

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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A file photo shows workers carrying bags of rice at a warehouse in Yangon, Myanmar on 8 March 2023.

Relaxation for transport of rice and broken rice scheduled across various states and regions

Regarding the transport of rice and broken rice in the past, it is necessary to obtain a transport permit across the states and regions, but now, due to easing restrictions, the transport permit is no longer needed, said Ko Naing, who operates a rice trading business on Arthawka Road in Bayintnaung Depot, Yangon yesterday.

However, rice must be milled only within relevant states and regions. A

rice trader told GNLM that the increase in the prices of rice and broken rice may be due to obtaining transport permits.

However, it only takes about two months for the new rice to start entering the market, so those who have rice have increased their sales.

In the Yangon market, a bag of Pawsan rice from the Ayeyawady Region costs K100,000, but in Bogale, the price is K100,000, and the price of one

hundred baskets of Pawsan paddy is K2.8 million and price for 100 baskets of low-grade paddy is K1.7 million to K1.8 million, Ko Soe Tint, who operates a 20-acre paddy farm in Yaywun Village, Bogale Township told to GNLM.

A 100-basket of Pawsan paddy is sold for K3.7 million and a bag of Pawsan rice sells for K125,000 in the Shwebo market.

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Departmental officials inspect trucks that will pass through Chinshwehaw border on 22 August 2023.

Plan to allocate border checkpoints adjacent to border lines in order to eradicate illegal trade

According to the first meeting of the Appraisal Committee on Building Trade Zones or Camps in Line with the International Process, the border checkpoints will be allocated closest to the border lines in order to cooperate more with neighbouring countries in eradicating illegal trade.

Chairman of the committee Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win said at the meeting on 14 September that by placing border checkpoints at the border line adjacent to the neighbouring countries' border checkpoints, export, import,

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NATIONAL



Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay drives the stake for new Insein District Court building, Insein Township, Yangon Region yesterday.

Stake driven for construction of Insein District Court building

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Thar Htay attended the stake-driving ceremony for new Insein District Court building, located on No 4 Highway in Danyingon ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region yesterday morning. The ceremony took place in the pavilion where the building will be constructed.

At the ceremony, Chief Justice of Yangon Region High Court Daw Sanda Thwe, Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung, Region Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Jacob Htoo, and the

judges of the Yangon Region High Court, along with Yangon Region Judicial Officer U Kyaw Kyaw drove stakes at the designated places. The building is under construction in accord with the first year plan of the five-year judicial strategic plan 2023-2027 being implemented by the Supreme Court of the Union.

M Interior Design Co takes responsibility for construction of the building which will be 200 feet long and 140 feet wide, and will be a five-story reinforced concrete structure. — MNA/KZW

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-9-2023)

Flood Condition of Thanlwin River

According to the 8:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about one inch above its danger level. It may continue to rise the present water level by about three inches during the next one 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 Hpa-an Township, to take precaution measure.

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 17-9-2023)

Flood Condition of Sittoung River

According to the 13:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about two feet above its danger level. It may fall the present water level by about two inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Flood Condition of Bago River

According to the 13:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Bago River at Bago has exceeded by about one inch above its danger level. It may continue to rise the present water level by about two inches during the next one 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 Madauk, and Bago township, to take precaution measure.

Condition of Southwest Monsoon withdrawal issued on 17 September 2023

During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has been withdrawn from the northern Myanmar areas.

Specialists conduct medical outreach in Mawlamyine, Mon State

A specialist team from Yangon General Hospital, Yangon Children's Hospital and Specialist Hospital 500-bed in collaboration with medics from Mawlamyine General Hospital performed medical treatments for residents in Mon State on 16 and 17 September.

During their two-day visit, the medical team provided treatments to 119 patients with heart diseases, 76 gastroenteritis patients, 92 neurological patients, nine neurosurgical patients, 109 neurological child patients, 19 patients with hematologic disorders, 287 patients with general conditions, 55 patients with diabetes and nephrological conditions, 97 patients with physiological conditions, 26 dental patients, 26 patients with eye conditions, four patients with ear, nose and throat conditions, 86 orthopaedic patients, and three obstetrics and gynecological patients, totalling 1,008. The specialist team made medical examinations for the patients with the aid of respective diagnosis machines.



The specialist and health staff make medical checkup for the patient with the aid of diagnosis machines.

Apart from patients in Mon and Kayin states, those from 10 townships of Mon State and three townships of Kayin State were also benefitted from the treatment of mobile specialist team.

In addition, arrangements were made for the transfer of two patients who needed further treatment for neurologic, three patients needing neurosurgery, 10 patients needed treatment for heart disease and two patients who needed treatment for gastroenteritis procedures to Yangon General Hospital. Similarly, 12 children who needed treatment for

child neurologic referred to Yangon Children's Hospital. The specialist team has treated three times in Sittway, Rakhine State and similar programmes have already been conducted in Patheingyi, Taunggyi, Magway, Pyaw, Meiktila, and Myeik townships. And this initiative will cover other regions and states. — MNA/KZL

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Police members join cleaning up at hospitals hailing 59th Anniversary of MPF Day

As a gesture of hailing the 59th Myanmar Police Force Day, which falls on 1 October, members of MPF participated in cleaning up the areas of the People's General Hospital (1000-bed) in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MPF members and staff cleaned up inside and outside the general hospital together with more than 700 doctors, nurses and health staff.

State Administration Council member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Toe Yi, Deputy Ministry for Health Professor Dr Aye Tun, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs U Khine Tun Oo and officials viewed round the cleaning up measures at the ceremony. — MNA/KZW



State Administration Council member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae encourages members of MPF who participate in cleaning up the areas of the People's General Hospital (1000-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, who paid a working visit to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Mr Sergei Aleinik, arrived at the Minsk International Airport on the evening of 14 September. At the airport, the Myanmar delegation was welcomed by Myanmar Consul-General in Minsk U Moe Kyaw Thu, staff of Myanmar Consulate-General and responsible officials from the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the morning of 15 September, he had a separate meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Mr Sergei Aleinik at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus. The foreign ministers cordially exchanged views on further promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation and reaffirmed their commitments for closer collaboration between the two countries in multilateral fora on the basis of mutual understanding, trust and equality.

Subsequently, the Myanmar-Belarus bilateral meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus. The meeting was co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar U Than Swe and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Mr Sergei Aleinik. Also in attendance were Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe observes at the Belarusian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War on 15 September 2023.

Myanmar, Belarusian FMs to further promote bilateral relations and cooperation

... expediting the implementation of the ongoing bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus, holding of consultations between the two foreign ministries, enhancing cooperation in economy and trade, defence, agriculture, education, science and technology, culture and people-to-people exchanges amongst others.

Mr Evgeny Shestakov, Myanmar Ambassador concurrently accredited to Belarus U Lwin Oo, and senior officials of both sides.

At the meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views and discussed on a wide range of

topics, including strengthening of the existing friendship and expediting the implementation of the ongoing bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus, holding of consultations between the two foreign min-

istries, enhancing cooperation in economy and trade, defence, agriculture, education, science and technology, culture and people-to-people exchanges amongst others. Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister U Than Swe expressed Myanmar's profound appreciation to the Republic of Belarus for its principled position, understanding and unwavering support towards Myanmar, in both bilateral and multilateral contexts, especially at the United Nations and also for facilitation of the establishment of the Myanmar Consulate-General in Minsk.

Later, the Myanmar delegation attended the working

luncheon hosted by Mr Sergei Aleinik, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Belarus.

In the afternoon, the Myanmar delegation visited the Falco-Agro Dairy Farm and was briefed by responsible officials on technique of cattle breeding and production of dairy products. Afterwards, the Myanmar delegation visited the Belarusian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War.

