

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Bahrain proposes to buy Myanmar's avocado extract

Avocado extract export to Bahrain to commence on a trial run in coming October

BAHRAIN, one of the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries, has offered to purchase Myanmar's avocado and avocado extract, and a trial run of export to Bahrain will kick off in October, according to the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association (MAVO).

Riyara Company from Bahrain made a purchase proposal through India-based Riyara Company. To yield a fruitful result, representatives from India-based

Riyara Company, MAVO, the Economics attaché from Myanmar Embassy to India in Kolkata city, officials of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State) negotiated the deal at the hybrid meeting in the last week of August 2023.

"Riyara Company from Bahrain eyes Myanmar's avocado to retail them. So, they offered it through their company based in India. Following the successful

SEE PAGE-2



TBPs creates easy access for people to border pass

Issuance of TBPs to Muse-Ruili crossing resumes after two and a half years of closure



Myanmar citizens seen in a queue to seek temporary border pass at Sinphyu border checkpoint in Muse, northern Shan State, yesterday.

THE entry and exit of borders and commercial trade borders in Muse, Shan State (North), have been temporarily closed since the end of March 2021 due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the afternoon

of 4 September, temporary border passes (TBPs) valid for seven days of residence permits in both countries were issued to people from all regions of Myanmar, and access to borders with those cards has been restored.

Since the outbreak and spread of the COVID-19 virus have been effectively prevented and controlled at the Nantaw, Mang Wein, and Sinphyu border checkpoints in early 2023, only those who hold

SEE PAGE-2

NATIONAL PAGE-2

Myanmar, China to promote friendly ties between two armed forces, countries

NATIONAL PAGE-3



Myanmar, India see cooperation in transport, communications, education and IT sectors

CURRENT AFFAIRS PAGE-6



Drinking water supply may be difficult in coming summer: Vice Mayor

LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-7



Trade Dept allows exports of only agricultural produce, fisheries at Sittway border

NATIONAL

Myanmar, China to promote friendly ties between two armed forces, countries

GENERAL Maung Maung Aye, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) received a delegation led by Vice Admiral Liu Zizhu, Deputy Commander of the Southern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army of China, at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed enhancement of friendly relations between the two countries and two armed forces, ensuring stability and peace in the border region, promotion of cooperation in security and rule of law measures, and training affairs.

The meeting was also attended by Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo



Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye meets Vice Admiral Liu Zizhu, Deputy Commander of Southern Theatre Command of PLA on 4 September.

from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior military officers and

officials. The Chinese Vice Admiral was accompanied by Chinese Military Attaché

to Myanmar Senior Colonel Wang Wei and officials. — MNA/KZW

Three special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Kyi Thein, U Khin Maung Gyi, Daw Thin Thin Nwet and Daw Pyone Pyone Aye was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and it heard a total of three special civil appeal cases: No 103/2019 (Mandalay), 20/2021 (Kachin) and 46/2022 (Mandalay) following COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

Myanmar to show A Flower Above The Clouds film at ASEAN+3 Film Festival

MYANMAR will showcase its A Flower Above The Clouds film at ASEAN+3 Film Festival held in The Prague, the Republic of Czech, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The film festival will run through 9 September at the Municipal Library of The Prague screening the movies and short films from ASEAN countries, China, Japan and Korea daily.

The film A Flower Above

The Clouds directed by film Director Zinyaw Maung Maung will be screened on 8 September, according to Dr Htun Naung, Chargé d' Affaires of Myanmar embassy in The Prague.

The movie of film Director Academy Zinyaw Maung Maung contains actors Ryu Sang Wook, Kyaw Htet Aung, Academy May Than Nu, Academy Wutt Hmon Shwe Yi and other artistes. It is about an orphan Chin lady

who is feeling insecure around the people due to her childhood trauma. She meets a Korean boy who arrives in Myanmar to do social welfare activities and she has got encouragement and mental power, and she applies it in singing competition.

The opening ceremony of ASEAN+3 Film Festival was held at the Municipal Library of The Prague on 1 September. — ASH/KTZH



Poster of Myanmar film A Flower Above The Clouds.

Bahrain proposes to buy Myanmar's avocado ...

FROM PAGE-1

negotiations, the trial run of export will begin in October. Myanmar's Economic attaché in Kolkata and Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization are assisting to reach the agreement," said U Myo Nyunt, vice chair of the MAVO.

This being so, Myanmar has reported matters regarding Myanmar's avocado quality, production rate, certificates, mode of transport, shelf

life, avocado farms accredited Global GAP certificates, quality assessment, potential export volume and market conditions to them. Myanmar has been accelerating diplomatic ties with GCC countries at present and cooperation in various sectors including economic, investment and other sectors. The GCC member countries are Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. — ASH/EM

TBPs creates easy access for people to border

FROM PAGE-1

a household list of Muse and Namkham were allowed to pass the borders with a border pass (BP). All Myanmar nationals with the correct citizenship scrutiny cards (e-ID) can make the TBPs with a document service fee of K1,000 at the Ministry of Immigration and Population at the border checkpoints to access the borders.

"Anyone in Myanmar can

apply for a temporary border pass if they can show their citizenship scrutiny cards (e-ID) in person. They are only allowed to visit Ruili in China. Cards are being made because China has eased the restrictions on the virus. People from all over the country, including Muse District, can get a card if they have e-IDs. However, they are not allowed to work there," said Ko Htay, in-charge of the

Muse-based humanitarian aid network.

Along with Deputy Director U Ye Yint Tun of the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Muse District, Deputy Head of Branch of Muse Border Assistant Director U Ngwe Moe, and Head of Muse Township Department U Sann Lwin observed the issuing process of TBPs at borders. — IPRD(Muse) & mnm/CT

NATIONAL

Myanmar, India see cooperation in transport, communications, education and IT sectors

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo held talks with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

They talked about cooperation in transport and communications sector between Myanmar and India.

Similarly, U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, at 10:30 am on 4 September 2023 at the



Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe on 4 September.



SAC member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo receives Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar on 4 September.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the existing friendly bilateral relations, mu-

tually beneficial cooperation in the areas including education and IT sectors, accelerating the implementation of Myanmar-India bilateral projects on the basics of mutual benefit, promotion of trade including

the border trade and commerce, coordination for the consular related matters as well as loser collaboration both in the regional and international fora, including ASEAN and United Nations. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar, Thailand to closely cooperate in energy sector

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin received a delegation led by Mr Mongkol Visitstump, the ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, discussions focused on close cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand in the development of the energy sector. They exchanged views on technical cooperation in oil and natural

gas exploration, production, transportation, and distribution measures. They also talked about capacity building for employees, and cooperation in human resource development. — MNA/KZW



Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin meets Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump on 4 September.

Protected public forests designated in Homalin, Kyunsu, Kaungkha

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Conservation recently announced the designation of a 40,511-acre area as Nanyok protected public forest in Homalin Township, Homalin district of Sagaing Region.

The Ministry also released information to set two more areas as Kaungkha protected public forest in Kutkai Township and Masanpa-2 protected mangrove forest in Kyunsu Township on 30 August 2023.

To ensure ecological stability and preserve vital resources in the areas, including rivers, creeks, lakes, and forests, as well as to meet the basic needs of the local population for timber and bamboo products, maintain biodiversity, and support agricul-

tural activities while ensuring a balanced climate, the Ministry has announced the establishment of the Nanyok protected public forest.

The 1,962 acres of mangrove forest in Kyunsu Township aims to protect flora and fauna of the areas against natural disasters and to enable the people to extract forest products such as marine products and small timbers.

