

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



A glimpse into 2021: Solar Power Project in Wundwin Township in Mandalay Region.

US\$27+ mln investments boost mining, electricity in eastern Shan State

Shan State (East) will see new investments in mining and electricity sectors in the 2023-2024 financial year and startups are to be rewarded with five to seven years of income tax exemption, according to the Shan State Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. Corn processing mills within the state were also planning to extend their businesses, the directorate said.

“We engaged in an investment promotion campaign in the Shan State (East) which resulted in new investments in the mining and electric power sectors. The electricity distribution in the area is not connected to the national grid. Solar electricity businesses with a capacity below 30 megawatts will start in the area as new investments,” U Lay Naing, director of the Shan State Directorate of Investment and Compa-

ny Administration, under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM), on 9 August.

Eight foreign investments totally worth US\$27.558 million and a local investment amounting to K700 million have been approved between February 2021 and July 2023 by the Myanmar Investment Commission and Shan State Investment Committee, he added. — ASH/TH

Surge in EV registrations exceeds 579 as fresh arrivals boost numbers

The Road Transport Administration Department has reported a noteworthy milestone, with the registration count of private electric vehicles reaching an impressive total of 579. This surge in registrations occurred during the period of importing EVs from overseas throughout the month of July.

In an effort to bolster the electric vehicle sector, the Steering Committee on National-Level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries has made a significant move by slashing tax rates for electric vehicles to a remarkable zero per cent. This strategic manoeuvre aims to stimulate growth and adoption within the EV industry.

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Fresh fleet of electric vehicles (EVs) arriving at Hteedan Port in Yangon.

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Myawady road landslides disrupt onion exports to Thailand, spike import costs

CURRENT AFFAIRS PAGE-6



Korean agribusinesses neglect industrial accident insurance for Myanmar migrant workers

LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-7



Myanmar's rice exports to external markets bag \$138 mln in past four months

NATIONAL

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring peace and stability and the full rule of law across the whole Union, and on successfully conducting a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.
2. Continued efforts will be made to promote the State economy and enhance the socioeconomic situation of all people through expediting manufacturing businesses rooted in agriculture and livestock to benefit the entire National people.
3. Priority will be given to achieving peace as the essence of the State and stabilizing the results of the peace process in alignment with the agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to the extent possible.
4. Work processes will be accelerated to ensure a strong disciplined and authentic multiparty democratic system and build a Union founded upon democratic and federal systems.
5. Work will be undertaken to ensure accuracy and fairness in the general election to prevent eligible voters from losing their rights, and upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multi-party democratic elections will be held, and State duties will be handed over to the elected government.



Trucks are seen stranded on the road due to the road collapse on Asian Highway.

Myawady road landslides disrupt onion exports to Thailand, spike import costs

LANDSLIDES near Tawnaw waterfall on 7-8 August on Myawady-Kawkareik section of Asian Highway blocked transport and trucks carrying onions to be transported to Myawady are stuck with road collapse.

Some traders criticized that keeping tarpaulin on the fresh onions in the back of trucks to avoid heavy rainfalls might deteriorate the quality of onions due to heat under the tarpaulin.

“Daw Aye Win doing onion businesses suggest those traders consider retreating to the nearest market,” the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) quoted her as saying. Meanwhile, road destruction on the Asian Highway resulted in price hikes for some imported goods in the Yangon market.

The goods imported from Thailand are priced higher these days yet the demand is sluggish in Nyaungpinlay market in Lanmadaw Township.

The two consecutive landslides might suspend road transportation for many days, some forecast.

The old road is unsafe for heavy trucks but suitable only for small vehicles.

The authorities notified traders of moving to border points other than Myawady for imports of the licensed goods or shift to maritime trade.

Nonetheless, the Myawady border is the major point and other border posts see a small trade volume only.

The authorities concerned also issued an order regarding a price hike warning for food sent from other areas to Myawady.

The prices of rice, egg and some vegetables are inflated at present. The Yangon market is also bracing for a price hike. Yet, there is no significant price rise in some goods due to high stock.

Highway freight forwarding operators are observing the road condition, said a truck driver running on Hpa-an and Myawady road. Onions and corn transport to Myawady from that area were suspended from the first week of August.

Onions from the Myingyan area have been sent to Thailand

and Viet Nam since mid-2022 by 12-wheel trucks.

The goods to be sent to Myawady are stockpiled at the Bayintnaung wholesale market in Yangon. However, perishable goods are rarely included.

The traffic blocks on that road occur often. The current landslide is about 100 feet long so it will take time to finish the repair work and resume the road. Furthermore, trucks attempting to pass the old roads have safety risks so there is a hindrance to doing so.

The lack of edible oil inflow to Yangon from Myawady led to a price hike. The wholesale price hit K8,600 per viss at Nyaungpinlay market on 9 August.

Freight forwarders at Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre will provide the service depending on the road conditions in Myawady.

Traders engaged in both Yangon and Myawady markets are likely to raise the prices of the goods conveyed to border markets until the Asian Highway resumes. — TWA/EM

Surge in EV registrations exceeds 579 as fresh arrivals boost numbers

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Notably, the registration window for electric two-wheelers and tricycles has been extended, allowing for the registration of 2,454 units until the close of July. This extension reflects the ongoing commitment to encouraging diverse modes of electric transport.

The Road Transport Administration Department has further announced that the utilization of a diverse range of 3,033 EVs has received official approval up to this point. This underscores the growing importance of electric vehicles in the broader transport landscape. — TWA/CT

Five new cases of COVID-19 reported on 10 August, total figure registers 641,112

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **641,112** after **five** new cases were reported on 10 August 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,071,399** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **641,112**.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,919** including **seven** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 10-8-2023 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

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.

MoHA Union Minister departs for 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Narcotics in Laos

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, who is also a member of the State Administration Council (SAC), left Yangon yesterday. The delegation will participate in the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Narcotics, scheduled to convene on 10 August in Vientiane, Laos.

The 8th ASEAN Ministeri-

al Meeting on Narcotics will foster a platform for constructive discussions and strategies aimed at tackling the pressing challenges posed by narcotics. Myanmar's active involvement, led by Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, reinforces the country's resolve to collaborate and contribute meaningfully to regional efforts in dealing with this issue. — MNA/TS



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae is seen before leaving for Laos yesterday at Yangon International Airport.

Seikpyu township exports 1.8 mln visses of onions to both domestic and foreign markets in July



Sellers and buyers are seen at the Pakokku onion market.

APPROXIMATELY 1.8 million visses of onions (2,939 tonnes) from Seikphyu Township, Magway Region, were conveyed to domestic and foreign markets in July, according to the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Seikphyu market is the main supplier of onion to Bayintnaung commodity centre in Yangon Region, Pyay's depots in Bago Region, Patheingyi's onion depots in

Ayeyawady Region and Mawlamyine's depots in Mon State. Then, the onions from Seikpyu are exported to China via Muse and Thailand via the Myawady border.

The prices of onion declined in early July and rebounded in the fourth week of July. The prices moved in the range between K1,900 and K2,025 per viss in the fourth week of July.