In the evening, he attended the reception celebrating the opening of the Consulate-General of the Republic of the Union Myanmar in Minsk, together with Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus Mr Evgeny Shestakov. The reception was attended by officials from the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, diplomatic corps and Myanmar scholars in Minsk.

On 16 September, the Deputy Prime Minister and party departed Minsk to Mandalay via Moscow and Novosibirsk. In Novosibirsk, the Myanmar delegation was shown around the significant places of the city and building intended for the Myanmar Consulate-General in Novosibirsk. First Deputy Governor of Novosibirsk Region Mr Yuri Petukhov hosted a dinner for the Myanmar delegation.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back to the Mandalay International Airport by the Myanmar Airways International (MAI) flight on the morning of 17 September 2023, where they were welcomed back by official concerned of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

NATIONAL

MEMBERS of the State Administration Council made tours of inspection for development tasks in townships of Shan, Kayah, Kachin and Rakhine states yesterday.

Metmung and Lashio in Shan State

SAC members U Shwe Kyein and U Yan Kyaw comforted patients at Metmung Hospital in Wa Self-Administered Division of Shan State and viewed round the layer farm, pig farm and Napier grass of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and the poultry farm of the border guard force yesterday morning. They also visited Government Technical High School and Agriculture and Livestock High School in Lashio.

Bawlakhe, Pasawng and Demawhso in Kayah State

SAC member Porel Aung Thein comforted Tatmadaw member and family member patients at the local military hospital in Bawlakhe on 15 September and met with police members of Bawlakhe District Police Force on 16 September. He held separate meetings with departmental personnel

Development process beefed up in Shan, Kayah, Kachin and Rakhine states



State Administration Council member Porel Aung Thein inspects the construction tasks of staff housings in Loikaw yesterday.

and town elders at the hall in Bawlakhe and Pasawng. While in Pasawng, he presented supplies to police members and families at Pasawng Myoma police station.

Yesterday, he inspected construction tasks of staff housings in Loikaw. He released more than 200,000 fingerlings into Nawngya Lake in Loikaw and 90,000 fingerlings

to local fish farmers in Loikaw and Demawhso townships free of charge.

Putao in Kachin State

SAC member Daw Dwe Bu inspected greening works,

thriving monsoon paddy and perennial trees and landscape as well as beautification along the road to Putao Airport in Putao. She urged officials to showcase traditions and customs of ethnics for enhancement of tourism industry. While in Putao, she viewed Namthwam Creek and the Tathtauk Pagoda in Putao Station.

Kyaukpyu, Yanbye and Taungup in Rakhine State

SAC member Dr Ba Shwe visited Kyaukpyu Education Degree College and Government Technological College (Kyaukpyu) and urged officials to turn out new generation youths reliable for the country. He viewed monsoon paddy seed production farm in Yanbye Township. He also met with departmental officials and town elders in Yanbye, urging them to restore peace and stability of the region and rule of law. He inspected progress of Sanepauk Bridge project on Maei-Kyaukpyu segment of Yangon-Kyaukpyu road. In Taungup, he inspected construction of the convocation hall at Taungup University. — MNA/TTA

BRI countries to cooperate in efforts to use new technologies in trade and simplify standards: MoALI UM

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung attended the cooperation conference focusing on import and export food safety for countries included in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) held in Nanning, Guangxi Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, on 15 September.

The Governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China gave the opening speech at the conference, and Vice Minister of GACC Mr Lv Weihong led the conference with attendance of ministers from member countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative, high-ranking

officials on export and import food safety from various countries and representatives.

At the conference, the Union Minister spoke on the topic of "Promoting Agricultural Commodities Trade through Harmonization and Tightening of Food Safety Standards among BRI Countries" and said that China is continuously investing in infrastructure projects in BRI, playing a major role in promoting the trade and investment of countries included in BRI and ASEAN member countries. Then, he encouraged BRI countries to cooperate in efforts to use new technologies in trade, simplify the standards and make them

consistent, and address procedural and other administrative barriers.

After the conference, the representatives of the BRI member countries who attended the Terms of Reference for Institutional Cooperation in Import and Export Food Safety for the Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (TOR) signed and issued a joint statement.

Before the morning session of the conference, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) negotiated on the eradication of plant diseases necessary to promote trade in

agricultural produce, bilateral negotiation of agreements (drafts) on pest control of agricultural and fishery products, issues related to the signing of an agreement for the export of pineapple, fermented soybeans, sweet potato, tapioca starch, rice, and livestock products, information on market analysis of macadamia, corn flake, and fresh areca nut, and cooperation activities for the promotion of trade in agricultural produce.

Furthermore, they signed agreements regarding the export of wild and farmed fishery products from Myanmar to China and plant pest and disease clearance. — MNA/CT

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NATIONAL

Union Minister for Commerce attends 20th CAEXPO and related meetings

A delegation led by Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo, currently in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China, attended the opening ceremonies of 20th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and the 20th China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit yesterday.

China's Premier Li Qiang and prime ministers and ministers from ASEAN countries attended the ceremony. U Min Naung, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Myo Thant, Union Minister for Construction, U Tin Maung Swe, Myanmar Ambassador to China and officials also attended the ceremony.

The 20th CAEXPO in Nanning, China, is being held on-site on 16-19 September 2023, carrying the theme "Work Together for a Harmonious Home and a Shared Future — Promoting

High-Quality Development of the Belt and Road and Building an Epicentrum of Growth".

The Union minister viewed round the booths of Myanmar entrepreneurs showcasing agricultural produce, marine products, SME products, gems and jewellery items. The Union ministers, the mayor of Mandalay, the Mandalay Region minister for commerce and Chinese and Myanmar officials also visited the Myanmar national showroom where features industrial zones, tourism zones and housing development projects being implemented around Mandalay chosen as a pleasant city.

In the afternoon, Union minister U Aung Naing Oo attended the Institutional Opening-up for New Economic Growth meeting at International Conference Centre, Liyuan Resort. In the meeting, the Union minister exchanged views on rules and reg-



The 20th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in progress in Nanning of China yesterday.

ulations, management, standards and norms, and trading procedures that may contribute to momentous economic development within the bloc.

In the evening, the Union

minister received Chinese media namely People's Daily, CGTN, China Media Group, China News Service, Guangxi Daily, Guangxi Radio and Television, Nanning Daily, and Nanning Radio and

Television, and responded to their queries about bilateral cooperation between China and Myanmar as well as prospects of China-ASEAN cooperations. — MNA/TH

Myanmar showcases agricultural produce, jewellery at 20th China-ASEAN Expo

THE 20th China-ASEAN Expo is currently being held in the Nanning, Guangxi Zhaung Autonomous Region, China. Since opening of the exposition, Myanmar has been showcasing products at 80 booths together with products from both China and ASEAN countries.

At the Myanmar booths, a variety of products such as rice, pulses and beans, corn, sesame, fisheries products, avocados, handicrafts, clothing, foodstuffs, and jewellery items are put on display for sales.

In addition, during the Manda-



Myanmar boosts showcase their products at the 20th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, China yesterday.

lay Region Trade, Investment and Tourism Promotion Conference held on 16 September, Myanmar and Chinese businessmen signed six cooperation agreements. — MNA/KZW

MPE sells one mln gallons of petroleum at auction

PETROCHEMICAL Complex (Thanbayakan) of Production Department under Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise sold one million gallons out of the initial five million gallons of petroleum put up for auction at the floor price K8,700 per gallon, according to the Production Department of MPE.

The Production Department of MPE invited bids earlier to sell five million gallons of petroleum to industrial enterprises reliant on petroleum and they sold one million gallons of petroleum at the specified floor price of K8,700 per gallon on 12 September.

The remaining four million gallons of petroleum will be sold in four equal installments, with one million gallons being auctioned every three weeks.

The entrepreneurs interested in purchasing them can submit their desired amount to the fuel procurement committee and the necessary purchasing fees are deposited into a government bank account.