On same date, 3,020 acres of area was designated as Kaungkha protected public forest in Kutkai Township, aimed at preserving local tree species, protecting endangered plant species and biodiversity, expanding the habitat for wildlife, and ensuring the maintenance of the watershed area of Namtewam creek. — TWA/KZW

NATIONAL

Myanmar, India to cooperate in conducting doctoral course at Naypyitaw State Academy

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe received Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar at the reception hall of the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw at 9:30 am yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed that as Naypyitaw State Academy will conduct doctoral courses in six subjects in collaboration with Indian universities. Additionally, cooperation agreements reached between five universities in Myanmar and small and medium enterprises in India, focusing on various fields, including ICT,

artificial intelligence, marine science, microorganisms, English teaching, business management, and vocational education. This collaboration aims exchange of scholars, especially in teacher education subjects and lecturing of the Open University through online. Furthermore, discussions between high-ranking officials from Indian educational institutions and directors-general from the Myanmar side will take place via video conference. Moreover, they focused on recruitment of more scholarship students. — MNA/KZW



Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe holds talks with Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar on 4 September.

MoEP UM separately receives ambassadors of India, Thailand to Myanmar



Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun receives Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar at the ministry yesterday.

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun separately received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitsump at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

In meeting with the Indian ambassador, they discussed cooperation in electric power sector between the two

countries, cross-border power line measures and capacity building of employees.

The Union minister also talked with the Thai ambassador to Myanmar about cooperation in electric power sector between Myanmar and Thailand and the issue of the cross-border power line project.

In the morning, the open-

ing ceremony for the Junior Engineer-2 refresher course No 2 was held at the Central Training School of the Ministry of Electric Power in Nay Pyi Taw.

The two-week junior engineer refresher course comprises subjects on controlling the power stations, maintenance and generators. — MNA/KZW

DDM, UNOCHA emphasize cooperation in data on humanitarian aid

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win met with Head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Mr Sajjad Mohammad Sajid, at the meeting in the ministry's meeting hall yesterday afternoon.

First, the attendees discussed UN Humanitarian and Emergency Relief Coordinator Under Secretary General Mr Martin Griffiths's upcoming trip to Myanmar, emphasizing its significance. Another crucial matter on the agenda was the renewal of the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the Depart-

ment of Disaster Management and UNOCHA, the meeting also delved into domestic concerns, including issues related to entry visas and domestic travel.

The meeting also addressed the issue of association registration for international organizations, along with the figures published by the State regarding the cooperation between the Ministry and UNOCHA, as well as humanitarian statistics. During the meeting, there was a friendly and open exchange of views regarding how to cooperate effectively and accurately reflect the real situation on the ground. — MNA/KZW



Union SWRR Minister Dr Soe Win meets Head of UNOCHA Mr Sajjad Mohammad Sajid on 4 September.

TOURISM

Razamuni pagoda in World Heritage Site, Bagan

THE pilgrims can visit the Kaungmhudaw Razamuni Pagoda of King Thibaw, the last king of Feudalism of Myanmar, near the Thatbyinnyu pagoda of King Alaung Sithu in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region.

The small pagoda located in front of the Thatbyinnyu pagoda

is Kaungmhudaw Razamuni pagoda of King Alaung Sithu. The last King of Myan-



Thatbyinnyu Temple in Bagan.



Razamuni Pagoda in Bagan.

mar King Thibaw constructed the Razamuni Koetaungpyae pagoda in Bagan where the Kings constructed pagodas, monasteries and religious buildings. Moreover, the historic records show that the Thatbyinnyu pagoda and Razamuni pagoda

are in very close position to be certain criteria to compare King Alaung Sithu and King Thibaw. It shows the difference between the developing and destroying situations.

There are Thatbyinnyu pagoda, Nathlaungkyaung, Ngaky-

we Nataung and Pahtoetharmyar pagodas in the west of Kaungmhudaw pagoda while NanU pagoda, Thandawkyar and the mound of Bagan Palace in the northwest, Thabetkya pagoda and Tharapah gate in the north. — Dipa Lin/KTZH

OFFICIALS of the Department of Archeology and National Museums (Bagan Branch) said that visitors can study the unique mural paintings and architecture and fine arts of the Ananda Brick Monastery in the Bagan ancient cultural region of Mandalay Region.

Ananda Monastery was built in 1785 AD and the donor was Bagan archivist Ottanaraja (aka) U Nyo.

Compared to other brick buildings in Bagan, the architecture and fine arts of the Ananda Monastery are exceptionally fascinating, and the wall paintings from the Konbaung era are still in decent condition.

Due to the fact that the donor record and the stucco flowers remain in good condition, officials chose to carry out a pilot project in order to be able to carry out the conservation guideline in the maintenance of the religious buildings in Bagan region to draw the people's interest.

In Ananda Monastery, visitors can study the wall paintings depicting the Konbaung

Artworks of Ananda Brick Monastery in Bagan capture visitor's interest



Wonderful artistic works of ancient mural paintings seen in ancient temple of Bagan.

era's culture and social economic development, as well as faith and protection.

The building that was affected by the earthquake in 2016 has been subjected to some preliminary maintenance as some works have

been carried out in accordance with the Pilot Project.

Thanks to the conservation guideline, masonry injection and stitching, strengthening work, mural and plaster conservation work are done with the efforts local and in-

ternational experts.

In carrying out the Pilot Project, maintenance work is being carried out by a team consisting of experts from UNESCO and local and foreign experts and technicians from the Department of Archeology and National Museum.

The east of the Ananda Monastery is Min Oh Chantha Pagoda build by King Kyansittha, while the western part of the building is Thetbyinnyu and NanU pagodas build by King Alaung Sithu and the royal palace mound of Bagan of kings named Anawrahta and Kyansitth. — Dipa Lin/KZL



CURRENT AFFAIRS

Grab taxis start running in Aungmyingala Highway Bus Terminal

IT is known that Grab taxis have started operating at the Aungmyingala Highway Bus Terminal in Yangon Region yesterday.

An official said that the service has started to ensure the safety of taxi drivers and passengers and to provide reliable services based on a fair and reasonable price.

Passengers can book a trip from the Aungmyingala Highway Bus Terminal to Yangon through the Grab application, and Grab taxis operate on a rotating system.

Grab counters have been placed in the terminal for those who do not yet have the Grab application, and employees of Grab will make bookings from these counters to the destinations passengers want to go.

It is reported that Loyal taxis have also been running at the Aungmyingala Highway Bus Terminal since yesterday. — TWA/CT



The Grab taxi gate in the Aungmyingala Highway Bus Terminal.

Drinking water supply may be difficult in coming summer: Vice Mayor



The view of Chaungmagyi Dam.

THE Vice Mayor, who is also the vice-chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, said that there may be difficulties in the supply of drinking water in the coming summer.

While inspecting the wa-

ter supply conditions in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 August, he said that due to the lesser volume of water collected in 2022, officials had to provide water sparingly so that there would not be a shortage of drinking water.

He added that special supervision should be carried out to ensure that there is no stray loss in the water supply and no other uses besides drinking water.

He also stressed that atten-

tion should be paid to allowing more water to flow into the dam and to excavate and clear the sand silt in the inlet streams and tributaries.

He urged officials to coordinate with the relevant departments to ensure that there is no cutting of forest trees in the dam and watershed areas.

Due to lack of rainfall, the main dams that supply drinking water to Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, such as Chaungmagyi Dam, Ottarathiri Dam and Yanaungmyin Dam have reduced water collection.

