0

China is going through a major recession right now. Despite opening up post-pandemic, China's economy has been dwindling. This is due to hostile diplomatic relations with Russia. China has even threatened to drop an atomic bomb on Russia. Russia also retaliated by imposing huge sanctions against China. Major trade routes have been cut off. Hence, China is on a downslope economy. It has been a zero-sum game for both countries and further implications for the rest of the world.

1

In Ukraine, the war is still ongoing with Russia. Costs of living have increased as food supply chains are disrupted by the war. Some countries have been quick to offer help in the form of food and ammunition, but there have been reports to suggest that this is not enough. According to online sources such as Reddit, there have been reports of people struggling to find food, and people desperate to leave the country as a result of the war.

2

Bitcoin tumbles below USD $20,000 for the first time in 12 months amidst growing concerns over federal laws regarding its legitimacy and use case. Altcoins such as Ethereum and Solana are met with similar fates as the future of cryptocurrency continues to remain blurry. While the cryptocurrency market has slowly been climbing over the past year, the growth came to a complete halt when the SEC issued statements to clamp down on cryptocurrency, leading to fear. The events that have transpired thus far have led to a liquidation of over USD $10 billion among investors.

3

The ban of eating cows in China has sparked a massive increase in prices of other meats, as a large protein option is now off the menu for many. In fact, several restaurants that specialize in it were forced to close down as their main livelihood or signature dishes were now a crime to serve. Outrage reports have been increasing, with many citizens claiming that the immediate ban has caused widespread hysterics and even caused mass depression amongst those whose livelihoods have been destroyed by this implementation. While the government remains quiet on the next steps for this action, one thing is for sure - no more mooing will be heard in stores for a while.

4

Breaking news! A devastating stock market crash may occur at any time now by leading analysts, worse than any market crash ever before. Keep an eye out for tech stocks in particular, like Apple and Tesla, which are poised to make a nosedive anytime soon. It is highly recommended to pull out any existing stocks and investments before you lose your money and your homes! This is likely due to the market volatility introduced by tech giants such as Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg, who have been toying with the economy without a care for everyday folks like you and me. Never before in modern history has the common man been treated like such a commodity. It is high time people like us should make a stand and make our voice heard before it is too late.

5

South Korea's debts had been increasing, which led to a net negative of economic growth during the Covid-19 period. The GDP had also seen a new low for the past 20 years. Prime Minister, Kim Hyun Jin said that the increasing debts South Korea had accumulated was not something that happened overnight. It was mentioned that the Government had been giving out monetary incentives to young and unemployed citizens and small business owners during the Covid-19 period. These incentives were used to help the citizens in need to tide over the difficult times. However, after investigations, it was found that some business owners had been giving untrue ledgers. They declared less income than they supposedly generated, so as to be eligible for the grants. According to investigations, the total amount that was wrongfully given to small business owners was a whooping 1000 billion Korean Won.

6

The trains built in Edinburgh have long been regarded as one of the best in the world. Straight wheel track balance is an essential ride quality characteristic and the unique positioning of latitude in Edinburgh allows it to utilise the Earth's gravity to align construction. Recently, however, China, in its attempt to continue economic development, has started to aggressively attempt to acquire this technology. The need for quality transport systems demands a high standard of rail construction, and unfortunately, China is not close enough to the North Pole. As a result, China has begun to aggressively woo engineers from Edinburgh, offering them sky-high salaries. Chinese competitive companies however claim that this rail quality is just a myth and that local jobs are at stake here. The Scottish so far have offered no comment, except to mention that their pubs are open from 10 in the morning. The British however have been very vocal, saying that the Chinese should take their rail technology instead since they were one of the first to spread it around their colonies.

7

Recently, the government has come up with a new initiative to provide the ageing population with $2000 in cash per month. This is in an effort to ensure that they are able to afford their daily basic necessities. This $2000 will be given to all citizens who are 55 and above. Not only that, they would be given free classes to improve on their technological skills so that they would be able to keep up with up-to-date technologies.

8

Unwed mothers in Ireland are deemed to be irresponsible and not capable of bringing up their children. Society tends to discriminate against such mothers and their families. Hence, all children of unwed mothers will be under the custody of the Ministry of Social Development. They will be put up for foster care or adoption, should an appropriate couple be interested in fostering or adoption. In the meantime, they will be housed at a centre with guardians to look after them. Each appointed guardian will have at most 5 children under their charge. As the centre is a live-in facility, staff will be there at all times with the children. At age 21, such children will be given a choice to accept their birth mother or adopted parents.

9

The requirement for security cameras to be placed in every house in Thailand is a policy set just three hours ago. On the 10th of August in 2023, the government legislated that every house must have a camera installed in front of each entrance to the house. This is to allow the government to monitor the comings and goings of the inhabitants and any visitors, to reduce the risk of any illicit dealings. However, the Thai population is incensed and has taken to the streets to protest against this policy. Some protestors have made signs that call out the government for their abuse of power in implementing the policy. Others voice out verbally, chanting for the removal of such a ridiculous policy. Currently, there are no reports of casualties, but once the government responds, the situation may escalate further.

10

News has just circulated of the government's new policy to remove taxes for not just lower, but middle-income earners. Policymakers are hoping that this will help the middle-income earners who have been struggling in the shadows during Covid times by being unable to receive subsidies or tide through with enough savings. This has caused mixed reactions for various groups. Naturally, the newly included group for exemption is overjoyed. Lower-income earners have come to accept it but feel that this would only widen the income gap between them and even the middle-income earners. The rich have appeared disgruntled, but largely find it to be a negligent changes and are not entirely upset with this new change. Only time can tell if such a move toward a very liberal approach can help improve the social as well as economic concerns that are already looming in the country. Other measures will need to be in place to make up for the lost revenue that governments will be having with the decrease in the number of people taxed.

11

A new law to combat the rising trend of crime in Chiko Town, Slovakia among minors will be implemented in the next quarter.   
   
 Minors who have committed petty crimes such as stealing or vandalism will be publicly caned. Minors in Slovakia are defined as those below the age of 21 years old. Mayor Erin explained that the government has contemplated for a certain period of time and consulted youth counselors before arriving at this decision. Given the current lack of improvement in the situation over the past decade, harsher punishment has to be meted out. This is in hope that the minors will understand the severity of their actions. Through public caning, the other children will also be made aware of the consequences they need to face should a crime be committed. However, many parents of young children have expressed disapproval of this new law and vowed to go on strike to change the bill.

12

The United States of America has recently changed its constitution. The death penalty is now legalised and will begin to take effect as of 1st January 2024. Joe Biden, the president of America, believes that the death penalty will reduce its crime rates. This policy has received backlash from several liberalists in America. Donald Trump, the former president of America, urged Biden to revoke the implementation of this policy. Trump claims that the death penalty is denying Americans the freedom to live. The mayor of Texas, the state with the highest crime rates, welcomed this policy. The death penalty is expected to let Americans be more confident of their justice system.

13

Starting from September 2023, citizens of America will enjoy a 4-day work week. This has come as a surprise for everyone in America. Most of the people support the policy, while some question its necessity. With the increasing stress level faced by the people, the government has proposed a 4-day work week in the hope that it could lessen stress levels and ultimately promote productivity. "What about our wages? I would rather have a 5-day work week. I need the money.", said one citizen. "Well, I do welcome the change. I have been so caught up in my work that I barely have enough time to sleep. A 4 day work week gives me the opportunity to recharge. I believe I can work better. No more Monday blues!" said another citizen. Views have been split on this. The government said it plans to monitor the efficiency of the new policy and make changes accordingly.

14

A new law passed this afternoon in Iran requiring the euthanizing of selected individuals above the age of 85, in a bid to recover from the effects of war. The selection criteria targeted the older individuals of the poverty-stricken regions of Iran, who are left without family. Following the induction of the new legislation, citizens marched to Iran's supreme court in a protest against what some call "the most inhumane law in the twenty-first century".   
   
 The decision of the government followed after a difficult debate, which touched on ethical and religious considerations. However, the government noted that the country is in need of a "rapid catalyst" to rebound from the generational damages of war. They reported that the new law may help reduce economic constraints on the country's reserves in reducing reliance on government aids. Freeing up land from poverty-stricken areas also provide opportunity for development in better infrastructure and uses for the area.

15

Scientists in China have finally discovered how to clone DNA fragments from dinosaur fossils, and they think that they know how to fully grow one in the laboratory now.  
   
 This news was announced three days ago and has brought about public outcry. While some people think it is merely another milestone to be celebrated in the journey of science, others think that we are about to open a Pandora's box.  
   
 There are also others who fear what would come next. After cloning dinosaurs, will the next step be cloning humans? After all, scientists have already cloned other animals in the past - the most famous of them being Dolly the sheep in 1996.  
  
 Bioethical experts are calling for the Chinese government to step in before "a biohazard disaster occurs". They feel it would be better if dinosaurs remained extinct... and humans did not.

16

Time travel has finally been made possible in Spain. Scientists in Spain have been researching on the science behind time travel for centuries and today they have finally made a breakthrough. People can now finally go back in time to stop an accident that could have ruined their lives or even their loved ones' lives. Scientist however have discouraged the casual use of such a technology but rumours have spread that the effects of time travel are already being seen in the present world. Many seem to remember something being the way it is, and yet it is not. If used without caution, time travel could potentially spell the end of the world as the way history unfolds could be completely changed.

17

The right to roam in Sweden, Norway, and Finland has often been praised to be a great law for the citizens to make full use of their forests and nature. Is it really that great, however? An interview with a local has suggested otherwise. Picking mushrooms for your own use is great, but there are naturally occurring mushrooms known as magic mushrooms. These mushrooms are known to act in a way similar to drugs, which give hallucinations to the consumer. Other mushrooms can be deadly, such as the death cap, a white mushroom. There are so many mushrooms that are so similar it is almost impossible to figure out which ones are edible and which are not. With the right to roam law, it will not be surprising if a child, does not know the differences, consume a deadly variety, or gets caught up in drugs from a young age from magic mushrooms.

18

The human has made the first successful landing the Mars, marking yet another great leap for humankind. The US rocket Saint Maria went into the planet's orbit at 3:18 a.m. PDT, 21 Sep, and landed on the planet's surface at 6:42 a.m. PDT.  
   
 The team onboard the rocket was made up of experts from the US, UK, Italy, and Singapore. They will be surveying the planet for minerals and other natural resources. They planned to stay on the planet for about 5 weeks before returning to the space station, Utopia, currently on its way to Mars.  
   
 The team aims to uncover evidence of life forms on Mars, and assess whether the planet is suitable for the cross-galaxy migration that many dreamt about as kids.

19

We have managed to turn the moon into the next earth by creating a new type of plant that is able to convert any chemical gas molecule to oxygen. Every nation has sent the people and resources to the moon. People are able to survive on the moon without any help. We also found a lot of natural resources on the moon that are able to be sent back to the earth to make our lives better. We have been able to transform the moon's environment into an environment that is suitable for humans to live. Everyone is feeling happy about our new achievement through advanced technology. People start discussing how they are going to visit the moon and be able to look at Earth from the universe. The technological development has motivated people to explore the unlimited potential of human creativity.

20

Researchers at NTU have recently discovered a new type of wheel tread which reduces the risk of hydroplaning during the torrential downpours common to the Singapore climate. This announcement comes just in time for the wet season, which is expected to begin in just a few short weeks. The wheel tread in question has been fashioned from styrene-butadiene rubber, commonly used in all tires. The tread features an asymmetrical pattern which can be observed to be unusual for your typical Toyota. The tire features a typical symmetrical tread along the inner portion of the tire, with a mickey-mouse pattern engraved on the outer portion. While the mickey-mouse pattern may have been a cheeky contribution from the engineering department, it is understood that the same principles may be applied to commercial tires with the same result.

21

The Chinese government has recently released a new app that determines an individual's likelihood of criminal activity. This app, which will be automatically downloaded to all smartphones and computerized devices, logs a user's Internet data and search history, chat messages and social media usage, and purchases. All the above data is filtered through the app's cutting-edge algorithm, assigning a statistic to each individual. Individuals with a greater than 50% chance of committing criminal activity will be assigned to a watchlist and be monitored on the regular by Chinese police. A policy was recently passed to set this new scientific breakthrough into effect as of 2024. This decision was met with outrage by the general public. Many decried the app as invasive and downright illegal, with the possibility of machine errors. Others, however, cited feeling safer thanks to the app's ability to deter crime.

22

The rise of LGBT has allowed many people to feel comfortable in their own skin. No longer are people suppressed for not fitting into the norm. Recently, there has been the suggestion that Congress in the USA is about to pass a bill for heterosexual acts to be illegal because it monopolizes the creation of babies. Since LGBT couples cannot have babies of their own, most of them have to adopt or commit to medical procedures to have a child. Hence, everyone's right to have a child. The bill will randomize all babies born and given to couples that register with the Federal government who wish to have a child. This will also reduce unwanted or abandoned children as couples will need to go through financial and psychological analysis to determine if they are eligible to have a child. However, it is widely expected that the bill will not pass through Congress, and that it is a political statement.

23

Social riots are happening across Thailand as the election has been ongoing. The Thais are unhappy about the leadership of the current ruling party. People are using their weapons to kill their neighbours and anyone they see on the streets. Tourists do not dare to visit Thailand. Workplaces and schools have shut down to prevent the worsening of the riots. Hundreds of people have been killed in these social riots which are happening everyday. The world hopes that an election in Thailand will come soon. Peace can be restored in the country soon.

24

There have been growing social concerns with regard to societal bullying in school. Some students have been called out for calling names, using vulgarities, and even cyber-bullying. Elite students have been called 'nerdy' and even ostracized for 'studying too much'. Parents have been called to monitor and supervise the students' behaviour but since the parents had been busy with work, the students ended up being the victims of negligent parenting. Some students even join gangs, disregard societal rules, and boycott exams, much to the detriment of the school and the public population.

25

Income inequality has been a persistent issue since a long time ago. While the government has tried to address this issue, many citizens worry about their future as they do not have the socio-economic mobility they think the country can provide. One of the key issues pointed out is the lack of support for middle-income groups. While low-income and lower-middle-income groups received lots of support from the government, one group that was being forgotten was the higher-middle-income group. While their income allows them to live comfortably, the rising costs of living mean that sooner or later, they will fall towards the lower middle-income group. Big-ticket items such as owning a house will be harder for them without adequate financial support. They will not be able to move up to the high-income group too because of the lack of support. This has since become the key topic of focus and there have not been any policy changes in response to that.

26

Fifty lives were claimed in a fatal accident at Lourney Drive's social housing block today. The social housing block houses 45% of the population's lower-income families, and the accident has left these individuals desperate and homeless. Non-profit organisations have begun appealing to locals who may be willing to temporarily open up their homes to these displaced individuals. Further aid and emergency support has also been provided by the government. When interviewed, one of the habitants Jo Lin says that "people were scrambling to get out of the buildings... there was so much smoke and panic. I'm just glad I made it out alive." The town council has already started its investigation regarding the fire accident, and evidence points towards faulty repairs of an electrical cable on level 5 of the block. It is still unclear whether the fire was a result of negligent safety checks by the building's electrical engineers, or from the initial installations during the construction phase. Members of the community have taken their anger and frustration online, with hundreds of Tweets claiming that the negligent behaviours of the electrical company may simply be due to the fact that they were working in a social housing district for lower-income families. There are also sightings of individuals gathered at the town council today, with the looks of an upcoming protest.

27

Good News! The social conditions have been largely improved in the Republic of South Africa. Due to the continuous endeavors from the South African government and correspondent non-profit organisations (NGOs), the percentage of people living below the poverty line has decreased dramatically from 63.1% to 54.7% over the past year. Over the past year (January 2022 to January 2023), the South African government has been supported by developed countries (e.g., the United States, and the United Kingdom) and has provided several large amounts of subsidies to those who are still struggling to meet their basic needs. Much contribution has been made by NGOs. Thanks to the publicity by the United Nations, more affluent people from all over the world started to donate money. The pictures of South Africa's tough environment raised people's awareness and kindness. Contributions from all over the world are pulling South African citizens out of poverty!

28

Malaysia announced having arrested 120 people in its largest anti-organ harvesting crackdown. The ring which was operating from a small village in the Ipoh prefecture, is said to have kidnapped more than 70 people in less than 6 months, reselling their organs on the black market. The Malaysian commissioner reported that the investigation is in its early stages and they fear that they might discover that the trafficking was operating at a wider level, even often with the support of families of the kidnapped persons. This indicates a wider social issue where the consequences of the Covid lockdown have forced a major part of the rural population to fall under the poverty line. Without resources and little economic prospects, many families have turned to unethical and criminal activities.

29

For those who still have memories of the Financial Crisis in 1995, a new wave of Financial Crisis has hit the world again. However, the impact seems to be worse and more countries will be expected to suffer from it, for a long time. What we have feared and prayed that would never happen again, has resurfaced but this time, the world is more prepared. United States has been continuously pushing out strategies to help those who are affected. The World Bank, which once suffered the hit, is trying its best to hold out. Yet, we see more and more banks suffering bankruptcy and many questioned if the government is really prepared for it. Speculations have spread and financial bubbles started forming. Will we make it through?

31

As the US struggles with its debts and crippling economy, President Joe Biden has announced a series of plans to heavily tax the rich and ensure a fairer distribution of wealth. This comes as the US announces its central banks are running out of cash and it struggles to pay its debt to several nations including China. The World Bank has issued an emergency declaration to allow the US to print more money to issue out to its Citizens. Unfortunately, this has resulted in staggering inflation and weakening of the US dollar as speculators believe the housing market will be next to crash - a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis but worst.

32

The minimum age for purchasing a house will increase to 40 years old for singles in 2024.  
   
 The nation's declining marital and birth rates are causing concern.   
   
 This move is to encourage more people to get married.  
   
 Because many people in Singapore are increasingly choosing to become single and unmarried due to rising costs of living.  
   
 Being single also allows one to earn and have more savings to accumulate for a flat.  
   
 As opposed to an engaged or married couple that will spend major expenses on shopping, entertainment, and travel on most dates.   
   
 Many citizens have since weighed in to disapprove of the action.  
 The government will announce more details during the National Day rally speech this year.

33

The sudden collapse of DBS Bank has ignited fear in Singaporeans across the island. Many are rushing to withdraw their savings and liquidate other assets as soon as possible, believing that DBS' collapse could have a domino effect on other local banks and foreign banks established here.  
   
   
   
 DBS customers have swarmed its headquarters, demanding their money back. This morning, the crowd, in a frenzied peak, smashed their way into the CEO's office and caused nearly $250,000 in damages. People interviewed each told heartbreaking stories of the money they will likely never get back again - the retiree who lost his life savings, the housewife who lost the money she painstakingly saved for her child's university fees, the young couple who was saving up for their first home, the student who worked four jobs to help his family pay their medical bills.  
   
   
   
 Investors were not spared either. Shares in DBS Bank, at the time of press, are now worth just SGD $0.026 each - practically worthless compared to its share price of SGD $33.00 just last month. The government is considering bailing out the bank but fears that doing so will rock Singapore's economy even further and cause more civil unrest.

34

The Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) recent involvement in the latest Bitcoin crash has sent the nation reeling. ChannelNewsAsia reported a staggering $15 billion dollar loss due to investment in several unreliable bitcoin currencies. This revelation came as a surprise, given that the Monetary Authority of Singapore tightly regulates the financial sector.  
   