Due to the substantial amount of petroleum on offer, these purchases are being made by groups of enterprises rather than individuals. — ASH/KZL

COVID-19 report,
17 September 2023

NEW TESTS

3,922

NEW CASE

1

CASUALTIES

0

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Selling 50 palm oil barrels per wholesale outlet on quota basis brings sufficient distribution to retail outlets

ACCORDING to oil traders, the companies selling 50 barrels per palm oil wholesale outlet countryside benefited small retail outlets by having proper distribution.

In the second week of September, some companies that import oil from abroad are selling up to 50 barrels containing 110 visses of palm oil to each wholesale oil outlet in some regions at a reference price.

Palm oil is taken from the Thilawa oil tank, and the overall shipping cost to the regions is K8,000 per oil barrel, an owner of a truck terminal going to delta regions told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Palm oil is being sold in the permitted regions at a price of K4,900 per viss set by the company. The wholesale reference



People are seen queuing up to buy palm oil from a mobile shop.

price this week is K4,524 for a viss of palm oil.

It can be seen that palm

oil is being sold at the wholesale reference rate of K4,750 per viss everywhere in Yan-

gon. Although there are many buyers standing in line, most of them are buying to make

a profit rather than as actual end users.

Now, it is known that retail resellers or business users can purchase 10 visses or more after submitting a copy of the Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC), the shop or business address, and a signed pledge to resell, paying only two per cent of the service fee and profit.

Due to the changes in the sales pattern, oil queue sales disappeared in the Bayintnaung Market, and regional retail oil outlets are able to resell palm oil at a fixed reference price to consumers after purchasing from major oil outlets.

Around 40,000 tonnes of palm oil can be imported from abroad until 20 September, according to the lists of cargo vessels to be docked. — TWA/CT

Invitation extended to entrepreneurs for catering services on two Yangon-Mandalay trains

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanma Railways has invited entrepreneurs to operate catering services on 3-up train and 4-down train, which run on the Yangon-Mandalay railway section.

Myanma Railway Headquarters will conduct an open

tender for this business at 1 pm on 27 September, using a competitive bidding system. The tender will take place in the meeting hall on the first floor of Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station.

Therefore, interested entrepreneurs can purchase tender proposal forms at the

office of Manager (Business/Division) in Division-3 Mandalay and Division-7 Yangon at the rate of K10,000 per copy during office hours until 26 September.

Myanma Railways is operating two express trains for the Yangon-Mandalay section, as well as two mail trains. Additionally, there will be two passenger and cargo trains for the Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon section and the Mawlamyine-Yangon section, along with two mail trains for the Yangon-Pyay and Thazi-Shwenyaung sections. On the Yangon-Bago, Thazi-Myingyan, Bagan-Mandalay and Pyinmana-Taungdingyi sections, two passenger and cargo trains operate on each of these sections. Additionally, there are two passenger and cargo trains each for the Mawlamyine-Ye and Patheingyi sections. — TWA/KZW



An express train seen rolling on the railway.



Myanmar workers are seen at a lounge for sending them Thailand under MoU in 2022.

467 employment agencies licensed to legally send workers abroad

THERE are 467 employment agencies licensed to legally send Myanmar workers abroad as of August this year, according to the 10th annual meeting of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF).

In the meeting held on 16 September, it is informed that the standard contract to be signed between the agency and workers will be implemented from 1 September. According to the contract, 25 per cent of the monthly basic salary remittance to families must be arranged through official channels.

As a result of such remit-

tances, it will return to the mother country as an income, and the social and economic well-being of the families of these workers will improve, said U Myint Naung, Union Minister for Labour.

As of August, there are 477 licensed overseas employment agencies, of which 10 agencies have been temporarily halted.

In addition, there are 158 Thai licensed agencies to send Myanmar workers to Thailand, eight of which were temporarily halted. As such, a total of 150 Thai licensed agencies are operating businesses. — TWA/KZL

LOCAL BUSINESS

Demand from abroad makes sales of pigeon peas produced in Myanmar pitch

PIGEON peas produced in Myanmar this season fetched great prices due to the demand from foreign countries, according to bean dealers in Mandalay.

Pigeon peas harvested this year have good yields as well as great colours and sizes due to fine weather. A bag containing three baskets of pigeon peas cost K175,000 in the same period last year. This year, the price of a bag containing three baskets of pigeon peas was valued at K385,000, doubling the price of the previous year, U Soe Win Myint, an owner of the Soe Win Myint commodity depot, said.

“People in Myanmar consume fewer green beans. Indians prefer Myanmar pigeon peas because they are free of

chemicals and have a unique taste. All the pigeon peas produced are exported every year, and they have a strong hold on market share. The higher demand for pigeon peas in India this year raised the price. Pigeon peas are exported to Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan every year, in addition to India. Pigeon peas are grown as a winter crop only for one season, and they are being sold well in the Mandalay market,” he continued.

There are three types of pigeon peas produced in Myanmar: pigeon peas (red gram), white gram, and striped gram. Pigeon peas are cultivated in Mandalay, Magway, and Sagaing regions and later succeed in expanding cultivation in



The file photo shows that merchants are seen evaluating beans and pulses in the Mandalay market. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

Kayah and Shan States. Therefore, farmers are recommend-

ed to grow more pigeon peas, which have a strong market

share. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/CT

Relaxation for transport of rice

FROM PAGE-1

A bag of Shwebo Pawsan rice wholesale in Yangon Commodity Market has set as K125,000.

When transporting goods, if it's forest products, owners have to get a permit to transport them.

A truck driver who travels to the Ayeyawady Region told GNLM that when transporting barrels of palm oil to districts these days, they have obtained

the credentials of the company that sells them to the districts and have to show them when they are checked on the road.

Since the middle of this year, the price of rice has been increasing, and related to this, 100,000 bags of rice have been distributed to the consumers at a lower price since 7 August.

Therefore, two Yangon Rice Commodity Depots have been selling rice at affordable

price to the wholesale market from 28 August until today. However, there are some people who have to carefully check the type and quality of rice they buy.

Since there is no longer any delay in transporting rice and broken rice across states and regions, rice and broken rice from other regions, including Ayeyawady Region, can be transported to Yangon as before. — TWA/KZL



Workers carry sacks of rice from a truck.

Plan to allocate border checkpoints adjacent to border lines in order to eradicate illegal trade

FROM PAGE-1

and individual access will be stricter, inconsistencies in the trade list with the other country will be reduced, and it will be possible to cooperate more with neighbouring countries in combating illegal trade.

Currently, some of Myanmar's border trade stations are far from the border lines and can only be reached after passing through residential towns and villages. Thus, it has been creating opportunities for illegal trade through bypasses. In addition, it has been verified that the local goods consumed by the residents of the towns and villages between the border lines and the trading stations are not included in the import list of the country and that there are discrepancies with the export lists of the trade partner countries. As Myanmar must implement the ASEAN Customs

Transit System (ACTS), Single Window Inspection (SWI), and Single Stop Customs Inspection (SSCI) processes, which will be continued according to international agreements such as the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and the Greater Mekong Sub-Region Cross Border Transport Agreement (GMS-CBTA), the border checkpoints need to be as close to the border lines as other countries' border checkpoints.

The regional work committees were encouraged to identify the strengths and weaknesses of existing camps and review them. It is reported that the discussion included points that should be taken to ensure compliance with international standard procedures and laws in the construction of trade zone stations and reduce illegal trade. — TWA/CT

OPINION

Turn out new generations of theatrical drama performers

Myanmar's theatrical drama performance is a vibrant reflection of its rich cultural heritage. Over the years, cultural experts have skillfully incorporated elements from neighbouring cultures, enhancing the art form's depth and appeal. Through their dedication and mastery, Myanmar's theatrical drama has continued to evolve, captivating audiences with its creativity and cultural resonance.