About 80 12-wheel truckloads of

onions (800,000 visses) to Yangon's Bayintnaung commodity centre, 33 lorries carrying 600,000 visses of onions to Myawady, four 12-wheel truckloads of onions (40,000 visses) to Muse, three 12-wheel truckloads of onions (30,000 visses) to Mawlamyine, 22 six-wheel truckloads of onions (150,000 visses) to Pyay, 24 six-wheel truckloads of onions (200,000 visses) were sent from Seikpyu area. — ASH/EM

Yangon Region government to sell 5-pyi rice, 1-viss cooking oil per person from 11 August

THE Yangon Region government announced that they will sell five pyi of rice and one viss of cooking oil per person at People's Square in Yangon starting 11 August.

They will sell Aemahta at K2,500 per pyi, K4,000 for Ayeyawady Pawsan and K4,400 per viss of cooking oil starting from 9 am on 11 August.

It is announced that they will sell an unlimited amount of rice and 1000 visses of cooking oil per day and anyone can purchase the items freely.

The rice and cooking oil were sold at fairer prices at the three-day monsoon market fair from 4 to 6 August at People's Square. On 7 August, the Shwebo Pawsan was sold at K110,000 to K120,000 per bag (108 pounds), Ayeyawady Pawsan K94,000 to K97,000, Aemahta (10 per cent) K65,000 and Aemahta (25 per cent) K60,000 at the rice wholesale centres (Wahdan and Bayintnaung). — TWA/KTZH



The photo shows sales of rice and cooking oil at fairer prices at the Monsoon Market Fair at People's Square on 4 August.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

NATIONAL



Union Minister Dr Soe Win provides foodstuffs to family members of flood victims yesterday.

Flood victims in Hlaingbwe, Hpa-an get relief assistance

PEOPLE in Hlaingbwe and Hpa-an received relief aid provided by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement as they are suffering from flooding due to heavy rains this week. Union Minister Dr Soe Win and officials handed over cash and foodstuffs to flood-affected people temporarily living in the flood relief camps in these two townships yesterday.

They also observed the evacuation of flood victims and encouraged them not to be

discouraged. The Union minister presented K39,673,200 for rice and instant foodstuffs to 4,723 people of 990 households who are temporarily staying at ten flood relief camps in Hlaingbwe Township.

Likewise, he provided K31,230,000 for rice and instant foods to 3,470 for 704 households at nine relief camps in Hpa-an and K6,768,000 for rice and instant noodles and eggs to 752 people of 172 households at three relief camps in Kyondoe. — MNA/KZL

Drugs seized in Myitkyina, Kutkai townships

A combined team comprising members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Hino passenger bus at the 21st-Mile combined checkpoint near Namhkam village of Malikha village-tract in Myitkyina township at 4 pm on 9 August. The search resulted in the seizure of 0.99 kilogramme of heroin.

Furthermore, law enforcement officials halted and

inspected a motorbike driven by Marla on Kutkai-Kaungkha road in No 8 Ward of Kutkai at 5:40 pm on the same day. This operation led to the confiscation of 7,800 stimulant tablets.

Individuals involved in these incidents have been charged under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

Heightened Bago River water levels prompt swift aid and shelter initiatives

DUE to persistent heavy rainfall in Bago, the water level of the Bago River has exceeded the hazardous mark (880 centimetres) and risen to 937 centimetres. This has led to water inundation in the lower areas of Bago township and overflow onto the old Yangon-Mandalay highway within the same area.

Authorities are actively offering essential aid to individuals and vehicles navigating through the submerged Kyunthaya ward, Gaungsaykyun, and Minn road connecting Zaiganaing (North) ward and Zaiganaing (South) ward, to prevent potential accidents.

A total of 13 relief camps have been established to accommodate those affected by the flooding in low-lying areas and villages. Officials and generous contributors are supplying clean drinking water, sustenance, and medications to flood victims. — Thet Phyo Kyaing (IPRD)/MKKS



People are seen hurdling in the middle of floodwaters.

Heavy rain triggers flooding in Maei, causing house inundations



Photos show some houses are inundated in Taungup Township.

AFTER three days of continuous heavy rain, some residential houses were flooded in Ward No 1 and Ward No 2 of Maei, Taungup Township.

According to the Township Development Committee, the flooding is not caused by the rising water from the Maei River, but by the blocking of drains and water outlets in some areas of the neighbourhoods. To improve the flow of water in the city's drains, the officials dredged drains in almost the entire city in the financial year 2019-2020.

During the dredging, some people did not want to damage the concrete culverts in front of their houses, and they requested that they be excavated according to their plan, so the officials stopped the work.

U Nyi Nyi Lwin, executive officer of the Maei Town Development Committee, said that he wants the people to participate with their conscience ensuring that there are no floods like this and to ensure that the water flows in the city's sewers. The households that were flooded due to heavy rains have been evacuated under the plan and supervision of the Disaster Management Committee. Now when the water has receded and the clean-up work has been completed, the people will be able to move back to their homes shortly. — Maung Maung Htay (IPRD)/KZL

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Nine Objectives of the State Administration Council

1. Political Affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong, disciplined and authentic multiparty democratic system and foster a Union founded upon democratic and federal systems.
- (b) To prioritize the attainment of enduring peace for the entire nation in alignment with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To emphasize the full restoration of peace and stability and the rule of law throughout the Union for the people to enjoy socioeconomic security.

2. Economic Affairs

- (a) To enhance agriculture and livestock production with modern technologies for the benefit of all National people and to promote growth in other sectors of the economy for achieving national prosperity and food security.
- (b) To invigorate Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) for elevating the export sector, leveraging the momentum for sustained economic growth.
- (c) To spur the cultivation of oil crops to meet targeted production levels, thereby achieving domestic self-sufficiency in edible oil while striving towards the export of surplus oil.

3. Social Affairs

- (a) To implement a universally accessible and comprehensive education system in order to enhance the knowledge and skills base for the nation and nurture skilled technicians for the manufacturing sector.
- (b) To elevate the health and sports sectors crucial for all the people, thus improving the nation's life expectancy and health.
- (c) To nurture youth to become physically strong, intellectually capable, morally upright, socially adept and economically empowered young individuals poised to lead the nation's development efforts.



Edible oil displayed at one shopping centre.

Consumers call for hazard assessment of edible oil

WITH the cooking oil prices rocketing, edible oil adulteration with inferior oil is happening, the consumers stressed.

Consumers cannot easily detect blended edible oil with impurities like high-grade rice.

The retail price of palm oil is around K8,000 per viss, while peanut oil prices peaked at K15,000 per viss. The consumers have high concerns over the possible oil adulteration, a housewife Daw Nyo Ei from Sangyoung Township, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

“The retail prices of cooking oil are K15,000 per viss of peanut oil and K8,000 per viss of palm oil. Some unscrupulous sellers blend peanut oil with palm oil to exploit skyrocketing oil prices to increase profits. Only the

consumers suffer damage because of a defect with the product amid high prices,” she elaborated.

The producers and sellers should ensure quality control. The consumers have to buy the edible oil at the prevailing market price although they cannot detect the quality.

The production of oil varies depending on the peanut. The peanut price and other factors in the production process determine the oil prices.

In 2000, popular branded palm oil barrels were found at some peanut oil mills.

Those sellers add some ratio of palm oil into peanut oil for business profits, a trader told the GNLM.

After that, there are lots of blended cooking oil cases. Some add just artificial peanut flavour into the palm oil and

sell the fake peanut oil in the market at a fairer price. The price for peanut flavour is just K100 per viss.

The consumers are aware of the fake peanut oil due to the cheap price yet they offer higher prices for fake cooking oil with peanut flavour.

There were about K1,000 price differences between palm oil and peanut oil in late 2021.