In August 2022, Chaungmagyi Dam could collect 45 per cent of drinking water supply and Yanaungmyin Dam 49 per cent. But in August this year, Chaungmagyi's drinking water storage was 17 per cent and Yanaungmyin Dam and Sinohn Dam stored 47 per cent of water storage. — YWA/KZL

Appointment system for vehicle inspection to resume on 6 Sept

ACCORDING to the Road Transport Administration Department, the appointment system for a vehicle inspection will resume on 6 September.

It was announced on 4 September that the online booking system will resume service activities such as the

validity inspection of vehicles, the border vehicle inspection, and vehicle inspection for other changes.

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, vehicle inspection activities were temporarily suspended on 22 March 2021, and these activities will be restored

on 6 September 2023.

The border vehicle inspection and vehicle inspection for other changes will be done in two batches, from 9:30 am to 12 pm and from 1 pm to 4 pm, on each working day, and the validity inspection of vehicles will be conducted after 2 pm,

according to the number of vehicles determined by the offices.

For online booking application, detailed information can be accessed at www.motc.gov.mm, www.myanmarrtad.com and www.rtad.gov.mm websites. — TWA/CT

Labour Dept warns to beware of fraudulent job offers from Malaysia

THE Department of Labour under the Ministry of Labour cautions to beware of fraudulent job offers from Malaysia because illegal agencies in Malaysia are making and selling fraudulent job offers.

The Department of Labour warns that the illegal agencies in Malaysia are sending the workers and these scammers are selling the demand letters to agencies in Myanmar, Indonesia and Bangladesh. And then the Myanmar

Overseas Employment Agencies should be careful because the scammers cheat not only locally but also from abroad depending on the labour market.

Additionally, the Department of Labour warns the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies, which is cheated by the scammers, will be revoked if they do not pay back the service fee collected in advance from the workers to be sent. The statement also describes that agencies, that were

found guilty and revoked, may lose the deposited money, and it is more secure to be real demand letters that the QR code is on the KDN or KSM Approval letters.

The Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies, which are sending workers to Malaysia, have been informed to be careful and when they receive the demand letters, they have to directly connect with the employers, who want to call the workers. — TWA/MKKS



The photo shows some Myanmar workers who were sent to Malaysia in 2022.

LOCAL BUSINESS

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price set at K4,160 per viss

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set at K4,160 per viss for a week ending 10 September, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The price set at K4,155 per viss is slightly higher than that of the previous week.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service to issue the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Nonetheless, the market price was way higher than the reference price.

To tackle the overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce apprised the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through Call Centre's HotLine in late August. The department urged the consumers not to buy the palm oil at high price.

The Department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to the consumers, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association and oil importing companies.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over Hot Line: 1535 of the Call Centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook Page of the department and the pages of the region and state departments concerned.

The coordination meeting for the edible oil price stability was held on 30 August at the Ministry of Commerce at office No 3. Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo gave the remark that the State provided cheaper way to buy the foreign currency to the edible oil sector by allowing the importers to buy 50 per cent of the total cost of imported palm oil at the reference exchange rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar and the remaining at the best rate. Furthermore, the CBM also stepped up to deal with foreign currency shortage for the edible oil importers.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo elaborated on how the Commerce Ministry issues the wholesale reference price on a weekly basis. However, the market price is exorbitantly high. He found that consumers are not able to access the subsidy scheme. Therefore, the Union Minister warned the businesspersons in Yangon on 1 July to set the reasonable price. He called for them to prioritize the consumers' interest yet not for self-interest only.

Additionally, the Union Minister encouraged all the stakeholders in the supply chain to cooperate with the ministry to reduce the palm oil prices in the coming days as the ministry would try to achieve the meeting outcomes in a practical way.

A task force for edible oil price stability was formed and started informing the lists of wholesale/retail shops of each company from 28 August, including the address of the shops in the respective townships and number of available barrels.

The task force will govern the market to meet the satisfaction of the end users in the supply chain and get easy access to the consumers. It will also supervise the market to ensure the palm oil sales at wholesale price not higher than two per cent of net profit margin and retail price not higher than 10 per cent margin.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the domestic demands, about 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

Myawady border trade tops US\$55 mln in August



The photo shows Myawady border gate.

THE Myawady border between Myanmar and Thailand bagged more than US\$55 million from cross-border trade in August.

The rain-triggered landslides cut off Myawady road section near Dawna mountain and Tawnaw Waterfall on 7 August and disrupted trade process.

Under the continuous efforts of the Department of Highways and the supervision of the Kayin State government, a Bailey bridge was constructed on the landslide-hit road section. Myawady-Kawkareik segment of Asian Highway reopened to

a single lane from 15 August, allowing the six-wheel trucks to drive in the lane. Trucks loaded with export/import goods got road access.

Thanks to the reopening of the road, perishable goods such as green commodities namely onion, chili pepper and fisheries were sent to the Myawady border without damage. The corn can be exported to Thailand in time under Form D Customs tariff.

Furthermore, importation of fertilizer, feedstuff, CMP raw materials and construction ma-

terials went smoothly, according to the Myawady Trade Zone.

Myawady border witnessed exports worth US\$15.219 million with 1,457 trucks and imports worth \$40.023 million with 2,327 trucks in August, totalling \$55.242 million with 3,784 trucks.

Myawady road plays a pivotal role in Myanmar-Thailand border trade. It is also crucial for the goods flow for Kayin and Mon States. Thus, the authorities concerned made a concerted effort to resume the road, as per Myawady trade zone. — NN/EM

Trade Dept allows exports of only agricultural produce, fisheries at Sittway border



Various species of fish seen in the market.

ONLY Agricultural produce and fisheries will be allowed for export via Sittway border, the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

This action is to ensure systematic border trade with Bangladesh and promote trade,

according to the news bulletin 15/2023 released on 1 September. It came into effect starting from 4 September, the Trade Department notified.

The agro produce and fisheries include rice and broken rice, various pulses, sesame,

peanut, onion and freshwater and saltwater fish.

The value of trade via Sittway and Maungtau border with neighbouring country Bangladesh amounted to US\$6.954 million as of 25 August in the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, comprising exports worth \$6.018 million and imports worth \$0.936 million.

Maungtau border pocketed \$4.636 million of trade, with exports worth \$4.533 million and imports worth \$0.103 million. Similarly, Sittway border bagged \$2.318 million of trade including exports valued at \$1.485 million and imports valued at \$0.833 million. — NN/EM

OPINION

Beware: The rising threat of cybercrimes

THE utilization of online platforms for self-expression has become a norm, allowing individuals to share their emotions, connect with others, and find solace in the digital realm. While many manage to engage positively without infringing upon the rights and reputation of others, there exists a cohort who manipulates this medium for nefarious purposes, disregarding ethical boundaries and wreaking havoc on unsuspecting victims.

Although digital engagement is a constitutional right, as enshrined in the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, its misuse is causing mounting concerns. The virtuous concept of freedom of expression can become a facade when wielded with malicious intent. There's a group that exploits the online landscape to inflict harm, conducting illicit operations that fail to benefit anyone beyond themselves.

Among the myriad cybercrimes, monetary fraud emerges as a dominant concern. Its intricate web often eludes straightforward classification and evidence accumulation, posing a formidable challenge for legal authorities. This complexity hampers swift and effective action against perpetrators. Nevertheless, diligent efforts persist in combating cybercrimes through multifaceted approaches.

illegal microfinance businesspersons to exploit their private lives.