These visionary maestros meticulously selected elements from other cultures, discarding anything that didn't align with Myanmar's society and heritage. Their efforts have elevated Myanmar's performing arts, enabling them to keep pace with the ever-developing world and the discerning tastes of audiences.

Recently, the media announced an exciting competition for renowned theatrical performers. The winner, both actor and actress, will receive K10 million each, while ten more outstanding performers will secure K1 million each, and another 20 performers can earn K500,000 each. Additionally, officials are committed to facilitating the smooth integration of these winners into the theatrical arena.

This initiative deserves praise for its dedication to nurturing skilled and talented theatrical drama performers. By doing so, it

ensures that the tradition of theatrical drama performers continues to thrive, offering people the opportunity to revel in these performances, gain knowledge about them, and develop a comprehensive understanding of Myanmar's traditional cultural heritage.

Myanmar's theatrical drama performance has evolved over time, thanks to the contributions of cultural experts who have skillfully integrated elements from neighbouring cultures. The recent competition for theatrical performers is a commendable effort to support and nurture talent. As such, it is essential to provide affordable platforms for performers to reach wider audiences, both locally and internationally. This investment in the arts will not only entertain but also educate and preserve Myanmar's cultural heritage for generations to come.

The government is actively promoting traditional cultural performances by hosting the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Competitions annually. These competitions aim to identify and support talented performers. However, current theatrical performers face challenges in presenting their art to a wider audience due to the high costs associated with staging performances. Authorities should consider building state-of-the-art theatres in major cities, enabling performers to showcase their talents not only to residents but also to international travellers. This would attract both local and foreign audiences,

allowing Myanmar to share its profound cultural heritage on the global stage.

These performers excel in conveying information, delivering captivating performances, and preserving Myanmar's vanishing traditions and culture. The current era presents an excellent opportunity for theatrical drama performers to bolster their contribution to the nation and its future generations.

Myanmar's theatrical drama performance has evolved over time, thanks to the contributions of cultural experts who have skillfully integrated elements from neighbouring cultures. The recent competition for theatrical performers is a commendable effort to support and nurture talent. As such, it is essential to provide affordable platforms for performers to reach wider audiences, both locally and internationally. This investment in the arts will not only entertain but also educate and preserve Myanmar's cultural heritage for generations to come.

And then There were Eight! (With one Missing)

By U AC

Republican candidates are vying for the opportunity to challenge the incumbent President, Joe Biden, in the 2024 elections.

Elections fever in the US is on the way. With charges against Trump growing on a quarterly basis, all the republican's candidates must be hoping for a guilty finding in the upcoming trials and fancy their chances of being chosen republican to pit themselves against the sitting president Joe Biden.

Now the field has been opened up for public to see, on 23 August, during the first Republican debate, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There were altogether 8 candidates showing off their credentials on why they should be the nominee for the Republican party in November 2024 elections. Yet the elephant in the room was clearly missing. The presumptive nominee Donald Trump was missing from the debate. Trump was distinctly leading the opinion polls everywhere, ahead by 30-40 points from the second placed person. He decided to appear in an interview with the disgraced ex-Fox anchor Tucker Carlson, the in-

terview being aired at the same time as the debate itself.

The ambitious eight include ...

Mike Pence: the former VP within Trump administration.

Nicky Haley: former governor of South Carolina and ex-UN ambassador under Trump administration.

Chris Christie: former two-time governor of New Jersey.

Asa Hutchinson: former governor of Arkansas.

Tim Scott: Senator from South Carolina.

Doug Burgum: Governor of North Dakota.

Ron DeSantis: Governor of Florida.

Vivek Ramaswamy: A multi-millionaire businessman from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Will the real slim shady please stand up!

Obviously, the guy who can talk fast and talk over others, would normally be the one who prevail. And this award went

to Ramaswamy, even though majority of the statements he made are either false or half-truths. Putting him right in the centre of the stage also made him stand out compared to those being place in the periphery.

Who might disappear from later debates?

As in previous primaries, some of the candidates dropped out along the way on second and third debates, or before reaching the first primary poll in New Hampshire in January. The likely candidates for that honour include Doug Burgum, Tim Scott and Asa Hutchinson.

Doug Burgum's brand name is largely unknown at the national level. So is Asa Hutchinson's. Both of their records are below par compared to the others, to induce a substantial following at national level. Tim Scott lost his chances to sound and appear presidential during the debate, talking mainly about himself and his fate, rather than showing how he is on top of the issues

when challenged.

Note Worthy Issues and Responses

Anyone in the world listening to the debate would be dumb-founded after they heard that all eight do not believe that the climate changes the world is facing now is man-made. Sea level is rising. Ice caps at north and south poles are melting. All scientists agreed that it is caused by global warming, caused by human activities. Yet, the republican standard bearers as usual, refused to believe in science.

The next issue was even more disturbing. The candidates were asked, if they are still willing to support Donald Trump, if he is convicted of the charges indicted upon him so far. All but two candidates raised their hands. What has happened to the party of law and order! What has happened to the foundations of the democracy that no one is above the law! Kudos to Christie and Asa for being man enough to stand up against a crook who



From left, former Arkansas Gov Asa Hutchinson, former New Jersey Gov Chris Christie, former Vice President Mike Pence, Florida Gov Ron DeSantis, entrepreneur and author Vivek Ramaswamy, former South Carolina Gov Nikki Haley, South Carolina Sen Tim Scott and North Dakota Gov Doug Burgum arrive onstage for the first Republican presidential primary debate in Milwaukee on 23 August. PHOTO: KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AFP

became the President. Contrast to Nixon - the President who became a crook.

The would-be king is not the king after all

DeSantis, polling right behind Donald Trump, albeit 20-30 points, prior to the debate, totally did not look presidential at all during the debate. His fake smile is too conspicuous, his relentless evasion of straight forward

questions from the moderators are excruciating to watch. Even for the question mentioned in the above paragraph, he raised his hand only after he noticed the other four or five on his left raised theirs, with as little conviction as he got!

Who are still in the ring?

Pence came out reasonably ok, as both Christie et al confirmed his correct judgement

and decision not to overturn 2020 presidential elections results.

Christie still got the chance with his poll numbers rising in New Hampshire, falling right behind Trump. He stood up for the truth with conviction and went head-to-head with Trump, despite the boos he received from the republican crowds.

Nicky Haley also showed off her credentials in foreign policy arena in a tete-a-tete with

Ramaswamy and came out on top.

What is next?

We would have second debate on 27 September at Ronald Reagan library in Simi Valley, California, followed by the third towards the end of the year in Tuscaloosa in Alabama. We have to wait and see if Trump can stay out of these debates forever, without fatalistic consequences on his poll numbers.



A panel under the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare discusses coronavirus-related medical support from October on 15 September 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

Gov't support for COVID-19 treatment in Japan to be reduced from Oct

This decision is part of a broader plan to return the healthcare system in Japan to normalcy by the following spring.

Japan's health ministry decided Friday to reduce medical support for people infected with the novel coronavirus starting in October, as part of a broader plan to return the health care system to normal by next spring.

Even after the downgrade of the legal status of COVID-19 to the same category as seasonal flu in May, the government has

maintained some of its support to prevent sudden increases in medical expenses for the public.

Based on the latest decision, the support for hospitalization will be halved to 10,000 yen (\$68), which will be deducted from the maximum amount of personal payment, and people will have to pay up to 9,000 yen for expensive antiviral drugs out of pocket, with the specific amount to be determined

based on their incomes.

For example, people with income levels who usually shoulder 30 per cent of their medical expenses under the health care scheme in Japan will pay a fixed amount of 9,000 yen for antiviral drugs priced over 90,000 yen, such as Lagevrio and Paxlovid.

The fixed subsidy amount provided to medical institutions for reserving beds for COVID-19

patients will become flexible in accordance with the evolving infection situation.