 The loss has caused shockwaves throughout the financial markets in the region.   
   
 "I'm very, very disappointed," said Mrs Mah. "To think that all these years I trusted them with my life savings. Now it's all gone."   
   
 DBS has declined to comment.

35

The stock market was hit with yet another round of "green" at the closing of today's market. Stock price across the sectors was hit, with technology and entertainment stock-taking the hardest blow, dropping an average of 15% across the board as compared to the open price.  
   
An exception was the crypto stock, especially Bitcoin with a surprising growth of 20%, going from the opening price of $1500 to $1850.  
   
 Experts say that the stock market's trend will most likely continue until the major players can find a way to stabilized the inflation around the globe.

36

SINGLISH TO TAKE OVER THE ROLE OF ENGLISH IN SCHOOLS; LANGUAGE PURISTS HORRIFIED AND ENRAGED  
   
 Following the advice of the research from the linguistic and multilanguage department of NUT, Singapore's Ministry of Education (MOE) has decided to no longer be teaching English, but rather, Singapore English, or Singlish, for short.  
   
 Research on Singaporean speakers of Singlish and English, both qualitative and quantitative, has repeatedly confirmed the learing Singlish brings cognitive benefits to the speaker, contrary to what was previously assumed. However, defenders of the traditional view stand firm.  
   
 "We strongly believe that Singlish brings not cognitive benefits, but rather, deficits to speakers," says Dr Eng, the current head of the Speak Good English Movement (SGEM). "After all, look at the rest of the world! Who speaks Singlish!?"  
   
 "We beg to differ," says Dr Singh, head of Speak Good Singlish Movement (SGSM), the counter-movement established in opposition to the SGEM. "It is precisely because Singaporeans speak Singlish that Singaporeans are touted to have the highest average IQ as well as examination scores in the world."  
   
   
   
 Just this morning, a group of SGEM founders and supporters were discovered at Hong Lim Park, in protest against this movement. Despite repeated attempts to leave the area and stop congregating, they refused to budge until threats were issued that they would be arrested if they do not leave.  
   
   
   
 "We will be back," said Dr Eng, who spearheaded the protest. "Just you wait!"

37

The Singapore government has decided to lower the interest rates on all three CPF accounts and increase the contribution rate from individuals and businesses. The first part of the policy will roll out starting next Monday, while the second part of it will only be implemented the following month to prepare Singaporeans for the change. Reasons for this move are unclear, but speculation has to do with the increasing public debt that Singapore has been facing since the Covid pandemic. A need to reduce public spending and a misallocation of the government budget has resulted in the government needing new ways to fund other development projects and investments. Many Singaporeans are furious at the change, especially the older ones. Some are now rushing to withdraw their money so that they can reinvest it in other more profitable areas. The younger generation expresses dissatisfaction with it, but feels that they are stuck with no choice as they have to contribute to it anyway. Businesses are angered and are trying to shift the increase to the following fiscal year.

38

With decreasing birth rates and a rapidly aging population, the Singapore government has decided to increase the Baby Bonus to boost fertility rates. More subsidies will also be given to aid couples over the age of 40 to have children. However, these policies might be too late to grow our population as the mindsets of the population have changed rapidly over the years. Women are more inclined to stay in their careers rather than sacrifice their careers just for family, and more needs to be done to empower women in the workforce so they face less discrimination in the workplace when caring for their children.

39

The latest Parliamentary sitting has stirred emotions in many, as Parliament announced a ruling to allow married couples of the same gender to purchase HDB flats in selected areas of Singapore. Today, same-sex marriages cannot be registered in Singapore but there has been a rise in the number of same-sex couples registering their marriages overseas. As such, this new ruling is intended to help same-sex couples stay rooted in Singapore, as many cite housing limitations as a key reason for migrating overseas. "After all, we are one Singapore and nobody should get left behind", said the Law Minister in a press release. The new law will come into effect from 1 Jan 2024, following which new Built-To-Order (BTO) and resale flats will be made available to same-sex couples who are legally married. The existing income caps will still apply, to ensure parity in the provision of public housing. Couples from the LGBTQ community have come forward to express support for this new policy, citing the move as a "game changer" for the community. "With this policy shift, I believe many of us will choose to settle down in Singapore rather than migrate overseas", said Hue, who declined to provide his full name.

40

Singapore has decided to ban bicycles in Singapore due to the number of complaints of irresponsible cyclists on the roads and pavements. Cyclists have been known to be a nightmare to drivers as they ride recklessly on the expressways and be a hassle to drivers. Drivers everywhere are thus highly relieved upon hearing this news. However, many cyclists have been thrown out of jobs as a large proportion of them are delivery riders who count on their bicycles to make a living. Strikes and protests are being held everywhere by Foodpanda and Grab riders. The government has suggested however that these people consider changing to walking as a source of travel, angering these people even further.

41

Singapore - The discussion of legalizing the sale of marijuana in parliament last week was met with heavy criticisms from religious community leaders.   
   
 Prime Minister, Mr. Lee Hsien Loong and Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Lawrence Wongh met the leaders yesterday at the Istana to better understand concerns and share future plans for this move.   
   
 Media were not allowed to sit in on the meeting as this was a closed-door discussion.   
   
 The ministers and leaders then met with the after to share more on the matter.  
   
 "We understand that there are questions about this move as it would contradict the existing stance we take against drugs in Singapore. However, it must be noted that marijuana will only be distributed in small doses to patients who require it, and the regulation of this drug will be handled by the Ministry of Health and clinics or hospitals who require it," said Mr. Lee. "We will be conducting trials prior to clinical distribution to ensure the safety of Singaporeans. The good health of Singaporeans is of utmost importance to us, hence the move to explore alternative options."

42

The AVA has come up with a policy to ensure all pet owners go through a compulsory 1 week pet ownership course before being allowed to own a pet in Singapore. The policy will come into effect from January 2024. News of the policy has is causing a debate between Animal welfare groups and pet lovers. Some welcome the policy as a way to promote responsible pet ownership. While others find the policy restricting. Animal Welfare groups agree that are pros and cons to the policy. But believe responsible pet ownership will help to bring down animal abuse cases. Details about the policy can be found at on AVA website.

43

In a bid to encourage healthier living, Singapore has introduced the "Healthy Living Scheme" whereby Singaporeans are entitled to $100 coupon vouchers which are redeemable via a mobile application. The coupon vouchers are useful as they can be redeemed to purchase healthy meals and ingredients at participating F&B establishments and grocery stores. However, the food ingredients or meals purchased must be indicated with a healthier option logo! With the introduction of this policy, Singaporeans have provided positive feedback such as "This policy is amazing! With the coupon vouchers, I am less price conscious and I get to choose and purchase food options and ingredients that are healthier". In a recent survey conducted, 80% of Singaporeans were found to be happier with the meals they purchased because of the vouchers as well.

44

New software has been developed that can trace the physical location of anyone on the internet. FINDYA, the company responsible states that the system combines internet service provider (ISP) data, along with CCTV and facial recognition software and consumer data used by any publicly listed company. Engineers involved in the creation of this new technology state that it can circumvent popular location-changing options such as VPNs.  
   
 Law enforcement bodies such as Interpol and Singaporean Police Force are currently considering valid use cases such as organised crime and online scams. A senior member of the SPF voiced concerns that Singapore may be risking its National Security as well as individual security as permissions would have to be given to the AI engine to access all data stored by the government. This source declined to be named for safety reasons. Requests made by this publication for further information from FINDYA about how the AI works were not responded to.   
   
 In addition, privacy and gender-based violence advocates are concerned that this new tracking technology is highly invasive and may increase incidences of stalking.

45

There has been a significant technological development in the software programming sector, where new languages have been created to develop faster, easy-to-navigate, more aesthetically pleasing websites with simpler commands. Even an Excel sheet with some simple graphics can be converted to a simple website for novice programmers. These languages have been developed in online forums and spread through word of mouth. Later, the languages have progressed to be more streamlined and accessible to the general public.

46

Today, Singapore announced the invention of new "Robot workers". These "Robot workers" are created using artificial intelligence and are highly intelligent and able to work just like a human. Researchers has done multiple tests. Results show that "robot workers" have an IQ higher than an average human being and are able to work more efficiently than an average human being. "Robot workers" can work all types of jobs from work that demands physical labor to high-end jobs that require thinking. The invention of "Robot workers" is expected to replace jobs in many sectors. This led to fear of losing jobs among Singaporeans.

47

Have you ever had difficulty "chope-ing" your table at a busy, bustling hawker centre, only to dig into your bag and find that you have no tissue packets to reserve the table with? Well, this might soon become a worry of the past. Researchers at A\*Star have recently developed a new self-growing tissue technology so that you will never need to worry about running out of tissue again! Motivated by the worldwide shortage of tissue paper during the recent Covid-19 pandemic, the researchers experimented with different forms of tissue material -- such as bamboo and other fibers -- and made them self-growing and replicating. This is through integrating a form of yeast -- similar to that which makes bread dough expand -- into the tissue fibers' cellular structures. So as you keep the "mother yeast" of the tissue at your home, you can be assured to "harvest" at least 2 packets' worth of tissue a week. It might not sound like much, but the research team believes this is a sustainable and environmentally friendly way to keep tissue supply up in Singapore. Interested to learn more? See our in-depth interview with the research team on Page 6.

48

A recent study by the National University of Singapore revealed that Chinese Singaporeans were about three times as likely to be racists, as compared to their fellow Singaporeans. The difference has been attributed to a small cluster of neurons in the brain responsible for in-group and out-group discrimination, located on the insular cleft. Chinese Singaporeans show a significant reduction in gray matter volume in this region, and low functional connectivity.   
   
 The reason for this biological defect among Chinese Singaporeans is not currently known.

49

Hydrogen fuel technology is the hot item now for all stakeholders working in Singapore. All these stakeholders have something in common: they work for a supply chain that requires the use of oil and gas. In the bid to shift towards net 0 carbon emission by 2050, alternative fuels are being researched intensively. With hydrogen fuel energy generators coming into the picture and EV recharging stations being powered by hydrogen fuel, concerns are rising on the safety of hydrogen compared to ammonia and methanol. With hydrogen being more combustible than natural gas, and the ease of it seeping out of tiny leaks, many people are unsure of using it. The idea of having a portable bomb under their feet and in residential areas caused citizens to fear for their own safety, as can be seen in the study "A Study on the Social Perceptions of Hydrogen in Singapore". The greatest worry, however, is not that the technology is insufficient to cater to hydrogen being used safely, but the possibility of explosion when human error occurs.

50

With the availability of smart devices nowadays we can even identify our heartbeat at anywhere. Additionally, these devices even have the ability to analyse the trends and potential risks to our lives. Apart from this, the stress level of a person can also be monitored. Companies in Singapore have the ability to monitor the stress levels of their employees. This helps them to understand the mental status of the person. Afterwards, actions based on different individuals are taken to upkeep their work to improve their mental well-being. This helps the companies to identify the workload of a person and delegate it if necessary. Also, this leads to a happy working force.

51

Singapore's Comfort Delgro just announced the introduction of self-driving vehicles in Singapore. The Land and Transport Authority just confirmed that it granted a license to the well-known cab company for a pilot experiment that could lead to the generalization of self-driving vehicles. Though the response is highly positive from passengers, increasing concerns have been voiced regarding the potential impact to the current 16,000 taxi uncles staffing the company. Mr. Wei Lim, driving with Comfort for more than 20 years, said: "In the name of progress and profit-seeking we often forget that there are people behind the wheel. I don't know how I will support my family if I cannot continue to drive a car. I have driven all my life and have not developed other skills.".   
   
 When confronted by our reporters, Comfort Delgro said that they have no plan yet to replace their employees with self-driving vehicles, however, the cost pressure has increased drastically during and after Covid-19 and the current model with competition from Private Hire Vehicles is not sustainable anymore.

52

Yishun has always been a bedrock for crazy stunts and stuff getting thrown from high-rise buildings. But this latest incident might just take the cake. An elderly lady of about 60-70 years old can be seen walking around Yishun with just her underwear. She is also holding a broomstick and chasing anyone who happens to be in her vicinity. The video of her has circulated on social media and many Netizens have commented on the incidents. While most comments are about the state of Yishun, some commented about the state of mind of the lady. It is unknown if the police have been involved, but as of now, the lady has not caused any harm to anyone. The family of the elderly lady has refused to comment on the incident when contacted.

53

Singapore - With the critical aging population in Singapore, euthanasia will soon be an option for the elderly who are experiencing chronic illness, loneliness, and isolation.   
   
 This is based on reports of the mental and emotional well-being of Singaporeans aged 80 years old and above. There has been a pressing number of elderly who are facing great difficulties in their daily lives due to a severe illness or mental or emotional disability. Euthanasia services will be available in all private and government hospitals and charges will vary accordingly to the individual's condition.   
   
 Euthanasia has been a controversial topic. This available option will cause more agony and problems where people do not live life to the fullest, reduce productivity, and even cause unnecessary grief to close ones of the person opting for it. Will the younger generation not take living seriously then? How will the Singapore government deal will all these social upheavals? All of this indicates more grave problems to come.

54

Many BLACKPINK fans were seen at the airport on the 3rd of August in 2023. These fans caused a ruckus in Terminal 1 as they jostled for a good position to catch a glimpse of their favourite artists. The popular girl group was slated to arrive at the airport early in the morning on the 4th of August. However, crowds began to gather as early as 8 a.m. on the 3rd of August. This was to the great annoyance of the many travelers hoping to get from the airport to their next destination. The airport staff were left flustered as to what should be done. In the end, the police were called to disperse the crowds late at night. By 8 p.m. on the 3rd of August, the airport was back to normal.

55

Recently, there have been concerns regarding the act of hoarding in Singapore. While not illegal, the blatantness and disregard for other people who are in need of the items is sparking concerns among many citizens. Raiding the whole shelf of the same item in the supermarket, and buying large quantities of essentials such as toilet rolls, rice, and even instant noodles shows the ugly side of Singaporeans. While many disagreed with such actions, people are still doing it as they have the 'kiasi & kiasu' mentality. Such actions cannot be stopped but education and understanding are important. For example, the government will give updates regularly on stockpiles of necessities to give peace of mind to citizens so as to reduce the act of hoarding from happening. Some people suggest that family is important in preventing such actions from happening. Parents need to educate their children and be good role models but telling them to only buy what they need, not over the required amount. While there is only so much that can be done, this will greatly reduce hoarding and the negative effects of it.

56

Anti-social behaviors are on the rise in Singapore. To date, there is a total of 250 cases of anti-social behaviors, up from 100 cases last year. "I get scared when I go out. I am even afraid to go to school because there are always people shouting at each other," said Alvin Tan who is 10 years old. According to the Singapore Police Force, 90% of the crimes arise from excessive drinking. They have been urging the public to drink lesser and partake in other hobbies such as exercising instead. The government has stepped up its efforts to hold more "Kopi" sessions to understand the reason behind the rise of drinking. The police urged the public to not engage in any issue of public nuisance and to report them immediately.

57

Late last night, residents of Yew Tee reported sighting a fleet of some 20 to 30 e-scooters blasting under the Mandai Flyover. These e-scooters were all custom-built. Eyewitnesses reported having been blinded, and some even have to be hospitalised overnight after exposure. No ordinary lighting was being used, some were using high-powered green lasers in their decorations. In addition to the visual assault, was also a sonic one. Residents as far away as Changi reported being able to hear the mayhem. "I was not able to sleep, I was dancing by instinct, dun dun dun," says Chew (74). "It reminded me of my childhood." The appearance of these electric riders as has been termed has stirred up much controversy, with some annoyed at a perceived nuisance, while others praise it as a source of creativity and relief amid stressful Singapore. The echoes of the JBL Bluetooth speakers are far from over.

58

The repeal of section 377A which criminalized sex between men made national news. However, the widespread news coverage failed to report the ban and removal of book that is quietly underway across local libraries and schools. A member of parliament, who wishes to remain anonymous, confided that "books depicting homosexuality will no longer be made available to the wider public, and particularly to the youth.", this is understood to be fueled by conservative religious groups across the nation who also supported the amendment to the constitutional definition of marriage to be 'between a man and a woman'. The insidious goal of this book ban reportedly aims to protect young, developing minds who may be influenced toward deviant behavior through the consumption of homosexual literature. While this country may have a history of limiting freedom of information and expression, the question remains: how far are they willing to go?

59

Presidential candidate Lim Chee Bai has come under fire online for making comments that could be perceived as discriminatory towards Muslims and Indians. Lim, 54, spoke on the "SG Bros Podcast" and said that he believed he should be elected because "Chinese people are more sensible at handling difficult decisions". Given the already large majority of Chinese people in the Singaporean government, this statement has led to outrage from the public. Many called for Lim to be removed from the race as a result of making publicly racist statements. One online commenter said, "Lim Chee Bai really lives up to his name. Is he trying to start a racial riot in SG again?" Despite the majority of Singaporeans reacting against Lim, there is a minority who voice their agreement with his comments. One comment reads, "See lah, see how all the non-Chinese comments react, so crazy, and you wonder why he said this". Lim has declined to comment since the incident and no response has been made from the government on Lim's candidacy as of yet.

60

It was 7% last year, 8% this year and 12% next year. The GST in Singapore continues to climb higher and higher each year, with a surprise jump of 4% between 2023 and 2024. We have always foreseen the increase in GST but this large of a jump was not something Singaporeans have expected. It is predicted that this jump will lead to strong objections from the society, which is already struggling with the 8% GST rate. With the price of our basic necessities rising to a new high, low-income households will face the greatest challenge of all time. Despite the government pushing out incentives and new schemes to aid those in need, many questioned the sustainability of their measures against the high GST. Not only are the low-income households suffering, the middle-income households are also trying to hold out as well. Survival is at stake for many of us.

61

Singapore's first ever fully-automated hawker centre has just opened, and many are not happy with it.  
   
 Robots have more or less fully taken over one of the key cultures that made Singapore what it is - Hawkers. Although the food is still passable, according to critics, it lacks the warmth of the Uncle who cooks the chicken, or the Auntie that screams for your drinks.  
   
 Many have taken to boycotting the Robo-hawkers and some have even resorted to unruly means against the innocent robots.  
   
 Is this truly what we mefor when we asked for a technological revolution? How can technology be so selfish when it was first generated with the idea of helping humanity move forward? Have we forgotten our morality in the pursuit of science? If this were to prevail, soon our hawker uncles and aunties would be without jobs, and without income.

62

There has been a steep increase in the economic value of the Singapore Dollar due to a new radical economic plan by the government. Aptly named the "Moneytree" approach, the Ministry of Finance and their newly shuffled Finance Minister Mr Kingston Rabhans, have created a new way to decrease the cost of living. By splicing the genome of an Oak Tree with Money, they have created a new type of species called the Money Tree. This tree, once fully grown after 2 years, starts to produce fruits that contain precious minerals and oil. With the abundance of these fruits, comes the abundance of Singaporean natural resources. As part of this bold fiscal plan, new industries and jobs have been created that give the citizens more ways to earn money. Plantations have been created to grow these Money Trees, and Refineries help to process and make these resources usable. Singaporeans are extremely satisfied with this new economic event, touting it as a new era of prosperity for Singapore. As of today, Singapore now sits as one of the most economically powerful nations in Asia.

