

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Plans to prioritize production of threads and textiles at home: Senior General



State Administration Council Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the coordination meeting to adopt step-by-step plans for the successful production of threads and textiles yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, hearing the report on the manufacturing of cotton seed oil.

PLANS must be adopted step by step for the successful production of threads and textiles, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech emphasizing the development of cotton cultivation and thread and textile production at its coordination meeting at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at the meeting, the Senior General admitted that Myanmar is not capable of systematically producing cotton wool despite the cultivation of cotton plants. He estimated that if an acre yielded some 700 visses of cotton, 500,000 acres of cotton plantations across the nation would be able to produce some 30 yards of textiles for each citizen of the nation.

He highlighted that if the country can produce threads from raw cotton, the import volume of textiles can be reduced.

Then, he continued that it is necessary to invite private businesspersons to production chain as machines are required to produce threads with the use of raw cotton.

The Senior General stressed that Myanmar needs to operate cotton threads with the use of machines, creating jobs for people and oil mills that can manufacture cotton seed oil and feedstuffs.

He instructed all of them to produce cotton ginning machines at home, sell cotton wool at the domestic market, and arrange the production of textiles and advanced textile products.

Moreover, he noted that cotton can be used in the production of textile products, helping looms and garment factories manufacture products.

He stressed the need to manage agricultural techniques, inputs, and water supplies to boost the per-acre yield of cotton under the long-term plan, using A-grade cotton strains in cultivation at first for the development of cotton production and thread and garment industries.

tries. The Senior General instructed those present to invite investments for the production of threads and textiles from cotton, adding the production of quality textiles at home, which will help develop garment industries and produce necessary clothes for the nation.

SAC member Lt-Gen Nyo Saw and Union ministers discussed the creation of employment opportunities based on the production of raw cotton at home, the ginning of cotton at State-owned and private factories, the ginning process of these factories used in foreign countries, the thread production process, import of raw materials abroad for production of threads, export of cotton, production of textiles by textile factories.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn and officials. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General at the meeting to boost cotton cultivation and develop thread and textile industries

- Step-by-step plans must be adopted for the successful production of threads and textiles.
- It is necessary to invite private businesspersons to production chain as machines are required to produce threads with the use of raw cotton.
- A-grade cotton strains must be used in cultivation at first for the development of cotton production, and thread and garment industries.
- It is necessary to invite private businesspersons to production chain as machines are required to produce threads with the use of raw cotton.

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NATIONAL

Objectives of 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2024

- (A) To safeguard the State with the sacrifice of life by upholding Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy of Tatmadaw;
- (B) To actively participate in implementing the processes of two national visions of the State: the prosperity of the country and food security by Tatmadaw members together with the government and ethnic people in their respective sectors;
- (C) To steadfastly implement enhancement of three capabilities in accord with the work process of Tatmadaw, such as study, practise and obey in building a modern patriotic Tatmadaw with powerful strength and sharpening prowess;
- (D) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw to ensure peace and stability, solidarity and development, which are actual needs of the State and to emerge a Union based on democratic and federal systems.

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Myat Tun, Director-General of the Administration and Finance Department of the State Administration Council Office, after the one-year probationary period.

Political parties allowed to be established continue applying for registration

THOSE who want to establish a political party apply to the Union Election Commission by stating the name of the party they wish to establish.

To date, 15 groups have applied for the right to establish a party.

Among the groups that applied, the Trustees of Peace Party was found to comply with the Political Parties Registration Law and regulations, and the Commission approved the application for the establishment of the political party yesterday.

The Trustees of the Peace Party who have the right to establish a party must apply to the Commission for registration as a political party in accordance with Rule 7 of the Registration of Political Parties within 30 days from the date of approval. To date, 12 political parties have been approved to establish, and the rest of the groups that have applied for establishment permits are also under scrutiny. — MNA/KZL



Times City to host award-winning photo exhibition of 57th Annual Myanmar Photo Contest

THE Myanmar Photography Association (MPA) has announced an exhibition showcasing the award-winning photographs from the 57th Annual Myanmar Photo Contest. The exhibition will be held at Times City in Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, from 21 to 25 March 2024.

The 57th Annual Myanmar Photo Contest is an annual event held by the MPA. Entries for the 2024 competition opened in November 2023, and the final selection of award-winning photographs was completed earlier this month. Over 700 photographs were submitted across six different categories.



A glimpse of photos which were awarded first prizes.



The award ceremony will be held on the first day of the exhibition, 21 March 2024. A total of 37 prizes will be awarded, including the prestigious title of "Best Photographer of the Year 2023" and consolation prizes. — ASH/TRKM

NATIONAL

2023-2024 Inter-State/Region Wushu competition opens

THE opening ceremony of the 2023-2024 Inter-State/Region Wushu competition was held at Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium B in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with the aim of bringing out the new generation of Wushu athletes across the country.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, who is also chairperson of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, opened the competition by saying that he wants the athletes who will compete in this competition to bring out their abilities and compete to the best of their ability and to



SAC members, Union ministers and dignitaries watch the opening match of the 2023-2024 Inter-State and Region Wushu competition yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

follow the specified competition rules and try to become good athletes of the country that the State relies on. Afterwards, the Wushu athletes recited the oath of allegiance.

Next, the State Administration Council members, Union ministers and officials warmly greeted the athletes from the participating sports teams and watched the competition.

The championship will be held from 7 to 11 March at Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium B, and anyone interested in Wushu can come and watch for free. — MNA/KZL

MoI Deputy Minister meets students from Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College



Deputy Minister U Ye Tint views round the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College in Yangon yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint met students, teachers and staff of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) yesterday afternoon to discuss youth affairs and the development of human power.

The deputy minister said that the state is opening University for Development of National Races and development degree colleges, and training schools for the development of human resources in ethnic and rural areas.

He urged that the youth are the future of the country and that the nation can be developed and built only with the youth who are full of knowledge and skills, and suggested young people read and study continuously.

The deputy minister urged the youth to take care of their health, continue to do sports activities from a young age and avoid

drugs.

He added that people should not believe the misinformation about the People's Military Service Law and that there is no plan to recruit women for the military service yet. He told people not to accept the fake news to weaken the defence force.

A total of 1,181 students from Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College and a total of 160 teachers and staff members, including the principal, attended the meeting.

