

**MUHAMMAD MUHAIMIN rounds up the recent events that have affected Singapore**

**CRIME**

In 2020, the heat was turned up on a cold case when Ahmad Danial Mohamed Rafa'ee was arrested and charged with murder. He was accused of working together with his schoolmate, Mr Ragil Putra Setia Sukmarahjana, to murder Ms Felicia Teo in 2007.

On June 27, this year, Ahmad was given a discharge not amounting to an acquittal. This means that he can still be prosecuted for the charge in the event that further evidence were to emerge.

However, he is facing six more charges for offences including working with Mr Ragil to unlawfully deposit Ms Teo's corpse in a public place. Mr Ragil, who also was his flatmate at the time, is an Indonesian national and is still at large.

Ms Teo, then 19, was last seen on June 29, 2007. She disappeared after visiting the two men in a flat in Marine Terrace. The men were later questioned by the police.

Ms Teo was then classified as a missing

person and the police regularly reviewed the case.

In 2020, the Criminal Investigation Department uncovered new leads linking Ahmad to Ms Teo's missing belongings.

He was found to have falsified evidence to the police by giving off the impression that he believed she was still alive.

He is expected to plead guilty to illegally disposing of her corpse along Punggol Track 27, among other charges. The authorities found only a skull fragment at the scene.

**TECHNOLOGY**


Just like how the DC Comics' character the Flash emits lightning when moving at super-speed, future wearers of a smart textile invented by scientists at Nanyang Technological University will be able to convert their body movements into electric energy.

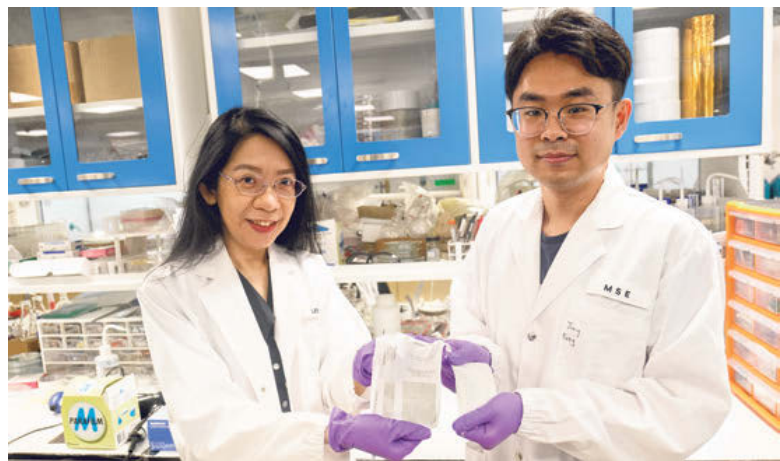
The prototype fabric, which is foldable and washable, contains a material that converts mechanical stress into electrical energy when it is pressed or squeezed.

Tapping on a 3cm by 4cm piece of the new fabric generates enough energy to light up 100 LEDs.

The scientists also attached it to arms, legs, or the insoles of shoes to show how electrical energy can be harnessed from body movement without hindering daily activities.

The developers of this new technology believe it can be used for wearable electronics, such as smart watches, or even to charge batteries or small devices.

 List three ways this new technology can be used in your daily life and the benefits it would provide.



Professor Lee Pooi See (left), who led the study, and NTU PhD student Jiang Feng, who is part of the research team, showing the stretchable and waterproof fabric that turns energy generated from body movements into electrical energy. Visit <https://str.sg/ef> to see how it works. PHOTO NTU

**ECONOMY**

Here is news that is not so shocking: electricity prices are up again.

On June 20, it was announced that there would be an 8 per cent increase in the price of electricity, from 27.94 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 30.17 cents per kWh. This price would be for the July 1 to Sept 30 period.

Electricity prices had already been rising since the beginning of the year due to increased economic activity during the post-pandemic recovery. However, they have been pushed up further because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The economic sanctions imposed on Russia, the highest global exporter of oil and gas, mean that many countries have stopped importing fuel from the energy superpower. These countries have had to seek alternative sources of energy.

As a result, many of the countries which supply Singapore with natural gas, which is used to generate 95 per cent of electricity here, are charging higher prices due to the increased demand.

Households and businesses will continue to feel the pinch as long as the Russia-Ukraine war rages.



When Malaysia banned exports of fresh chicken on June 1, KFC Singapore was able to switch to serving frozen chicken and continue operating its numerous outlets islandwide without disruption. It had backup plans that were put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic. ST PHOTO GAVIN FOO


The Malaysian export ban on chicken caused some businesses here to temporarily shut down or increase their prices.

On the other hand, KFC Singapore was able to go about business as usual by switching to ready backup suppliers of frozen chicken.

Previously, KFC relied primarily on live chickens imported daily from Malaysia, which would be slaughtered. The meat would then be marinated before being sent to their outlets.

Since the ban, KFC has instead imported frozen chicken from backup suppliers across Asia and beyond, many of which had been ready since the end of last year. These backup plans were implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"What the pandemic taught us is that you need backups, and backups of backups to sustain the business," said Ms Lynette Lee, general manager of KFC Singapore.

 The Covid-19 pandemic caused many disruptions, but it also forced people to improve in some ways. Discuss with a partner what some of these are.