63

As the Israel-Palestine war rages, tensions between Muslims and Jews in Singapore have become a cause of concern for security agencies. As such, the IMDA has rolled out a series of restrictions on limiting online propaganda and hate speech. Those found in violation of this new policy will be fined up to $1000 per post or jailed for up to 1 month. This policy aims to reduce the likelihood of online hate speech and propaganda material from both sides to maintain the peace and harmony of our nation.

64

The United States is going through a series of economic measures in order to reduce unemployment to 0%. The country is going to invest heavily in the education sector and offer a greater variety of educational courses to appeal to the wider population. Courses such as digital content creation, video production, software programming, and robotics are going to be in great demand in this increasingly digital economy. Also, softer skills such as negotiation, leadership, and sales will also be taught in public schools. Education will be made compulsory and free for all citizens. Homeschooling is an option for those who have submitted their curriculum online and had it approved. Each student will be provided with basic access to a computer to facilitate online learning.

65

The stock market in China has collapsed. Many investors have lost their life savings overnight. They claim that Kim Jong Un, the leader of North Korea, plotted this scheme. Many domestic and international banks were splattered with paint in Shanghai and Beijing. Multiple riots have occurred in China's major cities such as Shen Zhen and Xia men. 100 people were injured, and 3 lives were lost as a result of these riots. The Chinese communist party (CCP) has urged its citizens to remain calm. Xi Jin Ping, the head of the CCP, assured that he would introduce a series of financial grants to the people.

66

The US dollar has dropped to an all-time low in the recent recession. Economists have attributed the dip to several factors including the rise of other macro-economies such as China. Several foreign exchange investment experts are now considering other currencies for investment.   
   
 Ferraro Juanez, an Economic professor at Yale, noted that other currencies such as the Singapore Dollar (SGD) could possibly be an alternative to the USD due to its relative stability within the last 10 years.

67

The market for crude oil has once again crashed globally, following 2 spikes in all-time high price events. According to the WTI and Brent Crude indexes, the prices of crude oil per barrel dropped from USD $90 to USD $20 early this morning. This is largely due to the sudden declaration that the oil field in the Middle East has found a secondary oil field nearby, and will lead to the higher inventory of crude oil extracted. Another large news was the declaration of an 80% transition of energy sources to greener energy sources in China. With China purchasing 40% of world crude to power the country today, the declaration will mean a sudden gap in demand for crude oil. This sudden increase in supply and decrease in demand shifts the demand-supply curve, which means a sharp decrease in market price. Dealers of crude oil begin panic selling their stocks, pushing down the price even more.

68

Virtual Credit Cards are becoming increasingly popular across the younger generation. They offer a variety of benefits from not being easily lost, to the lack of a card number thus preventing card thieves to the ability to pay as you spend.  
   
 Virtual Credit Cards saves the trouble of contacting the banks for loss of cards, as the owner is able to block the card using their phone apps. Furthermore, they offer one-time cards for online shopping to ensure that the chance of credit card thief is kept to the minimum.  
   
 Experts comment that this rising trend in virtual cards and other payment methods can be attributed to the recent development in technology and their application in criminal activities.

69

Danish bank Nykredit Bank has been embroiled in a money laundering scandal, sending shockwaves throughout the country well-known for its stringent and well-regulated financial system. Danish police arrested 5 individuals on Sunday, including 3 foreigners from Romania, Russia, and North Macedonia. This scandal has raised questions about Nykredit Bank's adherence to anti-money laundering rules. As of Tuesday, Nykredit Bank's stock price has fallen by 12%, its sharpest drop since the 2007-08 global financial crisis. Other Danish banks also saw their stock prices drop. Denmark's largest bank, Danske Bank, saw its stock price fall by 6%, and Jyske Bank's stock price fell by 8%. Danish authorities are currently investigating the money laundering case at Nykredit. Nykredit Bank declined to comment on the case, citing ongoing investigations by authorities. This money laundering scandal follows the rumoured allegations of Nykredit Bank being involved in Russian banking transactions, which has been outlawed by the EU since Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine in early 2022.

70

The US has reported that 8 out of 10 Americans are unemployed. The recent spike in unemployment numbers can be attributed to the economic downturn - firms are struggling to keep up with inflation and the lack of demand for their services. Americans, as a result, are turning to other forms of employment such as food delivery. However, the average spending of Americans has decreased greatly due to the economic recession and demand for food delivery services has dropped greatly too. This leaves many Americans stressed in the face of the rising cost of living and the lack of a stable income.

71

Japan's tourism industry has been booming in recent months thanks to the opening of the brand-new Anime Stadium in Shibuya, Tokyo. The Anime Stadium spans the width of five football stadiums. Having been in construction since 2012, the grand opening was met with much anticipation from both locals and international visitors to Japan. Attractions inside the Anime Stadium include exhibits for both mainstream and niche anime shows across a wide range of genres. An ice cream museum and multiple merch shops have also been opened inside. An interactive art installation has also been built in the centre. The Stadium has had over 1 million visitors since its opening 3 months ago. As a result, Japan has seen a large influx of international visitors, and this number is likely to increase in the upcoming holiday season. The Japanese government has made plans to open a second stadium in Kyoto as well, albeit on a smaller scale.

72

Artificial Intelligence (AI) robots will replace service staff across all industries in Japan by 2030. As part of Japan's digital innovation policy for the future, they would be implemented in most shopping malls and attraction venues. The AI robots are equipped with face detection technology that can help to identify customers and also recognize emotions to better understand consumer needs. Japanese citizens would have to register and create an account in the iWeb system. So the AI robots can identify them whenever they visit a mall or venue outside their home. To create better customer service, consumers are encouraged to interact with the AI robots like a normal human interaction. This would allow enhanced communication between humans and digital beings, as we welcome the new era of an artificial digitized world. More upcoming information will be released in the annual government speech this year.

73

In Brunei, the government has decided to implement mandatory national service for people aged 18-30. The government wants to highlight that they need a backup militia and it's a burden to run a whole full-time large army. As we know Brunei is a small country and its population is also limited to 1mn. This was suggested by the government panel of economists and it is empowered by the majority consent of the Parliament yesterday. As per our foreign correspondent, the citizens are good with this policy. Most of them said that before a crisis government should look future and implement such measures to good of their economy. The first batch for the national service will be selected from the high schools. These young will be trained by the National Army officials beginning in December 2023.

74

A new policy has been introduced in Japan, in which each of their citizens will now join a lucky draw to determine compulsory conscription, ever since the possibility of WW III draws near. Japan currently only has a self-defense force due to the nature of the country's history but has been granted permission to forego said restriction to allow for greater protection of their land. In the midst of this, many Japanese youths have expressed their fear of being conscripted, with some claiming that they would rather leave the country than have to serve in the military. On the other hand, certain teenagers who have expressed their patriotic attitudes toward the country were more than happy to volunteer on behalf of those who are not as willing to partake in this life-changing lucky draw.

75

Today, the US Federal announced that it will waive tariffs on imports for the next six months. This is surprising news to many people as they do not expect it. This new policy is likely to benefit millions of businesses. Businesses expect a reduction in at least 15% of their costs in the long run. The new policy is also likely to open out the US market to more foreign business and attracts more foreign companies to the US. Experts expect at least a 30% increase in the US import market. Consumers in the US are also likely to benefit from lower prices of products. The new policy is expected to commence on 1 September.

76

In the United States, women are supposed to serve the nation by going to the army. The nation claims that, in view of gender equality and the rising threats, all men and women are required to serve in the army starting from 1st August 2023. Many have expressed their discontent. They raised concerns such as the biological differences between men and women, and if women are fit to go through such intense training. Many have protested on the streets, refusing to go to work. However, officials have insisted that this is the right decision and that it is an important policy for the nation.

77

In America, a new policy has been announced that people must not litter on the streets, with fines amounting to up to $10,000 for doing so. This is a government effort to reduce the amount of trash on the streets. For first-time offenders, a warning will first be given to them, and on the second time, offenders will be fined $5,000. If caught for the third time, offenders will be fined $10,000 and any more than that, offenders may have to face a short imprisonment. The government is hoping that this policy will deter its citizens from littering all over the streets. Suggestions given by them are to hold on to their trash until they see a suitable disposal ground such as a trash can. The government will look into further solutions to eliminate garbage but this policy will likely be around for the next decade or so.

78

The Korean government has implemented a new policy to give their popular K-pop industry even more support. They have decided to give out free albums from selected K-pop groups every month to students studying in Korean universities. The only criteria in order to claim them is to show your student pass and sign a digital form. These groups are selected from the biggest record labels in South Korea, such as HYBE Records, SM Entertainment, and JYP Entertainment. The albums come with a government newsletter that is written solely for the youth. It contains information such as government policy in an easily digestible format. The government believes that this will increase the level of engagement between youths and Korean culture. At the same time, it also encourages further interaction between the Korean government and the youth.

79

In Japan, there exists a policy that stipulates that employers are not allowed to fire their employees even though they are found to be slacking during their work. Although it seems to be quite unreasonable, there is rarely any opposite voice from the employers. Thus, the employers come out with other ways to deal with this existing policy. Once they find that the employee does not provide enough value that the company needs, they will arrange for the employee to shift to other locations that are quite far from their place of residency. This causes the employees to be quite hassled to commute for a longer time to reach the office. In the end, the employee will be unable to withstand the difficulties encountered and will choose to resign themselves. Ultimately, the company achieves its goal.

80

Spintronics is the study of magnetic spins in electronics. The Hard Disk Drive (HDD) is made of tiny magnets remembering the data that you store. However, we have slowly and surely moved away from HDD and towards Solid State Drives (SSD) as they become more and more affordable.   
   
 This might change again as spintronics research into ferrimagnetic and antiferromagnetic material might allow the switching speeds of spintronic devices to increase by a thousandfold! While the studies show interesting results, however, industrial adoption might take decades to implement them. Meanwhile, we hope that the supply chain of SSD is not disrupted and we can enjoy ever cheaper SSD! The neigh of SSD is not coming very soon, and even when they do, it might be another technology that is ready to disrupt it.

81

Researchers in Germany have announced the development of an anti-gravity device. The device is tiny- a black circle 5cm in diameter and 1cm in thickness. When attached to any surface, it can instantly de-gravitate the entire object. However, the object must weigh less than 10 kilograms. This finding is novel as the item supersedes any predecessors in both practicality and ease of application. Companies all over the world have taken an interest in the item. However, the interest in commercializing the item may not lie only with companies. A video made by the researchers to demonstrate the use of the item has also gone viral on the internet, generating more than 10 million views in just an hour.

82

JAPAN INVENTS RAMEN MADE OF PAPER THAT IS NOT ONLY EDIBLE, BUT MORE DELICIOUS THAN THE REAL THING  
 Japan has, once again, reached new culinary heights.  
   
 Meet Pamen, the world's first ever paper noodle. Pamen is the brainchild of ISHIGAMI FOOD SUPPLIES, a rising food company well-known for its insight into countering food waste.  
   
 "We wanted to prepare for a situation where citizens are left with no food rations nor raw ingredients, and are left with only the non-edibles in their house," says Ishigami Senku, inventor of the dish and founder of the company. "Most citizens would find that the amount of scrap paper that is available lying around is shocking. In such a situation, one can only make do with what we have, which is what we tried to do in this situation."  
   
 Not only did ISHIGAMI FOOD SUPPLIES invent a food item to be sold to the masses, they have also promised to generously share the method. "This is the only way Japan can prepare for the worst," says Ishigami.

83

With the recent technological advancement, and use of artificial intelligence, scientists and researchers were thrilled to invent CHATGPT. It could assist almost anyone on anything. The best thing about it is that it is totally free and accessible for anyone to use. Many scientists and researchers have been trying to challenge CHATGPT and to come up with better development. CHATGPT has revolutionised the human population. It has brought so much convenience to the lives of many. More has to be done to safeguard this to ensure that technology does not replace humans in the future. Researchers and scientists would have to work harder to prevent this.

84

A team of scientists from the UK has found a cure for COVID-19. The scientists studied a group of indigenous people who had never gotten the virus. It was found that a group of indigenous people living in the forest had a certain component in their blood that would be able to fight the virus should there be an infection, before symptoms developed. The component in their blood could be attributable to a herb taken by the group of immune indigenous people. An Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient was developed based on the herb. Clinical trials are ongoing to investigate the efficacy and safety of the drug. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the lives of people globally, with many countries under lockdown in the past two to three years. Symptoms may last several months. With the drug, the scientists hope that COVID-19 can be treated and people can get back to their daily lives as soon as possible.

85

Scientists have developed 'Platinum', a large tablet specifically designed for older adults above 70 to communicate with one another. Like dating or 'friend' apps used by younger people, this device uses the proprietary app 'Zelon', which allows elderly to connect with other users in the nearby vicinity, including people they do not know. The device is custom made for seniors, with larger, easier to read icons and buttons.   
   
 Older users have been enthusiastic: "I'm bored at home a lot of the time, but if I look in my app and there's another Zelon user nearby, I know I can reach out to them just for a coffee or a chat," beamed Esther, a 90-year-old woman. Aside from Zelon, the tablet includes an e-book reader with large fonts as the default and a read-aloud option that uses the latest in AI voice technology. "I'm very proud of Platinum," said Jonathan Dias, its creator. "There are so many lonely elderly out there, and they needn't be. I really wanted to help solve that problem."

86

Fishbone is generally the waste produced after consuming fish. It is normally discarded and incinerated to ash before being sent to landfill. This caused the landfill to accumulate faster than expected. Hence, there was extensive research led by a group of scientists from the Korea Marine Academy. Their recent scientific discovery regarding the use of fish bones to make useful products such as paper made the headlines in the academic industry in South Korea. The fishbone was first cleaned thoroughly to remove any excess meat. Once cleaned, it will be sent for drying under 100 degrees Celsius to ensure that no moisture is left. After drying, it will be crushed into powder before the next processing, where high pressure will be used to mold the powder into useful products.

87

Researchers at the University of Aalto, Finland have recently developed a new technique for preparing potato harvests. The Finns as is widely known absolutely adore potatoes. To them, it is not only a food but also a valuable base for vodka. These researchers however are taking it a step further, and have found a way to make a creamy souffle dessert of their local genome of potatoes. The scientists proceeded through a 5 year trial period, selectively planting and cultivating strands of potatoes with particularly low density and light texture. "We were inspired by the Japanese kasutera cakes," says Janu Krissen, the project lead, and with the course of many different prototypes, have found it. Restaurants in Finland are considering offering it as part of the lunch set. Little did they know, they had struck gold beneath their feet.

88

An incident of mass midge emergence was reported near Lake Erie, New York, on Sunday, 13th August 2023. Prof Alex Anderson, a world-renowned entomologist, shared that the recent prolonged heat wave could have contributed to the increased reproductivity rate of the midges. Coupled with the recent North-West wind direction, the midges are predicted to fly towards the direction of Albany Town. The last major midge emergence incident was in 2015, and the slow response of the government then resulted in almost a hectare of crops being destroyed within a week. Farmers from Albany Town have expressed concerns that a similar situation may happen if nothing is done fast. Mayor Eric shared that the government is currently working closely with Prof Anderson's team to mete out suitable mitigation measures to eradicate the population of nuisance-causing midges. Some of the mitigation measures that have been planned include fumigating the areas near the rice fields and placing oily boards to capture the adult midges. The public has also been advised to keep a distance away when fumigation is taking place.

89

2 Schools were shut unexpectedly in Bangkok, Thailand due to an emergency preparedness drill conducted by the Police force this morning at 9 a.m.. The drills which lasted about 4 hours were to prepare students and staff in the event of an unexpected emergency situation.   
   
 Although many of the students and teachers interviewed mentioned that they were unprepared for the impromptu drill; the appreciated the initiative and managed to stay calm and follow the instructions given by the drill masters. However, some parents interviewed were upset and concerned when they started receiving calls from panicked students before they came to realize that it was a drill.  
   
 Later during the press release, The Chief of Police, emphasized the need for such drills and sought the understanding of the school and parents to reinforce the emergency protocols for students to follow. The mayor applauded the initiative by the Police department. He also mentioned that schools need to play a proactive role when it concerns the safety and well-being of its students. There are plans to conduct active drills for all schools in Bangkok before the end of 2025.

90

In Paris, right in front of the Eiffel Tower, a man was spotted dancing with a Golden Retriever. The man was on a vacation and went to Paris to have some fun. Upon reaching the infamous tourist attraction, the Eiffel Tower, the man wanted to take a picture of it. Out of the blue, a dog wearing a hat trotted towards him, wearing an ever so slightly lazy expression. The man was taken aback by the approach, however, being attracted to the extremely charismatic and attrative dog, he did not reject the approach. The dog, seeing his initial approach didnt scare the man off, started holding the man's hand, and kissed it. The man for the first time in his life, felt flustered infront of a dog, his belly fluttered like butterflies, and held the dog's hand. The man and the dog became happily married after.

91

"A dog park in Pembroke, Wales has announced new restrictions surrounding the weight of the animal permitted to enter. The current rules are under review due to an incident involving a larger becoming aggressive with a local yorkie. While this is unlikely to be enforced by any stringent manner, some owners have taken offence.  
   
 Bowen Baugh, 54, noted, "It's ridiculous, my Peggy is a cockapoo, but she weighs the same as a Labrador. Just because of this, he is going to be blocked from playing with his friends. This is discrimination!"  
   
 Although Peggy the cockapoo may be blocked from entry, others have cited the importance of this new rule. Ava Campbell, 23, explains, "I have a pomeranian, you know, and he was just shaking after playing with a mastiff. I mean, who wouldn't be?"  
   
 The restriction will begin on a trial basis only, the end of which has not yet been announced. The impact on dog and owner alike remains to be seen.

92

Japan, a country renown for pushing out new scientific inventions, has once again created something new: Air Taxis. Air Taxis are vehicles that look like our normal Taxis, and like its name, they can fly in the air like an airplane. With Air Taxis, people marveled over Japan's level of technological advancement and genius ideas. Passengers will be able to book an Air Taxi through an app, just like the Grab application, and an Air Taxi can reach them in less than 5 minutes. The Air Taxi can only bring passengers to their destination in less than 10 minutes. With this invention, fewer people are resorting to land vehicles.

93

There has been a sudden influx of college dropouts in the United States, with many citing how they feel like they have the capabilities of becoming the next Mark Zuckerberg.  
   
 This brings up the concern of how important the college degree would be and its relevance in the current world. Could anyone just get up and leave, taking a leap of faith with just a high school diploma?  
  
 It also ties into the problem of social media and its influence on the youths of today. Many have attributed their sudden confidence in their leap of faith to seeing many successful entrepreneurs on social media, and their "stories and tips".  
   
 What if these "entrepreneurs" are just content creators, or they are just making that content for flak? Would the youths of today be able to discern truth from these, and weigh their options objectively?

94

There has been a rising case of "Perezosoivitis" that has been reported in the world. This disease draws symptoms such as lethargy, inability to walk, and constant drowsiness. There are no known vectors for transmission. Societies around the world are concerned about this new disease that seemingly infects people out of nowhere, worried that it may affect them next. However some view this disease as something that is "not that big of an issue". An investigative probe by the World Health Organisation has traced it to stem from Spain, but are unable to find the cause of this disease. Whilst not life-threatening, it creates a problem in societies and their productivity. "Peresozoivitis" recovery patients stated that they felt unmotivated in their daily lives, and needed help with basic lifestyle chores such as brushing their teeth and bathing. With no known cure in sight, people around the world are bracing for a new pandemic.