Afterwards, the deputy minister presented books and publications donated by the Ministry of Information and sports equipment supported by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs for the college library. The deputy minister also visited the library and the museum and discussed what was needed. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar hosts 16th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network meeting

THE 16th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) meeting, hosted by Myanmar in cooperation with Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), was conducted via videoconferencing at the Anti-Narcotic Police Task Force office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Commander of the Drug Enforcement Division under the Myanmar Police Force, Police Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Han, stated that the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network serves as a supportive platform for collecting timely information on drug-related issues among ASEAN member countries, shares information during research, and offers substantial support for drug prevention activities, equipping member countries to implement prevention strategies in the future successfully.

He also said that most countries in the world today

produce man-made or synthetic drugs that attract an increasing number of users, boosting sales volume. Precursor chemicals are the primary source used in the production of these drugs. Therefore, the control of precursors must be prioritized by the member countries. The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network report provides a broad overview of the drug situation in ASEAN, focusing on regional drug production and consumption. Additionally, he mentioned that the ASEAN-Narco website is beneficial as it serves as a medium to exchange information between member countries, including the latest status of newly manufactured narcotics.

A delegation led by Police Lieutenant Colonel Than Aye from the Drug Enforcement Division, representatives of ASEAN member nations, and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the meeting and reviewed

issues related to the previous activities and achievements of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network. They discussed issues related to the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network reporting and data collection system, reduction of drug production, elimination of consumption and management issues, and issues related to the work plan of the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (2024-2025).

The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network was established in 2015, and related meetings are convened to review the information contained in the drug monitoring reports of ASEAN countries, discuss and address any challenges encountered in inputting information via the online system, promote cooperation among member countries on drug-related issues, and facilitate the exchange of information. — MNA/TH



The 16th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network meeting in progress online yesterday.

NATIONAL

Workshop on Geo-economics & Myanmar held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Centre of Myanmar Affairs Studies under the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information organized a workshop on Geo-economics and Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the event, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said the country needs systematic economic policies to support the stability of the economic sector. The country is located between the two most populous nations, and some of the interests of these two nations are concerned with Myanmar. If the quality products that these countries need are exported, there might be potential to grab the most significant market. Therefore, the government should take advantage of geo-economics.

Then, the Union minister encouraged attendees to present positive suggestions regarding the advantages of geo-economics and how to use the proper opportunities.

Scholar U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tekkatho) of the Centre of Myanmar Affairs Studies presided over the discussion, and Managing Director Dr Zaw Oo



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the occasion at yesterday's Workshop on Geo-economics and Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.



of the Centre for Economic and Social Development and financial management expert U William Aung of Financial Management from Vancouver, Canada, discussed under the topic Geo-economics and Myanmar (How to grab the opportunities).

First, Dr Zaw Oo discussed the relationship between geopolitics and geo-economics in the formation of trade groups. These business opportunities can create primary income, marketing, export promotion, global market status that changed due to COVID-19, corn export to Thailand

amid COVID-19 outbreak, bean export to India, investment and jobs in garment sector, revenue through remittance despite the enormous numbers of migrant workers for scarcity of employment in local, opportunities for maritime connections with China and India, geo-economics based on proper geopolitical issues, tax collection in projects launched by the country, plans to receive passive income from projects and enhancement of economic relation with Thailand.

Then, U William Aung discussed the crucial role of the

Asia-Pacific region mentioned by the SAC Chairman at the 9th Moscow Conference on International Security, business creation in global economy by China, role of geopolitics and geo-economics, chance to explore the main income source, 40 per cent of total world trade in China, Laos, Thailand, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar with over 3,000 million people, business opportunities via Logistic Transit and other economic related matters.

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister, participated in the discussion of the matters related to

preparations to promote the State economy, construction of bridges crossing over the Ayeyawady River aiming at developing the regions on the the western part of the river, roads in Rakhine State, Kyaukphyu project, potential access to electricity if Myitsone project is completed, plans to create transportations by cooperating with China, India and Thailand, rural development programmes, Dry Port Zone, special economic zone and efforts of government regarding the sanctions.

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo also discussed the strengthening the natural resource trade and bilateral trade with the neighbouring countries that are crucial in geo-economics, economic nationalism, efforts to overcome the economy that relies on the dollar, implementation of bilateral economic cooperation and regional economic cooperation, energy safety, solid finance and human resource development.

Then, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presented gifts to those who participated in the workshop and concluded the event. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Fake news spread, gathering 20 people each from wards in Aungmyaythazan Tsp

THE malicious media intentionally spread fake news, claiming that the ward administrators of Aungmyaythazan Township of Mandalay Region were instructed to gather 20 people to serve in the military.

According to a security official, the news about the gathering of 20 people from each of the wards in Aungmyaythazan Township of Mandalay Region is invalid. As the people know, the malicious media have been spreading mis-



The screenshot validates misinformation.

information and disinformation daily to instil fear in the people

since the People's Military Service Law came into force.


The provisions of the People's Military Service Law are concerned not only with one township and one village but also with all the eligible people across the nation. Therefore, the people can contact the Central Committee for Summoning People's Military Servants for the information they want, and the state-owned media also releases phone numbers. — MNA/KTZH

Media accuses security forces of detaining all villagers of Yaylethaung


THE malicious media, Khit Thit, spread fake news online claiming that the security forces detained all the residents of Yaylethaung Village in Ngazun Township of Mandalay Region on 6 March.

These malicious media outlets intentionally circulate false information to frighten the public

and mislead the people about the security forces. Moreover, they created fake news regarding the security forces that conduct security measures to prevent PDF terrorists from committing terrorist attacks in Ngazun village. The security forces did not detain any villagers. — MNA/KTZH



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NATIONAL

Mandalay Region emerges as a thriving tourist destination



MANDALAY Region, a popular destination for both domestic and international travellers throughout the year, has witnessed significant growth in its accommodation sector. According to U Min Maung Soe, Deputy Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Mandalay Region), the region currently boasts a total of 587 hotels, motels, and guesthouses offering 22,531 rooms.



Photos showcase some tour destinations in Mandalay Region.

This number includes 449 hotels and motels with 19,896 rooms, catering to travellers seeking various levels of comfort and amenities. Addition-

ally, 138 guesthouses offer 2,635 rooms, providing more budget-friendly options for visitors.