In the week through Sunday, the number of people who tested positive for COVID-19 as reported by about 5,000 designated medical institutions across Japan, stood at 99,744, nearly flat from the previous week, according to the data by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

The number of newly hospitalized patients stood at 11,566, down about 10 per cent, the data showed.

With infections feared to rise as schools reopen after the summer recess, the government has continued to call on the public to take basic anti-infection measures.

According to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, an offshoot of the Omicron variant EG.5.1 has been on the rise in Japan and is forecast to account for about 60 per cent of the infections next week.

Earlier this month, Japan detected a new variant known as BA.2.86, which is a source of concern due to its potential ability to evade immune protection owing to the high mutation rate, for the first time.

SOURCE: Kyodo

SCI/TECH WORLD

AI models struggle to identify nonsense, says study

The study highlights that AI models used in chatbots and other applications still struggle with the fundamental task of distinguishing between nonsensical content and natural language.

THE AI models that power chatbots and other applications still have difficulty distinguishing between nonsense and natural language, according to a study released on Thursday.

The researchers at Columbia University in the United States said their work revealed the limitations of current AI models and suggested it was too early to let them loose in legal or medical settings.

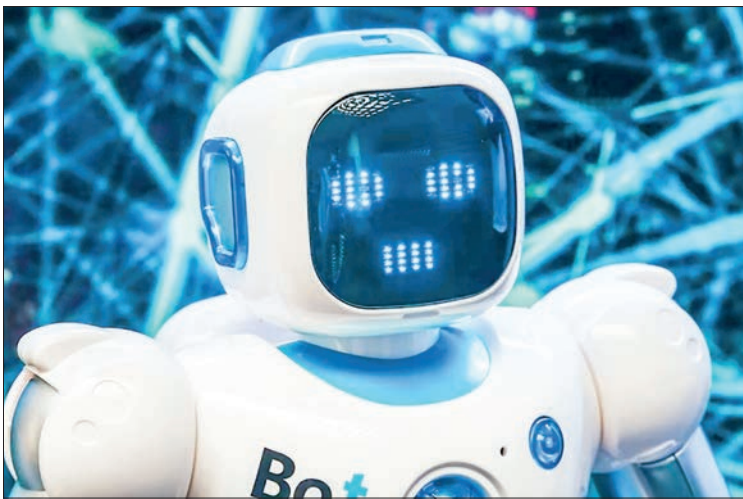
They put nine AI models through their paces, firing hundreds of pairs of sentences at them and asking which were likely to be heard in everyday speech.

They asked 100 people to make the same judgement on pairs of sentences like: "A buyer can own a genuine product also / One versed in circumference of highschool I rambled."

The research, published in the Nature Machine Intelligence journal, then weighed the AI answers against the human answers and found dramatic differences.

Sophisticated models like GPT-2, an earlier version of the model that powers viral chatbot ChatGPT, generally matched the human answers.

Other simpler models did less well. — AFP



Sophisticated models like GPT-2, an earlier version of the model that powers viral chatbot ChatGPT, generally matched the human answers. **PHOTO: AFP**

ChatGPT creator OpenAI says to open Dublin office

US artificial intelligence firm OpenAI, the company behind chatbot sensation ChatGPT, announced Thursday that it will open an office in Dublin, its first base inside the European Union.

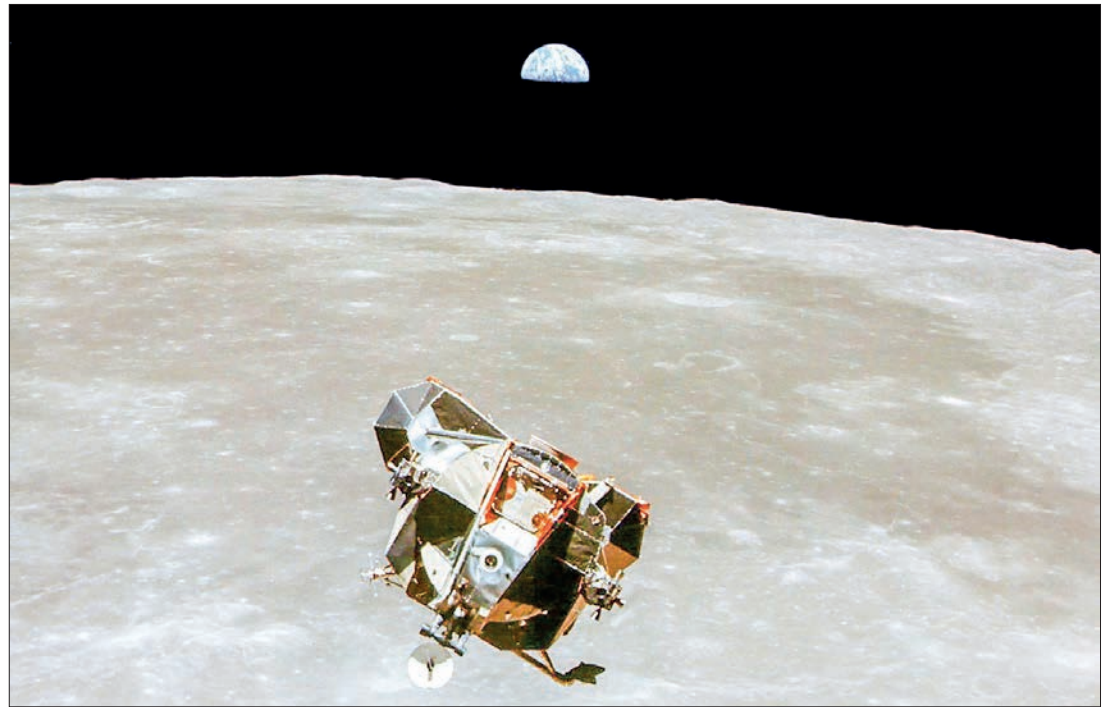
"We're growing our presence in Europe with our newest office in Dublin," read a brief statement posted on OpenAI's blog website.

"We plan to grow a team through this year in Ireland that

will propel our operations, trust and safety, go-to-market, security engineering, and legal work as part of our ongoing commitment to better serve the European market."

The Irish capital already hosts the European headquarters of Google, Meta, TikTok and X, formerly Twitter, attracted by low corporation tax and a highly educated English-speaking workforce. — AFP

Chandrayaan-1 data reveals Earth's electrons may be creating water on Moon



The Apollo 11 Lunar Module ascent stage, with astronauts Neil A Armstrong and Edwin E Aldrin Jr aboard, is photographed from the Command and Service Modules in lunar orbit in this July 1969 file photo. **PHOTO: AGENCIES**

Scientists have discovered a fascinating connection between Earth and the moon. They propose that electrons from Earth's magnetosphere may be responsible for the creation of water on the lunar surface.

THE study explores how high-energy electrons within Earth's plasma sheet, a region within the magnetosphere, contribute to lunar surface weathering and potentially aid in water formation.

Scientists have unearthed a captivating link between the Earth and the moon, revealing

that electrons from our planet's magnetosphere might be the architects behind the formation of water on the lunar surface.

The recent remarkable revelation stems from an in-depth analysis of data collected during the Chandrayaan-1 mission.

The study unravels the mystery behind the presence

of water ice on the moon's perpetually shadowed regions. Researchers have postulated that high-energy electrons within the plasma sheet of Earth's magnetosphere play a pivotal role in lunar surface weathering, and could have played a crucial role in the creation of water. — SPUTNIK

Water-starved Saudi confronts desalination's heavy toll

SOLAR panels soak up blinding noontime rays that help power a water desalination facility in eastern Saudi Arabia, a step towards making the notoriously emissions-heavy process less environmentally taxing.

The Jazlah plant in Jubail city applies the latest technological advances in a country that first turned to desalination more than a century ago, when Ottoman-era administrators enlisted filtration machines for hajj pilgrims menaced by drought and cholera.