95

As Japan battles with its ageing population and low birth rates, it has resulted in a shortage of skilled labour that caused a spiral of aftereffects including a weakening economy and increased hatred amongst the people for the government. Riots have been taking place outside of the Prime Minister's quarters and lawmakers have protested the PM's lack of support for its citizens as plans to overthrow the government are in action.

96

In July of 2023, the median inflation rate in Singapore has risen by 1%. This means that the general price level of goods and services in Singapore is now 1% more expensive on average. This is the greatest hike in inflation that has been experienced by the city-state in the past year. Economists consulted by our news agency have highlighted several reasons for this spike in prices. Firstly, the costs of raw materials used to produce goods and services have been rising rapidly across the globe, ultimately impacting our island state in the form of a higher cost burden falling on consumers. Secondly, export bans placed on major exporters have increased both consumer and producer demand for goods from other smaller exporters, hiking up the prices of these goods in general. Thirdly, political factors such as the Russia-Ukraine War have caused global supply shocks which further contribute to the spike in prices of raw materials used to produce goods. Finally, rising labour costs due to tightened immigration policies enforced by the Singapore government have placed pressure on the costs of service provision by businesses. Analysts predict that the rise in inflation should wane in the next 3 months.

97

In Singapore, there are more businesses that undergo mergers and acquisitions to increase productivity and their economies of scale. This is so that they can expand their areas of business. One such instance is the acquisition of Sony by Razer. Sony specialises in mobile phones and electronics, but its brand popularity has been reduced significantly with other competitors in the market. Razer is known for its computers for gaming and gaming accessories. It is with the hope that Razer is able to attract and tap into the talents in electronics from Sony into its expanding company, in particular in the production of its computer parts. Currently, talks and negotiations are underway between the CEOs of both companies to come to a final consensus on the terms and conditions. Once this has been completed which is estimated to be by the end of 2023, an agreement will be signed by both parties.

98

The recent announcement of the Singapore government to reduce goods and service tax has helped many Singaporeans in the middle and lower class to reduce their financial burden. According to a survey conducted by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), this will help at least 80% of Singaporeans reduce their financial burden on daily essentials. One of the survey respondents, Madam Gan, told Today News that this new policy will definitely reduce the financial burden for their household of four children. In response to the new policy, many retail owners view the policy positively. Retail owners expect to see an increase in sales volume as prices become lower. This will help many small and medium local businesses to recover from the negative effects of Covid in the past two years. The new policy also helps to reduce fear of inflation. The new policy will take effect from 1 September this year.

99

12 September 2023, Singapore - The legalization of the public circulation of cryptocurrency is slated to occur 1 week from now. What does that signify for Singapore's economic practices and more importantly, its economy? It could mean a variety of things. Some expected effects of this are the stronger endorsement of cryptocurrency as a method of payment. Prior to this, cryptocurrency had a growing presence in Singapore which caused communities centered around it to blossom in Singapore. Eugene Ling, co-founder of the Cool Cats NFT Community Singapore, tells us that his interest in cryptocurrency first began through an introduction by a friend. "I never felt like I could fully trust the banks with my money and that's when I found cryptocurrencies. A monetary asset that wasn't controlled by any government authorities around the world," said Eugene.

100

There is a new race in town - Singapore will not only be home to the annual F1 night race spectacle but will also be home to a MotorGP race.  
   
 The authorities have announced the race to be held every February for the next 5 years.  
   
 The contract was signed between the Singapore Government and MotorGP, and this marks the first time that the latter is holding a street race for its championship.  
   
 Many experts predict that while the championship is not as prestigious as F1, it will still bring about huge economic benefits to the country.  
   
 The hotel and F&B businesses will see a large boost during the time period, as tourists make their way to the country to watch the event.  
   
 MotorGP is also footing most of the bill for Singapore to host the race.  
   
   
   
 Many businesses welcome this news and are happy that there is another global event that will drive tourists to visit the country.  
   
   
   
 Preparations for the first event in 2024 is already underway.

101

The Singapore Air Force just announced the purchase of the 5th Generation fighter jet F22 from Lockheed Martin. The jet which is the pride of the United States Air Force was until now not available for export due to its highly confidential technology. This announcement is the result of the strengthening of the bilateral relationship between Singapore and the US. Singapore will be the only country allowed to receive the F22, in a highly secret transaction that is estimated to be the largest military spend for Singapore in the past 2 decades. Though the unit cost is undisclosed, it is estimated that each fighter jet will cost around 280MUSD. The British government has expressed some level of disappointment as they have been requesting such agreement for many years and thought they would have been the closest military partner for the USA.

102

The United States has recently announced a potential new policy aimed at foreign property investors along the West Coast. This policy offers a reduced tax rate for foreign buyers and an array of additional incentives according to investment value, with details to come in the following days. This controversial move came about to encourage foreign talent and an influx of funds to ward off the dip in GDP which was seen during the COVID-19 Pandemic.  
   
 Commentators and the opposition have found this highly controversial, citing concerns for an increase in hostility toward immigrants and Asian hate crimes, particularly in the state of California. However, Biden pushes forward, assuring the country that multiculturalism and immigration have been the cornerstone on which the country was built and that this policy will pave the path to greater unity in the years ahead.

103

The cost of living has been increasing at an exponential rate in Singapore. 10 years ago, a plate of fried noodles cost $2.50 and today, a plate of fried noodles cost $8. The huge jump in prices has pushed many Singaporeans to consider retirement in our neighbouring country - Malaysia, where the cost of living is lower than in Singapore. The Singapore government has tried to ease Singaporean's worries about the cost of living by giving out vouchers and subsidies, but many still complain that it's not enough.

104

Supermarket stores islandwide in Singapore, will no longer provide plastic bags to consumers by 2028. Consumers would have to bring their own shopping bags or hand-carry the items when they checkout. This mandated measure is part of the 'green movement', and would ensure the reduction and usage of harmful plastics that have been destroying marine life. Apart from that, this measure could also cut down major pollution to the environment. Non-recyclable plastics are known to create toxic gases upon destruction. Moreover, they are damaging to health when inhaled. Upon destruction, even recyclable plastics would create minimal but also harmful gases. Hence, it is important to roll out this measure to curb pollution and also protect the nation's reputation as the 'cleanest country in the world'.

105

The Ministry of Manpower has released word on the new work policy which is to commence from the next Monday onwards. After a year of discussion, this policy has been approved by the government as part of the 'Happy SG' program. According to this policy, employees are entitled to a 4-day work week in order to promote well-being and work-life balance in Singapore. Additionally, employers are not allowed to contact their employees at any time periods beyond the usual working hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and may be liable for a hefty fine if not adhering to these new guidelines. Full-time workers have expressed their ambivalence towards this new policy - while some are rejoicing, others are more concerned about what this could mean for their career trajectory and pay. "It is unclear how this will affect us in the long run... bosses are definitely going to be harder on us during the 4 days that we are in for work... and that may be even worse than it is now," says Singtel management executive, Shirley Koh, owner of the startup company, Mr No Ban, expressed his concerns over the new policy. "I'm already short-staffed on the usual 5-day work week, how will this policy affect the company's progress?". Re-evaluation of the policy is set to take place in June this year. For more details about this policy, visit the MOM website (www.MOM.com).

106

The government has announced a change to National Education within the school curriculum affecting all primary schools, starting in 2025. With effect from 2 January 2025, the National Education syllabus in all primary schools will include a half-hour lesson on the meaning of the national anthem, the Majulah Singapura. This is to enable all school students to better appreciate the meaning of the national anthem. The national anthem is sung at least once a week in all local schools. The Ministry of Education hopes that by introducing this mandatory lesson, students will have a better understanding of the national anthem, especially those who do not speak or study Malay. The national anthem was first composed in 1965 when the nation gained its independence. "I think it is a very good idea," said Mrs Kok Hwee Sian, a 71-year-old grandmother of two primary school students, aged 9 and 11. "Unlike my generation, most of the young people today don't know how to speak Malay. But when you know what you are singing, and you understand how much people have worked for us to have what we have today, then I hope the young people will appreciate our nation better."

107

In a press conference this afternoon, Mr Heng Wai Kiat, the Minister of Manpower announced that there will be a minimum wage introduced for all part-time or temporary jobs. This policy commences starting from 1 Jan 2024. The minimum wage for all part-time or temporary jobs across all industries will be $10 per hour. This change will help to benefit low-wage workers who are not holding full-time jobs due to certain circumstances, said Mr Heng. The new minimum wage introduced is said to help low-wage workers fight inflation. It will also increase their standard of living. The impact on business will be cushioned by the incentive given by the government, explained Mr Heng. Business owners can apply for incentives to help cover some additional costs.

108

A price cap has been put on first-time built-to-order homes for first-time homeowners in Singapore. Couples with or without children are welcome to apply for these houses, which are built on a limited basis every year. However, singles are not allowed to apply, with the exception of single parents taking charge of a child. With rising housing prices and a fluctuating housing market, the price cap will no doubt benefit many aspiring homeowners, giving them peace of mind. This price cap is to lessen the load of buying a house for couples, where the government hopes it will be a place for them to expand their families. A MOP of 10 years has also been put in place for these new homes, to ensure that those who purchase the homes are those who truly require support. Those who are eligible for the price cap will still be able to receive the standard subsidies already present. The amount of subsidies will be calculated from the annual income of the applicant, in the year of the application.

109

In Singapore, discussions surrounding digital privacy and data protection have gained momentum in recent years. Policymakers have recently announced a "Right to be Forgotten" policy, which would grant individuals greater control over their personal information online. This proposed policy aims to strike a balance between protecting individual privacy and maintaining the free flow of information on the internet. The core idea behind the policy is to empower individuals to request the removal of certain online information that is outdated or no longer relevant to their lives. This would apply to search engine results, social media posts, and other online content. Advocates argue that such a policy would provide Singaporeans with the means to prevent their past mistakes or personal information from haunting them indefinitely on the web. However, critics argue that implementing a "Right to be Forgotten" policy may raise concerns about censorship and the potential abuse of the system. Striking the right balance between individual privacy and freedom of information will be a complex task for policymakers, who must consider the broader societal implications of such a policy.

110

The government has introduced a new policy for first-time home buyers, with up to $150,000 in support for eligible buyers. Single buyers have also received an increase in housing loans.   
   
 The spokesperson says, " The government will continue to monitor the market and ensure that public housing remains affordable for everyone."  
   
 Interested buyers at the event today said, " We are happy to see that the government have taken into account the rise in housing price and increased the grant accordingly." during the interview.  
   
 At today's event, the agency has also revealed the next BTO project featuring two matured estates and three new estates.

111

The hard work at Singapore's A\*STAR lab has paid off as there is now a way for us to stop yawning. Scientists have been studying how the contagions of a yawn are linked to neurocircuits within the brain's hypothalamus. This has allowed them to devise a simple antidote to dissociate our senses, be it seeing a yawn or hearing the word 'yawn', from activating it in our brains. Those who are prone to yawning can now be 'immune' from doing so. Current developments are for an injection to be administered once a year, similar to a flu jab, but research is still underway to find a more permanent solution. Researchers hint that this is a breakthrough for other similar conditions that follow neural contagions, such as reducing imitation of role models.

112

Historians from the University of Texas at Austin have invented a time machine. This time machine is able to bring people back to the past, up to a period of 100 years. This machine took a total of 25 years to brainstorm and produce. Elon Musk, the leader of the invention team, is excited to see his childhood dream come to live. He is inviting interested individuals to help improve his time machine. The time machine is in beta use and will be made available to the public next year. Presidents, prime ministers and kings of every country are invited to use the time machine. The time machine has received many compliments from the history academia.

113

The recent discovery of a gene in humans by a group of Singaporean scientists has shed light on potentially being able to prevent aging. The gene, found in the telomere of our DNA has been named the 'Biological Clock'. We are all familiar with the phrase 'our biological clock is ticking'. However, scientists have discovered that by genetically altering the genes of fetuses, we could potentially stop aging past a certain age. The gene has also been found to prevent degeneration and has also been found to lead to greater longevity. The team of scientists aim to roll out the first group of experiments on genetically modified babies in the near future, focusing on modifying this gene. The infants will then be followed and studied in their growing years, for research purposes to investigate if the gene is indeed the gene that is key to reversing aging. If it is, it would definitely be a milestone achieved in the scientific world.

114

The National Institute of Science (NIS) has announced that residents can start receiving domestic help from "Helper Bot" starting in 2025. "Helper Bot", a term used to refer to robots programmed to perform household chores, will be rolled out nationwide in 2025. According to the NIS, "Helper Bots" purchased directly from the NIS have undergone multiple rounds of testing and are considered safe for use in domestic households. These robots can be expected to perform basic chores including mopping, sweeping, ironing, and emptying the garbage. The NIS plans to expand "Helper Bot's" capabilities to include more complex tasks such as cooking, which will be progressively rolled out in the coming years. Residents interested in "Helper Bot" can register on NIS' website directly to purchase a "Helper Bot" from 2H 2024.

115

Recent studies have shown that a drug could possibly cure cancer. The new drug, X40, was developed by a team of researchers from Nanyang Technological University. It has been tested on cancer-positive rats. The results showed that after administration of the drug, the rats were cancer-free. The drug will soon move on to the next stage for human trial. "This drug certainly contributes to the development of new drugs for cancer treatments in the future. It gives hope," said Dr. Nadia, a doctor from the Cancer Research Group Singapore.

116

Singapore has long been leading the cashless scene, introducing cashless options for payment steadily through the years. From the appearance of EZ-Link to mobile payments, the local market has always strived to provide a variety of options. Recently, cashless payments have received an upgrade. Security is the buzzword of the day, and new blockchain technology has successfully been trialed. Researchers at the Computing Division of NTU report that the new system is both more lightweight and secure than before. "It's more accessible and easier, and also reassures people," says Assoc Prof McNugg. This technology is currently being developed in partnership with the gov.sg platforms and progressively rolled out to enhance the safety and security of transactions. This is one front on which scams can be countered and transactions safeguarded.

117

The Singapore government has increased the customs duty for the vehicles purchased by 20%. The government said that only 25% of the population has their own vehicles. Therefore, most of the people do not need to worry about this measure. When daily news asked the public about this matter most of them agreed with the government measure. Since public transportation is widely used in Singapore most families are not affected by such measures. on the other hand, this may help the government to reduce the vehicle demand and also increase their tax revenue. The government said that their expected target is to collect SGD 20Mn more with this initiative.

118

Elderly 80 years old and above may opt for euthanasia from 2030 onwards.   
   
 Singapore - With the critical aging population in Singapore, euthanasia will soon be an option for the elderly who are experiencing chronic illness, loneliness, and isolation.   
   
 This is based on reports of the mental and emotional well-being of Singaporeans aged 80 years old and above. There has been a pressing number of elderly who are facing great difficulties in their daily lives due to a severe illness or mental or emotional disability. Euthanasia services will be available in all private and government hospitals and charges will vary according to the individual's condition.   
   
 Euthanasia has been a controversial topic in Euope, but has been made available for very exceptional and rare situations such as patients with terminal illnesses and who are in immense pain daily. More updates to this new measure will be shared by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) from 1 December onwards.

119

Housing prices have risen in Singapore over the last three months. A single 3-room unit in a HDB flat now costs around a million dollars. This is a 25% increase from the prices in the first quarter of the year. Many who were looking to purchase a house are concerned that the prices will continue to increase. Quite a buzz has been generated online, with people writing into the housing authorities to petition for lower prices. In fact, more than 2 million signatures were found on one document circulating on the Internet in the country. The government has decided to take action on the matter, and it is now being discussed in Parliament. Stay tuned for the latest updates.

120

A bloom of Noctiluca was observed on the shores of East Coast Park on Monday night. Being a bioluminescent algae, many beachgoers were drawn to the bright blue glow in the waters. Dr. Gin, a phycologist with the Singapore Oceanographic Institution, reported that such blooms are a rare occurrence in Singapore due to their tropical climate. While the bloom is non-toxic to humans, it may cause a nuisance to aquatic life if not well-managed. This may affect the livelihoods of those in the fishery industry and the costs of seafood may need to increase to cover any loss incurred. There is, however, a divided opinion concerning this issue. Members of local nature groups are advocating that mitigation measures such as algaecide dosing should not be implemented as it may cause more damage to the aquatic environment. A meeting between the nature groups and the management of the fishery industry will be held tonight to reach a compromise on the best actions forward.

121

The gender wage gap has been increasing in Singapore, with women earning significantly less than their male counterparts. A survey has shown that for every job that a male has, a female working the same job would be earning only 50% of that. This is concerning as many countries have gone forward in terms of gender equality and while Singapore was on that track, it has taken a detour back towards the past. The government is looking to implement policies that could tackle this issue such as raising the minimum wage requirements but more analysis still needs to be done. Having such a wage gap leads to a possible drop in the efficiency of the workforce due to possible tensions that are unaddressed and it is an issue that needs to be tackled.

122

N Parks and town councils will be working together to improve the health of plants and trees around housing estates. There will also be a distribution of fruits, plants, and cuttings to residents to encourage community gardening. This new initiative came about due to brainstorming sessions with grassroots leaders and residents from various estates. Many residents feel it's a waste for fruits to ripen and rot along the roadside. Nparks mentioned that this move will help Singaporeans to our Garden City culture and encourage Singaporeans to take an interest in gardening. The respective RCs will set up a gardening committee for each estate. Neighborhood schools will also be part of this initiative. More information can be found at the town council website.

123

One of the NTUSU EXCO members was exposed that he had conducted inappropriate behaviours toward his female junior during their drinking session in the hall. The guy was electing for the next NTUSU President, and this incident was reported by an anonymous individual. The victim claimed that on the day itself, she requested pure water instead of beers as she was not feeling well. Yet, the guy gave her a cup of beer and lied that it was a cup of water. After drinking the drinks, the victim felt dizzy and was left overnight inside the guy's room. After this incident was exposed, the guy was removed from his candidacy for the presidential election. Then, this incident ended within the school side even though this could be quite a serious crime in Singapore. It does not lead to a huge discussion among the society.

124

"It's always Yishun" is what people have been mentioning on the Internet ever since 2021. Yishun is now known as the crazy town, riffed with crazy people, crazy incidents, and supernatural occurrences. People avoid Yishun like a plague. Those who stumbled into Yishun all claimed to feel uneasy and disturbed by the town. Even though it is true that Yishun does have a lot of questionable things happening, it is just a coincidence or is there really something about the people in Yishun? Reporters who are intrigued by the town, went down to visit and reported nothing significant. Were people just exaggerating the details of the incidents?

125

The Parliament has just passed a law that forbids all youths below the age of 18 from using electronic devices for more than 2 hours a day.  
   
 This shocking news dropped after a debate regarding the deterioration of youth's quality of living, more so on the fact that negative influences are being spread more easily. Also, they emphasized on how electronic devices are hindering our children's ability to study due to the amount of time it takes away from them.  
   
 The current Head of the Ruling Party had mentioned, "Children of this day and age should be studying and preparing for their future! Not learning trendy dances nor engaging in harmful acts!" Implying a declaration of war against social media.  
   
 Some have disputed that electronic devices do assist in the children's studies and in the improvement of knowledge. However, it was rebutted with a stereotypical reply of how youths do not have the maturity for such self-regulations.