In a landscape where internet usage is ubiquitous, the threat of cyber victimization is omnipresent, transcending national boundaries to become a global quandary. To tackle this pressing issue, governments worldwide are taking measures to sensitize users about the perils of the online realm. Furthermore, the establishment of cybercrime units underscores the seriousness of this challenge, aiming to counteract the growing tide of cybercrimes.

Among the myriad cybercrimes, monetary fraud emerges as a dominant concern. Its intricate web often eludes straightforward classification and evidence accumulation, posing a formidable challenge for legal authorities. This complexity hampers swift and effective action against perpetrators. Nevertheless, diligent efforts persist in combating cybercrimes through multifaceted approaches.

As guardians of their own digital security, individuals should exercise caution. The barrage of online advertisements, especially those endorsing suspicious microfinance ventures, should be approached with scepticism. Vigilance and adherence to official warnings are crucial to navigate the online landscape safely. In this era of boundless connectivity, equipping oneself with knowledge becomes the first line of defence against the lurking threat of cybercrimes.

The issue is compounded by the rise of illegitimate online microfinance schemes that feed on deception. Authorities have pinpointed 35 such perilous enterprises, cautioning citizens against engaging with them. Some of these applications are even prohibited on the Google Play Store due to their association with dubious financial practices. These apps entice users with the prospect of quick loans in Myanmar's national currency, the Kyat. However, their sinister conditions reveal that a hefty 75 per cent of the sanctioned loan is remitted, after subjecting borrowers to an exorbitant seven-point deduction. Worse, these applications exploit the digital age's vulnerability by coercing users into submitting personal photographs and videos, unknowingly allowing

Hydration Beyond H₂O That Leads to Explore Diverse Beverages for Optimal Well-being

By Yin Nwe Ko

WATER is like the fuel that keeps our bodies running smoothly. It helps us with essential functions like keeping our blood flowing, regulating our body temperature, and aiding in digestion. Did you know that about 60 per cent of our bodies are made up of water? That's a lot! But if we don't drink enough water, we can become dehydrated, which means our bodies lose too much water. Even losing just a little bit of water — like one to two per cent of our body weight — can cause problems like feeling dizzy, tired, and having headaches.

As we get older, it becomes even more important to stay hydrated because our bodies don't hold onto water as well and we might not feel as thirsty. But don't worry, there are easy ways to know if you're drinking enough water. You can check the colour of your pee. And guess what? It's not just water that can help us stay hydrated! Let's explore some other drinks that can keep us feeling great.

In fact, water keeps our most basic functions running — from blood circulation to temperature regulation through sweating to digestion and more.

As mentioned earlier, our bodies are about 60 per cent water and if we don't get enough to drink, dehydration — defined as a body-water loss of at least one to two per cent of your weight — can cause dizziness, fatigue, and headaches. Both our body-water content and our thirst perception diminish as we age, putting seniors at greater risk of dehydration.

An easy way to gauge your hydration levels is by the colour of your urine and how often you pee (ideally more than four times per day). "It doesn't need to be clear all the time, but it should be light like lemonade, not dark like apple juice," says Isabel Maples, a registered dietitian based in Washington, DC, and a spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. "Keep in mind that some medications

and supplements can also affect urine colour."

So how much water do we need to drink? You may have heard of the decades-old eight-glasses-a-day guideline, but experts say that's not supported by current research. "In reality, fluid needs vary from day to day and from person to person," says Maples.

The average adult male requires about three litres of fluids a day, while the average female should consume just over two litres. Other factors, such as temperature, altitude, intense exercise, and certain medications, can increase those needs.

Of course, water isn't the only option. An estimated 20 per cent of our fluid intake comes from foods, and the rest can be a combination of water and other hydrating beverages. Here are several:

COFFEE: Go ahead and order a large coffee. Caffeinated drinks do have mild diuretic properties, but there's no evidence that they lead to dehydration. "Coffee and tea may increase urination in the short term, but the fluid intake offsets that loss," says Toronto-based registered dietitian Drew Hemler.

A 2014 UK study published in the journal PLOS One measured the body water of subjects in two groups: one that drank 800 millilitres of coffee a day and the other an equal amount of water. After controlling for food intake and exercise, researchers found no significant difference in hydration levels.

"There is no reason why caffeinated beverages can't count toward your daily fluid totals, as long as you're used to the caffeine," says Maples. Five or more 250-millilitre cups of coffee a day is excessive, she says, but three to four cups is within healthy limits.

TEA: Both black and green tea have about the same hydration benefits as coffee, with the



Fruit and vegetable juices with no added sugar are excellent sources of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, which can reduce inflammation and help prevent age-related diseases. PHOTO: PIXABAY



added boost of heart-protecting antioxidants. Soothing brews like chamomile or mint are caffeine and calorie-free, and their taste may encourage you to drink more. "Hibiscus tea, in particular, is packed with antioxidants and flavonoids," says Hemler, due to the anti-inflammatory pigment molecules that give hibiscus its bright red colour.

MILK: In a 2015 study published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, British researchers found that cow's milk, both full-fat and skim, is more hydrating than plain water. That's because it takes longer to digest than water, allowing the body to absorb more fluids. In the study, subjects who drank milk produced less urine over four hours than those who drank an equal amount of other fluids and showed higher hydration levels in their blood. Milk also supplies three nutrients that most of us need more of: potassium, vitamin D, and calcium.

PLANT MILK: The nutritional profiles of non-dairy milk options (soy, almond, oat, and coconut are top sellers) vary. But most are low-calorie, low-cholesterol, and more environmentally sustainable alternatives to dairy. "Some plant milks are fortified with calcium and vitamins A, D, and B 12, as well as other nutrients commonly added to cow's milk," says Hemler. "However, they fall short on protein." Only soy milk comes close, at six grams per cup, compared to eight grams for cow's milk.

Plant milk is higher in water compared with dairy — almond milk is 97 per cent water, and cow's milk is 87 to 90 per cent — but because they lack dairy's protein and carbohydrates, they pass through the digestive system faster, putting them roughly on par with water for hydration.

SPORT DRINKS: Available in a range of colours and fruity flavours, sports drinks are advertised as being more hydrating than water. But that's only accurate

because people tend to drink more of something that tastes good, says Hemler. "If you're trying to lose weight, be aware that these drinks can also increase your total carbohydrates and calories," he says.

A 600-millilitre bottle contains up to 35 grams, or eight teaspoons, of sugar; but there are low- or no-sugar options.

Sports drinks do supply electrolytes — minerals that support hydration and muscle function — and can be helpful in recovery from intense exercise lasting more than an hour. An electrolyte-enriched drink can also help rehydrate you after an episode of severe diarrhoea or vomiting.

JUICE: Fruit and vegetable juices with no added sugar are excellent sources of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, which can reduce inflammation and help prevent age-related diseases. Natural sugars, like fructose and lactose, are digested more slowly than processed

sugar, helping stabilize your metabolism. Orange juice has slightly better hydration than water, according to a 2015 British study that measured subjects' urine output after consuming different drinks.

COCONUT SAP: Technically a fruit juice, this clear, slightly sweet liquid contains hydration-aiding electrolytes, namely sodium, magnesium, and potassium. In fact, 250 millilitres contain more potassium than a banana. It's marketed as a natural exercise-recovery drink, but a 2012 study published in the Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition found no significant hydration difference between coconut sap, sports drinks, and water. If you like something sweeter than water but are watching your calories and carbs, coconut sap is a healthier option than some sports drinks, at 45 to 60 calories and six grams of sugar per 250 millilitres.