U Min Maung Soe empha-

sized the region's commitment to providing convenient accommodations for travellers year-round. The department actively facilitates this by issuing permits for new hotels, motels, and guesthouses that comply with all regulations.

Mandalay Region is also actively developing new tourist destinations to enhance visitor experiences. These include the teak monastery, which is over

100 years old, in Aungmyaythazan Township, and the Makkhaya Old City in Singaing Township.

The region's tourism industry saw remarkable growth in 2023, welcoming over 2.4 million tourists. This impressive figure comprises over 2.1 million domestic visitors and over 310,000 foreign visitors, showcasing the region's increasing appeal to a diverse audience. — ASH/TMT

16 abandoned containers, 10 LCL shipments to be auctioned



Myanmar Port Authority's Store Department, where tender forms and tender rules can be bought.

SIXTEEN abandoned containers and 10 LCL shipments will be sold at auction, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Sixteen containers abandoned by consignees at MIP, AWPT, HPT and MITT ports and goods inside 10 LCL shipment containers – printing papers, cassia seeds, fire foams, household goods, Joss papers, Oro Fresh, medicines, marble tiles and construction materials – will be sold at open auction in their current conditions at 1 pm on

21 March, according to auction advertisement by Myanmar Port Authority under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Tender forms and tender rules are available at the Store Department, Myanmar Port Authority, on Strand Road (Expressway, west of Botahtaung Pagoda, near tollgate) in Botahtaung township during office hours on weekdays from 7 to 19 March.

For more detailed information, enquiries can be made through 09420028586, it stated. — Thit Taw/ZS

Young Western backpackers among foreign tourists visiting Myanmar

OF international travellers visiting Myanmar, there are young backpackers from Western Europe, according to travel operators.

These young foreign tourists are taking adventurous solo trips with a backpack alone, and just a few come to visit the country by connecting with travel agencies.

“We can say the majority of foreigners visiting our country

are Thai and Chinese, according to visitor arrival statistics. Among the rest, especially from Western Europe, just a few numbers came via tour packages provided by travel agencies. Still, there are young people from the West who want to take adventurous trips by carrying just a backpack,” said an official from the Myanmar Tourism Federation.

Over the last two months,

from December 2023 to January 2024, many Russians visited the country by connecting with travel companies.

Currently, the number of local tourists has yet to reach the level gained before COVID-19. However, it has started to bounce back compared to past years, and travelling to beaches and prominent destinations has increased. — Thit Taw/ZS



Some international travellers seen among domestic tourists on the Taungthaman bridge in 2023.

NATIONAL

Irrawaddy dolphins spotted in Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung conservation area



Irrawaddy dolphins seen swimming in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung marine area of the Ayeyawady River.

THE Irrawaddy Dolphin Conservation Group of the Department of Fisheries (Mandalay Region) reports the presence of 17 Irrawaddy dolphins in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung marine area

of Ayeyawady River, a dedicated conservation zone. Their team conducts regular

observations, and a recent survey on 4 March recorded 17 dolphins living and grazing near Indaung

village in Wetlet Township. U Maung Maung Lay, Chairman of the group, stated that they are also encouraging residents to report sightings of any baby dolphins. It's important to note that this observation coincides with the low water level period of the Ayeyawady River, which attracts both dolphin watchers and traditional netused fishermen in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung area.

Similarly, Ayekyun village in Madaya Township, known for its community-based tourism initiatives in Mandalay Region, also reports daily sightings of Irrawaddy dolphins by travellers. — ASH/TKO

Four hospitals to host exam centres for 2024 matriculation exam



An examination centre at the Central Women's Hospital for 2024 matriculation exam.

THE Department of Myanmar Examinations has announced that four hospital examination centres will be available for the 2024 matriculation examination.

These centres are located in Yangon Region and include Yangon General Hospital, North Okkalapa General and Teach-

ing Hospital, Central Women's Hospital, and Waibargi Specialist Hospital.

Students undergoing medical treatment who wish to take the exam can contact the respective hospitals' department of socio-medical relations for further information. — TWA/TKO

Information released for 16th EPS-TOPIK exam application submission

THE Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) has announced information regarding the submission of applications for the 16th EPS-TOPIK exam.

The EPS-TOPIK exam takers are advised not to worry and repeatedly apply for the QR and Website in order to submit the exam application and to

enter the information slowly and correctly.

The EPS-TOPIK exam, which will be held in the middle of this year, can be applied online in early March, and Myanmar women are allowed to take the exam for the first time in this round of recruitment. Through the Public Overseas

Employment Agency (POEA), EPS workers are being sent to Korea for manufacturing and construction, as well as agriculture and livestock.

At present, more than 70,000 Myanmar workers have been working in Korea through the EPS system. — TWA/KZL



A total of 141 new manufacturing workers sent to the Republic of Korea through the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) via the EPS system arrive at the Incheon International Airport of the Republic of Korea on 6 March 2024.

Daily newspapers available online

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Weak demand results in kidney bean price retreat

THE price of kidney beans has fallen to K3.855 million per tonne in the Mandalay market on the back of weak foreign demand.

The price hit a record high of K4.593 million per tonne on 7 February and plunged to K3.855 million per tonne on 7 March.

The figures reflected a drop of K738,000 within one month.

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

Myanmar conveyed 27,709

tonnes of kidney beans worth \$33.296 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 23 February of the current FY 2023-2024, with an export volume of 15,016 tonnes worth \$15.093 million through maritime trade and over 12,692 tonnes worth \$18.203 million via land borders, as per the Ministry of Commerce's statistics.

Kidney bean is cultivated in October-November and harvested in early February. They are grown in the upper Sagaing Region, Bhamo in Kachin State, Kayin State and along the Ayeyawady River. The beans produced from Katha and Bhamo townships are in high demand in the domestic market due to their large size. — NN/EM



The photo provides a close-up view of kidney beans at the market.



The photo showcases gold ingots displayed at the jewellery outlet.

Pure gold price hits record high of K4 million per tical

AS the spot gold price leaps to an all-time high above US\$2,150 per ounce, the domestic gold price peaked at K4 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) on 7 March 2024.

Along with a surge in spot gold price, the domestic gold price climbed to K4 million per tical.

Meanwhile, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) hit K3.7985 million per tical.

There is a price gap of around K200,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference

price and the actual market value.

The YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's interbank reference exchange rate, with some addition, in spite of the US dollar gain in the unofficial forex market, causing the price gap to widen to K400,000-K500,000 per tical.

Following the CBM's liberalization for authorized dealers on online forex trading platforms on 5 December 2023, the YGEA's reference price and the actual market value are not that

different. The kyat-US dollar exchange rate is K3,630 at present.

The US dollar exchange rate, therefore, influences the gap between the domestic gold market value and YGEA's reference gold price.

The soaring dollar exchanging up to K4,000 drove the gold price up to a record high of K4 million per tical in August 2023.

The YGEA also requested that, on 24 January, its members deal in gold with immediate payment and cooperate to stabilize the gold price. — NN/EM

Rice prices dip in Yangon's market

THE Yangon market saw a downtick in rice prices on 7 March. The figures indicated a decrease of K1,000-K2,000 per sack. The prices of non-premium monsoon rice (Hnanka and Thuka rice varieties) decreased to K86,000 per sack from K88,000-K90,000.

Some traders hold the rice stocks for now at Wadan Wholesale Depot, and a rice trader, U Kyaw, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The price of Pawkywe dropped to K100,000 per sack on 7 March from K105,000 registered in late February.

Similarly, the wholesale prices of premium Pawsan rice varieties also showed a decrease of K2,000-K100,000 per sack, touching K135,000-K160,000 per sack on 7 March. The sticky rice price fell to K92,000-K98,000

per sack on 7 March from K100,000-K110,000.

The rising price of monsoon rice produced in 2023 stopped. Nonetheless, the prices of premium rice are unlikely to drop on the back of strong demand by consumers who store the rice for the whole year, rice sellers forecast.

Shwebo Pawsan paddy price hit K4 million per 100-basket these days, which is double that of last year's rate (K1.9 million). The price reached only K3.5 million per 100 baskets in late 2023. The cost of non-premium paddy was around K1.6 million per 100 baskets in early March 2023.

Myanmar's rice export peaked in February of the 2023-2024 financial year, beginning 1 April, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar shipped 371,819 tonnes of rice and broken rice in November-December 2023 and 475,721 tonnes in January-February 2024. Rice exports were registered at 847,540 tonnes in the first four months of the current FY, which is the harvest time of monsoon paddy and 581,683 tonnes in the past seven months of the pre-monsoon paddy season in which the rice prices surged in domestic markets. Premium rice that is highly consumed locally is barely exported.

The prevailing prices of rice doubled compared with last year. Consumers are raising concerns over possible price hikes in mid-2024. The retail price of non-premium rice in Yangon is K3,300 per pyi (2.13 kilogrammes or 4.69 pounds). — TWA/KK

MGMA to open Advanced Sewing Machine Operator Training in March's last week

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will offer the Advanced Sewing Machine Operator Training in the last week of March 2024 at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC).

The trainer will share sewing methods of parts of fabric such as pocket covers, spiral seams, shoulder corner seams, pockets, different types of bags, different ways of inserting zippers, long sleeve shirts and "A" skirts with belts. Additionally, six special sewing methods were used, comprising button-hole sewing machines, button attached machines, and bartack machines, overlock four threads,

overlock five threads, and overlock two needles.

Those who wish to attend the training can enquire by dialling contact numbers 09 940858350, 09 450723262, 09 9403912570, 09 784085794, and 09 969865024.

At present, MGMA has organized the Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course (Batch 234), providing practical approaches and technical know-how of sewing machines, different sewing methods, labour laws and practices.

This training will also help those hunting jobs from regions outside Yangon connect with the garment factories with a view to creating job opportunities. — NN/EM

OPINION

Promote State economy through agricultural growth

IN pursuit of national prosperity, food security, and overall economic development, the government is strategically focusing on three key economic objectives: the enhancement of the agricultural sector, overall economic development, and the promotion of exports. Recognized as a reliable catalyst for the state's economic progress, the agriculture sector plays a pivotal role in shaping the socioeconomic landscape.

To achieve the ambitious targets set for sown acreage, it is imperative to cultivate various crops such as paddy, oil crops like groundnut, sesame, and sunflower, and industrial crops including cotton, sugarcane, coffee, pulses, beans, and corn. The current season calls for the cultivation of summer paddy and other crops across the nation.

To address water scarcity, the government has invested in a robust infrastructure comprising 246 dams, 144 reservoirs, 72 lakes, 199 sluice gates, and 219 water pumping stations, totalling 880. These measures ensure the irrigation of more than 3.1 million acres of crops, enhancing the agricultural sector's resilience. At an opportune time, farmers need to grow double, triple and mixed crops in addition to applying the mono-cropping pattern depending on favourable weather. If so, their efforts will be a tool to improve their living standard.

In tandem with the objective to increase per-acre yield, farmers have devoted 17 million acres to paddy, 10.57 million acres to pulses and beans, 8.24 million acres to oil crops, 1.6 million acres to corn, and 0.52 million acres to cotton in the 2023-24 financial year. Doubling efforts in the cultivation of paddy, pulses, and oil crops in the upcoming agricultural season is crucial to propelling the

state's economy.

Myanmar, ranking eighth among the world's top 10 rice-exporting nations, exports 2.1 million tonnes of rice annually, generating an impressive US\$800 million. In the first ten months of the current financial year alone, the country has already earned \$574 million from rice and broken rice exports. This highlights the pivotal role of the agricultural sector in contributing significantly to the national income.

It is essential for all stakeholders, especially farmers, to recognize the agricultural sector as the lifeline for the nation's income generation. Collaborative efforts are crucial to improving agricultural production for both domestic consumption and export purposes. As Myanmar continues to make strides in the global agricultural landscape, fostering unity and cooperation will be instrumental in realizing the full potential of the agriculture sector for the benefit of the entire nation.