The wholesale price of peanut oil was around K5,000 per viss on account of low peanut prices. Thereafter, the peanut price moved onwards and hit K7,000 per viss in August 2023.

The wholesale prices in the peanut-producing area Monywa and bustling Mandalay market stood at K13,000-14,000 per viss of peanut oil and K12,000-13,000 per viss of sesame oil in the first week of August 2023.

Those wholesale commodity depots did not set the opening price for palm oil, which is highly demanded in the domestic markets.

In addition to high-grade peanut oil, oil adulteration is also found in palm oil grasping a large market share, the GNLM quoted a seller from Mandalay market as saying.

Palm oil was earlier imported in barrels in the 2000s. At present, they are directly put into palm oil tanks by pumping oil from tankers.

The traders claim palm oil at the port with their own barrels to discharge from oil tankers.

Rocketing palm oil prices force some food premise operators to use repeatedly heated cooking oil which turns darker. Some businesses use bleaching agents to remove the dark colour from repeatedly heated oil in order to resell them in the market at cheaper prices.

Oil blends such as palm stearin, cottonseed oil, niger oil and animal fat are also detected in the market. Pork fat was earlier used in fried noodles due to its sweet taste.

Cotton seeds were commonly utilized in making soap. Now they are found in some blended oil, U Zaw Win from cotton-producing Meiktila Township, explained to the GNLM.

Consumers are facing the health hazards of those blended oils at reduced prices while the sellers are making more profits.

Those degraded cooking oil harms health due to profiteering in dishonest acts.

A buyer Ma Khin Myo called for regulatory inspection and market surveillance for label-less cooking oil in the markets and law enforcement to protect the interests of the consumers. — TWA/EM

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Korean agribusinesses neglect industrial accident insurance for Myanmar migrant workers

MYANMAR ambassador to Korea U Thant Sin called for strict supervision of some Korean agricultural businessmen as the Myanmar migrant workers under the EPS system are affected by their failure in making industrial accident insurance.

The ambassador said so in his remark at the 2023 EPS Conference held in Busan of Korea on 9 August, the conference was also attended by ambassadors and relevant officials from 16 countries that send of labourers to Korea under the EPS system.

“We will fundamentally reform the system following many economic and social changes compared to 20 years ago,” said Mr Lee Jung-Sik, Korean minister for the Ministry of Employment and Labour.



The 2023 EPS Conference held in Busan of Korea in progress.

The Myanmar ambassador also said it should emphasize awareness campaigns and

strict supervision for employers and employees to reduce occupational accidents. The

Myanmar embassy also meets the employers and employees via digital platforms regarding

their worksite safety and health issues. It should supervise the businessmen in agricultural sector as their failure in making industrial accident insurance affects the Myanmar migrant workers. Moreover, there is a slow work process of HRDK in searching for new employment for those who returned from Korea before two years of service. It should employ Myanmar staff at the Support Centres for Foreign Workers while the number of Myanmar migrant workers to Korea is increasing. The conference also discussed the plans to update EPS into EPS 2.0, achievements and challenges of EPS, enhancement of cooperation between HRDK and 16 countries and holding of the 2030 Busan World Expo. — TWA/KTZH

Onion price slumps on sluggish demand at Bayintnaung Centre

WITH just 120,000 visses of onions entering Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre, the prices declined on 10 August, Ko Thein Lin, a seller in the Nyaungpinlay market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The market has been moving at a slow pace and the prices dipped, said a trader involved in the Bayintnaung market.

At present, the shipment of onion to the Myawady border, which is a trade channel to Thailand, came to a halt owing to transportation difficulties to the Myawady border. The onion-producing areas supply onions to the Yangon market these days.

The onion price touched the highest of K2,300 per viss in the Pakokku market, with an entry of 55,380 visses of onions on 7 August. The price slid to K2,200 per viss on 10 August with an inflow of 47,800 visses of onions. There is a small decrease of K50-75 per viss in the onion-producing areas Myingyan and Seikphyu on 10 August compared to that of 7 August.

The prices moved in the range between K1,800 and K2,400 per viss on 9 August at Bayintnaung market.

The prevailing prices remained unchanged at K1,700-2,300 per viss on 10 August compared to the corresponding period last year at the Bayintnaung market.

The buying price of onions in the summer of 2023 was high. However, there is uncertainty for the onions to reach the highest price recorded at the end of 2022. Yet, it is unlikely for the price to plunge at the lowest rate at the end of 2020 and 2021. The market observers pointed out that the growers who keep the stocks in hand might make a certain profit this year. — TWA/EM



The photo shows the building where the YCDC office is located.

YCDC grants 130 building permits, 52 completion certificates in two weeks

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has granted 130 building permits and 52 building completion certificates (BCC) within two weeks, according to the YCDC.

The YCDC, YESC, Fire Services Department and relevant committees operate the permits via ybbs.ycdc.gov.mm online.

Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay also highlighted the facilitation of processes during the second meeting of the committee on the issuance

of building permits and BCC held on 8 August.

The relevant work processes go online and the committee will negotiate with contractors to supply electric power to the completed buildings, said U Tin Maung Kyi, head of the Engineering Department (Building).

The officials have been granting the building permits and BCC online since April 2020. Moreover, the requirements, documents and building structures are also oper-

ated under a paperless system.

The people can easily explore the lists of applications for building permission, permitted buildings and issuance of BCC at ybbs.ycdc.gov.mm and also apply for building permits and BCC, according to the department.

There are 7,398 building permit applications, 4,608 permits, 43 dismissals by the land owners and 408 permits that were revoked during the application processes as of 25 July. — TWA/KTZH

LOCAL BUSINESS

Robust demand pushes kidney bean prices upward

THE price of kidney beans surged in the Mandalay market on the back of robust domestic and foreign demand. China and India are mostly purchasing Myanmar's kidney beans beyond high local consumption. The price hit the highest in a decade.

The price stood at K3.85 million per tonne at the end of July and tremendously rose to K4.025 million per tonne on 10 August, indicating a sharp increase of K170,000 per tonne within a few days.

Myanmar exports kidney beans to China, India, Japan, Singapore and other foreign countries via border and maritime trade channels. Myanmar shipped 59,425.711 tonnes of kidney beans worth US\$50.31 million to foreign markets in the current financial year 2022-2023 (April-March), the Ministry of

Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar conveyed over 15,147 tonnes of kidney beans worth \$18.114 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 28 July of the current FY 2023-2024, with an export volume of 7,674.377 tonnes worth \$7.44 million through maritime trade and over 7,473 tonnes worth \$10.674 million via border, as per the Ministry of Commerce's statistics.

Kidney bean cultivation begins in October-November and they are harvested in early February. They are grown in the upper Sagaing Region, Bhamo city in Kachin State, Kayin State and along Ayeyawady River. The beans produced from Katha and Bhamo townships are highly demanded in the domestic market on account of their large size. — NN/EM



Kidney beans in Myanmar are grown in October and harvested in January and February. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Myanmar's rice exports to external markets bag \$138 mln in past four months

THE value of Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports swelled up to US\$138 million from over 310,000 tonnes in the past four months (Apr-July) of the current financial year 2023-2024, comprising 294,100 tonnes in maritime trade and 25,313 tonnes in border, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The export volumes were registered at 87,648 tonnes worth \$36 million in April, 110,706 tonnes worth \$48 million in May, 62,725 tonnes worth \$28 million in June and 58,334 tonnes worth \$26 million in July respectively.