126

Recently, there have been concerns about the amount of wool-plastic nanofiber hybrid clothing in Singapore. Reports have shown that wearing this material would result in the attraction of Plastic Worms. Whilst harmless in its worm stage, these Plastic Worms would grow into giant flying insects that may carry off citizens into the stratosphere. Owner and Patent of this new-aged material, Mr Koh You Ni states in the following statement. "I understand that my material is attracting these Plastic Worms, but that is just something we as a society have to be ready to deal with." Mr. Koh continues by addressing the issue of wool shortage in the world, stating that his industry and material would solve the wool shortage by "mixing in plastic and wool together". Singaporean society however is still concerned about this new material and its potential attraction to Plastic Worms. With the chances of being taken by giant flying insects, ministers are holding conferences and sessions with local residents to ease their worries. Solutions such as cleaning up Plastic Worms whenever you see them are brought up in these meetings. Nonetheless, only time will tell if these solutions will solve this problem.

127

COE prices have been increasing dramatically over the past year. With sky high prices, the government rolled out a new policy to cap the number of cars to 1 car per family. This policy intends to reduce the number of cars on the road. Taxis and private hire vehicles will be affected by this change as well. The goal is to bring down the number of vehicles on the road as Singapore aims to transition to a car-lite state. To encourage motorists to switch to public transportation, grants, and vouchers will be issued to the public to reward them for using public transportation, in addition to making it free.

128

In the present context, Sri Lanka is facing a huge financial crisis. The government has been unable to provide essentials to the public such as fuel and medicine since last year. This crisis is caused mainly due to the large chunk of both international and domestic debts that the government has taken in recent years. Most of the funds were not smartly utilized and now as a country public has to repay those debts. Due to the pandemic, inflows of tourism and foreign remittances decreased significantly. Therefore due to the lack of foreign currencies Sri Lankan government can not afford their fuel demand and even medicines and other essentials imported from overseas. Even the government has announced that they are unable to serve foreign debts and declared as a default nation. As a government, Sri Lanka has to work with other affiliated countries to overcome this situation as soon as possible for the well-being of citizens.

129

London, UK - Ongoing shortages in food produce are pushing more people into poverty, with local charities expecting a surge in requests for food boxes in the coming winter.  
   
 Yesterday, new austerity measures were proposed in parliament that would limit government services. These include massive cuts to education, health and welfare services. The proposal has met with steep opposition from the Labor Party as well as many non-government organisations across the country. Protesters against the new proposal have stated that the measures unfairly penalise middle and working class families reducing access to basic needs.   
   
 Analysts identify that the continuing war between Ukraine and Russia continues to limit grain production and supply chains as well as the weakened GBP mean that prices of food are unlikely to come down any time in the near future.

130

Investing might be something that we may have heard of. Some of us may be familiar with it, while some of us are not. With the recent earnings release of some companies, it has shown that some firms have not achieved their expected performance. This has sparked disappointment in some investors, with some deciding to sell their shares to minimize losses. Following this trend, the prices of stocks for such companies have fallen. It is uncertain whether they will rebound with time. However, time would have to be taken to regain trust of their investors. And only time can tell.

131

Junior and senior doctors from the National Health Service (NHS) held strikes in London and other cities in the United Kingdom for higher pay. Junior and senior doctors have long faced extremely long working hours but very low pay. This does not apply to doctors only. During the Covid-19, many staff nurses quit their jobs simply because they were overworked and not paid enough. Some universities took part in the industrial action, causing some students to have their graduation delayed. Other industries, such as the transport systems had also canceled some timings to show their support for the strikes. This has undoubtly caused an economic tool for the country.

132

Venezuela's inflation rate has been skyrocketing over the last decades, leading the country into a longstanding economic crisis. Hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans have fled the country since Nicolas Maduro, the current President of Venezuela, came to power. Maduro, a former truck driver and union president, has been accused of corruption and the violation of human rights by his opponents. Venezuela's economic status took a plunge after Hugo Chavez died in 2016. In its heyday in the 1980s, the country was a bastion of wealth owing to its oil and natural resources. Today, however, hyperinflation marks the cityscape as long lines form outside groceries, with people commonly waiting for half a day for their rationed foods. Coca Cola stopped production in 2016, citing a lack of raw materials. Crime is rife, and electrical failures on the country's aging electrical infrastructure are an everyday affair. Even the stray animals that used to roam the streets have become increasingly scarce and emaciated.

133

Malaysia's currency (Ringgit) had always not been very strong against Singapore SGD. Over the past years, the conversion rate of Singapore dollars to Malaysian Ringgit had been very followed by the people of the two nations. Currently, 1 Singapore dollar can be exchanged for 3.4 Malaysian Ringgit. This was a staggering increase of at least 30% in 2019 (pre covid period). The dive that hit the Malaysian Ringgit was caused by the corrupted Malaysian government once led by ex-PM Najib. The Covid 19 pandemic further weakens the country's currency. The economic growth was slow and GDP was poor. Brain drain of talents to other countries also caused the country's economy to suffer.

134

With the rising pressure from the 4 July ASEAN Summit to meet Sustainability goals more vigorously, the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE) will be imposing a new amendment on the plastic bag charge: SGD 1.00 will be imposed for every plastic bag from all 32 NTUC Fairprice supermarkets across Singapore.   
   
Ms. Grace Fu, the Minister for MSE, shared: With the many drastic weather patterns shifts we have firsthand experienced in Singapore and by neighbors, the increment in charge will be a significant way to generate awareness towards protecting our delicate environment for a more sustainable future."   
   
 The bill for this new regulation was passed and approved yesterday. A spokesperson from NTUC said that communication strategies will be in place to educate and explain to consumers on this new policy, especially the elderly.

135

China's one child policy is a longstanding policy for decades. However, the younger generation has taken less kindly to it compared to their predecessors. Many are voicing out on their disapproval and negative feelings towards the need for birth control. Additionally, many are also looking for ways to escape these restrictions, including migrating overseas. The need for such a policy is questionable in this day and age. The population in China is aging and there are fewer working adults to support the aging population. If left unchecked, these sentiments may sow seeds of discord in the general population. Especially with the power of social media and the Internet, the younger generation is in a position with more power than ever before.

136

The Netflix documentary "Poisoned: The Dirty Truth About Your Food" has revealed the gruesome lack of regulation related to food products in the United States. The documentary touches on several high-profile outbreaks that have occurred in the last 30 years across the US, such as outbreaks of E. Coli and salmonella in even seemingly safe food products such as hamburgers, peanuts, and lettuce. Shockingly, it is still legal for producers to knowingly sell chicken containing certain strains of salmonella, despite petitions having been made to the USDA and FDA to ban all strains of salmonella from the market. It is also revealed in the film that the lack of a central authority governing food safety in America has created a culture of finger-pointing. In the case of a food-related disease outbreak, there can be no single agency held responsible for the lack of regulation on their part, which leaves room for those at fault to push the blame onto other stakeholders. The federal government has ultimately always pushed the agenda that the burden of food safety falls on consumers to cook their food thoroughly. It can be said that the federal government, as well as federal agencies, neglect pressing issues such as land allocation and agricultural malpractices such as overcrowding and the lack of a set policy on testing that food producers have to do on their products. This has sparked mass outrage amongst victims of food-related disease outbreaks caused by negligence on federal agencies' part, as well as the families of victims who have passed away from such diseases.

137

The interest rate has been rising in the US and many countries around the world. There is inflationary pressure across the globe. Many are predicting if recession will be happening soon. Economists and financial experts could not conclude if a global recession will occur soon. They have however cautioned the public to be more prudent in view of the economic uncertainties. Financial planning would be important and more education amongst the public should be encouraged. The public should be aware of different financial schemes in the market. They should be alert and informed instead of listening blindly to the financial advisors or agents.

138

Taiwan is the first Asian country to introduce same-sex marriage. This move came amidst the increasing pressure placed on the Taiwanese government to loosen its gender policies as youths become increasingly liberal. News of this policy quickly divided the population, with many calling for it to be abolished. Regardless, the government remains steadfast, in accordance with its goal to achieve total equality.

139

The ban of rainbow swatches in Malaysia has ignited outrage amongst its citizens, as many feel that the country has taken many steps back in the race to embrace those from the LGBT+ community. Despite this, Malaysia continues to press forward with such policies, claiming that the advent of these swatches would have only caused a negative impact on the country and that it was "a good thing" that such policies were in place so that the LGBQ movement does not progress any further. Mr Lim, a concerned 48-year-old man says: "I am not surprised, but disappointed that Malaysia, despite its recent advancement in the years has chosen to uphold the olden values that are outdated and most certainly discriminatory towards the minority, as if they have not in put many other policies that have proven disadvantageous towards the lesser privileged.

140

The government announced that same-sex marriages are now legal. This is to promote a more inclusive and accepting community. Many citizens, especially the youth, are expressing their support for the LGBTQ in this day and age. This is extremely heartwarming as an inclusive community is what the world should be striving towards. Legalising and recognising the efforts of the LGBTQ is the first step towards promoting harmony and equal rights in the country.

141

A policy was changed in Malaysia, which regarded the access of emergency country funds. Previously, the funds could only be accessed after approval by the lawmakers in Parliament. However, after the change, the national government can now access these funds with only the approval of the finance ministers, raising concerns for corruption, and ease of taking out emergency funds for personal uses. The worries are not unfounded, after the infamous corruption case of Ex-PM Muhyiddin, and a few others. Though the policy was changed with reasons cited "so that emergency funds can be accessed quickly to deal with the pandemic", there is little trust in what will be done with this privilege after the emergency is over.

142

Clone and gene alteration have captured the spotlight of mass media ever since the successful cloning of Dolly the sheep. And science has progressed in leaps and bounds ever since that achievement. However, collectively we have all stopped at the line of human experimentation. This self-imposed embargo has recently been smashed by a scientist in China who has reported gene altering human babies. The scientist showed the results in a conference and has raised international concerns and condemnation. The goal in the experiment was to correct a genetic anomaly in the baby to let the baby have a better life, however, side effects may happen. This is after all an experiment. An experiment with a human life.

143

The science of cloning has long been a debatable topic since its invention. The controversy surrounding this development is understandable. While there can be benefits arising from this scientific development, the risks that come with it must not be neglected. Thus far, many countries have strict regulations pertaining to the use of cloning technology and this is unlikely to change in the near future.   
   
 Cloning of animals is currently allowed and practiced in some countries such as China. Mr Ho, an avid dog lover, has recently cloned one of his dogs which passed away during a traffic accident. He had used the skin cells collected earlier and passed it to Xi'An Hospital for storage till future use. When the need arose recently, he approached the hospital to retrieve the frozen skin cells and begin the cloning process. While he was aware that his action would not be well-received by many, he shared that the sight of his cloned dog was well worth any criticisms he may receive.

144

Scientists have been trying to find the solution to longer life expectancy in people. Some examples include coming up with an elixir for humans to consume, to changing the DNA in humans by replacing the genes that cause shorter life expectancy in the laboratory. This is so that babies with their genes modified will be able to live longer and experience lower risks of diseases that shorten their lifespan. Such a process is being carried out in countries such as the United States. If successful after completion of clinical trials, this process may be rolled out to interested members of the public. However, people have argued against potential side effects that can occur through unconventional practices. Some have even called it "an unnatural act against nature" or "playing God". While it has not been official as more studies are required, it seems that perhaps, the future towards living longer is possible.

145

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) questions the reality we are in today. Will AI be able to aid us in our daily tasks, or is it there to overpower us and take over us someday? Take ChatGPT for example, while essentially learning how to interact with real-world questions one step at a time, will it be so powerful that one day it can create questions and answer them by itself? AI becoming sentient is a cause for concern as many of these algorithms are still new and are not regulated by certain rules and restrictions. This means that the companies who created them are not bound by any ethical concerns and they can do what is best for their interest, with the intention to profit from these AIs. AI also poses another concern, which is the nature of the originality and creativity of the work they produce. Take for example DALL-E, an AI that can generate artworks based on the prompts inputted by the user. These AI take resources from all over the net and come out with an artwork that might be original, but the way it is created was due to the fact that it has taken inspiration and techniques from many artworks. This means that while it does not copy wholesale from one artwork, it takes ideas from many artworks which it referenced to create something new. These artworks which the AI took reference from were not credited to the artist and it sparked a movement by creative artists to push for copyrights and crediting their work when it comes to taking ideas from their work.

146

The medical community rejoices at the first successful trial test of the ANC pill. The pill, which has been undergoing decades of research and innovation, is developed to fight the multiplication of cancer cells within the body. After long periods of controlled trial testing, research findings show that with the ANC, cancer patients have an 95% chance of full recovery and no longer have to worry about the odds of remission. Doctors and nurses from St. Jon's Hospital hosted a celebratory event today upon receiving the news, and have started scheduling potential patients to undergo the next phase of trial tests. "It brings hope... not just for the patients and their family... but also for us doctors who have witnessed how much cancer takes away from one," says Dr Luke Moy. Grace Soh, mother of two who suffers from bone cancer, sheds tears of joy when interviewed: "I just hope that this all works out, so I get to live my life with my girls again." For many individuals, this miracle pill will change their lives for the better. The ANC pill is still underlying the secondary stages of trial testing but continues to show very promising results. Medical spokespersons have also begun arrangements with local polyclinics to discuss the allocation and pricing of the ANC pill when it is released into the market in the near future.

147

It is now possible to turn stem cells into sperm or eggs. This means that same-sex couples may be able to have biological children in the future. Single parents may also be able to use this method to have children. This is good news for non-traditional families.

148

AI technology has had yet another breakthrough, with the introduction of chatGPT 4, the AI language module is now able to mimic human writing and speech formation with shock realism.   
   
 Experts have expressed concern that the rapid development of AI, might lead to the downfall of human society. The founder of the world-leading search engine - Google, has recently stepped up to voice his concern about the AI module going out of control. During the interview, he said," The unchecked development of AI, is a threat to human society."  
   
 In recent years, companies have made use of AI to replace a magnitude of jobs, such as teleoperators, customer service agents, and factory packers. The workforce has expressed a common fear that AI will replace the manual labour job, thus causing a collapse in the labour market.

149

Asian hate and dissent is still very much alive. A new viral video of three Black women shouting aggressively at an Asian family of three in the subway of New York has garnered much attention. They were hurling insults and yelling at them to "go back from where [they] came from". The Black women were also violent with bystanders who were either trying to help the family or record the entire incident for evidence. The increasing number of such incidents is heartbreaking as it reflects the increasing divide between various racial groups in America. This is not limited to the majority of Whites versus others (such as Blacks or Asians), but lies within minorities as well. It is disheartening and very much a concern to see that not much else is being done to alleviate the rifts between such groups, or dispel the negative stereotypes that could be reinforcing and perpetuating such behaviour and discrimination against various groups.

150

In Taiwan, the youth are facing increasing stress. With a rising cost of living, many struggle to work. On average, Taiwanese youths have to travel 1-1.5 hours on public transport to and from their workplace. They only earn NTD 1000 a day on average. As a result, some youths have more than 2 jobs and are willing to work night shifts in places such as hostels just to earn a living. This has resulted in the increased rates of youths with psychological stressors, with many struggling to make ends meet.

151

The recent incident of a man stabbing people in the streets of South Korea has led to concerns about safety in the country. This incident involved a man who got out of his car and stabbed people. 14 people were injured, and the man was arrested. Many locals have expressed the fear of walking in the street. They will likely be more careful when walking in the street due to this incident. The country's tourism will likely be affected as well due to the fear of getting stabbed while walking the street. This will bring turmoil to the country's economy. This incident has also raised security concerns in the country.

152

As the Russia-Ukraine war persists, many Ukrainians live in constant fear of attacks by Russia. Bomb attacks and shellings by the Russian military leave many shaken and unable to sleep at night. Many Ukrainians today are left without homes and limited food supplies, which have been destroyed by the ongoing war. As the war persists, families continue to seek for their loved ones, some of whom have stepped forward to volunteer on the battlefield. Across the world, global leaders including US President Biden and European Union leaders have repeatedly condemned Russia for their infringement on Ukraine's sovereignty. Economic sanctions and trade restrictions have proven futile, as hostile acts by Russia persist to date. As the shelling continues, Ukrainians as young as 10 continue fighting for their land. Many still hold out hope for a peaceful resolution and a retreat of Russian forces in the near future.

153

Hollywood workers are continuing their strikes against the big streaming companies, as more and more shows and movie projects get delayed because of it.  
   
 There has been not much progress since the start of the strikes, with a compromise looking less likely by the day.  
   
 Aaron Paul, star of the show Breaking Bad, highlighted the recent resurgence of people watching the show on Netflix.  
   
 He claims that despite the big streaming numbers, he does not receive a single cent of revenue from Netflix.  
   
 Hollywood writers are facing the same issue.   
   
 They might have written the most popular episode of a particular show, but are only paid a one-off fee prior to its airing.  
   
 No matter how well it does on the streaming platform, they are not entitled to any money from it at all.  
   
 The big streaming companies are unlikely to budge from their position, especially since they are benefitting from it.

154

The fentanyl crisis in the US has already killed thousands of Americans, and there is no improvement in sight. In the past weeks, the border patrol has caught hundreds of kilos of fentanyl pills destined for the American market. In their chemical analyses, they discovered that 40% of these pills had a lethal dose of fentanyl due to the rudimentary chemical production process. Fentanyl is an opioid considered 2x more powerful than morphine, and comes at 50x less the cost. It is widely understood that the Sinaloa cartel from Mexico is the main cartel behind the mass import to the US.

155

In a recent survey conducted in Taiwan, it was found that fresh graduates only earn an average of S$1,350 per month. This number is a shock to many and it sheds light on the greater issue of unemployment. Are students unemployed due to the lack of jobs? Or, are students just not equipped with the skills that are demanded in society. Due to the low pay in Taiwan and the reduced supply of jobs, many graduates have turned to sourcing for multiple streams of income. A few side hustles they have turned to include food delivery and remote translation jobs. However, despite efforts to earn money through two to three sources of unemployment, many still remain lost and desperate in view of their bleak employment situation.

156

Popular talk show host Ellen DeGeneres has been coming under fire for her perceived rudeness to her staff and to members of the public. Despite her stage persona as a warm and welcoming individual, testimonies have surfaced suggesting her actual character is much colder and standoffish. One waitress recalls her first and last encounter with the enigmatic comedian. She states that DeGeneres had put in a request to her manager to have her fired for bad customer service, although the waitress insists that she had not done anything worth being fired for. Staff testimonials have also revealed that DeGeneres was prone to firing employees on a whim. One ex-staff member testifies that the working culture at the Ellen DeGeneres studio was 'toxic' and 'cruel'. Online response to these shocking claims about the once-beloved celebrity has been huge. Many comments now call for the Ellen DeGeneres show to be cancelled, citing a feeling of betrayal at having DeGeneres' true colors be revealed. DeGeneres has made a public apology for her actions, both on social media and on her show.

157

Recently, several countries pushed out a new anti-abortion policy which sparked anger, frustration and despair among women all over the world. People who are against the policy claimed it to be "ripping woman's free will away from them". There were questions about the rationale behind the implementation of this policy. People could not fathom what it would be like for the future generation of women, who are already experiencing inequality in various parts of their lives. There are numerous online and physical petitions for the removal of such policy, but cries went unheard. The internet went crazy and objections did not only come from women. For women who have been experiencing inequality throughout their entire lives, the inequality only becomes more progressive. When will life be more fair to women?