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

(EPISODE:30)

MR KAK Hallowes commenced his tenure as a GSI geologist in 1905 and concluded his service upon retirement in 1926. Noteworthy entries in the Records of the Geological Survey of India indicate his field activities and contributions. Specifically, Mr Hallowes returned from field duty on 14 May 1917 and subsequently was assigned to the Central Provinces, departing for field duty once again on 4 November 1917. Following this assignment, he returned from Burma on 6 April 1919. Notably, he was granted combined leave for one year, effective from 14 July 1919. One of his significant contributions pertained to the geology of Myanmar, notably reporting on the coal seams of the foothills of the Arakan Yoma in 1921. Due to space constraints, the aforementioned details have been succinctly extracted as follows: -

On the Coal Seams of the Foot-Hills of the Arakan Yoma, Between Letpan Yaw in Pakokku and Ngaphe in Minbu, Upper Burma

Introduction

Commencing the examination of the coal belt from a point a short distance to the south of Tazu, which lies to the southwest of Pauk in the Pakokku district, beyond which point the investigations of my colleague Mr Cotter did not extend, I examined the seams mapped by the late Mr H S Bion as far south as Ngaphe I the Minbu district, i.e. over a distance of rather than 100 miles. At the northern end of the belt, coal occurs not only at Tazu but also at Letpanhla, some 60 miles west of Pakokku; this has already been investigated by Mr Cotter. The same observer and Mr Sethu Rama Rau also examined the geology of the southern part of the belt near Ngaphe. The geology of the intermediate portion, which, as stated above, continues for more than one hundred miles, had been

admirably mapped in detail by Mr Bion. All these observers, in the course of mapping the geological formations, had indicated on their maps some of the outcrops of the coal seams. Still, a further examination of the latter had been postponed pending the completion of Mr Cotter's investigation of the more promising coalfield near Tazu.

Near Kyaukset, some 30 miles southwest of Minbu, coal was, at the time of my visit in November 1918, being mined by Maung Mit on behalf of Maung Tun Aung Gyaw, late Municipal Secretary of Thayetmyo. By 15 November of that year, about 35 tonnes had been sent away, while 10 tonnes were stacked at the mine; in all, therefore, 45 tonnes of coal had been excavated from this occurrence. South of Kyaukset, the coal belt continues east of Kyet-u-bok, west of Kyaukpe and Magyisan, and as far as Yenman in the Minhla Township.

Geology

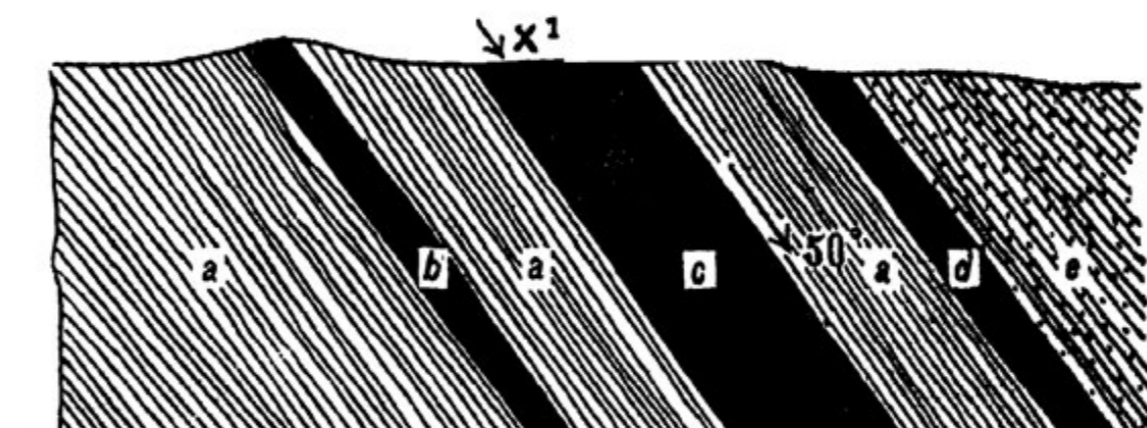
The coal-bearing rocks: The coal is confined almost entirely to (1) the Shwezetaw Sandstones (Lower Pegus), which Mr Cotter has shown to contain near Ngape the fossil beds designated by him D E & F, (2) the Yaw Shales (Upper Eocene), which the researches of the same observer along with those of Mr Bion have shown to be characterized by the zone of *Velates schmideli*, occurring on the top of this stage, and which, near Ngaphe (Minbu), has been designated "G" by Mr Cotter, and finally (3) the Pondaung Sandstones (Upper Eocene), which west of Kimmungyon from the Nwamataung hill range, and near Ngape contain Mr Cotter's fossil bed H. Coal is generally absent from the Upper Pegus; the same is true of the Tabuin Clays and Tiliin Sandstones, for although large areas of these rocks were explored not a single coal-seam was observed in them.

Regarding the rocks contain-

ing the coal seams, Bion observed that the Shwezetaw sandstones (Lower Pegus) near Ngahlaingdwin are unfossiliferous; at latitude 20° 58' fossil wood begins to occur in them, and in some places, they contain so much of it, that they resemble or might easily be mistaken for beds of the Irrawaddy Series. The following section from the upper to the lower horizons through the Yaw Stage, the most important of the coal-bearing stages, is given by Bion: -

1. Calcareous sandstone with *Operculina*; this fossil is always strictly confined to the Yaw Stage.
2. Zone of *Velates schmideli*; *Velates* does not occur N. of 21° 6'.
3. Shales
4. Coral limestone; 2' thick, with small gastropods. This bed is not found north of 21° 5' because of the prevalence of arenaceous facies; below it is a bed of sand containing a profusion of large *Ostracae*.
5. Shales
6. Shales with *Nummulites yawensis*, *Cardium thetkegyinense* etc. This horizon can be traced through the Yaw Stage as far north as Tazu.
7. Coal and carbonaceous shale.
8. Shale with silicious bands and septaria.
9. Limestone band; 1'- 2' thick, with small *Nummulites* and *Operculina*.

This section indicates, there-



Five-foot coal seam of the Paung Chaung two miles west of Myaung-u. (a) Carbonaceous shale; (b) and (d) lignite; (c) Yaw Shales

fore, that the lignite is Upper Eocene in age.

The massive sandstones that underlie the Yaw Stage were named by Cotter the "Pondaung Sandstones" and were found by Bion to have a thickness of 3,000 ft. in the coal belt, and to be characterized by fine-grained concretions of harder matter, two hundred feet from the top of this group they enclose a fossil wood zone. These rocks are usually unfossiliferous, but, as Bion points out, the fossils that he found at rare intervals show that they are "in the main marine." He further draws attention to the fact that when they are traced northwards, "there is a gradation to more shal-low-water facies."