Lacking lakes, rivers and regular rainfall, Saudi Arabia today relies instead on dozens



General manager Mohamed Ali al-Qahtani checks the quality of the output at the Ras al-Khair desalination plant. **PHOTO: FAYEZ NURELDINE/AFP**

of facilities that transform water from the Gulf and Red Sea into something potable, sup-

plying cities and towns that otherwise would not survive. — AFP

The art of creating coveted Cuban cigar boxes

The artisan is currently working on replicating a modest humidor that once belonged to American writer Ernest Hemingway.

USING a Soviet-era planer, Rene Reyes smooths the panel of an old cedar door that he will transform into a humidor — an ornate, handmade box used to preserve Cuba's famous cigars.

In a corner of the workshop lies a hodge-podge of discarded wooden beams, doors, and furniture, all used to make the cigar boxes, which can sell for thousands of dollars and are prized by wealthy business people, rock stars, and presidents.

"People don't believe that... these humidors come from there," says Reyes, pointing to the pile of raw materials.

The artisan is working on the replica of a modest humidor

owned by American writer Ernest Hemingway, the original of which is displayed at his former home in eastern Havana, which is now a museum.

As he brushes the door panel, which he says is over 80 years old, the warm and sweet aroma of old cedar fills the workshop.

"The smell of cedar is the best. It is as if it were gold, old gold," Reyes gushes as he brings his hands full of sawdust to his nose. Reyes works for businesswoman Tania Duyos, who has spent two decades designing the boxes that keep cigars at the perfect humidity of around 65 or 70 per cent and a temperature of 16 to 18 degrees Celsius.



Tania Duyos, who has spent two decades designing the boxes that keep cigars at the perfect humidity of around 65 or 70 per cent and a temperature of 16 to 18 degrees. **PHOTO: ADALBERTO ROQUE/AFP**

She boasts celebrity clients such as former US president Jimmy Carter, the late footballer Diego Maradona, and Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger. — AFP



Smoke from illegal fires lit by farmers rises in Manaquiri, Amazonas state, on 6 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Humanity deep in the danger zone of planetary boundaries: Study

HUMAN activity and appetites have weakened Earth's resilience, pushing it far beyond the "safe operating space" that keeps the world liveable for most species, including our own, a landmark study said Wednesday (13 September).

Six of nine planetary boundaries — climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss, synthetic chemicals including plastics, freshwater depletion, and nitrogen use — are already deep in the red zone, an international team of 29 scientists reported.

Two of the remaining three

— ocean acidification along with the concentration of particle pollution and dust in the atmosphere — are borderline, with only ozone depletion comfortably within safe bounds.

The planetary boundaries identify "the important processes that keep the Earth within the kind of the living conditions that prevailed over the last 10,000 years, the period when humanity and modern civilisation developed", said lead author Katherine Richardson, a professor at the University of Copenhagen's Globe Institute. — AFP

Football warriors: Ukrainian amputees get back on the ball

GOALKEEPER Yevgen Nazarenko laughed as he warmed up on a football pitch in Kyiv. He had been asked to stretch his hands, but he only has one.

Nearby Oleg, who has only one foot, groaned and lost balance as he did press-ups. Both men lost limbs fighting for Ukraine.

Once or twice a week, a dozen or so amputees get together in the Ukrainian capital for football training. — AFP

Rockets and Porsches: rich Russians flock to Baikonur spaceport

The sense of wonder and fascination evoked by rocket launches still captivates people, attracting visitors from various corners of the world who come to witness these remarkable events.

EVERYONE should witness a rocket launch in their lifetime, says Yevgeniya Degtyarnikova as she watches the rollout of a Soyuz from its hangar in the vast steppes of Kazakhstan.

"Unfortunately, my husband could not come so I am fulfilling my dream and his," said the 35-year-old from the city of Tyumen in western Siberia.

"I will bring my entire family here. This is the place that everyone must visit," she told AFP at the Russian-operated Baikonur spaceport.

Degtyarnikova, the own-



Western tourists used to regularly travel to Baikonur. **PHOTO: ANDREY BORODULIN/AFP**

er of an amusement park, has forked out over 200,000 rubles (more than \$2,000) for a week-long tour to Baikonur which included viewing a rocket launch on Friday. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Swiss cost of living demo draws thousands



Among the concerns, there is particular frustration with the 187 per cent increase in electricity prices, which has garnered attention and dissatisfaction among the public. **PHOTO: AFP**

The rising cost of living, immigration, and climate change are significant topics of discussion in the lead-up to the 21 October polls.

A Swiss cost-of-living demonstration called by unions and leftist parties, seeking wage rises and pension hikes, drew thousands to central Bern on Saturday a month out from parliamentary polls.

Organizers put the turnout at some 20,000, as ralliers marched on parliament to press popular demands for "better salaries and better pensions".

"Today's large demonstration sends a clear message — in a rich country such as Switzerland there is enough money for everybody to live well," the

organizers said in a statement, also urging government to reduce recently soaring national insurance contributions.

"To save the banks they easily find billions. And during that time the people have to tighten their belts? Things can't go on like that," the USS main union federation said.

The soaring cost of living is a major topic along with immigration and climate change ahead of the 21 October polls with an 187 per cent rise in electricity prices a particular gripe. — AFP

Poland, Hungary, Slovakia defy end of EU Ukraine grain import ban

The EU's executive arm explained that the decision was made because market distortions in the five EU Member States bordering Ukraine had ceased to exist.

THE European Union said Friday it was ending an import ban on Ukrainian grain in five member states, but Poland, Hungary and Slovakia immediately announced they would defy the move.

The European Commission announced "existing measures will expire today" when they run out at midnight.

"The market distortions in the five Member States bordering Ukraine have disappeared," the EU's executive arm said.

The decision had been taken after Kyiv agreed to introduce measures such as an export licensing system within 30 days to "avoid grain surges", the commission said.

In the meantime, Ukraine would put in place measures to control the export of wheat, maize, rapeseed and sunflower seed to avoid upsetting markets in its EU neighbours, it added.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky hailed the move from Brussels as "an example

of true unity and trust" between Kyiv and the EU.

"We need our neighbours to support Ukraine in times of war. And if their decisions violate EU law, Ukraine will respond in a civilized manner," he wrote on social media.

Dissenting countries

EU trade commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis urged member states to "refrain from unilateral measures and work along the lines of this agreement". — AFP



The EU has become a major transit route for Ukrainian grain since Russia ended the Black Sea grain export deal. **PHOTO: ANATOLII STEPANOV/AFP**



Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union march through the streets of downtown Detroit following a rally on the first day of the UAW strike in Detroit, Michigan, on 15 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US auto talks at 'critical phase' as political pressure grows

HIGH-WIRE talks between striking US workers and automotive giants are in a "critical phase", Jeep-maker Stellantis said Saturday, as politicians staked out positions on a labor issue that could have national impact.

Stellantis, together with fellow "Big Three" automakers General Motors and Ford, was hit Friday by a limited strike — but one the United Auto Workers (UAW) warns could spread.

Both sides issued cautious statements Saturday.

Only about 12,700 of the UAW's 150,000 members are currently on strike.

But with workers at all of the Big Three coordinating strike action for the first time — including a demand for pay increases of 40 per cent over a four-year contract — the automakers could face a far more disruptive stoppage.

Underscoring the political stakes of the moment, President Joe Biden quickly lent his support to the strikers Friday, saying he understood their "frustration".

Political lines

And on Saturday, former president Barack Obama lent his backing, with a reference to the 2008-09 financial crisis.

Democratic Senators Gary Peters of Michigan and John Fetterman of Pennsylvania shared images on their social media accounts on Saturday, showing them standing alongside UAW workers on a picket line in Michigan. — AFP

THE Chinese government has instructed the country's electric vehicle manufacturers to use domestically produced components, including semi-conductors, a diplomatic source said Sunday, amid a global chip shortage.