ALOE VERA: The gel of the aloe plant is well known as a skin salve for its moisturizing and burn-soothing properties, but it can also be mixed with water to make a refreshing, hydrating drink. Aloe is rich in polyphenols, a type of antioxidant, and research from a 2016 study published in the Journal of Nutrition suggests it may even help control blood sugar.

You could make your own, but it's best to buy bottled aloe juice; the sticky latex inside the aloe leaf can cause stomach upset if not carefully removed.

BONE BROTH: Made by simmering chicken or beef bones and cartilage with vegetables for a minimum of 12 hours, bone broth has become trendy as a comforting drink with anti-inflammatory properties, thanks to the amino acids derived from collagen.

With its added salt, it can also replenish electrolytes; sodium helps the body retain fluids. Too much sodium, however, can put extra pressure on your blood vessels, making your heart work harder.

"Your recommended limit

for sodium intake is 2,300 milligrams a day, and 500 millilitres of bone broth can contain a quarter of that," says Hemler. If you buy bone broth, low-sodium versions are best, or you can make your own and reduce or skip the salt.

In sum, our bodies rely on water to carry out many essential functions, from keeping our blood flowing to helping us digest food. Dehydration, which occurs when we don't have enough water, can lead to problems like dizziness and fatigue. As we age, it becomes even more important to stay hydrated. You can easily check your hydration by looking at the colour of your pee, as I said earlier. Remember, it should be light like lemonade, not dark like apple juice. While water is crucial, there are other options to keep us hydrated. Drinks like coffee, tea, milk, and even fruit juices can contribute to our fluid intake. Each has its benefits, from antioxidants to essential nutrients. Just remember, staying hydrated is a key to keeping our bodies working at their best!"

Reference: Reader's Digest June 2023



Flood Warning

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 4-9-2023)

ACCORDING to the 12:30 hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha is observed as about (1 ½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next two days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Seiktha to take precaution measure.

Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 14:00 hours MST on 4-9-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at 13:30 hrs MST today, a low pressure area may form over the Northwest Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal during next 24 hrs.

NATIONAL

Pre-Job Training Course to enhance staff capacity



Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint speaking at opening of Pre-Job Training Course 2/2023 for staff of IPRD in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 September.

THE opening ceremony of Pre-Job Training Course 2/2023 of the Training School of the Department of Information and Public Relations under the Ministry of Information was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

First, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint highlighted the IPRD is to work closely with the people in all regions that capacity building courses are being delivered to make full-fledged employees to be good public relations. They have to acquire skills of proper knowledge that is consistent with the position. Since the library work is one of the

main activities of the department, those who will serve in the regions and states need to try to make the library work successful.

The Pre-Job Training Course lasts from 4 to 22 September with attendance of 27 trainees. The course comprises subjects on office work manuals, financial regulation, keeping accounts, management of library activities, applying Digital Library Management System (DLMS), media ethics, facts about social media, and measures on printing and publishing, News Media Law and so on. — MNA/TS

Illegal timbers, industrial materials, consumer goods, and vehicles confiscated

THE combined on-duty teams conducted inspections on 29 August and captured a total of 0.7338 tonne of illegal timbers worth K110,070 in Samalauk village in Nyaungdon township, and a total of 4.088 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K553,315 from a vehicle near Bo Myat Tun bridge on Yangon-Pathein road. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 31 August, an on-duty team under the supervision of the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded 3.954 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K593,220 in Sawbwa 11 Ward in Tamu township and action was taken under the Forest Law.

The combined teams under the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated 7.390 tonnes of illegal teak, 1.549 tonnes of illegal hardwoods and 3.118 tonnes of other illegal timbers worth K4,097,788 in Bago, Toungoo and Thayawady districts on 1 September and a Toyota dyna and a Joylong mini bus (approximately K30 million) carrying eight kinds of goods worth K8.65 million including 2,160 sheets of used carpets (50 cmx50 cm) and six used 24 inches bicycles without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray check-

point on 2 September. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

The Customs on-duty teams nabbed three kinds of goods worth K48,497,610 including 3,038 kilogrammes of protective film without Import Licence from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint on 1 September and a Joylong mini bus (estimated value of K23 million), headed to Nay Pyi Taw from Mawlamyine, carrying 500 sets of Hometler Mop worth K2.5 million without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint on 2 September. The action was taken under Customs procedures. A combined team led by Hlegu Township Forest Department seized a Nissan diesel canter (estimated value of K25 million) carrying a total of 0.872 tonne of illegal timbers worth K525,476 between Mileposts 22/0 and 22/1 on Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Hlegu township on 3 September. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A total of 13 arrests were made on 29 and 31 August and 1, 2 and 3 September with an estimated value of K147,625,267, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/ MKKS

Development undertakings inspected in Pyinmana Township



Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col Min Naung views herbal plants and vegetables in Pyihtaungkoe Village-tract in Pyinmana Township on 4 September.

NAY Pyi Taw Council member Col Min Naung-led collaborative team continued a field study trip in Pyadachaung village in Pyihtaungkoe Village-tract of Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

They met with the local ethnic people and provided assistances and granted household registration lists and citizenship scrutiny cards (CSCs) under Pankhinn project.

In meeting with local authorities, departmental staff, people's militia and locals, the

Colonel highlighted the intention of field trip to villages in Pyinmana Township, endeavours of government in education sector, healthcare services, proper transportation system, access to drinking water, electrification, educating campaign about agriculture and livestock breeding.

He also urged the people to participate in the discussion frankly for the development of their regions to be able to achieve the target in the financial years.

He then added that all

should be in unity among the government, Tatmadaw and people as the peace and tranquility play key role in regional development programmes.

Then, he provided the foodstuffs, stationaries, books, fertilizers, cash and other materials for the monasteries, households, militia troops, teachers and students of basic education schools in the village-tract.

Deputy Director U Maung Maung of the Ministry of Immigration and Population presented the citizenship scrutiny cards and household registration lists Form 66/6 under Pankhinn Project (2) for the villagers and students through an official.

At noon, the team viewed the healthcare system of mobile medical team of Nay Pyi Taw Medical Services Department and provided medical supplies and cash assistance.

During the meeting with the teachers and students of basic education schools at Pyadachaung Village BEHS, they provided teaching aids, stationaries, food and cash.

In Myathida Village, he viewed round construction of BEPPS and Myathida Tun resort. — MNA/KTZH

UAE establishes 'gaming' body in potential step towards casinos

THE United Arab Emirates has set up a regulatory body for "commercial gaming" — a step which could potentially allow for casino licences in the Arab Gulf state where gambling is currently banned.

The General Commercial Gaming Regulatory Authority (GCGRA) will "coordinate regulatory activities, manage licensing... and facilitate unlocking the economic potential of commercial gaming", the official WAM news agency said late Sunday.

The statement did not clarify whether "gaming" refers to gambling and made no mention of casinos but senior officials hired to run the body are industry veterans.

Its CEO was named as Kevin Mullally who served as executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission — a body in charge of regulating riverboat casinos throughout the US state.

"I look forward to establishing a robust regulatory body and framework for the UAE's lottery and gaming industry," Mullally was quoted as saying in the WAM statement.

GCGRA's board of directors is chaired by James Murren, who previously served

as chairman of the American Gaming Association, a trade group representing the United States casino industry.

Gambling is prohibited under Islamic laws in the oil-rich Gulf state, whose population is 90 per cent foreign.

In 2022, US-based casino operator Wynn Resorts announced plans to establish an "integrated resort", including "gaming facilities", in the emirate of Ras al-Khaimah.

Ras al-Khaimah is one of the seven members of the UAE, which includes the city state of Dubai.

Preliminary construction work has begun on Wynn Al Marjan Island which is scheduled to open in early 2027.