Dr Cesare Porro has divided the Tertiary beds near Ngahlaingdwin into seven sub-divisions, which, from the work of Bion, can be correlated with the sub-divisions adopted by Mr Cotter in other parts of Burma. His sub-divisions 2 ("lignite-bearing shales with beds containing foraminifera") and 3 ("alternations of sandstones and shales with beds containing foraminifera") represent Mr Cotter's Yaw Stage, which is the chief coal-bearing horizon of the belt.

Folding of the coal seams

In the Kyaukset area some 30 miles southwest of Minbu, the coal seams, interbedded between Eocene sandstones and shales,

have been folded along with those rocks and show signs of great contortion. (Due to space constraints the table of coal seams could not be included.)

The opening up of the coal seams

The seams in each of the localities enumerated in the preceding table were cleared and opened up by prospecting trenches and pits. The coal, as excavated from these seams, is a hard black lignite with a conchoidal fracture and possesses the lustre and appearance of pitch. With this, black lignite is sometimes associated, for instance, in the Kywe-u Chaung near Kywe-u, a yellow fossil resin.

The roof and floor of the seams

The roof and floor of the seams are composed either of soft Upper Eocene or Lower Pegu sandstones or of light grey or dark reddish-brown Upper Eocene shales more or less decomposed into ochreous clays. The roof and floor are, therefore, distinctly bad, and extensive timbering would be necessary.

Thickness

An examination of the foregoing table will show that the thickness of the seams other than those that are only a few inches thick varies in general, from 1'0" to 3'4". Near Kyaukset, some 30 miles southwest of Minbu, the

main seam attains a thickness of 4'7" but dips at 60°. Only one seam was found to attain a thickness of five feet; it occurs in the Paung Chaung 2 miles west of Myaung-u.

The Burmese of the locality say that the seam was worked in the days of King Mindon when there was a cart track from it to the Mon River and that the coal was sent down on rafts along that river to the Irrawaddy.

Types of coal seams

Five different types of coal seams occur along the Tazu-Ngaphe Coal belt. Type I consists of a seam of solid lignite free from shale; Type II is composed of lentils of lignite scattered through a bed of dark carbonaceous shale; Type III is the same as Type I except that it is characterized by a stratum of solid lignite along the base of the seam; Type IV consists of an upper horizon of solid lignite above a stratum of carbonaceous shale through which are scattered numerous lentils of lignite; finally Type V is composed of lignite which suddenly thins and thickness from point to point, to give the same an almost nodular character.

Quantity

Kyaukset: The total thickness of coal in the three horizons of the Kyaukset area is 9' 8". As the coal measures rather less than 40 cubic feet per tonne for every 1,000 feet of outcrop to a depth of 20 feet, there are at least 4,500 tonnes of coal available.

Lenticularity: The uppermost main seam, when traced along the strike, thins from 2'9" to 1'9" of available coal in 102 yards, while the intermediate seam rapidly diminishes from 4'7" to 2'9" in the short distance of 55 yards.

A few of the most interesting cases of the lenticularity of the seams will now be given: -

1. The seam at (37) in the Tetoma Chaung W of Kywe-u, when traced for a few yards along

the strike, diminishes in thickness from 3'6" to 2'2".

(ii) Though the Shwezetaw Sandstones are very finely exposed as great bars of rock across the Thanat Chaung west of Tanyauktin, not a trace of coal was observed in them. It, therefore, appears that the coal seam of Kimmungyon, further north, thins out altogether to the south before this river is reached.

(iii) In the Paung Chaung, 2 miles west of Myaung-u, the 5'2" seam lignite, when traced to the south for 432 feet across the bends of the river, is found at (Z1) to have diminished in thickness to 3'10".

(iv) Interesting cases of the lenticular nature of the coal seams occur near Kyaukset.

Quality

The coal of several seams is poor in quality, for it consists of lignite in every case, the grade of which is lessened by the incorporation of considerable quantities of carbonaceous shale and sand.

Handpicked coal was analyzed by the Burma Oil and the British Burma Petroleum Companies with the following results: -

Locality of coal	Main coal seam near Kyaukset	Coal from Kyaukset	Near Kimmungyon (Cotter)
Analyst	BOC	BBPC	GSI
Moisture	10.59	7.56	4.84
Ash	4.58	4.08	5.63
Fixed carbon	46.69	52.82	54.64
Volatile matter	48.73	35.51	34.89
Sulphur	..	2.55	..
Calorific value	2/3 that of Bengal coal	5,750 calories or 10,350 BTUS.	..

It will be seen that the moisture and ash contents of the handpicked coal of Kyaukset are both favourably low.

Locomotive trials

The deputy locomotive superintendent gave the first 15

ARTICLE

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

tonnes of handpicked Minbu coal selected from near Kyaukset a test on a train between Rangoon and Lepadon. He reported that in the first trial, the coal burned freely in the firebox and that there was no difficulty in keeping up steam and running on time. It was not found necessary to clean the fire between Rangoon and Lepadon, the distance between these two places being 77.25 miles.

Exploitation

The coal belt is a feverish area, and labour is expensive. From the Irrawaddy to the Tazu area is some 60 miles, to the Ngaphe area 35 miles, and a point halfway between 40 miles. Existing roads are bad. The quality and quantity of coal available does not justify either tramway or extensive repairs to the Public Works Department's main road.

Economic Value

From the foregoing facts, it is clear that the coal seams between Tazu and Ngaphe are not as good as those of the Yaw River section in the Pakokku district, which Mr Cotter found not to be of present economic value.

References:

Hallowes, Knight KA, 1921: **On the Coal Seams of the Arakan Yoma, between Letpan Yaw in Pakokku and Ngaphe in Minbu, Upper Burma. Records of Geological Survey of India, Vol LI.**

NATIONAL

Kayin State Chief Minister donates foodstuffs to IDPs in Myinegyingu

ON 7 March, Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, along with cabinet members and departmental personnel, visited internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Myinegyingu area. They provided essential food supplies, including rice and cooking oil, to 741 households, encompassing 4,037 individuals. During the visit, the chief minister emphasized the importance of maintaining personal and environmental hygiene, respecting established rules, and fostering unity among the displaced community.