The move appears to be aimed at limiting the access of companies from other nations such as Japan and the United States from the Chinese market, as the country strives to establish a self-contained supply chain for produc-



File photo taken on 18 April 2023, shows a Shanghai auto show brimming with visitors. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Chinese gov't urges EV firms to use domestically produced components

ing EVs, the source said. With China's EV market, which is the largest in the world,

continuing to grow more competitive, the latest decision will likely affect Japanese automak-

ers' strategies and their ability to collaborate with Chinese firms, the source added.

According to the source, a former ministerial-level official of China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology urged the country's automakers last year to set numerical targets for using domestically produced components in EV semiconductors. — Kyodo

Floods wiped out quarter of Greek farm produce: experts

A quarter of Greece's annual agricultural production was wiped out in last week's deadly flash floods triggered by Storm Daniel, which drenched the central region of Thessaly, according to experts.

The floods, which killed 15 people, have also left thousands of people in temporary shelters in hotels, schools or with relatives while 30 villages were inaccessible amid the threat of waterborne

feeds much of Greece, one pressing need was to dispose of tens of thousands of decomposing farm animals.

Out of over 110,000 dead sheep, goats, pigs, cows and chickens reported lost by farmers, fewer than half have been buried or incinerated, officials said. Inspection crews were still unable to reach half the areas with reported dead livestock, the agriculture ministry said Wednesday.



Cars are piled up atop wave breakers and the rubble of a building destroyed in flash floods after the Mediterranean storm "Daniel" hit Libya's eastern city of Derna, on 14 September 2023. **PHOTO: ABDULLAH DOMA / AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's paper-making industry reports steady output growth

CHINA'S paper-making industry reported steady output growth in the first seven months of the year, according to official data.

The country's machine-made paper and paperboard output totaled 78.95 million tonnes from January to July, up 1.6 per cent year on year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. During the period, the operating revenue of major paper-making firms dropped by 5.1 per cent year on year to 755.12 billion yuan (about 105.19 billion US dollars), the data showed. —Xinhua

Guangxi pilot FTZ at forefront of China-ASEAN cooperation

THE 20th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) has shone the spotlight on south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, a border region with strong ties with Southeast Asia.

Guangxi has risen to the forefront of China's trade and cooperation with the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) in recent years, thanks to the establishment of a pilot free trade zone (FTZ) dedicated to China-ASEAN cooperation.

Guangxi is often described as China's gateway to ASEAN countries. The region's trade with ASEAN grew from 74.75 billion yuan (about 10 billion US dollars) in 2012 to 281.11 billion yuan in 2022. — Xinhua

Diverse styles and JW Anderson's unique clay show



From streetwear to elegant evening dresses, the catwalks of London Fashion Week were not short of choices as designers showcased their collections for spring and summer 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

FROM streetwear to elegant evening dresses, the catwalks of London Fashion Week were not short of choices as designers showcased their collections for spring and

summer 2024.

JW Anderson and clay

The invitation to the show of fashion label JW Anderson was a block of clay, arousing the curiosity of the guests.

The first models walked down the catwalk in Bermuda shorts and hoodies made from play-dough, resembling moving sculptures.

Then followed colourful ensembles from a shiny plastic material, crochet dresses and feathers worn as belts and on sleeves.

Jonathan Anderson also showcased oversized bomber jackets, long enough to cover the thighs, and trenchcoats with long skirts.

"Using jackets as dresses becomes very simple," Anderson, who is also the creative director of Spanish fashion house Loewe, explained after the show. — AFP

diseases.

Officials were trying to determine if a body found on a beach in Pelion, central Greece, was that of an Austrian missing with his wife since last week.

As government officials began the daunting task of mapping the damage dealt to the plain that

"The damage is difficult to fully assess at the moment, but according to the most optimistic scenario, 70 per cent of the cotton crop and almost all of the clover has been damaged,"

said farmer Athanasios Karaiskos, president of the farm cooperative of the town of Farsala. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (334W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (334W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-9-2023** 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.

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

N Korea's Kim, Russian defence chief discuss deeper defence ties



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (2nd from L, front row) speaks with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu (3rd from L, front row) in Vladivostok, Russia, on 16 September 2023. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

The meeting primarily focused on “practical issues” related to deepening military cooperation between North Korea and Russia.

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un discussed “practical issues” related to the deepening of military cooperation with Russia when meeting with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu in Vladivostok, North Korean state media reported Sunday.

The remarks came after Shoigu hosted a luncheon to welcome Kim, who visited a Russian Pacific fleet frigate in the country's Far East on Saturday. Kim is in Russia at the invitation of President Vladimir Putin.

Kim and Shoigu exchanged “constructive opinions on the practical issues arising in further strengthening the strategic and tactical coordination, cooperation and mutual exchange between the armed forces” of their countries, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. Kim's visit comes at a time when the two countries have what KCNA described as “a fresh heyday of friendship and solidarity and cooperation”. — Kyodo

TOP HEADLINE

Rolling Stone cofounder axed from Rock Hall of Fame Board

THE cofounder of Rolling Stone magazine, Jann Wenner, has been ousted from his seat on the board of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation for comments blasted as racist and sexist, US media reported Saturday.

Wenner's removal from the board of the foundation came only a day after his remarks were published in The New York Times, generating wide criticism.

“Jann Wenner has been removed from the board of directors of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation,” a short statement from the foundation said, according to industry sheet Variety.

The 77-year-old Wenner cofounded Rolling Stone magazine in 1967, and in subsequent decades he celebrated a multitude of rock legends in its pages in lengthy interviews. Wenner also set up the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation, which selects artists to be honored, and served as its chairman until 2020.

In the Times report published Friday, Wenner was asked why he didn't feature any interviews with people of colour or female musicians in his new book, “The Masters,” now in print.

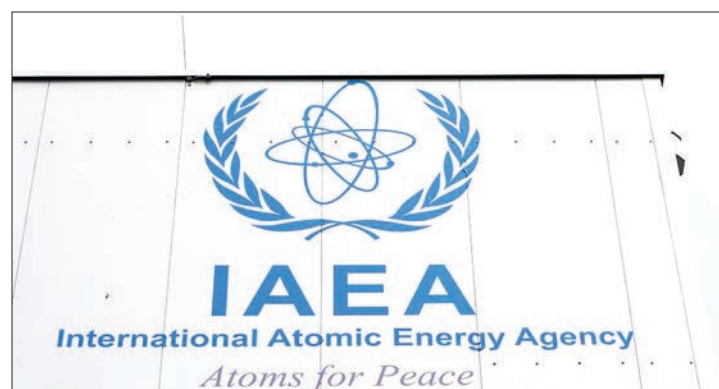
Wenner said the seven subjects in the book “were the kind of philosophers of rock” who had deep things to say about the spirit of their generation. — AFP

IAEA blasts Iran over latest inspector exclusion

Iran's foreign ministry has stated that this move is in retaliation for what it sees as “political abuses” by the United States, France, Germany, and Britain.

THE United Nations nuclear watchdog on Saturday condemned the “disproportionate and unprecedented” move by Iran to withdraw accreditation from several of its most experi-

enced inspectors. Iran's foreign ministry said in response that the move was in retaliation for “political abuses” by the United States, France, Germany and Britain. But IAEA director general Rafael Grossi said that this would seriously hamper the ability of the International Atomic Energy Agency to carry out its work. “Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran informed me of its decision to withdraw the designation of several experienced Agency inspectors assigned to conduct verification activities in Iran” under an existing agreement, said Grossi. — AFP



The United Nations nuclear watchdog has strongly condemned Iran's decision to withdraw accreditation from several of its most experienced inspectors. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lesbian couple win Hong Kong court victory in IVF case

A Hong Kong court has sided with a lesbian couple who argued that both women should have parental status over their child born via “reciprocal IVF”, a ruling hailed as a win for the LGBTQ com-

munity.