158

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) have exploded onto the market in the world. As a new wave of cryptocurrency, these NFTs have been touted as profit-generating machines. NFTs come in many forms, but the most famous one is the NFT named "Bored Monkey". This NFT showcased a picture of a bored monkey, and for rights to the receipt of the picture, people are investing a lot of money into it. This skyrocketed the price tag of these NFTs, and eventually, people saw the appeal of owning NFTs. Celebrities, media sites, and other popular mainstream entities started to own these NFTs as well, adding to the exclusiveness and excitement of this new form of currency. People touted it as the future of money, ditching the old bank-backed fiat economy for a new one. Many people have cited that these NFTs are a scam, owing to the fact that physical copies of the NFTs are not owned by the people who purchased them. Others were more concerned about cryptocurrency in general, stating how investing in cryptocurrencies helps fund alt-right Neo-Nazi groups.

159

As the world transitions to cleaner fuel and emissions concerns become part of decision-making, Norway has rolled out a new cleaner fuel alternative known as green Nitrogen. The goal is to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and produce by-products that are not environmentally harmful. However, adoption of this new technology has been slow as the cost of implementing dissuades users from adopting this new technology.

160

Ever since the government halted the "stop at 2" campaign, the growth of Singapore has for decades depended on the import of foreign expats and laborers. For Singapore to progress economically, we need new blood because Singaporeans, like all other people in developed countries, has a declining birthrate. But is economic progress what Singaporeans truly want today? Our government seems to think so, especially during the 2000-2015 period, where almost anyone can get a PR and most people with some effort can get citizenship. But it does seem like the government has sensed the resentment, the sheer influx of foreigners especially from China has somewhat destabilized the social fabric of Singapore. Even those ethnically Chinese, the Chinese in Singapore are generally ideologically and culturally different. So, the question remains that Singaporeans and the government need to answer. Is the cost of economic growth in Singapore worth it? Are we willing to bear the cost?

161

The Goods and Service Tax has risen from 7% in 2022 to 8% in 2023. When announced by the Monetary Authorities of Singapore late last year, the reaction from the Singapore population was negative and there were murmurs of dissent. The Singapore Government tried to soften the financial blow by handing out cash vouchers to ease the transition into rising costs in 2023. However, these assurance packages did not assure the population at all, who remained disgruntled at the sky-high costs of living in the tiny country. In fact, inflation has caused the price of goods in the country to increase almost fivefold in the last twenty years. A plate of chicken rice that cost 80 cents in 2000 now costs $4.

162

Singapore is expected to experience a surge in tourism as we head further and further away from the pandemic.  
 In fact, in this coming year, we are expected to see an exponential increase in tourism levels as popular artists such as "The Weeknd" and "Taylor Swift" choose Singapore as a destination for their world tours.  
 This has economic effects on the spending habits of locals too. As they are overwhelmed with excitement to see their famous artists perform live after so many years of lockdown of any fun activities due to the pandemic for the past few years.  
 Local fans went through extreme means in order to attempt to purchase tickets. Some go as far as queuing outside of post offices that sell these tickets the day before ticket sales.  
 The Singapore government is the happiest around this as the concert alone is expected to make millions in revenue.

163

Many Singaporeans are disappointed with the increased exposure of misdeeds by politicians in their country. From affairs to potential corruption, by junior and senior members, sentiments are now mixed as to the trustworthiness of the current government. While press statements have been made by the board, conflicting information has surfaced and has sewn doubt in Singaporeans on what is real or not. Residents, especially those in the older generation, have indicated that they are saddened at the shocking revelation of these misdeeds by their favourite members of parliament, as well as their dismissal. While these issues may seem to dramatise local politics, they may have implications for the larger global view on the stability of Singapore's government and result in economic consequences. The government needs to tread carefully in addressing these issues to ensure that public trust is bolstered and global sentiments are assured.

164

The recent debt crisis of the Swiss bank, Credit Suisse has led to fear among thousands of Singaporeans who work in Credit Suisse Singapore branch. When the Swiss government announced the acquisition of Credit Suisse by UBS, many Singaporeans who work in the Credit Suisse Singapore branch feared losing their job. Many has started looking out for new jobs in the market.  
 The failure of one of the world's largest banks by asset, as well as the recent news of US bank default, may be a sign that a recession is on its way. There were a lot of uncertainties in the job market and financial market. This is particularly so in the banking sector. Many experts expect a recession this year. This serves as a warning sign to the working class in Singapore to tighten their belt and cut down on unnecessary spending.

165

COVID-19 restrictions have finally been lifted and that means Singaporeans now get to enjoy the things they have wanted to do since the pandemic started but were limited by the restrictions. The nightlife scene in Singapore took a hit when the pandemic struck but the lifting of the restrictions means that places like Clarke Quay will see a huge increase in the number of customers there and business in the area could be booming. Restaurants are now able to serve more people in the same sitting too, allowing its sales to go back to the state it was in before. Singapore's economy will likely be in the green as business everywhere resumes.

166

The national water agency of Singapore, PUB, announced that water prices will rise by around 18% over the next 2 years. This increase in price is to cover increases in operational costs and to provide funding for long-term water infrastructure. In their statement, PUB stated that the costs of producing and supplying water to Singaporeans have significantly increased due to increases in energy prices, construction costs, and maintenance costs. PUB also stated that price increases in water will help sustain investments in new water infrastructure. Amidst rises in inflation and living expenses, any further squeezes to Singaporeans' wallets will only add to concerns about the cost of living in Singapore. This is especially pertinent for the lower-income groups, who will be hardest hit without any government support. This may also inadvertently lead to an increase in prices for goods, as companies may pass the increased water costs onto customers. As inflation does not seem to be lowering anytime soon, the water price hikes might have come at a bad time for Singaporeans.

167

Recently, a group of Chinese nationals who have used Singapore as a hub for money laundering. Available reports state that these men used investment into Singaporean businesses and real estate as a means to 'clean' their dirty money. In addition to the corruption and besmirching Singapore's meticulously clean image, their involvement has exacerbated a number of challenges for Singaporean locals. Chiefly, these massive property buy-outs drive up the cost for living for local Singaporeans, and significantly contributes to limiting the supply of available housing for locals as these housing units are frequently left empty. Furthermore, the purchases made by these tycoons outbidding locals contributes to driving up the prices of surrounding residential units.

168

The 377A clause and the calling for its repeal has been a controversial issue in Singapore. The clause in 377A criminialized sex between two consenting males. It was introduced under the British law since the colonial days. Now, Singapore is a modern society that aims to be more inclusive, regardless of sexual orientation or gender. Naturally, there has been voices that call out for humanity where sex between two consenting males should be allowed. However, it did not sit well with certain conservative sections of society where only the union between a man and a woman should be allowed. The 377A issue has been debated much in Parliament. Recently, the 377A clause has been repealed, with much rejoicing from the LGBT community.

169

Owning a vehicle may be a dream of some living in Singapore. However, the recent price for the Certificate of Entitlement (COE) has shown that such a dream may be difficult to achieve for some. The trend for the COE has been tending toward an increase in recent years. Some people say that this could be a measure to encourage people living in Singapore to take public transport. In order to own a car, buyers would have to pay not just for a car, but also, the COE. This makes the purchase one with a hefty cost. The cost of owning a car is, therefore, much higher, compared to owning a car overseas. If the trend continues to increase, would owning a car be a dream for average Singaporeans? We can only tell with time.

170

Housing affordability has certainly been a hot topic in Singapore lately. Despite government efforts to curb the skyrocketing increase in housing prices, the cost of housing has worryingly become unaffordable to many, particularly the youth and those with young families. Cost was not the only concern too -- availability has been another. Due to construction delays exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, even if one had the money, they would be hard-pressed to have a chance at owning their own home anytime soon. Working in tandem, the obscenely high costs of housing and its lack of availability in this country have left many to either continue living with their parents well into their late 20s or 30s, or opt for the rental market (at the cost of their savings). Neither sounds particularly appealing for the youth of today, and it leaves one to wonder if any respite awaits on the horizon. Writing letters to one's MPs or recording angry Tiktoks about it could only bring one so far. What might be the point of living in a world-class city, if one were also brute-forced to pay world-class housing rates with a middling salary?

171

The execution of a Singaporean man with mental illness last year for drug distribution saw the public raising questions to the parliament as to whether the policy was too firm and unempathetic.   
   
 Naegen, an Indian Singaporean, was crossing the borders over to Kuala Lumpur last year when he was stopped by immigration officers for a security check. The officers found 6kg of cannabis and 5kg of heroin on him during the inspection. Upon the discovery, Naegen was arrested and trialed in court.  
   
 However, investigations and assessments done by the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) revealed that Naegen was not mentally fit to understand what he was carrying with him and that he may have been set up.   
   
 Despite this, he was found guilty and was due to be executed in December of the same year.  
   
 This begs the question, are we following our playbooks too closely? Where do we draw the line and start to look at things from the point of view of a fellow human?

172

The death sentenced of the drug trafficker diagnosed with mental disability, have cause an uproar within the society. While some calls the death sentence primitive and inhuman, some have also voiced their support for upholding the law.  
   
 "Death sentence have been banned in many developed countries, if we are really a first world country, then we should discontinue such as barbaric and inhuman practice." Said one of the protestors that gathered outside the prison this morning.   
   
 On the other hand, those that are in support can been seen commenting on online forum saying that "If you break a country's law then you deserve to be punished, doesn't matter if you're mentally disable or not. You commit the crime, then you'll face the consequences.

173

The government is trying their best to control the housing price. They do not want the housing prices to keep increasing and the young generation cannot afford to buy a house in their late-30s. The effect of controlling housing prices through different measures has started to improve the situation early this year. The house price has since then dropped, and more young generations are willing to pay for the mortgage. This approach has brought stability to society. All the young generation believe in the government and are willing to give their support to the newly elected president and work with him to make Singapore a great nation. They start to feel a sense of belonging in Singapore and everyone agrees that Singapore is a good nation to live in. This approach by the government has restored the confidence and trust of the people in the nation and strongly believe that the government is taking care of them.

174

Singapore Ministry of Manpower just announced the start of the COMPASS framework. Announced in 2022, the new scheme to assess eligibility for employment passes is set to define very clear criteria in order to attract needed talents to Singapore.  
 The new framework is applicable from 1st September 2023 to new EP applications, while EP renewals will be subject to it on 1st September 2024.   
 The COMPASS framework is set around 4 mandatory criteria and 2 bonus ones. It comprises of Educational Background, the company's current use of foreign talents, racial diversity, and level of income for the desired position. The bonus criteria represent skills in short demand and work with the public sector. Each criterion will give eligibility to some points and an applicant would need to score a minimum of 20 out of 40 (50 when counting bonus points) in order to be eligible for an employment pass.  
 The Ministry of Manpower indicated that the analysis from their teams showed little impact to Singaporean companies and that the goal was to bring transparency to the criteria applied to evaluate EP eligibility.

175

The government has made the decision to repeal peanl code 377A. Previously, the law had criminalized homosexual intercourse and activities between men. This law had been criticized for being rooted in homophobia and discrimination against gay men in particular, with no such law targeting lesbian women. The repeal of this law was celebrated by many Singaporeans. However, the government has still kept marriage between two consenting, homosexual individuals as illegal. In addition, many LGBT media are banned from public viewing. The presence of such censorship laws and the lack of marriage equality for LGBT individuals continues to draw ire from much of the general public. LGBT organizations continue to protest the government's inability to fully commit to supporting the queer community in Singapore.

176

Cryptocurrencies have been on the rise in Singapore. With the emergence of many platforms such as Coinbase or crypto.com, Singaporeans are introduced to a different way of trading like never before. Cryptocurrencies offer a decentralised platform for consumers to trade, so it is a pity the government is quick to clamp down on these platforms.

177

ChatGPT is making the rounds as a disruptive technology that could potentially change the outlook of the job landscape. As a chatbot with seemingly infinite capabilities, ChatGPT is able to respond to inquiries, provide recommendations, write codes, and solve difficult mathematical problems, all in the blink of an eye. With such a powerful use case, fear among jobseekers has reached another all-time high, as some have claimed that such a technology would replace writers and take away creative agencies.

178

A group of researchers from Singapore have come out with a device that could detect Covid-19 using our saliva. From the start of Covid-19, the team worked endlessly to develop a work that could detect Covid-19, allowing patients to monitor their conditions and self-isolate immediately. Apart from this test kit, there exists other nasal test kits which use a swab sample from our nose. This has proven uncomfortable for some people, especially young children and the elderly. With this new test kit, people would just have to obtain a sample of their saliva - a process which is far more comfortable than the nasal test kit.

179

The creation of the healthy 365 application. This app serves to motivate Singaporeans to lead a healthy lifestyle. The reward-based system enables one to willingly put in more time exercising as they can exchange their points for vouchers. this app is crucial even more so within the ageing population.

180

In Singapore, a team of experienced engineers built the infamous MRT. They designed the route using a very new method. They designed it to be convenient for citizens of Singapore. Singapore citizens can now go anywhere they want in Singapore without a car. The entire design of the MRT took them quite a long time or research.

181

The government has been actively encouraging Singaporeans to switch to an Electric Vehicle as part of the Green Plan 2040. With this in mind, condominiums and commercial areas in Singapore have been granted grants to install EV chargers in carparks. This makes charging the EV more convenient, and it incentivises consumers to make the switch. Evidently, due to this policy, there has been a significant 25% increase in the purchase of EV cars due to this technological development.

182

There was an incident about an Indian expat commenting online that people living in condos are of a different caliber and intelligence. Her rationale was that people who live in condos pay to get a unit there. This is different from that of people who live in HDB flats (government housing). All HDB flats have different races living together according to the racial quota. After her video went viral, many people criticised her online. Proud and self-entitled were some of the words used to describe her. Others were more sympathetic as they commented that she being an expat, is ignorant of the HDB policy.

183

RACIAL RIOTS BREAK OUT IN LITTLE INDIA OVERNIGHT  
   
 A 8 p.m. last night (note: inaccurate information), riots broke out on the streets of Little India. Fights and heated arguments broke out between Indian workers and locals, versus their Singaporean non-Indian counterparts.  
   
 While the exact cause of the chain of events remains unknown, at least ten have been injured, with three seeking treatment in the hospital for severe injuries (note: inaccurate information). What is more worrying, however, is the social impact that this incident would have on the larger Singaporean community.  
   
 It is possible that the sudden chasm between the races will only come to worsen in time, especially as netizens are harshly criticising the foreign workers for their actions, alongside comments that criticise the countrymen for their retaliations.   
   
 "In the first place, we don't know who did what, and who started it," said Minister X, Minister of Social Affairs (note: completely fictitious but conjured to match the context). "However, technology is a catalyst to news spreading fast, real and fake alike, and no one knows what tomorrow will bring."

184

Extramarital affairs are definitely frowned upon in Asian society. Singapore is no exception. Yet, politics in Singapore recently has been estranged from these issues. There is not only one such instance, but two at once. The parties involved are Singapore's incumbent party, the PAP and WP, where MPs within the same party are seeing each other secretly. Needless to say, their illicit affairs have since been exposed to the public. The public chided on the matter. The party has also since removed the culprits from their position.

185

The Presidential election in Singapore, set to take place on 1 September 2023, will be a national holiday. As the campaigns started, debate centered around the national reserves, the role of the President, and the potential use of the Second Key, which the President holds.   
   
 The debate originated with former President, the late Mr Ong Teng Cheong, who challenged the government on its management of state monies. As a former PAP minister and previous head of the National Union Trade Congress, President Ong had argued that the government had overstepped itself by deciding to transfer ownership of the State Development Bank to a private company without his consent. Two decades later, candidates for the 2023 Presidential election are still grappling with the same question of the role of the President and how much power he holds.   
   
 However, the spotlight has turned to the question of the national reserves, and how much transparency there should be regarding where the reserves are held, and how much they amount to. Politicians from the Opposition have consistently raised questions about the whereabouts and size of the reserves, arguing that Singaporeans have a right to know where their money is. Perhaps in answer to these queries, ChannelNewsAsia recently launched a documentary about Singapore's national reserves. Nevertheless, the debate continues, with this year's presidential candidates fielding questions about what they would do with regard to the use of the Second Key to the national reserves.

186

In Singapore, the death penalty is mandatory for drug traffickers carrying illegal drugs of a minimum mass of 0.2g into Singapore. Illegal drugs include ketamine, cannabis, and many more. In 2016, a 23-year-old Malaysian man was caught trafficking 2kg of ketamine, worth at least S$200,000 into Singapore from Malaysia. He was caught by the officers at Woodlands Checkpoints, before handing over to CNB. Eventually, he was charged with drug trafficking and was handed the death sentence. Multiple appeals were made by the man and his family to reduce the sentence to life imprisonment as the man was found to be having an IQ of 55. This means that he cannot think independently and was under the influence of other people. He was told to deliver a parcel and did not know the content of it. However, all the appeals had failed and he was eventually sentenced to death. The family members broke down on the day of execution and raised the issue of the mandatory death penalty for drug traffickers who are deemed innocent to some extent.

187

The ever-rising costs of living has led to a community of people also known as freegans. These groups of people form groups and take the leftover fish, fruits, and vegetables that would otherwise be thrown away. Other than taking food, they also collect and save furniture, books, toys, and other useful items that has been thrown away, all the while taking great care not to break any laws, such as the prohibited action of digging through trash in green bins.   
 Are these people, however, really happy about their current situation? If there was a choice, would you eat fresh food, or badly bruised ones? The choice is obvious. With the cost of living this high, the rising costs will eventually force a larger proportion of people into this lifestyle, which is unfortunately not sustainable in the long term. The cost of living however, is not the only problem. If wages rise at the same rate, then that will not be an issue, but that is sadly just not the case.

188

Cleanliness and waste reduction play an essential role in a country. This has generated a global concern nowadays. Also, this helps to keep the good health of individuals as well. In Singapore numerous rules have been established to move towards this goal. One such attempt is the reduction of plastic bags. This effect the environmental aspects as well. Additionally charging for the people who litter the environment is another step taken. The restrictions of certain food such as gums is also encouraged.

189

The rising surge of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has created a cause for great concern in Singapore. With the creation of things such as ChatGPT, OpenAI and other AI writing software, there is the problem of whether or not students would take advantage of this. Artificial Intelligence has gained a resurgence in the past few years, and recently advanced to the level of being able to write convincing articles with only a prompt. Teachers and Professors has expressed concern over usage of such technology, unable to identify whether or not submitted essays are written using AI. This technological advancement has been debated by teachers and students alike on whether or not they should be used. Some educational institutions have embraced this technology, claiming it as the future of education and are allowing students to use the technology as long as they give it credit. Other believe that it carries a more sinister implication than just writing educational papers. Some Singaporeans believe that AI would be able to replace any medium that deals with creative writing. It would render some jobs obsolete and create unemployment. Therefore, whether or not this rise of AI technology would be a boon or a bane is still a hotly debated topic.

190

The repeal of 377A which criminalises homosexual intercourse has been a hot topic in our society. With a legacy of keeping this law, the Singaporean government and society saw the LGBTQ+ society as a deviant but tolerable identity. Some LGBTQ+ activists and supporters have hailed this as an unprecedented time of progress, whilst others view this as a step back for the community. The Government, in a compromise for repealing this archaic colonial law has enshrined heterosexual marriage in the constitution. This compromise was brought on by religious groups in Singapore, with the religious Catholics and Islamic groups arguing that the sanctity of marriage had to be kept in place. It is clear that the tensions between the LGBTQ community and the Religious sector have always been present in society, but have recently come to light. There is an understanding that there is a continuous need for Singaporean society to stay united and that laws have to be made with multiple communities in mind. However, compromise does not mean that the LGBTQ+ community should be content with just the simple repeal of an old British Law. With further education for the masses about the LGBTQ+ community, and media sources that show the reality of these individuals, it would hopefully create a Singaporean society that accepts people for who they love and what they identify with.