The Kayin State government has demonstrated ongoing support for IDPs since 2021, with contributions exceeding 2,967 bags of rice, 2,116 visses of cooking oil, various legumes, and essential items like salt, spices, and vegetables. Additionally, the Disaster Management Depart-



Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo warmly greets internally displaced persons in the Myinegyingu area yesterday.

ment and other organizations have periodically provided rescue materials, clothing, and other necessities.

Apart from supporting displaced populations, the chief minister also focused on infrastructure development within

the state. He inspected ongoing projects in Hlaingbwe Township, including road repairs and the construction of a 10-foot-

wide box culvert connecting Thitsaayemyaing and Taungsun villages. He further observed the rehabilitation of a 335-foot-long lane from Thitsaayemyaing Village to the stone inscription field and oversaw the cleaning and repairs on a section of the Myinegyingu-Methawaw road. During these inspections, the Director of State Development Supervising Office, U Aung Htut, and his team provided updates on project progress to the chief minister.

Concluding his visit, the chief minister explored the recently designated Kyonhtaw waterfall area, a rising tourist destination within Kayin State. Accompanied by officials from the Kayin State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, he discussed potential improvements and development strategies for the area to further enhance its tourism potential. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/TMT

CBM Deputy Governor attends 27th ASEAN Senior Level Committee Meeting for Financial Integration

DEPUTY Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Dr Lin Aung, and senior officials joined the 27th ASEAN Senior Level Committee Meeting for Financial Integration virtually yesterday.

Officials of the Laos Central Bank and Monetary of Singapore, co-chairs of the meeting, first made opening speeches respectively.

The Lao official then clarified the monetary cooperation activities to be conducted in 2024 while the officials of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) and ASEAN Development Bank (ADB) presented the progress in Macroeconomic performance and financial development.

The official of the ASEAN

Secretariat clarified the ASEAN Economic Cooperation (AEC), and co-chairs of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF) Work Committee and Work Committee on Payment and Settlement System (PSS) explained the ASEAN Interoperable Data Framework while the roadmap of regional payment by co-chair of Work Committee on PSS and BIS Innovation Hub Singapore Centre.

Moreover, the relevant officials presented on the progress of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF), Capital Account Liberalization (CAL), Capital Market Development (CMD), Financial Inclusion (FINC), Financial Services Liberalization (FSL), Payment and



The 27th ASEAN Senior Level Committee Meeting for Financial Intergration in progress online yesterday.

Settlement System (PSS) and Steering Committee on Capacity Building (SCC).

The officials also discussed the Risk Monitoring Reported based on the Risk Monitoring Template (RMT).

Moreover, officials clarified

the Sustainable Finance under the SLC Task Force, while the Central Bank of Laos clarified the ASEAN Cybersecurity Resilience and Information Sharing Platform – CRISP and the Central Bank of the Philippines about ASEAN Swap Arrange-

ment – ASA.

In addition, the co-chairs of the work committee on Capital Account Liberalization (CAL) discussed the draft of the ASEAN Local Currency Transaction-LCT Framework. — MNA/KTZH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Seafarers' training hours aligned with IMO model course

THE Able Seafarer Engine (Reg: III/5) Certificate of Proficiency course for seafarers has been modified in accordance with the prescribed learning hours of the IMO Model Course, according to the Department of Marine Administration.

The course, which was previously 240 hours, has been increased to 584 hours from 1 April in line with the requirements of the IMO Model Course 7.16, the DMA's Marine Engineering Section announced on 5 March. The time allocation includes three categories: 240 hours for the Able Seafarer Engine Part-I (Theory) Course, 60 hours for the Able Seafarer Engine Part-II (Simulator)

Course and 284 hours for the Able Seafarer Engine Part-III Practical (Fitter) Course.

Only upon completion of all three courses will the trainee be awarded the Able Seafarer Engine (Reg: III/5) Certificate of Proficiency. Details of certificates of completion for different kinds of courses will be described in the All in One Certificate.

Moreover, seafarers wishing to obtain a Seafarer Engine (Reg: III/5) Certificate after attending MEO Class III (OEW) Workshop Skills will be exempted from attending 284 hours of the Able Seafarer Engine Part-III Practical (Fitter) Course, it said. — Thit Taw/ZN

Thai Embassy reports inappropriate visa application behaviour

THE Royal Thai Embassy to Myanmar has seen some inappropriate behaviours and has informed people to report to the embassy staff or security staff if any immoral acts are found relating to visa and consular services.

It stated that some dishonest people were found in online visa appointments to obtain many reservations by using different passport numbers, not only for themselves, resulting in a high rate of "no show up" on appointment dates. In addition, there were cases where some people pretending to be embassy staff tricked visa applicants into paying money for verification before entering the consular section.

The embassy clarified to the public that there is no policy of charging for visa appointments and advised visa applicants not to believe or agree to anyone approaching and asking for money in exchange for a reservation slot.



Visa applicants at the Royal Thai Embassy to Myanmar in January 2024.

While the embassy is never involved in such dishonest acts, the customers are also requested to use the online appointment system properly and to avoid filling up all reservation slots by taking unnecessary appointments and blocking those who are in urgent need of visa applications to visit Thailand.

Outside the consular sec-

tion, the embassy only checks confirmation information and passports. It has never verified other documents and cash in the outside area as document verification and visa fee collection are done only inside the section.

If any dishonest activity is detected, people are advised to inform the embassy staff or security staff, it stated. — MT/ZN

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Myanmar women swindled, abandoned in Malaysia after losing 600 ringgits



The Lovely Heart Philanthropic Myanmar Youth Blood Donor Group is helping two Myanmar women who were abandoned under the bridge.

A broker on Tik Tok cheated 600 Ringgits from two Myanmar women and abandoned them on the street in Malaysia, according to Lovely Heart Philanthropic Myanmar Youth Blood Donor Group (Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia).

The two women arrived in Malaysia just three months ago, have no contacts there and don't know where to go. They slept

under the bridge for two nights, said the group on 5 March.

"The broker told them he would find jobs for them but eventually abandoned them on the street. When we came to search for them, they told us they were sleeping under the bridge. Brokers are too bad. They had arrived here for just three months. They don't know where they can go, and they

don't have contacts in this country. The broker from Myanmar sent them here. When they arrived here, they met another broker on Tik Tok, who brought them, saying he would find a job, and eventually left them in this ward," said an official from the group.

