger for the Austrian way of agriculture



Farmer Beate Brenner says customers can 'count on knowing what happens here'.

PHOTO: ALEX HALADA / AFP

and also takes away consumers' freedom of choice," three Austrian ministers said in a statement last month, just after the commission put forward its plan.

"We are doing everything we can in Brussels to ensure that strict rules for genetically modified plants and food continue to apply," they added.

The commission says the rules need to be relaxed to grow crops that require fewer pesticides, are better adapted to climate change and need less water.

The text of the project calls for the existing GMO rules to not apply to genetically edited crops where the modifications could have come about naturally or through traditional cross-breeding procedures.

EU agriculture ministers began discussing the proposal last week in Brussels.—AFP

Aussies drive car across bottom of Darwin Harbour

A bunch of Australians are celebrating after taking a weekend car drive across the bottom of crocodile-populated Darwin Harbour.

A team of dozens of engineers and divers completed the feat after refurbishing a 1978 Toyota Land Cruiser, swapping in an electric motor that was waterproofed for the 12.5-hour trip, said project leader Tom Lawrence.

About 30 divers took turns driving along the bottom of the harbour, slipping to depths of 30 metres (98 feet) on an eight-kilometre (five-mile) route that was slightly longer than planned after the car, baptised the "mudcrab", was "blown off course", Lawrence told AFP on Tuesday.—AFP