UAE authorities have for years denied reports that the country which neighbours Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, is to lift an Arabian Gulf-wide ban on gambling.

But it has made a series of liberalizing moves as it faces increased regional competition for talent and tourism, notably from Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

These included lifting a ban on unmarried couples living together; loosening restrictions on alcohol, and offering long-term residencies. — AFP

Cyprus says Gulf state protested after tourists attacked



A woman runs along the seafront in Limassol on 20 March 2023. PHOTO: AFP

CYPRUS says it received a diplomatic protest from an unnamed Arab Gulf state after tourists were attacked during anti-migrant violence in the island's second city, Limassol.

Senior diplomat Kyriakos Kouros posted on the X platform, formerly Twitter, Sunday: "I received a demarche from an ambassador of an Arab country."

Kouros, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, added: "A number of its citizens, innocent visitors

to our country, were among the victims of the incidents in Limassol, one quite seriously.

"They cut short the holidays to leave in a hurry, scared! I doubt they will ever come back."

Kouros posted a photograph on X of a group at the airport. One sat in a wheelchair and had a bandaged forearm. Another was dressed in a suit.

Police in the Mediterranean island said they arrested 13 people after protesters Friday evening injured five foreigners and smashed some

foreign-owned shops on the Limassol seafront.

According to witness accounts posted on social media, among those assaulted were a group of visitors from Kuwait.

English language daily Cyprus Mail reported that a Kuwaiti tourist was among those listed as injured during the violence in Limassol.

During the unrest, trash bins were also set alight and some black-hooded protesters held a banner that read, "Refugees not welcome". — AFP

Go with the flow — or flee: Burners split over mud tactics

THE music kept blasting but not everyone was revelling this year at the Burning Man festival in the barren expanse of Nevada desert: rain turned the site into a muddy quagmire that made the festival a survival ordeal for some of the 70,000 participants.

For some veteran "burners", a weekend of rain did not ruin the counterculture festival's vibe on the so-called playa, even as a few attendees fled the sodden Nevada desert for civilization.

Despite reports of vehicles trapped in the sludge on the road out and warnings from



Attendees walk through a muddy desert plain on 2 September 2023, after heavy rains turned the annual Burning Man festival site in Nevada's Black Rock desert into a mud pit. PHOTO: AFP

organizers to shelter in place and conserve food and water, festivalgoer Willonius Hatcher said he felt "good".

"I'm not worried," he told AFP at one campsite where many were gathering in hopes of snagging a few minutes of internet access. "I've learned to go with the flow here."

Attendees stomp around with clumps of dried mud clinging to their feet — some trade advice on how to rig plastic trash bags and socks into makeshift boots — while others go barefoot.

With their usual art installations and other entertainment

cancelled — and the festival's namesake event, the burning of a 40-foot effigy known as "the Man" postponed — burners made jokes to try to cheer each other up despite the desperate circumstances.

"Rain is a blessing in disguise low-key," Hatcher said, "because we're talking to so many people, and we're forced to slow down."

"There's beauty in chaos and I'm choosing to embrace that," added the 39-year-old comedian and screenwriter, who missed his flight out Sunday when he couldn't escape the muddy site. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD



Tourists visit the Angkor Wat in the Angkor Archaeological Park in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, 17 December 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Cambodia's Angkor sees nearly 500,000 int'l tourists in eight months

CAMBODIA'S famed Angkor Archeological Park had welcomed nearly half a million foreign tourists in the first eight months of 2023, the State-owned Angkor Enterprise said in a statement on Monday.

The statement said 498,513 international visitors had traveled to Angkor during the Jan-Aug period of this year, representing a significant rise of 350.8 per cent from 110,570 in the same period last year.

The ancient site made 23.09 million US dollars in revenue from ticket sales during the eight-month period, up 420 per cent from 4.44 million dollars, it added.

In August, the site welcomed 59,148 foreigners, earning 2.77 million dollars from ticket sales,

according to the statement.

Ministry of Tourism's Secretary of State Top Sopheak attributed the sharp growth to no travel restrictions in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era.

"We hope that more foreign tourists will come to Cambodia, especially to Angkor, in coming years as many airlines have resumed their flights to the kingdom," he told Xinhua.

Located in northwest Siem Reap province, the 401-square-km Angkor Archeological Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1992, is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian nation. — Xinhua

Türkiye's inflation nears 60%, piling pressure on new team

TÜRKIYE'S annual inflation approached 60 per cent last month, official data showed Monday, putting pressure on the central bank to further hike interest rates at the risk of angering President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The state statistic agency said prices rose by 58.9 per cent over 12 months ending in August compared to 47.8 per cent in July.

The latest data will test the limits of how much leeway Erdogan's new market-friendly team has to raise borrowing costs.

"Pretty awful inflation prints," emerging markets econ-

omist Timothy Ash remarked in emailed comments.

"This will heap pressure on the (central bank) to further significantly hike policy rates from 25 per cent at present."

The Turkish leader has been a lifelong opponent of high interest rates due to his unorthodox conviction that they cause — rather than help cure — inflation.

His decision to push policymakers to slash rates in the face of rising consumer prices saw inflation soar to 85 per cent last year. — AFP

German exports remain volatile with dip in July

GERMAN exports fell again in July after a slight rebound in June, official data showed on Monday, as Europe's biggest economy battles an industrial slowdown.

Exports totalled 130.4 billion euros (\$141 billion), a fall of 0.9 per cent compared with the previous month, according to adjusted figures from federal statistics agency Destatis.

FactSet analysts had predicted an even steeper decline of 1.5 per cent.

Imports meanwhile were up 1.4 per cent compared with June, totalling 114.5 billion euros.

The country's adjusted trade surplus — the difference between exports and imports — fell slightly to 15.9 billion euros.

"Trade is no longer the strong resilient growth driver of the German economy that it used to be, but rather a drag," ING economist Carsten Brzeski said.

German exports have been lagging for several months as a result of supply chain difficul-



New cars of various brands are parked for export on the parking of a car terminal at the harbour of Duisburg, on 19 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

ties, a fragile global economy and stubbornly high inflation.

German inflation dipped slightly to 6.1 per cent in August but remained at a level three times higher than the European Central Bank's target rate.

Energy prices remain high and some energy-intensive sectors, such as the chemicals industry, are struggling to return to production levels before the war in Ukraine.

German industry has also been weighed down by the

struggling economy in China, the country's top trading partner.

In July, however, exports to China rose by 1.2 per cent, after plunging by 5.9 per cent in June. The German economy stagnated in the second quarter of 2023, after contracting in the previous two quarters.

The country's leading economic institutes expect the economy to shrink by 0.2 to 0.4 per cent over the whole of 2023. — AFP



(FILES) A teller uses a machine to count Turkish lira banknotes at a foreign exchange office in Ankara on 20 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tesla, Chinese EV brands jostle for limelight at German fair

ONE of the world's biggest auto shows opened in Munich on Monday, with Tesla ending a 10-year absence to jostle for the spotlight with Chinese rivals as the race for electric dominance heats up.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz will officially inaugurate the IAA mobility show, held in Germany every two years, on Tuesday.

But carmakers used Monday's press preview as an early chance to show off some of the new models that will be hitting the road soon.

The industry-wide shift towards electric ve-

hicles will be front and centre at this week's fair, with Chinese carmakers out in force as they eye the European market.

US electric car pioneer Tesla, owned by Elon Musk, will return to the IAA for the first time since 2013 and is expected to unveil a revamped version of its mass-market Model 3.