The rice export volume recorded the highest in May. Then, the volume slumped in June and July.

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

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million.

Last FY, China is the main buyer of Myanmar's rice and broken rice with over 775,000 tonnes, followed by Belgium with 323,000 tonnes, Bangladesh with over 239,000 tonnes and the Philippines with over 202,000 tonnes.

Myanmar has been exerting concerted efforts to increase 10 per cent yearly in the

rice export.

To raise foreign income, it has been prioritizing the exportation of high-grade rice and boosting export volume, MRF stated.

Myanmar pocketed over \$809.135 million from approximately 2.164 million tonnes of rice export in the 2021-2022 FY (April-March). — NN/EM



Bags of rice are seen being loaded onto the vessel for exportation at the wharf.

Pure gold price rallies to over K3.7 mln per tical in grey market

THE price of pure gold spiked at over K3.7 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the grey market tracking Kyat depreciation against the US dollar at over K3,500.

Nonetheless, YGEA set the reference rate to over K2,259,600 per tical. There is a large price difference of over K1.4 million per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the price in the unofficial market

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, while the US dollar is exchanged at over K3,500 in the unauthorized forex market.

The US dollar exchange rate influences domestic gold prices. Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA) sold over seven visses of pure gold at a special price within two weeks beginning 19 June to stabilize the gold price.

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

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

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

OPINION

Promoting private healthcare institutions for the people

PPRIVATE healthcare institutions play a crucial role in the health sector by offering qualified medical services, ensuring patient safety, providing a secure workplace and environment, and safeguarding against the impacts of disasters for patients, their families, and healthcare staff.

It is of utmost importance to continually monitor these institutions to ensure strict adherence to private healthcare laws and bylaws. The Private Healthcare Steering Committee will grant licences to institutions that have met all the requirements within one month.

Currently, the steering committee has approved 5,124 private general clinics, 1,002 specialty clinics, and 270 general hospitals across the country to provide healthcare services. These institutions must prioritize the delivery of high-quality and attentive medical treatments, avoiding any negative impact on patients due to the negligence of healthcare staff. As such, the private health sector has to recruit qualified medical professionals in addition to retired health

staff to be deployed in operating private hospitals and clinics to provide safe and sound medical treatment to the people.

Healthcare providers must possess valid medical practitioner licences or nurse-midwifery licences issued by relevant medical or nurse and midwifery councils. Foreign medical doctors and nurses offering part-time services must also obtain a Special Medical Practitioner Licence to guarantee the quality of their services.

Additionally, hospitals and clinics must have adequate facilities for medical treatments, including patient safety measures, quality buildings, 24-hour and emergency services, surgical operation capabilities, labour room services, and laboratory support. Moreover,

these institutions need approval from the Department of Food and Drug Administration.

Responsibility lies on them for managing kidney transplants, cardiac operations, and cancer treatments, while adhering to the laws governing organ donations. They are also required to oversee nurse-aid and pharmacological courses. The relevant laws, bylaws, orders, and directives should be periodically updated to keep pace with the country's progress.

To achieve greater success in the healthcare sector, both government and private sectors must collaborate to enhance the capacity and qualifications of medical professionals. This partnership will result in well-versed health professionals providing comprehensive, safe, and sound medical treatments while minimizing waste and loss. It marks a significant milestone in the nation's healthcare sector.

Encouraging private healthcare institutions and fostering a collaborative environment between the public and private sectors will lead to improved healthcare services for the people. By adhering to strict regulations and maintaining high standards, these institutions can positively contribute to the overall health and well-being of the nation.



Spending just 15 minutes in the sunlight can increase serotonin production, which enhances your mood. Remember to use sunscreen. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

FEELING a little down? Need a mood lift? Look no further! The Happy Hormone Highway is here to whisk you away on a journey of joy and pleasure, all while keeping things light and funny. From dopamine to oxytocin, these feel-good hormones are the key to

unlocking a happier you! So, hop aboard and let's explore some simple activities to get those happy hormones flowing!

1. Sun-Kissed Serotonin: Step outside and bask in the glorious sunlight for just 15 minutes! Research shows that exposure to UV rays can boost serotonin

production, making you feel on top of the world. Just remember, a little sunscreen is the way to go to avoid turning into a lobster!

2. Exercise, The Fun-Raiser: Who said workouts were only about sweat and sore muscles? Turns out, they're also tickets to a paradise of endorphin euphoria!

So, put on those running shoes and hit the road to enjoy the famous "runner's high." For an extra boost, exercise with friends, soak up the sun and sweat it out for at least 30 minutes. Your happy hormones will thank you!

3. Laughter, The LOL Factory: They say laughter is the

best medicine, and they're right! Laughing triggers, a flood of dopamine and endorphins, making you feel like you're on cloud nine. Share some funny videos, crack jokes, or watch a comedy show with friends for an extra dose of happiness. Bonus: you might even unlock the oxytocin love connection!

4. Culinary Bliss: Who knew that cooking and enjoying a meal could be a hormone-boosting ex-

your healthcare provider before diving into the supplement sea to avoid any unwanted side effects.

6. Melodies for Happiness: Whether you're a shower singer or a bathroom dancer, music has the power to sway those happy hormones! Listen to your favourite tunes and let the dopamine and serotonin dance inside your brain. And hey, if you're musically inclined, playing music has the same magic touch. So, let the

Get Ready to Rock: Hormone-Palooza! Boost Your Mood Like a Pro!

By Serene

travaganza? Savouring delicious food releases dopamine and endorphins, and sharing the experience with a loved one ramps up oxytocin levels. So, cook up a storm with your partner, and let the happiness simmer. Just don't forget the secret ingredient – lots of love and a dash of spices!

5. Happy Hormone Supplements: Consider supplements like tyrosine, green tea extract, probiotics, and tryptophan to give your happy hormones a little nudge. But remember, consult

music be your mood-boosting DJ!

7. Mindfulness Magic: Meditation is your ticket to dopamine production paradise. You don't need to be a Zen master to meditate! Find a cosy spot, let your thoughts come and go like clouds in the sky, and feel your dopamine levels soar. It's like a serene rollercoaster ride for your mood. With practice, you'll find yourself swimming in a pool of dopamine goodness. Go ahead, meditate your way to happiness!

8. Romantic Rendezvous:

Ah, love is in the air, and so is oxytocin! Romantic evenings, cuddles, and kisses, oh my! Oxytocin, the "love hormone," can work wonders in boosting your mood. So, why not plan a special evening with your loved one and watch those happy hormones fly high? And if you want an added kick, share a glass of wine to elevate those endorphins even more!

9. Pawsitively Happy: Who

12. Massage, The Happy Spa: Ah, the magical massage! It's like happiness delivered right to your doorstep. Those skilled hands will boost your endorphins, oxytocin, serotonin, and dopamine, leaving you floating on a cloud of bliss. Or, recruit your partner for a cosy, happy hormone-inducing massage session. Say hello to relaxation and happiness in one go!

So, there you have it, folks! The secrets to unlocking your inner happiness lie within these simple and delightful activities. Whether it's a dose of sunlight, a laughter-filled evening, or some furry companionship, you've got all the tools to conquer the happiness game.

Remember, you don't need a cape or a magic potion; all you need is a sprinkle of serotonin, a splash of dopamine, and a whole lot of laughter. Remember, life is too short not to enjoy the feel-good hormones that nature has gifted us. So, laugh, dance, cuddle, and have a blast on your journey to a happier you!