191

The COVID-19 pandemic has left an even larger wage-income disparity amongst Singaporeans as the gap between the rich and poor widens. As a result, more Singaporeans are unhappy that the government isn't doing enough to help with crippling high prices. While the job market has improved, critics argue that Singapore's open foreign talent policies has put a strain on Singaporeans who compete against these cheaper foreign labour. This has resulted in a vicious cycle of income disparity and a widening income gap between the rich and poor.

192

The USA has increased the rates to the highest of the past 20 years and has no plans to stop the rate hike. Due to the continued inflation, the US government is very likely to continue to rate hikes until the inflation rate falls to 2%. The US government will continue to monitor the situation and advise the public to be prudent in their spending, especially on large items like housing.

193

Title: Experts predict a 12% investment growth for Sustainability startups in Q4 of 2023 in Africa.   
   
 With more emphasis on ESG and Sustainability targets such as Targets for Scientific Carbon Disclosure (TSCD) after the 4 July World Summit held in Geneva, there has been a spike of interest from Investors on Green bonds and schemes for Africa.  
   
 Experts calculated a projection of up to 12% growth in investments for solar farms. One solar farm that will receive more funding and support in the upcoming 6 months will be the Rutaka farm, the largest solar farm in Africa and 3rd largest in the world. The founder Mr Zunita shared: "We have received the much-needed financial boost to save our delicate environment from our amazing investors. The Ministry of Environment and Water has reached out to us as well on the additional schemes that we can tap on. We are heartened on this positive progress."  
   
   
 This bullish trajectory could also be potentially observed for wind turbine farms, reforestation projects, and various other Sustainability projects that may have to mainly or solely rely on carbon credits for financial aid. Africa's economy has been inundated by not just the Zika virus but the Monkeypox epidemic as well. Both viral events have resulted in the death of an estimated 2 million people, according to the Health Ministry of Africa. The investment spike will be a much welcomed aid in lieu of these impactful events.

194

The Ringgit has been steadily depreciating in 2023. At the start of the year, the Malaysian currency stood at a 3.3:1 ratio to the Singapore Dollar. In April, the ratio became 3.4 ringgit for each Singapore dollar. Four months later, it is now 3.5 ringgit for each Singapore dollar. The weakening of the Malaysian currency may have to do with less trading with other countries. It may also be due to the country's economy not doing as well compared to the Singapore economy. However, this may be concerning for the Malaysian government. The citizens of the country will also have more to think about for future travels.

195

Japan has been undergoing an economic recession. Its labor force has been declining due to an aging population. Japan's youths between 20-39 are not getting married and also not having children. The influx of foreign talent has been integral to resolving the issue but the current population is facing inflation, and a rise in taxation and are finding it harder to cope.

196

Japan is facing an economic downturn.  
   
 Japan's ageing population and declining birth rates have contributed to this downturn.  
   
 many experts believe that it is now time for Japan to introduce relevant policies to stimulate population growth.  
   
 Japan's university graduates are facing the challenge of unemployment.   
   
 Of every 10 graduates, 5 are unemployed.  
   
 the stocks on the Japan's index have been declining since the start of the month.  
   
 financial experts cited that the weakening currency of the Japanese yen is causing Japan to lose her competitiveness in this global world.  
   
 Japan's debt has been increasing since 2020. the start of covid.

197

KPOP in the USA now accounts for the 2nd largest share of the KPOP market, which may suggest the further expansion of the music genre into the largest music industry in the world. KPOP is no well-kept secret nowadays, as many artists have broken into the US hemisphere with catchy tunes and heartwarming songs, that have attracted many new fans into following the genre. KPOP as it is is more than just the music, but rather embraces a whole fan culture as well, encompassing a larger budget of people's expenses as it brings them joy as well. It is reported that many concert records have also been broken as well, only serving to prove that the KPOP industry is really where the money is at right now.

198

After the pandemic hit, economies in different parts of the world experienced different degrees of impact due to the restrictions imposed on travel movements and logistical issues. While some experts look forward to a future recovering economy, the negativity might be overlooked. Governments have been pouring hefty amounts of financial resources to help businesses and their citizen, but these benefits are short-lived. They help boost the economy for a short period of time but for businesses and corporations to gain momentum on such short notice means that they need to pick up the pace as soon as the economy allows them to. Surviving the pandemic already posed a challenge to such entities, while expecting them to start off where they left off with such uncertainty is a huge risk. For the economy to continue picking off from where it has stopped, the government needs to provide additional support during this buffer period for businesses to transition back to the new normal. Financial support is key here which the government is committed to providing, but opening up back to the world is equally important as the world's economy does not compartmentalize and will not work if every country blocks each other out from access such as goods or tourism. Relaxation of restriction needs to be looked at further as we move into the era of post-pandemic so that everything can be resumed, and people can move on from this tragic episode.

199

The crypto exchange firm Coinbase has sued Securities Exchange Committee (SEC) in court. Coinbase founder has appeared on several occasions lamenting the lack of clarity on the SEC's part about the definitions of securities and how cryptocurrencies fall out of the definitions. The USA lacks presence in places like the UK and Singapore regarding crypto regulations.  
 It is expected that the court proceedings will take months to settle. Meanwhile, the price of cryptocurrencies has nosedived due to the release of SEC's definition. This is a new technology that government entities are still learning to deal with, especially in the USA system where the commodities and securities are managed by two different branches of the government.

200

Sri Lanka recently increased their personal tax rates significantly. New personal tax rates are starting from 6% to 36%. Previous tax rates were ranging from 5% to 20%. This has affected a lot of skilled labours and professionals. In the context of inflation is high as 50% and also with higher interest rates, people can not live their normal life with the implementation of this new tax implementation. Most of the professionals obtain loans from banks and each and every month they have to serve those installments. However, with the new tax policy, their disposable income was reduced, and unable to serve loan installments as usual. Due to this reason most of the professionals are leaving the country. This caused the country to have a shortage of professionals in many fields such as hospitals etc. Some are trying to evade taxing since it is not fair at all. So professionals do not have a good days ahead in the future with this tax policy is on the system.

201

The Japan Rail (JR) Company has announced that they will not only be ceasing production, but also service of all transportation stored-valued cards until further notice. This includes SUICA and PASMO, two of the largest stored-value card companies.   
   
 It was said that this was a decision made due to a lack of utility of these cards, given the fact that commuters can pay using their credit card, as well as buy single or return trip tickets. Moreover, most of the country's people are not visibly affected by the change. However, some Japanese netizens have expressed dismay at the loss of all the perks that SUICA and PASMO had offered.   
   
 The ceased production may not be such a huge deal to tourists, however, due to the fact that tourist passes such as the JR Pass are still in use.

202

After four years, China has finally relaxed its Covid measures. Although travel has gradually resumed, China has been one of the last countries to relax its rules pertaining to travel in and out of the country. Globally, Covid-19, which was first discovered in Wuhan, China, hit its peak in 2020 and 2021. In the following years, a vaccine was developed and quickly rolled out globally. Many countries, such as China and India, developed their own vaccines. Despite the falling rates of severe infection and Covid-19 related mortality, China has kept a tight leash on citizens and visitors alike, maintaining mandatory Covid-19 testing for all travelers. "It's such a relief to not have to test anymore!" exclaimed Mr Wang, who travels to China frequently for business. "Although it's not a big deal, having to do it so often was quite a chore, especially when other countries have stopped even wearing masks ages ago."

203

England is a huge footballing nation, with many citizens involved with the sport in some way or another. The level of interest in football is so huge that many people spend their weekends watching the sport. Since the advent of television, viewers have been able to decide whether they want to go to the games live or watch it in the comfort of their homes. However, if a lot of people watch the big matches at home, a lot of the local clubs that do not have their games televised will not receive the same support in their stadiums. To address this, the government has mandated a football TV blackout for matches that kick off at 3 p.m. on Saturdays. This timing is significant as more than 50 games across the whole English footballing pyramids are being played at the same time in their respective stadiums. Since matches were not allowed to be broadcast to people at that time, it encouraged people to go to their local team's stadium and support them there. As such, even the local teams that do not have as much support as the big teams do generate revenue during their match days as well.

204

Tesco, a supermarket chain in Johor Bahru, Malaysia is encouraging customers to bring their own grocery bags when shopping to avoid paying for purchase of bags. This policy although already in existence has not been heavily enforced.   
   
 The policy was implemented to encourage more customers to be part of the 'Go Green' Nationawide campaign. Customers who bring their own bags will earn points in Tesco's reward system. Those who have accumulated sufficient points will gain entry to take part in lucky draws. Tesco hopes customers will view this move positively and get in the habit of bringing their own bag. Many customers interviewed are favorable of the policy and happy to do their part for the 'Go green' effort. More info on Tesco's reward system can be found on their website.

205

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) announced last week that Line 3 Scarborough will shut permanently by the end of 2023. The TTC cited increasing costs in maintaining the line and its systems as the primary reason for its closure. Following the closure of the line, replacement bus services will commence, with buses running between several stations. Dedicated bus lanes are under construction for the replacement bus services. Residents lamented the closure of the line, although they welcomed the bus services which will be more frequent than the existing train service. The Line 3 Scarborough will be replaced by an extension to Line 2, with construction currently ongoing. The extension is projected to be completed by the early 2030s. Parts of Line 3 are proposed to be redeveloped into a park similar to that of the High Line in Manhattan, New York City.

206

The World Bank has decided that they will try to provide support to all the countries and not discriminate against any country that has a relatively low GDP. Every country will be given enough resources to develop its nation so that the resources in the world can be fully utilized. We do not discriminate against anyone in the world regardless of their skin colour or race. Everyone will be treated equally and do not have to suffer from poor living conditions. Rich countries will try to lend money to poor countries to support their financial system. The World Bank will also provide loans to poor countries to improve the quality of life of their people at a low-interest rate. Every nation is guaranteed that their nation's welfare will be taken into consideration in the annual budget of World Bank. No nation will be left out if they join the World Bank organization.

207

Chatbot Chatty is being trialed in a senior daycare centre. She is brought with the intention to make the space more interactive and novel. Chatty is friendly and eager to do her rounds in the centre.   
 Chatty has just started work and the seniors who interacted with her found her to be a patient and kind friend. Chatty is able to accompany seniors out for walks in the garden and will respond when spoken to. She is able to give suggestions on what age-appropriate activities for seniors to do to occupy their time.   
 Chatty is able to play ambient music when seniors are in the centre. She can turn into zen-mode and facilitate meditation sessions.

208

The rapid development of vaccines against COVID-19 has been nothing short of remarkable and has been achieved with record pace. Without the pressure of a pandemic, vaccines usually take years, or even decades, to undergo trials and to finally be approved for use. However, this time, the COVID-19 vaccine could have been trialed on a large scale and approved in record time due to the immense funding provided globally to grant and fund the research and development of this vaccine. In addition, the multiple grants provided to many different companies created intense competition for companies such as Pfizer and Moderna to develop their vaccines in record speed, in order to be competitive on the global market. Although the vaccines have been developed and approved in such a short span of time, medical experts worldwide assure everyone that the vaccines are generally safe and have been extensively studied to the point where there is little risk in getting vaccinated. It is truly remarkable how in 2023, a large percentage of the world's population has been vaccinated, which has enabled life around the world to resume to normal and made mass travel possible. This is something no one could have ever dreamed of in the height of the pandemic in 2020. Looking at the current state of the world right now, where economic growth has been achieved by many countries, it is hard to imagine a reality where vaccines have not been made available to the public, which would have been the case without the urgency brought about by the massive loss of lives and livelihoods during the height of the pandemic.

209

Britain's National Health Service (NHS) has launched a new immunotherapy treatment for cancer patients receiving a certain drug. Previously, the drug had to be administered via IV drip for about 30-40 minutes at a time. Now, the drug can be administered via injection in just 7 minutes, drastically reducing the time that patients take to receive treatment. This development is expected the free up medical staff to care for more patients, and allow for more cancer patients to be treated in each existing facility.  
   
 Furthermore, it promises to be cheaper and easier to administer, as it does not require the setting up of an IV line in the patient. Therefore, this reduces the amount of medical consumables required per visit. It is hence also expected to reduce the cost of such treatment for both patients and the healthcare system - a much welcomed piece of news in the midst of rising inflation rates. More research is underway to find out if other drugs and treatments could similarly be adapted.

210

The scientific discovery of lab-grown meat had hit the headlines of the news. This advancement in food technology was led by a group of R&D scientists from the University of California. Lab-grown meat is basically the growth of meat from cell of animals in the lab. The cells of animals such as cows and chickens were first extracted. By Simulating the condition for the cells to grow in the lab, cells can multiply and grow outside of the animals. When asked about the texture of the lab-grown meat, the scientists mentioned that the meat tasted 90% close to the real meat. The purpose of lab-grown meat is to reduce the reliance on animals. It can also reduce the environmental consequences of consuming meat.

211

America's company Apple developed their first batch of high end technology mobile phones. The mobile phones consists of a large screen which enables user to interact with it like buttons. Users are able to swipe screens and even play games via the screen without a single button. The mobile phone consists of many functions such as texting, playing games, and even reading books and surfing the Internet. This company Apple is very unique and will most likely monopoly or be on the few huge companies surpassing Nokia in the mobile phone industry in the future.

212

Restaurants in New York City (NYC) are bringing back hardcopy menus instead of using digital copies.  
   
 This creates more comfort while reading text.  
   
 Also, it protects the eyes from harmful LED light rays.   
   
 Physical printed menus are colorful and nice to touch.   
   
 They could even be raised or hand-drawn to increase the visual experience and customization of offerings.   
   
 As such, more people would be drawn to using hardcopy materials.  
   
 Compared to digital copies that are not 'real', both to the eyes and to the touch.   
   
 This could effectively pave the way for a higher customer retention rate.

213

In India, there are still many women who are too poor they have to resort to prostitution to make ends meet. This is especially so in areas that are slum areas with poor sanitation and no access to clean water. When interviewed, these women said they had "no choice" but to carry on with prostitution so they could make enough money. Even then, the money they make might not be enough to support the large families they have. These women also do not have access to education that may help them out of their poverty.

214

Mt. Fuji authorities have recently stated that a limit to the number of visitors would be set per day. This is in view of the upcoming travel season, where more tourists are expected to be hiking to the summit of Mt. Fuji. Mt. Fuji is an active volcano in Japan. Its beauty is world-renowned. Thousands of people flock there each year to visit it. With more tourists expected during the travel season, more human traffic would be expected. This may give rise to an increase in accidents should the number of visitors be uncontrolled. Thus, authorities have decided to place a limit to ensure a safer hike for hikers visiting Mt. Fuji.

215

Cristiano Ronaldo's move from Manchester United to Saudi Arabian league has caused a whirlwind in the world of soccer. Other teams in the SA league, clearly intimidated by Ronaldo's entry into the scene, have recently been buying other top-tier soccer players from around the world in their attempt to stymie Ronaldo's impact. One such purchase was of the Moroccan goalkeeper, Yassine Bono, by Al Hilal from Sevilla FC just last Tuesday, August 15, 2023. Bono was purchased for 21 million Euros, and will also boast a salary of 10 million Euros for his 3-year contract with Al Hilal. Fans of Ronaldo and Bono would clearly remember the scene of Bono blocking Ronaldo's attacks in the Portugal vs. Morocco game in the 2022 World Cup. Morocco's unexpected victory from that game eventually led to the African team clinching 3rd place in the World Cup -- the highest any African team ever earned in that international tournament. Fans and commentators alike are now keen in wondering if this outcome will repeat itself if Ronaldo and Bono were to ever be pitted against each other again. Regardless of whichever outcome will come to pass, it seems like onlookers will be promised more interesting developments in the Saudi Arabian soccer league.

216

Recently, there has been a rise in suicide rates among Korean Pop stars. Many have cited high work stress, depression, and anxiety among the reasons for their suicide. Korean Pop landscape is highly competitive, with vigorous schedules and constant judgements from people all over the world. "It is such a pity to see young lives lost." said one netizen. Korean Talent Agencies need to be more aware of this issue and provide more mental help support for their talents.

217

Gun violence in America is an issue that has caused many innocent lives. Many school shootings have occurred in the past decade, oftentimes with the shooter being one experiencing mental issues. America has been known for its freedom of rights but its freedom to allow guns for anyone has led to many killings. Some politicians argue that having a gun allows one to feel safe and protected. Many of its citizens still feel that way. Those who have lost their families to these shootings feel otherwise about guns. The US government will have to look into its policies to look for solutions to solve such an issue.

218

Users now need to be careful of the way they use emojis in a different country. Emojis may mean different things in different parts of the world. For example, the water droplets may represent being sexually "thirsty" or even a certain bodily fluid to youngsters in the United States but simply mean "sweating" due to hurrying to Japanese communicators.   
   
 [US User]: Hey, that's hot. I'm coming. \*water drops emoji\*   
 In this context, there is a sexual meaning.   
   
 [Japan User]: Hey, it's hot. I'm coming. \*water drop emoji\*  
 In this context, there is no sexual meaning.

219

The declining birthrate in Japan has led to multiple studies on how this has affected the demographics of the community. The proportion of population above the age of 100 reached a new high, and is expected to increase even higher. These studies have shown that the lower proportion of working population, combined with the effects of the "lost 20 years" in Japan from education reforms around the 2000s have led to a failing economy. Reasons for low birthrates cited were linked to the inflation rates. High costs of living, and smaller living spaces, as well as a focus on personal time and leisure, were some of the reasons as well. While the government has tried ways to mitigate this such as baby bonuses to fund the child's education, this money is often not saved, such as in the case of the Tanioka family in Kochi, a prefecture in Japan.

220

In recent times, Cryptocurrency has become the new "in" thing. But with that comes opposition, and this time it comes from the Chinese Government.  
   
 In the wee hours of May 11th 2021, prices for numerous coins began plummeting. Cryptocurrency players all over the world began panicking and finding ways to salvage their lost capital, while also investigating this sudden event.  
   
 It turns out that the Chinese Government had put a ban on Cryptocurrency, citing how it is a construct of the US Government to infiltrnto the Chinese Market.   
   
 This led to many, if not all of the Chinese Brokers selling off every single bit of their Cryptocurrency, to retain whatever profits and salvage what was left, while leaving everyone else in the dust, reeling from their losses.

221

The latest technological development in the world would be the invention of the Internet of Things (IoT). Before we had this, our devices were all separate entities that would need to be individually turned on or off. But with this invention of the IoT, our devices are now intertwined with one another. Through connecting to the Internet, devices are now able to connect to one another through using the Internet as a medium. These devices are termed as "smart" devices. With the creation of these Smart devices, it could create new possibilities of how we interact with our devices. For instance, we can connect our television up with our phones, where instead of having a separate remote for the television, we could use our phones as the remote. Furthermore, we can make it so that our phones are projected up to television screens. This technological development helps to streamline how we interact with devices and technology. It creates a world where everything is interconnected and easy to access.