That Tesla, usually a holdout at such events, is coming to Munich shows it is taking the growing competition seriously, said Jan Burgard from the Berylls automotive consulting group. "The electric car market with its many new

players will be divvied up over the next few years and people want to know: who is offering what?" Burgard told the Handelsblatt financial daily.

Having captured an increasingly large part of the prized Chinese market, Chinese upstarts are now hoping to win over European customers with cheaper electric cars.

Chinese manufacturers are starting "their assault on Europe with the IAA", said industry analyst Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer from the Centre Automotive Research in Germany. — AFP



A man polishes a Seal car of Chinese car maker BYD at the International Motor Show (IAA) in Munich, southern Germany, on 4 September 2023. Germany's IAA MOBILITY auto show, one of the world's largest, will be open for the public from 5 to 10 September 2023 and showcase all car-related topics. PHOTO: AFP

Japan business leaders to visit China in January

JAPANESE business leaders will visit China in January, the chairman of Japan's biggest business lobby said Monday, amid heightened tensions between the two nations over the release of treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea.

"We are faced with the issue of the treated water, but we must make efforts to have a dialogue, especially at times like this," Masakazu Tokura, head of the Japan Business Federation, also

known as Keidanren, said at a press conference.

The visit will mark the first such trip since September 2019. A business mission organized by Keidanren and some other groups had been visiting China almost every year since 1975, but the coronavirus pandemic disrupted these interactions.

The water release prompted China to impose a ban on all seafood imports from Japan. Tokura called China's response "extremely regrettable". — Kyodo

Chinese brands top Israel's EV sales in Jan-Aug period

CHINESE brands topped Israel's electric vehicle (EV) sales in the first eight months of 2023, according to data issued Sunday by the Israel Vehicle Importers Association.

The best-selling EV

brand in Israel is Chinese carmaker BYD, which sold 12,168 cars, mainly the sub-compact crossover SUV Atto 3, during the Jan-Aug period this year.

Meanwhile, BYD moved up one position

to fourth place in Israel's overall car sales rankings which include both gasoline and electric cars.

Geely Auto Group, another Chinese carmaker, sold a total of 5,581 Geometry C compact crossovers

in the same period, holding second place in EV sales in Israel. American carmaker Tesla stood in third place with 4,948 electric cars sold, followed by South Korean Hyundai Motor with 3,879 cars. — Xinhua

Free electricity boon for Norway's two biggest cities

ELECTRICITY is expected to be free in Norway's two biggest cities Monday, experts said, the silver lining of a wet summer.

With power almost exclusively produced from hydro in Norway, the more

it rains or snows the more the reservoirs fill up and the lower the electricity price.

A particularly violent summer storm dubbed "Hans" that swept across Scandinavia in August

has filled dams in parts of Norway.

As a result, the spot price of electricity, before taxes and grid fees, was expected to hover between 0 and -0.3 kroner (-0.03 US cents) on Monday in the

capital Oslo and the second-biggest city Bergen, according to specialized news site Europower.

A negative price means electricity companies pay consumers to use their production. — AFP



Masakazu Tokura, head of the Japan Business Federation, also known as Keidanren, holds a press conference in Tokyo on 4 September 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (106N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (106N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-9-2023** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (176N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (176N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Pope Francis visits homeless shelter on last day in Mongolia

POPE Francis capped the final day of his diplomatically tinged visit to Mongolia preaching charity, with a visit to a Catholic shelter for the homeless and domestic violence victims.

The visit to inaugurate “The House of Mercy”, which also includes a clinic, in a poor area on the outskirts of the capital Ulaanbaatar suits the 86-year-old pope’s longstanding practice of reaching out to marginalized, overlooked communities.

Francis’ voyage to the Central Asian nation — the first by a pope — has been overshadowed by his overtures to its powerful neighbour China.

Some Chinese Catholics have travelled to Mongolia to catch a glimpse of Francis up close, and outside the shelter on Monday, a group of women sang in Mandarin, wiping away tears as the pope’s black car passed.

“Dear Pope, our best wishes for you,” they sang.

The pontiff directly addressed Catholics in China on



Children in traditional dress welcome Pope Francis arriving for a meeting with charity workers and for the inauguration of the House of Mercy in Ulaanbaatar on 4 September 2023. **PHOTO: ANDREW MEDICHINI / POOL / AFP**

Sunday in impromptu comments following a mass, telling them to be “good Christians and good

citizens”, in an apparent attempt to ease tensions with Beijing.

Many travelling Chinese

Catholics told authorities at home they were travelling to Mongolia for tourism, according

to interviews with AFP.

After the mass, attended by many of Mongolia’s tiny Catholic population numbering just 1,400, Francis sent “a warm greeting to the noble Chinese people”.

“To the people I wish the best,” he said, flanked by the bishop and bishop emeritus of Hong Kong.

It was the second apparent overture to the Chinese Communist Party in two days, following Francis telling a gathering of missionaries Saturday that governments had “nothing to fear” from the Catholic Church.

The pope’s plane took off shortly after midday, with his account on X — formally called Twitter — hailing the Mongolian “friendship” he received over the four-day trip.

“Dear brothers and sisters of Mongolia, thank you for the gift of friendship that I received in these days. Bayarlalaa [Thank you in Mongolian]! May God bless you,” the account posted. — AFP

UN nuclear agency ‘regrets’ lack of Iranian cooperation

THE UN nuclear watchdog said Monday it regretted that “no progress” had been made by Iran on outstanding issues, including installing more cameras to monitor Tehran’s nuclear programme.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director general Rafael Grossi “requests Iran to work with the agency in earnest and in a sustained way towards the fulfilment of the commitments,” the agency said in a confidential report seen by AFP.

Tehran in March vowed to reactivate surveillance devices which were disconnected in June 2022 amid deteriorating relations with the West.

In a separate report, also seen by AFP, the IAEA said Iran’s total stockpile of enriched uranium was lower than in May but still more

than 18 times the limit set in a 2015 accord between Tehran and world powers.

Iran’s total enriched uranium stockpile was estimated at 3,795.5 kilogrammes (8,367.7 pounds) as of 19 August, down by 949 kilogrammes from May, the agency said.

The limit in the 2015 deal was set at 202.8 kilogrammes.

The stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60 per cent is now at 121.6 kilos, up from 114.1 kilos in May.

Iran also has 535.8 kilos of uranium enriched up to 20 per cent, up from 470.9 kilos in the last May report.

The landmark 2015 deal — curbing Iran’s nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief — started to fall apart in 2018 when the US unilaterally withdrew from it and reimposed sanctions. — AFP

Japan fishermen, locals seek halt to Fukushima water release

MORE than 100 fishermen and locals living near Fukushima will file a lawsuit this week seeking to stop the release of wastewater from the stricken Japanese nuclear plant, they said Monday.

Twelve years after one of the world’s worst nuclear accidents, Japan began on 24 August discharging treated cooling water diluted with seawater into the Pacific, insisting it was safe.

Many Japanese fishermen have been against the release, fearing that it will undo years of efforts to improve the industry’s image in the wake of the 2011 catastrophe.

The more than 100 plaintiffs in Fukushima and neighbouring prefectures will file the lawsuit in the Fukushima District Court on Friday, Sugie Tanji, a member of the group’s secretariat, told AFP.

“The government failed to keep to its promise of gaining agreement from fishermen before taking such a decision to release,” she said.

“This is a wrong policy as it ignores strong opposition from not only the Fukushima fishermen’s cooperative but also from cooperatives across the country,” a group statement said.

“The release to the ocean can never be tolerated as it brings about further suffering to victims of the nuclear accident,”

it added.