10. Sweet Dreams, Happy Hormones: Don't underestimate the power of quality sleep! A good night's sleep is the secret sauce for hormonal harmony. Aim for those 7 to 9 hours of snooze time, and wake up to a perfect blend of dopamine, serotonin, and endor-

COVID-19: WHO tracking EG.5 'variant of interest'

The World Health Organization (WHO) is currently tracking several COVID-19 "variants of interest", including EG.5 which is on the rise in several countries, Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in Geneva on Wednesday.

“THE risk remains of a more dangerous variant emerging that could cause a sudden increase in cases and deaths," he said.

EG.5 is a sublineage of the omicron variant and has been detected in 51 countries, including the United States, China, South Korea and Japan, according to an initial risk evaluation.

While overall risk is low, "based on its genetic features, immune escape characteristics, and

growth rate estimates, EG.5 may spread globally and contribute to a surge in case incidence."

COVID-19 reporting declines

Tedros recalled that three months have passed since he declared the end of COVID-19 as a global health emergency, though at the time he cautioned that it remains a threat.

Since then, the number of reported cases, hospitalizations and deaths globally has continued

to decline.

Meanwhile, the number of countries reporting data to WHO also significantly declined. In the past month, only 25 per cent reported their COVID-19 deaths and only 11 per cent reported their hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions.

Tedros said the risk of severe disease and death is vastly lower than it was a year ago, due to increasing population immunity - whether from vaccination,

infection or both - and from early diagnosis with better clinical care.

"Despite these improvements, WHO continues to assess the risk of COVID-19 to global public health as high. The virus continues to circulate in all countries, it continues to kill and it continues to change," he added.

Recommendations for countries

In response, WHO has published recommendations for coun-

tries, which include updating their national COVID-19 programmes to move towards longer term sustained management of the disease.

They are also urged to continue collaborative surveillance to detect significant changes in the virus, as well as trends in disease severity and population immunity.

Tedros called for all countries to report COVID-19 data, especially on death and severe disease, genetic sequences, and vaccine effectiveness.

Governments should continue to offer vaccination against the disease, especially for the most at-risk groups, and ensure equitable access to vaccines, tests and treatment. Nearly seven million people have died from COVID-19, and there have been more than 769 million confirmed cases worldwide. The virus first emerged in Wuhan, China, in late 2019 and WHO declared the global pandemic the following March.

SOURCE: UN NEWS

ARTICLE



The US public health emergency declaration helped marshal resources during the worst of the COVID-19 crisis, when the virus was spreading rampantly. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE, FREDERIC J. BROWN /AFP/FILE

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD



The grounds and manicured gardens in Potsdam are surrounded by a park filled with centuries-old trees.
PHOTO: AFP

German drought prompts rethink for ancient palace park trees

CLIMATE change is taking a heavy toll on the ancient trees of Sanssouci, the sumptuous summer palace built in the 18th century as the Prussian answer to Versailles. The sprawling grounds with their manicured gardens in Potsdam southwest of Berlin are surrounded by a park filled with soaring, centuries-old giants that are now feeling the bite of persistent droughts.

Forest manager Sven Hanneemann, standing at the foot of an oak with a six-metre (20-foot) trunk circumference, gazed up at its canopy which once stretched

over 500 square metres.

Now its sickly branches are only dotted with green. Hanneemann gave the old giant another two years, “then it will be dead”.

In its 600 years, the tree had withstood storms, frigid temperatures and two world wars, but the lack of rain in the last few years due to the climate crisis has sounded its death knell.

“In 2018 when it was very dry, it suffered a real shock like many woody plants here in the park,” Hanneemann told AFP.

“And since then it’s actually been shrinking.”

Sanssouci Park stretching across 300 hectares (around 740 acres) has been part of Potsdam’s UNESCO World Heritage collection of stately homes and gardens since 1990.

Its palace draws more than 300,000 visitors each year.

The park, which counts some 26,000 trees, is now losing between 180 and 300 per year—at least three times the number that died annually before severe weather in 2017-18, a spokesman for the Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin foundation said.— AFP

El Nino could imperil Australia’s Great Barrier Reef

AUSTRALIA’S Great Barrier Reef could deteriorate if warming ocean temperatures spark another mass coral bleaching event later this year, the country’s top marine science body said Wednesday.

Sections of the reef had been showing promising signs of recovery until a bleaching event in 2022 turned swathes of the vibrant coral a sickly, pale white.

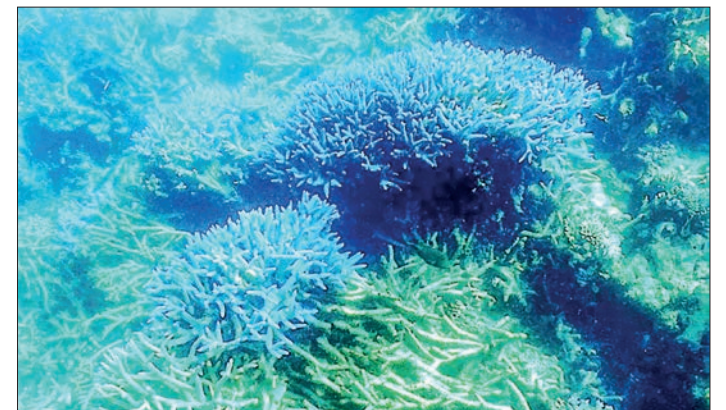
The Australian Institute of Marine Science said that, although the reef’s condition had stabilised during a “relatively mild” summer in 2023, it remained in a precarious position. Institute research director David Wachenfeld said

the reef was at “increased risk with climate change driving more frequent and severe bleaching events”.

Australia’s weather bureau has said it is “likely” an El Nino weather pattern will develop over the country in the coming weeks, bringing warmer ocean temperatures to the Pacific — and the renewed risk of coral bleaching.

Globally, the average ocean temperature has been topping seasonal heat records on a regular basis since April.

Wachenfeld said the reef was “only one large-scale disturbance away from a rapid reversal of recent recovery”. — AFP



Australia’s Great Barrier Reef could deteriorate if warming ocean temperatures spark another mass coral bleaching event later this year. **PHOTO: AFP**

Biden, in environment push, protects lands near Grand Canyon

JOE Biden used the backdrop of the Grand Canyon Tuesday to champion the climate fight — and distinguish himself from the Republican right — by designating large swathes of surrounding sacred land with protective status. The US president, kicking off a three-day tour of the American southwest, pumped his fist after signing into existence the country’s newest national monument, with Native Americans dressed in traditional outfits and headdresses standing at his side.

“Folks, preserving these

lands is good not only for Arizona (and) for the planet. It’s good for the economy, it’s good for the soul of the nation,” said Biden, shielded from the sun by his cap and dark sunglasses as he spoke before a landscape of grasses, shrubs and juniper-dotted hillsides.

The national monument — which designates that the area’s natural wealth, historical significance and economic interest have earned it special protection status — is a place of unique biodiversity that has long been cherished by local Native American tribes. — AFP

July hottest month on record: EU climate observatory

JULY was the hottest month ever recorded on Earth, the

European Union’s climate observatory confirmed Tuesday.



People cool off at the Trocadero Fountains next to the Eiffel Tower in Paris, on 23 July 2019 as a new heatwave hits Europe. **PHOTO: BERTRAND GUAY/AFP/FILE**

Marked by heatwaves and fires all around the world, the previous month was 0.33 degrees Celsius higher than the record set in July 2019 when the average temperature was 16.63C (32 Fahrenheit), it said.