222

International trade between countries is common in our day and age. With an increasingly globalised world, trade between countries has been made easier. Technological advancements in transportation and storage have shortened the travel time and extended the shelf life of products. This makes it so that more products can be sold at a lower price since there is an increase in supply. International Trading has also created an increase in demand for new items that may not be available in the country of origin. Food, technologies, and raw materials are traded, creating a more unified and globalised world. This ease of access to every country for trade has created a global marketplace. This by far has made it so that every economy in the world is linked together, and with it, the impact of a single economy would be felt by everyone else in the world.

223

China has rolled out its own version of ChatGPT as it plans to rival the US based firm OpenAI in what is now known as the next "AI-race". This new version of Generative AI will feature even more complex features like auto language switching capabilities and enhanced network buffering. While the service is still free for users, it plans to announce a monthly subscription fee similar to that of ChatGPT.

224

Rejoice, people of Singapore! Check your bank deposits and you might be pleasantly surprised by the additional dough you might find! Depending on your income level, you would have received a certain amount of money! Unless you own more than 1 property or earn more than 100k a year, you should see a few hundred dollars from the government. The exact breakdown of how much everyone should receive can be found in the table below. Although it is not a huge amount, it would help with the daily expenses of living in one of the most expensive cities in the world. There is also a presidential election coming up. Maybe that has something to do with it too!

225

KOPI PRICES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY CHEAPER IN ANG MO KIO THAN IN ORCHARD, EVEN AFTER INFLATION  
   
 It is a true fact that on average, prices have been on the rise for goods and services alike. However, what has remained constant is the price difference of the goods in different locations in Singapore.  
   
 One of the most significant differences may be observed for the nation's favourite beverage - coffee, or as it is affectionately called here, kopi. While prices range from $0.80 to $1.20 in older districts such as Ang Mo Kio, they can go up to $3.20 in the central business district areas, such as Orchard and City Hall, and even $3.50 in tourist attractions such as JEWEL and the Singapore Flyer.  
   
 "It is only expected that coffee will be cheaper in the heartland neighbourhoods," says Miss Lu, a cafe owner in Changi Airport, who declined to give her real name. "After all, rent is around three to four times more expensive around here."  
   
 From another perspective, the affordability of the heartland coffee may be one way to keep business thriving in older neighbourhoods, where the ageing population is most apparent. The prices of coffee in tourist attractions is also a justified move to allow more affluent folk, such as international tourists with enough purchasing power to travel here, to help cover the other parts of the economy.

226

Singapore's dollar has been strengthening against our neighbour, Malaysia. It has become a whopping 1SGD is to 3.4MYR. This is nearly the highest in history. As a result, many Singaporeans and Malaysians alike are taking advantage of the geographical arbitrage. Singaporeans are going to Malaysia more to spend as prices in Malaysia are cheap. Malaysians are going to Singapore to work to earn more. Singapore's success boils down to its strong status as a global financial hub. Moreover, Singapore's economy has also been increasing steadily after the pandemic.

227

The interest rate has been rising in the US and many countries around the world. There is inflationary pressure across the globe. Many are predicting if recession will be happening soon. Economists and financial experts could not conclude if a global recession will occur soon. They have however cautioned the public to be more prudent in view of the economic uncertainties. Financial planning would be important and more education amongst the public should be encouraged. The public should be aware of different financial schemes in the market. They should be alert and informed instead of listening blindly to the financial advisors or agents.

228

COVID-19 has affected Singapore's economy. Many lost their jobs to the pandemic and have struggled to make ends meet. Further, with the GST hike earlier in the year, which is further expected to increase in the coming years, the cost of living has indeed, been high in Singapore. In order to support our nation's lower income household, the government has provided support for citizens. Citizens or PRs who are eligible can look forward to receiving cash payouts, and even GST vouchers to help with their daily expenses. Some of these may vary depending on household income or individual income. Recently a cash payout was given out to eligible individuals. We believe that this is one way to help individuals overcome the high cost of living, especially in this period of time when we have just stepped out of the pandemic.

229

The current Transport concession charges are being reviewed by the Transport Ministry. The ministry finds the need to adjust the current charges to keep up with operating costs.  
 The adjustment in transport charges will not exceed 15. The changes will apply to both train and bus services.   
 However, subsidized fares will be available for senior citizens and low-income workers. Low-income households will need to submit an application for assessment to qualify. Those who qualify will be given a one-time thirty-dollar subsidy. More information can be found on the transport ministry website.

230

As most might have noticed, the inflation rates which seemed to have stabilized in the Covid-19 pandemic aftermath have now become unstable again. With prices of groceries increasing even further, more people are moving towards home-cooked meals, rather than eating out as often. Egg prices have risen almost 100%, with 30 eggs costing $4.50 pre-covid now priced at $8 in NTUC. With the disparity in currency values between Malaysia and Singapore, more people are changing currency to MYR, which they plan to spend in Malaysia for groceries. The case of a lady who exchanged SGD$3000 to MYR after exchange rates hit 3.41 was widely discussed as well.   
   
 In the first wave of inflation, the government has given out monetary support for all Singaporeans, with those from a less fortunate background receiving more support. While this helped at first, as seem from the stabilizing inflation rates, the 2nd wave of inflation currency experienced by citizens currently dealt another blow to the recovering economy.

231

More decarbonisation plans to be introduced by the end of 2023.   
   
 In lieu of the 2030 green goal that is all-compassing for the Ministries to work in tandem, decarbonisation policy for upcoming new buildings in Singapore will be set in place.   
   
 Carbon emissions mainly Carbon Dioxide are released when sourcing, transportation, and construction of new buildings occur. There is also embodied carbon of the materials and resources used. An online carbon calculator in partnership with GovTech will go live soon, to allow construction companies to better calculate, track and reduce their carbon emissions and embodied carbon.   
   
 This will mitigate the urban island heat effect, and reduce burning of fossil fuels and in turn growth of renewable energy-related projects around Asia.

232

During the National Day Rally yesterday, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong highlighted the importance of resilience in Singapore. This is about the Covid-19 task force. As Covid-19 rates have been on the rise in recent months, he emphasized the importance of hand hygiene and health education. The government would also be giving each household a fresh supply of masks.

233

Singapore's economic policy has been created to sustain economic growth and wealth. The policy has been in force since Singapore's independence from the British in 1965. The policy has been spearheaded by Mr Goh Keng Swee, who was a Professor of Economics at that time and it's now sustained by several competent ministers. A guiding principle of this economy is free market forces, which determine the prices of goods and services in this economy. The private sector is expected to lead the development of economic growth. The government's role is to provide a conducive environment for economic growth to take place. Examples of key industries supporting Singapore's economic growth are banking, technology, and service-related industries etc. Singapore doesn't have many goods for export and is heavily reliant on imports from other countries.

234

Patrons of hawker centers are required to return the trays after their meals. The aim is for everyone to exercise social responsibility by clearing their own tables for others to have a seat quickly at hawker centers. This includes all cutleries and rubbish left behind by themselves. However, if they accidentally spilled anything on the table, they are not required to clean the tables. Designated tray return areas will be demarcated in these hawker centers. There will be trolleys where patrons can put the trays on as well. Those who do not comply will face the consequences. These include a warning or even a fine for repeat offenders.

235

The move to transition the transport industry from a private one to a contracting model managed by the government was welcomed. This morning, the Ministry of Transport announced the transition for buses to the bus contracting model and trains to the new rail financing model. This means that the government will now own all assets such as the rolling stock for trains and buses. The construction of transport infrastructure will be borne by the government too. Private operators will now operate these services at a fixed sum of money when proposed in the tender stage and the duration of the services will also be subjected to the performance of the service during the stipulated period, with package extensions granted for good services. All fares collected will go to the government, with the government absorbing the profits and losses. This is to prevent the uncertainty of profits for private operators as they might be operating at a loss and it will eventually lead to a disruption of service should the company not be able to continue operating the service. The government said that this move was studied and many countries in Europe are using the same model to run public transport services in the city.

236

The ban on chewing gum in Singapore, although not heavily enforced, has been attributed to the local government's style of overt scrutiny and restrictive control. However, the origins of the ban have a more practical reason than the dictation of behaviour. Chewing gums were banned as they were considered a public nuisance, as chewed up gum was commonly littered in public spaces, especially on the new underground metro trains.

237

The sale of chewing gum has been banned in Singapore for many years, and there appears to be no sign of change. Chewing gum was previously banned in Singapore because it had been one of the main sources of litter and land pollution. In addition, there had been incidents where MRT train doors were prevented from fully closing due to chewing gum being placed in between. While chewing gum can be bought from overseas and taken into the country without issue, no one is allowed to sell gum inside Singapore. Singapore remains the only country in the world to have this policy in place. Foreigners visiting Singapore have frequently voiced confusion over this law. This policy has even made an appearance in books about strange laws around the world. Despite this, the lack of chewing gum has contributed to Singapore being one of the cleanest cities in the world.

238

Commuters on the Circle Line MRT are advised to leave several minutes earlier for work for the next few weeks between Dhoby Ghaut and Promenade stations as well as Marina Bay and Stadium stations. This is due to a fault which was discovered in the tracks during a routine inspection. Free and regular bus services will be offered between the affected regions. Regular announcements updating on the current wait times will be made in-train and across stations for those who still wish to use the circle line during the repairs. A spokesman advises the community to refrain from concern and expresses the gratitude of all workers for their patience. Regular service will be up and running as soon as possible.

239

A new pill was developed by the scientists after spending years of experiments and trials on obese people. The pill is able to control the weight of a person effectively over a period of 3 months. The person does not need to fast or exercise vigorously to reduce their weight. The pill has fat-burning effects and will also control the weight of the person.

240

Researchers at Nanyang Technological University have recently found a use for the seeds of the Durian fruit. The tropical fruit is a local delicacy and is famous for its pungent smell and green spiky exterior. However, some researchers have found another use for the fruit. The discovery was made in the laboratory early in 2022. Scientists were exploring the potential of using durian seeds and succeeded with their experiments. Local lovers of the fruit should pay attention to their findings as durian prices may be affected. People have previously only known the fruit for its consumption value, but once scientific value joins the foray, prices may rise even higher.

241

The use of hydroponics to grow vegetables locally has been touted as a means to ensure food security in the future. Given Singapore's limited land mass, local food production has long been a concern for the island state. As always, Singapore has turned to technology for possible solutions. In hydroponic agricultural production, vegetables are grown in a highly controlled environment, with adequate nutrients and light. One advantage of this is that there is no soil contamination or fear of pests or other bacteria. This simplifies the process of cleaning the produce and packaging them for the market. Moreover, the vegetables can be grown on racks in several layers, greatly reducing the amount of land needed for agricultural production. Hydroponics technology, along with high-rise edible gardens set throughout the city, are set to help the country achieve its goal of having 30% of its food produced locally in the future.

242

A recent technological development would be the trace together tokens that were used during 2020-2022 during the Covid period. The trace together tokens were created to track the whereabouts of a person and their close contacts whenever they were out. The presence of these tokens also enables the user to know whether they were in the presence of an infected person. Hence they would be able to take the necessary precautions to ensure they themselves are not a spreader.

243

Chat GPT has been impacting and changing the lives of many around the world, and Singapore is not left out. Many university students are now using Chat GPT to do their assignments and research papers as this AI is able to consolidate points and research that would otherwise have taken the students days to find out. Schools like NTU and NUS have implemented new policies on top of their usual citations that students have to cite the use of Chat GPT in their work and to provide a paper trail for their usage of it. While such a technology has made life so much easier for a student, its long-term effects on the growth of a young mind remain a question as this is a relatively new technology. Lecturers have mentioned that students should still attempt to rely less on this technology and to produce more original ideas. Yet students are still seen actively using this software as the workload in university has proven to be too much for such young minds.

244

Beginning for users in the United States, Reddit has announced that they will be paying contributors for top posts. Historically, posts are awarded 'gold' status by the subreddit's peers when they become particularly popular and well-liked. According to the new announcement, the revenue from 'gold' posts typically ranges from $1.99 to $49, and will be split between the website and the original poster. While most responses appear to be excited about the announcement, some remain unsure as it brings up many issues within the reddit community, which already has a significant issue with bots and bias. Yet, many hope to become full-time Redditors.

245

A recent uptick of Luckin Coffee in Singapore, a China-based coffee chain has sparked questions on how it is able to expand at such a rapid manner. Recently introduced in Singapore just this decade, the brand has since expanded into the entirety of the CBD area and while this has brought more convenience into the lives of Luckin enthusiasts, others have questioned why the brand is seeing such an aggressive expansion, considering the fate of many whom have aggressively expanded before them. "It's like these brands all have the same outcome anyway so they should probably slow down before the money they make slows them down permanently", as quoted by one interviewee on his thoughts on this expansion.

246

In recent months, Singapore has seen an increase in the number of wild chickens in neighborhoods and parks. At 7 a.m. in the neighborhood park, we see chicken Mother with their young chicks and looking for food. In some neighborhood areas, we also spotted people feeding the chickens. This could be one of the reasons for the rising number of chickens in the neighborhood. The rise of chickens in the neighborhood areas has raised concerns about bird flu. Many Singaporeans express the fear that the rising number chickens in the neighborhood may lead to the spread of bird flu. National Environmental Authority (NEA) has expressed that they will take steps to reduce the number of wild chickens in the neighborhood. They also encourage Singaporeans not to feed wild chickens.

247

Scams have been on the rising trend these past few years. It was more prevalent during the Covid period and continued to stay high in numbers even in the post-Covid period. During the Covid period, many types of new scam methods surfaced in the social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. Scams such as job scams, love scams, and investment scams were among the most common tactics used by scammers. Scammers involved in love and investment scams used the "Pig butchering method". The scammer will grow and fatten the pig by getting into an online romantic relationship with the victim to gain their trust. An investment platform will then be introduced to the victim, where the scammers will convince the victim to invest their money using the website given to them. The victim will only know that they got scammed when they failed to withdraw their earnings and were blocked by the scammer.

248

There was a unique sight witnessed recently in one of the parks in Singapore - an endangered Malayan Tapir.  
   
 It is common to see wild animals like Otters in our Singaporean landscape, but this is something else.  
   
 Usually, park users in the morning would expect to see fellow early risers doing their exercises, but a video that surfaced showed something entirely different.  
   
 A Malayan Tapir was seen running quickly on the park's running track, zooming past the person taking the video.  
   
 This is extremely rare because the Malayan Tapir is a very rare species of animal, and it has hardly been seen in the wild.  
   
 The government has reminded Singaporeans not to engage with wild animals and to let them be.  
   
 Most Singaporeans found the video amusing, especially since this happened in an urban country like ours.  
   
 The Tapir can be found in our Singapore Zoo, and experts say that the breed is slowly dying off.

249

Currently, the public transport in Singapore is deemed to be an essential part of our day-to-day lives. A vast majority of the people are using this facility be it an infant or an elderly person. During our busy days when we are tired mentally and physically, we feel so grateful if we can find a seat in a bus or MRT. Just imagine a person who has this mental and physical hardness every day, our elderly citizens. If you are questioned whether we are giving a helping hand to the elderly in public transport what would the answer be? Even though, giving a helping hand or providing our seat to an elderly person is not regulated or charged, considering the hardship they go through in their day today lives it is a point of concern. Especially with the young generation who are lost deep in their devices during traveling, it's high time to think on this matter. Being mindful while traveling in public transport systems and spreading love and kindness to people in need can improve the development of the country as a whole in the big picture.

250

Presidential elections have come to a close, after 2 weeks of rallying with the cool-off day on 31 Aug. Residents from age 21 and above have come out to vote for the next president of our country.  
   
 The latest result shows that the voting rate is around 93% of the total registered voters. The vote cast by every single member of the country, represents a hope and wish for a better tomorrow and a brighter future.  
   
 We will know the final result by the end of the night, however, with the current vote counts, candidate A seems to be winning by a landslide of 70%, with the other two candidates taking 16% and 14% of the votes respectively.  
   
 The winning candidate will swear the oath before the parliament, on the 12 of Sep. While the votes will be sealed and destroyed by the government after 6 months from the date of the voting.

251

A recent survey by the Ministry of Health (MOH) has found that 9 in 10 Singaporeans consume too much sodium in their diet. In their survey, MOH tracked the diets and health of more than 15000 people. Their survey also found that incidence levels of hypertension have also nearly doubled since the past decade. Obesity levels have also risen in the past few years, while physical activity levels have decreased in the same period. Minister of Health Ong Ye Kung told reporters that while the results of the survey are not trending in the right direction, new initiatives will hopefully reverse these trends. These include mandatory grading and labeling of drinks based on their sugar and fat content sold in supermarkets, while the same system will be rolled out to freshly prepared drinks by the end of 2023. Regarding sodium levels in food, Minister Ong said that there have been moves to call on the industry to reduce sodium levels in dishes. These include supplying F&B outlets with low-sodium salt and pushing hawkers to use low-sodium ingredients in their food.

252

We observe that there is a trend that elderly people are being abandoned in the country and are not being cared for properly. Many young generations find it hard to take care of the elderly and start to leave their home to build a family. They are not willing to shoulder the responsibility of taking care of their parents due to high medical costs and cannot cope with the living stress from their parents. Some elderly are found dead in their home alone without any relatives in the house. After transferring the saving and house to the children, they are forced to leave the house since the children claim that they are not enough space for them to live in. Many young people want to cheat the elderly to take away their savings and money for their own entertainment without demonstrating sympathy for the elderly. There is not enough volunteer to visit these elderly in their home to give them food and drink. Some of their houses are in a mess and nobody will clean for them. They are losing their quality of life and do not have someone to express their feeling. This has caused a lot of elderly people to go into dementia and depression in their old age.

253

Many initiatives have been brought up and pushed forward to save the Earth and one of them includes electric car. Pollution is the main reason why people are changing to green energy, hoping to slow down global warming. Switching out the fuelled vehicles into hybrid or electric forms will significantly reduce the burning of fuels. There will be less carbon monoxide in the car from the excessive combustion. Singaporeans displayed willingness and acceptance towards this new technological development. This makes it easier for this initiative to be pushed out and promoted in the Singapore market. With hopes to end the suffering from this immense heat, Singaporeans are working hand in hand to reduce global warming. It is a progressive society.

254

Singaporeans, especially youths, in recent times have been losing out on more and more sleep.  
   
 However, there are few that feel a need for concern as they believe it is for the greater good, for their futures.  
 This begs the question: Are we, as a nation, doing more harm than good to ourselves?  
 The hustle culture has a big part to play in this culture of sleep deprivation, with grindsets (mindset of grinding) being inculcated into our daily lives since young.  
   
   
   
 Many would feel that it is part and parcel of life, that it is inevitable to feel tired, both physically and mentally, and that it would only result in a stronger person in the end.  
   
   
   
 However, that would not necessarily be the case as it has been proven that your health suffers alongside your sleep, and that in the long-run, this is not sustainable.

255

As Singapore's population growth continues to skyrocket, concerns regarding the availability and prices of housing have become an issue of public scrutiny. Last month's HDB price index revealed more than 20 HDB flats were transacted above the $ 1 million mark. This news comes as wait times for BTOs are expected to increase due to labour shortages and construction woos. The Singapore government has introduced a series of cooling measures aimed at cooling the housing market and ensure prices remain affordable for Singaporeans. For instance, the announcement of an increase in the Additional-Buyer-Stamp-Duty (ABSD) aims at deterring those from owning multiple homes. Additionally, housing grants are set to increase to ensure that Singaporeans better manage and cushion the impact of these rising house prices.