The water release has generated a fierce backlash from China, including a blanket ban on Japanese seafood imports.

Japanese government officials and business have also been bombarded with thousands of nuisance calls from Chinese phone numbers.— AFP



Fishery workers sort out seafood caught in offshore trawl fishing at Matsukawaura port in Soma City, Fukushima prefecture on 1 September 2023, about a week after the country began discharging treated wastewater from the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Swiatek stumped by 'loss of control' in US Open exit

IGA Swiatek said she was at a loss to describe the way in which her US Open title defence was left in ruins Sunday in a last-16 defeat to Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko.

The Pole lost for the fourth time in as many meetings with the talented but inconsistent Ostapenko, who roared

back to clinch a 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory after dominating the final two sets.

"She plays well against me. I mean, I don't have any comparison because she always did that," said Swiatek.

"But I'm just surprised that my level changed so drastically because

usually when I play bad, I play bad at the beginning, then I kind of catch up or just problem solve. This time it was totally the opposite.

"I don't really know what happened with my game. I felt no control suddenly. I just have to watch and see 'cause, yeah, I didn't really know why I started making so many mistakes."

The 22-year-old Swiatek will lose her status as world number one following the US Open, with Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus set to take over top spot.

Swiatek had cruised into the fourth round in New York after not dropping a set in her first three matches, looking in prime form to defend the title she won last year.

But Sunday's defeat will snap her 75-week reign at the summit.

"Usually I'm not looking at numbers, but overall I love them. I would love to, like, extend this record a little bit longer," said Swiatek, a five-time Grand Slam champion.

"This is something that when I was younger, I actually kind of wanted to break some record or have something. — AFP



Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko returns the ball to Poland's Iga Swiatek during the US Open tennis tournament women's singles round of 16 match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York City, on 3 September 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Team Myanmar to play tune-up matches against Mandalay futsal clubs

MYANMAR national futsal team will play friendly matches against two Mandalay based futsal clubs named TG United and Lin Latt FC this month, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar is preparing for the Asian Futsal Championship Qualifiers and taking on TG United FC on 5 and 6 September and flying in the face off Lin Latt FC on 12 and 13 September.

All the qualifiers will be held at

Myanmar Football Federation Futsal Stadium starting at 4:00 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

All the fans are invited to enjoy the matches free, as stated by the federation. — KZL



Myanmar national futsal players are seen posing for a group photo. PHOTO: MFF



Jadon Sancho of Manchester United celebrates after scoring during the friendly football match between Manchester United and Arsenal at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on 22 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Sancho claims he has become Man Utd 'scapegoat'

MANCHESTER United star Jadon Sancho claimed on Sunday he has been "a scapegoat for a long time" as he hit back at coach Erik ten Hag's claim he had been dropped because of poor training performances.

The 23-year-old did not travel to London for Sunday's Premier League match which saw United lose 3-1 to Arsenal.

"Jadon, on his performances in training we did not select him," said United boss Ten Hag after the game.

"You have to reach a level every day at Manchester United and we can make choices in the front line. So for this game he was not selected."

However, Sancho hit back later Sunday.

"Please don't believe everything you read! I will not allow people saying things that is completely untrue, I have conducted myself in training very well this week," he wrote on social media.

"I believe there are other reasons for this matter that I won't go into, I've been a scapegoat for a long time which isn't fair!"

"I respect all decisions that are made by the coaching staff, I play with fantastic players and (am) grateful to do so which I know every week is a challenge. I will continue to fight for this badge no matter what!" — AFP



This pool image distributed by Sputnik agency on 4 September 2023, shows Russian President Vladimir Putin meeting with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Sochi. PHOTO: SERGEI GUNEYEV / POOL / AFP

Putin says hopefully moscow, Ankara will agree on Türkiye gas hub soon

RUSSIA is open to negotiations on resuming the Black Sea grain deal, Russian President Vladimir Putin told Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a meeting in Sochi on Monday.

Vladimir Putin said that issues related to the conflict in Ukraine will be included in the agenda of the Monday meeting.

The pace of development of relations between Russia and Türkiye has been maintained, the positive trend of trade turnover in the first half of the year has also been maintained, although it is not as strong as last year, Putin said.

The Russian President said that he hopes that Moscow and Ankara will complete negotia-

tions on the creation of a gas hub in Türkiye soon.

Regarding the energy cooperation, Putin said that "agreements have been reached" between main supplies and consumers on both sides.

The Akkuyu nuclear power plant project in Türkiye is developing according to its plan, and its first unit will be launched in 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"The construction of the Akkuyu nuclear power plant continues, now Türkiye has truly become a member of the international club of nuclear states, after the delivery of the first batch of Russian nuclear fuel Akkuyu, next year, everything is going

according to plan, we will launch the first unit," Putin said at the meeting.

Russia is among the first countries that is trying to help Türkiye in times of need, including in fight against forest fires and dealing with consequences of earthquakes, Putin added.

"Dear president, you mentioned the fight against fires. I want to say that after the terrible earthquake that the Turkish people faced, we were among the first who tried help the Turkish people, to help ordinary people who suffered. The same goes for firefighting. All this suggests that we have brought Russian-Turkish relations to a very good and high level," Putin said. — Sputnik

US aircraft warned off Iran's airspace several times in 2 years: commander

A senior military commander said Iran had used its home-grown Karrar interceptor drone to warn US aircraft off the country's airspace on a number of occasions over the past two years.

In an interview with Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency, which was published on Sunday, Alireza Elhami, deputy commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defence Force, made the remarks while commenting

on the air force's drone and defence capabilities.

Iran used the Karrar drone to warn US aircraft as well as fighter jets from other countries to stay away from its southern waters, he said. — Xinhua

Sci-tech innovation in health services highlighted at CIFTIS

AT the exhibition hall for health services in Shougang Park, an exhibition area for the ongoing China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing, a knee surgery robot from the Peking Union Medical College Hospital stood out as a star exhibit among visitors.

According to personnel with the hospital, this type of robot, for which China holds complete intellectual property rights, has assisted over 1,800 total knee replacement surgeries across China and proved to be effective.

The robot joins a number of other smart medical care products on display at the 7,700-square-metre hall that left visitors in awe of China's achievements in scientific

Health and Medical Industry Innovation Service Conference 2023 held Sunday as a sideline event of the CIFTIS.

At the conference, officials and practitioners discussed in depth the integration of health and industry and the innovation of industrial chains, in a bid to offer wisdom and advice for building China into a leading country in health.

Wang called for efforts to further industrialize products of health and medicine innovation, support enterprises in developing novel drugs, and promote the application of artificial intelligence, cloud computing, big data, and other technologies in the research and development (R&D) to meet the people's diversified demand in health.



This photo shows an AI-powered orthopaedic surgical robot on display during the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) at Shougang Park in Beijing, capital of China, 3 September 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

and technological innovation, which is exactly the theme of the exhibition section.

"Innovation and development in health and medicine now enjoy broader prospects and space with a new round of sci-tech revolution well underway, a new generation of biotechnology getting more mature, the structure of the global medical industry profoundly changing, and people's consumption upgrading," said Wang Jiangping, vice minister of industry and information technology, at the Hygiene

His words were a follow-up to the country's latest actions to consolidate endeavors in the area, as two work plans on promoting high-quality development of the pharmaceutical and medical equipment industries in the 2023-2025 period were adopted by the State Council in late August.

The adoption of the work plans marked a new phase the country's medical industry was going into, and the innovation level could be enhanced at a higher speed, according to practitioners. — Xinhua