“The month was 0.72C warmer than the 1991-2020 average for July,” it said.

About 1.2 degrees Celsius of global warming since the late 1800s, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, has made heatwaves hotter, longer and more frequent, as well as intensifying other weather extremes like storms and floods. — AFP

'No evidence' Facebook harms well-being: global study

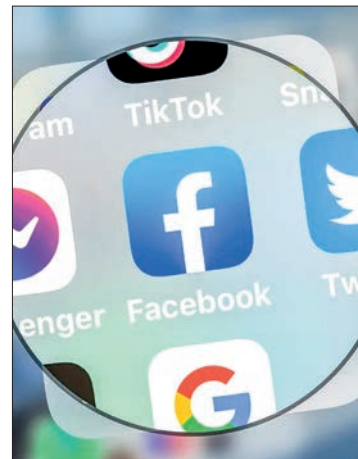
THERE is "no evidence" that the growth in using Facebook led to "widespread psychological harm", the largest independent scientific study on the topic concluded Wednesday, contradicting previous analyses and widespread perceptions. The probe by the University of Oxford's Internet Institute, which analyzed data from nearly one million people across 72 countries over 12 years, instead found "positive correlations" between adopting the social media platform and so-called well-being indicators.

Researchers combined data

on well-being collected by Gallup with Facebook's own global membership statistics to assess how engagement with the site related to three indicators: life satisfaction, and negative and positive psychological experiences. Facebook provided data, which its researchers had checked for accuracy, but did not commission, fund or influence the design of the study, or know the findings beforehand, according to the Oxford team.

Their paper also underwent peer review by the journal Royal Society Open Science.

Andrew Przybylski, an Oxford University human behaviour and technology professor, said they "examined the best available data carefully -- and found they did not support the idea that Facebook membership is related to harm". "Quite the opposite," he added. "In fact, our analysis indicates Facebook is possibly related to positive well-being. But Przybylski also noted that "this is not to say this is evidence that Facebook is good for the well-being of users". Researchers on the project, which began before the Covid pandemic, worked for



The Oxford University researchers found no evidence that Facebook membership is harmful. **PHOTO: DENIS CHARLET/AFP**

more than two years to secure the key data from Facebook, which currently reports nearly three billion users worldwide. — AFP

'Stigmatized': Sex workers join criticism of UK banks

LONDON-BASED sex worker Marin Scarlett and right-wing populist Nigel Farage might initially appear unlikely campaigning allies, but when it comes to the pitfalls of banking in Britain they share a common cause.

"It's ridiculous that financial institutions can act like moral arbiters," Scarlett told AFP, echoing Farage's exact same criticism last month after a scandal erupted around his treatment by British banks.

Farage's complaints about the closure of his account with the upmarket Coutts, a subsidiary of NatWest used by the late Queen Elizabeth II, dominated the news for days, prompted questions in parliament and cost top executives their jobs.

For Scarlett, who is in her thirties and started out as a sex worker 15 years ago, the sudden uproar was galling, given arbitrary account closures have plagued her profession for a "long time".

She accuses UK banks of applying "absurd, undue scrutiny" to those in the industry.

"Even though I knew everything I was doing was legal, you feel shamed and stigmatized," she said of the closures, which began in 2018 when a leading payment processor banned her. The campaigner for the European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance was told her account would be frozen for six months before an evaluation. — AFP

Hollywood's video game craze takes meta turn with 'Gran Turismo'



Sanford Panitch (left), president of Sony Pictures Entertainment Motion Picture Group, Asad Qizilbash (centre), head of Playstation Productions and Neill Blomkamp (right), director of 'Gran Turismo'. **PHOTO: PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP**

EVER since the huge successes of The Super Mario Bros Movie, Uncharted and The Last of Us, films and TV shows adapted from video games have been all the rage in Hollywood. But when Neill Blomkamp received a call from Sony asking if he wanted to direct a movie based around its super-serious, hyper-realistic racing game series Gran Turismo, he was initially confused.

"I almost wanted to read the screenplay just to understand what they were talking about, because it just made no sense to me," he told AFP. "Obviously, it's just a racing simulator." Indeed, the Gran Turismo games have no characters like Italian plumbers or fungus-crazed zombies who would lend themselves to a straightforward Hollywood film adaptation. — AFP

Rodriguez, subject of Oscar-winning 'Searching for Sugar Man' film, dies at 81

SIXTO Rodriguez, the once obscure American singer-songwriter who enjoyed a career renaissance after his music developed a cult following abroad, has died at the age of 81.

Rodriguez — the subject of Oscar-winning documentary Searching For Sugar Man — passed away on Tuesday, a statement on his website said,

without providing a cause of death.

"We extend our most heartfelt condolences to his daughters — Sandra, Eva and Regan — and to all his family," the statement read.

Born 10 July, 1942 in Detroit to Mexican American parents, Rodriguez worked on assembly lines while moonlighting as a

musician.

He put out two albums in the early 1970s: Cold Fact, which featured his best-known songs Sugar Man and I Wonder, and Coming From Reality.

By most metrics, the albums bombed stateside, and Rodriguez quit the music industry to live a quiet, working-class life in Detroit. — AFP



US singer and musician Sixto Rodriguez performs on stage during a concert at the Zenith on 4 June 2013, in Paris. **PHOTO: PIERRE ANDRIEU/AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

UK to host global energy security summit in early 2024



Climate activists of the u2018Smash Cruiseshitu2019 group on a small boat during an operation to block the Zuiderdam cruise ship at Kielu2019s harbour to protest against its carbon emissions. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ THOMAS EISENKRAETZER /AFP/FILE**

BRITAIN will host an international energy security summit next year, the government announced on Thursday, inviting big oil-producing nations and companies but focusing also on net zero.

The London Energy Security Conference, set for early 2024, will concentrate on shoring up supplies and making the system “more resilient to shocks”, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero said.

The gathering will come two years after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine upended gas supplies and sent wholesale prices spiralling, and as countries grapple with the transition away from fossil fuels.

“Energy security does not stop at our borders,” Energy Secretary Grant Shapps said in a statement.

“Our landmark... conference

will bring together international governments and industry leaders to help rewire the global energy system and build collective resilience.”

Shapps told Politico the event would be “inclusive” and major Middle Eastern fossil fuel producing countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates should be “in the room”. Russia will not be invited, the outlet reported, though he noted London had not “got to the detail of invitations at this stage”.

UK credentials under scrutiny

The announcement comes with the UK’s environmental credentials under increasing scrutiny, as the country’s worst cost-of-living crisis in decades and electoral politics threaten to slow its decarbonization push. — AFP

2025 World Expo in Osaka tickets to be sold from 30 November

ADVANCE ticket sales for the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka will begin on 30 November, 500 days before its start date, its organizers said Thursday.

The admission price depends on when the tickets are bought and when they will be

used, with a single-entry adult ticket costing between 4,000 yen (\$28) and 6,700 yen, the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition said about the event, which runs from 13 April through 13 October. Electronic tickets will be sold through the organization’s

website, with buyers essentially having to book half a year before their visit to the expo where at least 153 countries and regions are set to participate. Reservation dates can be changed up to three times, and in principle there is no refund. — Kyodo

Nervous investors trade cautiously ahead of US inflation report



Packs of freshly printed 20 USD notes are processed for bundling and packaging at the US Treasury’s Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, DC 20 July 2018. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP**

STOCK markets and the dollar wavered Thursday before much-anticipated US inflation

data, which comes against a backdrop of renewed concerns that the Federal Reserve could

announce another interest rate hike before the end of the year.