The medical procedure of reciprocal in vitro fertilization (RIVF) allows two women to share in the process of childbearing and is credited with helping

same-sex couples start families.

Two women who took part in RIVF launched a legal challenge last year after the Hong Kong government recognised only one of them as the mother of their son,

citing existing family laws.

On Friday, judge Queeny Au-Yeung at the court of first instance ruled that the government's non-recognition was a form of discrimination against

the couple's son. Their child was “discriminated as to his birth in the sense that, unlike other children, he does not have a co-parent, genetically linked to him”, the judge wrote in her ruling. — AFP

SPORTS

Brentford boss Frank wants apology after penalty controversy

BRENTFORD boss Thomas Frank is expecting an apology from referees' chief Howard Webb following his side's controversial 1-0 defeat against Newcastle on Saturday.

Frank's team were beaten at St James' Park after Callum Wilson converted a second-half penalty awarded for a foul by Brentford goalkeeper Mark Flekken on Anthony Gordon. The penalty was one of two given by referee Craig Pawson, although the second was rescinded after he was advised to review it. Frank was convinced Newcastle should not have had either penalty and he believes Webb should be in touch to say sorry.



Newcastle's Callum Wilson scores from the penalty spot against Brentford. **PHOTO: AFP**

"It's so rare that I complain about it because it's human beings who make mistakes and we all make mistakes so that happens. But it's extra frustrating when we do so many things right and lose because of that," he said.

"We just got told four weeks ago when Kevin Schade went through against Tottenham, where the keeper took him out, that no, he pulled out before, so it can't be a penalty. Mark pulled out before, now a penalty. — AFP



Shan United to take on Australian Club in Yangon

Shan United players are seen posing for a group photo. **PHOTO: MFF**

Shan United's AFC Cup matches in Yangon are beginning on 21 September as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation and Shan United Football Club.

All three home fixtures will be played

at Thuwunna Stadium, scheduled for 6:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time. The first match will be against the Australian Club, Macarthur FC.

The press conference and photo session for the official training will be con-

ducted at the press hall of the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 20 September and Myanmar Football Federation has invited journalists to get updated and detailed information. Information access cards for the competition will be issued after the press conference, the federation stated. — KZL

Vlahovic double fires Juve top ahead of Milan derby

DUSAN Vlahovic shot Juventus temporarily top of Serie A on Saturday as the Serbia striker scored twice in a convincing 3-1 win over Lazio. Goals in each half from Vlahovic and another in the 26th minute from strike partner Federico Chiesa at the Allianz Stadium pushed Juve a point ahead of both Milan clubs before the derby which kicks off later.

Inter Milan and AC Milan are both on a perfect nine points heading into their clash for local bragging rights, one behind Juve. Massimiliano Allegri's Juve will concede top spot regardless of the result at the San Siro but the coach will be encouraged

by what he saw in front of an enthusiastic home crowd in Turin. "Last season was very difficult but despite all that we did OK," said Vlahovic of the previous campaign in which Juve were docked 10 points for illicit transfer activity.

"Now we are more fired up and have a point to prove... our aim is to be in the top four and we will do everything we can to make it happen." Allegri has paired Vlahovic and Italy star Chiesa up front this season and the attacking duo have hit it off, combining for seven goals in unbeaten Juve's opening four matches. — AFP



Mauro Icardi has already scored eight goals this season after making his loan deal to Galatasaray from PSG a permanent one. **PHOTO: ADEM ALTAN/AFP**

Turkish clubs take financial hit to attract big names in transfer market

Türkiye's biggest clubs lured established stars including Mauro Icardi, Hakim Ziyech and Wilfried Zaha to the Super Lig in the transfer window with a spending spree that leaves them slipping further into the red. Many eyes have been on Saudi clubs' remarkable transfer outlays which have rivalled those of the top European sides, but Turkish teams have been signing big names under the radar.

Fenerbahce, Galatasaray, Besiktas and Trab-

zonspor, the four biggest Super Lig clubs, spent almost 120 million euros (\$128 million) between them during the summer window, which ended on Friday evening in Türkiye, while only receiving less than 80 million euros in fees. "It was a fiercely contested transfer window," said Galatasaray Vice-President Erden Timur earlier in September. Timur said Turkish clubs were forced to change tack due to inflated fees caused by the Saudi clubs' sudden emergence. — AFP



Swedes throng capital for royal jubilee

TENS of thousands of Swedes thronged central Stockholm on Saturday to mark 50 years since King Carl XVI Gustaf ascended the throne.

To the sound of military bands and under a sunny sky, the 77-year-old monarch, clad in a sober suit and tie, enjoyed the public acclaim along with Queen Silvia, 79, wearing a canary yellow ensemble, as six horses led the royal procession.

The crowd broke into applause as they passed and waved Swedish flags to mark the milestone for Carl Gustaf, who was the world's youngest monarch when he was crowned aged 27 in September 1973 after the death of his grandfather Gustaf VI Adolf.

The king is the longest reigning monarch in Sweden's history and also the European monarch with the second-longest reign, behind his cousin Queen Margrethe of Denmark who took the throne in 1972.

Born on 30 April 1946, Carl Gustaf Folke Hubertus Bernadotte was only nine months old when his father, Prince Gustaf Adolf, died in a plane crash in Denmark.

King Carl Gustaf became the world's youngest monarch when he was crowned at the age of 27 in September 1973, following the death of his grandfather, Gustaf VI Adolf.



King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and Queen Silvia enjoy the festivities to mark his 50 years on the throne. **PHOTO: AFP**

Central Stockholm was closed to traffic with police expecting crowds across the day to top several hundred

thousand — though celebrations went ahead amid tight security given that Sweden last month raised its terror

alert level following a spate of incidents that have angered the Muslim world. — AFP

Bangkok Airways now weighs passengers before boarding

The primary objective of passenger weighing is to facilitate the precise calculation of the aircraft's take-off weight, thereby enhancing overall flight safety.



Bangkok Airways operates flights to various destinations, including Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar, Singapore, and Vietnam, and the airline's main hub is located at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok. **PHOTO: ROMEO GACAD/AFP**

ACCORDING to today's news report by the Thai Public Broadcasting Service, there has been a significant development in Thailand's aviation industry. Bangkok

Airways has introduced a passenger weight measurement procedure before boarding. This procedure will remain in effect until 31 October, and the airline

assures that all collected data will be kept confidential.

The airline, in an official statement, has clarified that the weighing of passengers is in line with the standard measures of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the purpose is to aid in the calculation of the take-off weight, to ensure flight safety.

The statement emphasizes that the airline has mentioned the weighing process will take place at the departure gate before boarding, and they are actively seeking cooperation from all passengers.

Korean Air and Air New Zealand have already used a similar method with their passengers.

Bangkok Airways operates flights to various destinations, including Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar, Singapore, and Vietnam, and the airline's main hub is located at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, as reported by the Thai Public Broadcasting Service. — THAI PBS/GNLM



Tunisian emergency teams recover a body during relief work in Libya's devastated city of Derna. **PHOTO: TUNISIA'S NATIONAL OFFICE OF CIVIL PROTECTION/AFP**

Libyan city Derna death toll estimated at 11,300

A week after a wall of water rushed through the Libyan coastal city of Derna, sweeping thousands to their deaths, the focus turned Sunday to caring for survivors of the disaster.

Estimates of the number of lives lost vary widely. The most recent official death toll, from the health minister of the eastern-based administration, Othman Abdeljalil, is that 3,166 people were killed.

But according to a United Nations report released on Sunday, the toll from Derna alone has risen to 11,300. — AFP