Oil prices dipped on profit-taking, a day after reaching multi-month highs on worries about Russian supplies following a Ukrainian attack on one of the country’s tankers. Output cuts by Moscow and OPEC giant Saudi Arabia were also providing strong support to the market, analysts said.

The feel-good factor that characterised much of July has given way to uncertainty about the US central bank’s plans amid warnings from policymakers that more was needed to finally get prices under control. — AFP

Philippines GDP slows as inflation, rate hikes weigh



Filipino shoppers walk into a foreign brand clothes shop at a Manila shopping mall. **PHOTO: ROMEO GACAD/AFP/FILE**

PHILIPPINE economic growth slowed sharply in the second quarter, official data showed Thursday, as high inflation, a drop in government spending and interest rate hikes dampened activity.

Gross domestic product expanded by 4.3 per cent from a year ago, compared with 6.4 per cent in the first three months, figures released by the Philippine Statistics Agency showed.

That was below the median analyst forecast of 6.0 per cent and the slowest since 2011, excluding the years 2020 and 2021

when the Covid-19 pandemic smashed the economy, Bloomberg said.

The government’s economic management team said second-quarter growth was underpinned by increased tourism spending and commercial investment.

But the pace was “tempered by high commodity prices, the lagged effects of interest rate hikes, the contraction in government spending, and slower global economic growth”, they said in a statement. — AFP

Disney streaming service sees subscribers fall again



A loss of Disney+ subscribers comes as the entertainment giant faces off with striking actors and writers over the future of the industry. **PHOTO: AFP**

DISNEY on Wednesday reported a loss for the most recent quarter, with the number of subscribers to its streaming service shrinking again, but a pledge to crack down on password sharing sent shares higher in after-market trades.

The falling Disney+ subscriber numbers — for the third consecutive quarter — came as a crippling writers and actors strike hits the US entertainment industry, threatening the company's ability to produce content key to the streaming service's

appeal.

"It is my fervent hope that we quickly find solutions to the issues that have kept us apart these past few months," chief executive Bob Iger, whose contract has been extended through 2026, said of negotiations with striking actors and writers.

"I am personally committed to working to achieve this result."

Hollywood television and movie writers went on their first strike in 15 years in May, only to be joined in mid-July by actors.

The last time Hollywood writers laid down their pens and keyboards, in 2007, the strike lasted 100 days and cost Los Angeles's entertainment economy around \$2 billion. — AFP

Inner city delivery hubs raise child health fears after UK court battle

FROM the third-floor window of a London primary school, parent Sarah Slotover stares out over the industrial site at the centre of a "David and Goliath" battle between online supermarket Ocado and the community.

In this quiet, leafy corner of north London

a bitter struggle is being waged over Ocado's plan to open a massive distribution hub.

The plot in the Tufnell Park area of the capital is surrounded by houses, with just a high wire fence separating it from Yerbury Primary School's playground.

The battle has taken a group of parents and local residents — terrified by the potential air pollution impact on the school's hundreds of young pupils — all the way to London's High Court, and echoes similar concerns in other cities in Europe and beyond. — AFP



In a quiet corner of London a struggle is being waged over the site where Ocado wants to open a big distribution hub. **PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP**

Angry Birds maker Rovio's shareholders accept Sega's bid

SHAREHOLDERS of Finland's Rovio, creator of the Angry Birds franchise, have overwhelmingly accepted Japanese Sega's offer to buy the company, allowing the deal to go through, the Finnish company said Thursday.

Rovio said in a statement that 96.3 per cent of its shareholders had accepted the offer, which values the company at

more than 700 million euros (\$770 million).

The offer was contingent on more than 90 per cent acceptance.

"As the minimum acceptance condition and all other conditions to complete the offer have been fulfilled, the offeror will complete the offer in accordance with its terms and conditions," Rovio said. — AFP



Angry Birds became one of the most successful mobile games ever after its release in 2009. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CHANGING THE NAME OF TRADING

Notice is hereby given that the official trade name has been changed of Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co., Ltd for the following products manufactured by Zhejiang Zhongshan Chemical Industry Group Co., Ltd.

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	DKZINE 500 SC	Pyaung Thu Gyi 50% SC	Atrazine 50% SC	Provisional Reg:	P2019 - 4686
2.	DKPYRACLOS 250 SC	Htoo Kae 25% SC	Pyraclorobin 25% SC	Provisional Reg:	P2023 - 4756
3.	DKtola 960 EC	Shwe Yar Myay	S-Metolachlor 960 g/l EC	Provisional Reg:	P2022 - 4684

We invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co., Ltd. (Address: BUILDING (75), ROOM -101), KYAN SIT MIN HOUSING, HLAINGTHARYAR TOWNSHIP., YANGON REGION, MYANMAR. Ph no .09403723854)

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (028E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (028E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-8-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S T12 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

China resumes Japan-bound group tours after COVID-19 hiatus



Travellers queue up to check in for flights to Japan at Beijing Capital International Airport on 10 August, 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

CHINA said Thursday that it has approved the resumption of Japan-bound group tours for its citizens, lifting restrictions introduced in January 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in a move expected to revitalize Japan's inbound tourism sector.

The resumption of the tours comes amid strained bilateral relations over Tokyo's plan to start releasing treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant

into the sea as early as the end of this month.

Chinese Ambassador to Japan Wu Jianguo said the restart of group tours to Japan was a measure to "boost people-to-people exchanges and promote mutual understanding" between the two countries.

"Friendship is the only correct choice" for China and Japan, Wu said at a Tokyo event for experts discussing improving bilateral ties.

Japan's public and business sectors have welcomed the resumption, as the world's third-largest economy has made inbound tourism one of the key pillars of its growth strategy following the end of the coronavirus pandemic.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters on Thursday that the government hopes inbound travel from China will recover further due to resumed tours. — Kyodo

Poland says to boost troops level to 10,000 at Belarus border

POLAND will boost the number of troops at its eastern border

with Belarus to 10,000, the defence minister said Thursday, as

he warned about potential security risks from the Russian ally.

"This will be around 10,000 soldiers," Mariusz Blaszczak told public radio regarding the total troop presence, an increase from the additional number announced the day before.

He said 4,000 soldiers will support the national border agency and the remaining 6,000 will be in the reserve.

"We decided to move troops closer to the Belarusian border in order to... scare the aggressor, so that the aggressor doesn't dare to attack Poland," he added. — AFP



4,000 Polish soldiers will support the national border agency and the remaining 6,000 will be in the reserve. Polish border guards patrol along a section of the border wall in northeastern Poland. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFF/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Grain silos ablaze in western French port

FRENCH firefighters were battling a major blaze in grain storage silos Thursday in the western port of La Rochelle, authorities said.

The fire, which started around 0600 GMT, created a cloud of smoke visible for kilometres (miles) and is still raging, said officials of the Charente-Maritime region. The four silos on fire are in a row and contain wheat, a spokeswoman for the fire brigade told AFP, adding the fire still risks spreading. The site and nearby facilities have all been evacuated. "We are in the process of confirming how many silos are impacted and putting ourselves in a position to protect the other silos," she added, emphasising there was no immediate indication of an explosion risk. — AFP

Russia says 'improved' positions along front in Kharkiv region

THE Russian army on Thursday said it had improved its positions on the front line in northeastern Ukraine around Kupiansk, where Kyiv has reported increasing Russian attacks.

"In the course of offensive operations near Kupiansk, assault teams of the Western battle group improved their positions along the forward edge of the front line," the Russian defence ministry said. — AFP

Ecuadoran presidential candidate shot dead after rally



A woman is assisted after being wounded by shots fired during the assassination of presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio after a rally in Quito. **PHOTO: AFP**

A popular candidate running for Ecuador's presidency was shot dead as he was leaving a rally in the capital Quito on Wednesday evening, officials said.

President Guillermo Lasso blamed Fernando Villavicencio's death on "organized crime" in a statement on X, formerly known as Twitter, and vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"Outraged and shocked by the assassination of presidential candidate Fernando

Villavicencio," he said. "For his memory and for his fight, I assure you that this crime will not go unpunished."

The 59-year-old centrist, who had complained of receiving threats against him, was the second most popular candidate in the country's 20 August presidential race, according to recent opinion polls.

Villavicencio was murdered as he was leaving a stadium in northern Quito after holding a campaign rally, officials said. — AFP

SPORTS

Bayern reach deal with Spurs to sign Kane: reports

BAYERN Munich have reached an agreement to sign England captain Harry Kane from Tottenham, for a Bundesliga record fee of over 100 million euros (\$110 million), reports said Thursday.

Talks between the two clubs had been ongoing for several weeks, as Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy pushed for a higher fee, aware that Kane could leave on a free at the end of his deal in 2024. Bayern have reportedly submitted their final bid for the 30-year-old striker, breaking through the 100-million-euro barrier for the first time.

The Athletic reported the deal between the two clubs first, and was followed by Sky Sports and several other British and German media.

Six-time European champions Bayern have been historically more reluctant to spend big on transfer fees than many of their European rivals.

The reported figure of over 100 million euros well exceeds their club record transfer outlay of 80 million euros paid in 2019 for French defender Lucas Hernandez. Hernandez left Bayern for Paris Saint-Germain in 2023 for 45 million euros. — AFP



Myanmar futsal players are taking training intensively for the semi-final match of the Continental Futsal Championship 2023 against the Czech Republic. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar to face Czech Republic in Continental Futsal Championship 2023 Semis

THE Myanmar national futsal team has reached the semi-finals of the Continental Futsal Championship 2023 and will play against the Czech team on 11 August, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar had to compete with Thailand and the Solomon Islands team in Group (A) of the tournament.

Although they lost to the Thai team in the first match, they defeated the Solomon Islands team and advanced to the semi-finals.

In the semi-final, Myanmar faces up to the Group B winner Czech Republic.

Team Myanmar will square off against the Czech Republic in the first

semi-final match at 4 pm on 11 August, and the Thai team will take on the Afghanistan team in the second semi-final match at 7 pm MST on the same day.

Before the semi-finals, the Solomon Islands team and the Mozambique team will fight for fifth place at 1:30 pm MST. — KZL

Myanmar U-23 team to play friendlies before international tourney



Myanmar U-23 players are seen preparing for the ASEAN U-23 Championship 2023. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar U-23 football team will play friendly matches in preparation for the ASEAN U-23 Championship 2023, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation. With 37 preliminary squads, team Myanmar prepared their best starting on 6 August. Myanmar's youth team will play a friendly match

against Yangon United today at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. After the game, 23 players will be shortlisted ahead of the international tournament.

Team Myanmar will leave for Thailand to compete in the ASEAN football tourney on 12 August. Michael Feichtenbeiner, a German citizen, is manag-

ing the Myanmar U-23 team as the head coach, and the team is preparing for three international tournaments, including the ASEAN U-23 tournament.

Myanmar is placed in the same group as host Thailand, Cambodia and Brunei in the ASEAN tourney. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Diani firing for France ahead of Australia World Cup showdown

KADIDIATOU Diani might have feared she was going to miss the Women's World Cup when she suffered a fractured collarbone towards the end of last season, but the 28-year-old returned to fitness in time and has played a key role on France's run to the quarter-finals.

Diani followed up a hat-trick, including two penalties, in a 6-3 win over Panama in the group stage by scoring the opener in France's 4-0 thrashing of Morocco in the last 16 that set up a showdown with co-hosts Australia in Brisbane on Saturday.

Only Japan's Hinata Miyazawa, with five, has scored more goals than Diani, who has also laid on three assists at the tournament, including two for her strike partner, Eugenie Le Sommer. — AFP



Diani celebrates scoring against Morocco in the last 16 in Adelaide. **PHOTO: AFP**



N Korean leader signs order to boost Army's preparations 'in offensive way'



North Korea held a massive military parade commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, which the country refers to as Victory Day. PHOTO: KCNA/SPUTNIK/FILE

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong-un has signed a written order to further step up the army preparations “in the offensive way” after summarizing and analyzing the situation on the Korean peninsula, the state-run news agency reported on Thursday.

The leader has guided an enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of North Korea to discuss the issue of “making the army more thoroughly gird for a war given the grave political and military situation prevailing in the Korean peninsula”, the report said.

The meeting analyzed the current situation on the Korean peninsula and its vicinity and the military moves and decided “on the plans for offensive military countermeasures to thoroughly deter”, as well as to make “full war preparations to neutralize at a blow the enemy attack with overwhelming strategic deterrence and launch simultaneous offensive military actions in contingency”, media reported.

The meeting examined a plan to form frontline operation groups “reinforced to overwhelmingly contain and destroy the enemy”, studied military measures to diversify the operational executive capabilities of frontline units and map out more detailed operational plans, the report said. — SPUTNIK

Thai election runners-up inch closer to coalition majority

THAILAND'S Pheu Thai party inched closer to forming a government and clearing the kingdom's political logjam Thursday, announcing another party had joined its coalition, nearly three months after elections.

The kingdom has been politically deadlocked after the reformist Move Forward Party (MFP), which won the most seats in the May polls, was unable to get its leader approved as prime minister by parliament.

Pheu Thai, the party associated with exiled former premier Thaksin Shinawatra and which finished second, has taken the lead in trying to form a coalition, with MFP dropping out. — AFP

China's commerce ministry comments on US administrative order on outbound investment review

CHINA'S Ministry of Commerce (MOC) on Thursday made remarks on the US administrative order of reviewing US companies' investments going abroad.

The United States imposing limits on its own companies investing abroad is an act of decoupling and severing industrial and supply chains under the guise of de-risking in the investment sector, a spokesperson with the MOC said.

The act gravely deviates from the principles of market economy and fair competition advocated by the United States, affects the normal business decisions of enterprises, undermines the international economic and trade order, and seriously disrupts the security of global industrial and supply chains.

China is seriously concerned about it and reserves the right to take measures, according to the spokesperson.

“We hope that the US side will respect the laws of market economy and the principle of fair competition, refrain from artificially impeding global economic and trade exchanges and cooperation, as well as setting obstacles for the recovery of world economic growth,” the spokesperson said. — Xinhua

“We hope that the US side will respect the laws of market economy and the principle of fair competition, refrain from artificially impeding global economic and trade exchanges and cooperation, as well as setting obstacles for the recovery of world economic growth,” the spokesperson said. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 30 September 2020 shows the street view of the Lujiazui area of Pudong, east China's Shanghai. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WANG XIANG/XINHUA