The two victims asked the group for help, which is why they brought them to their office.

"Please don't do like that again. Some brokers are unacceptably bad. Please don't believe in whatever they are advertising," said the official.

Of the two women, one is from Kalay township, and the other is from KhinU township.

The group will assist and find jobs for them. The group also requested Myanmar nationals who want jobs to contact them. — MT/ZS

Over K5.2 billion worth of stimulant tablets seized in Patheingyi Township

THE Myanmar Police Force reported the seizure of over 2.6 million stimulant tablets valued at over K5.24 billion in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region. At 12:30 pm on 1 March, a combined team from the Anti-Drug Police Force intercepted a suspicious motorboat in the sea, approximately five nautical miles northwest of Thaephyu Island near Chaungtha village. The search of the vessel resulted in the confiscation of 2.62 million stimulant tablets.

Following an investigation, authorities apprehended Maung Maung Lay (alias) Thein Win, suspected of involvement in transporting the drugs, at 3 pm on the same day. Later, at 5 pm, Win Thein Htun (alias) Nay Thu and Lin Htun Han (alias) Thar Pu, along with a motorboat believed to be used for drug trafficking, were also apprehended in Patheingyi Township.

Legal action has been initiated against the arrested individuals. The investigation is ongoing, with the aim of apprehending any further individuals involved in the drug trafficking operation. — MNA/MKKS



Three offenders seen alongside seized drugs and motorboats.

ECONOMY WORLD

Australia sets up US\$1.3 bln fund to grow trade with ASEAN

Australia pledges \$1.3 billion to boost trade with Southeast Asia as leaders gather for an ASEAN summit in Melbourne.

AUSTRALIA unveiled plans to ramp up investment in Southeast Asia on Tuesday, setting aside US\$1.3 billion to bolster trade in a region of rising economic might.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the funding as leaders from the 10-nation ASEAN forum met in Melbourne for a three-day summit.

“The government I lead has made it clear. More than any other region, Southeast Asia is where Australia’s future lies,”

Albanese told a business forum on the summit’s sidelines.

Fuelled by years of swift and sustained population growth, the ASEAN bloc is widely seen as an emerging economic powerhouse.

Southeast Asia is also poised to play a major role in the global push for clean energy.

Australia’s new funding package will provide export financing and loans geared largely towards infrastructure and renewable energy projects. — AFP



Police and security stand outside the venue for the Australia-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) summit in Melbourne on 4 March 2024. PHOTO: AFP

German exports unexpectedly soar in January

The boost in exports comes as a rare positive development for Germany, which faced economic challenges last year.



A truck stands next to empty containers at the seaport terminal DIT Duisburg Intermodal Terminal at the Duisburg harbour, on 13 July 2023. PHOTO: INA FASSBENDER / AFP

GERMAN exports jumped more than expected in January, official data showed Wednesday, thanks to a rebound in demand from EU countries and key market China.

Exports totalled 135.6 billion euros (\$147 billion), a 6.3-per cent increase on the previous month when shipments fell sharply, federal statistics agency Destatis said.

Analysts surveyed by Factset had expected a smaller increase of 1.5 per cent.

The spike marked a rare

spot of good news for Europe’s largest economy which shrank last year after being battered by headwinds including high interest rates, fragile global trade and a manufacturing slump.

Imports to Germany meanwhile rose by 3.6 per cent to 108 billion euros in January, widening the trade surplus to 27.5 billion euros.

The export bounce was driven by an 8.9-per-cent rise in shipments to fellow European Union countries, Destatis said, while those to China climbed by

7.8 per cent.

The United States remained the most popular destination for “made in Germany” goods but demand fell by 1.7 per cent month-on-month.

“Despite all the swan songs, Germany’s foreign trade is off to a strong start in 2024,” said Deutsche Bank economist Robin Winkler.

The stronger-than-expected rise in exports to China especially brought “a ray of hope” to the ailing German economy, Winkler added. — AFP

Britain set for tax-cutting budget before election

BRITAIN’S Conservative government is on Wednesday expected to use a budget update to unveil tax cuts for millions of workers, in an attempt to woo voters before a general election.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s party, which has been in power since 2010, is well behind the main opposition Labour party in opinion polls and looks likely to be dumped out of office.

But voter-friendly measures to win support are likely to be limited, analysts said, with state coffers constrained by stubbornly high inflation and the UK econ-

omy in recession.

Finance minister Jeremy Hunt’s latest tax and spending plans will feature in an address to MPs in parliament at around 1230 GMT.

Sunak is hoping the measures will help the Tories close the gap with Keir Starmer’s resurgent Labour Party ahead of the elections.

But with centre-left Labour having had a clear lead in polling since October 2022 and the gap currently at about 20 points, Sunak has a mountain to climb. — AFP

Women battle on for equality in top business jobs

MORE women are taking top management jobs but in-

equality persists, with men still dominating business lead-

ership roles, research showed ahead of International Women’s Day on 8 March.

Despite some high-profile exceptions and laws helping to boost quotas for women board members and executives, it remains a slow march to the top.

A survey published last week by Equileap, which researches data on diversity, found only seven per cent of CEOs and 17 per cent of finance directors in big companies in developed countries were women. — AFP



It remains a slow march to the top. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

ALLIANCE ONE MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED
Notice for Members' Voluntary Winding Up
Under Section 147 of Insolvency Law and Insolvency Rules-9 and 15-B
(Company Registration No. 118420489)

Notice is hereby given that

- (1) the members of Alliance One Myanmar Company Limited (the "Company") had passed a special resolution on 1 March 2024 that the Company be wound up by way of members' voluntary winding up under the Insolvency Law 2020 with effect from 1 March 2024.
- (2) Daw Myat Myat Chit (holder of Myanmar NRC No. 1/MaNyaNa (N) 081592), has been appointed as liquidator to conduct the members' voluntary winding up of the Company by a resolution of the members passed on 1 March 2024. A copy of the notice of appointment is set out below.

Notice of Appointment of Liquidator

The form is divided into several columns and sections. The first column contains company registration details. The second column contains details of the appointment of the liquidator, Daw Myat Myat Chit. The third column contains a declaration of the liquidator's appointment. The fourth column contains details of the liquidator's appointment, including their name, address, and contact information. The fifth column contains a declaration of the liquidator's appointment, including their name, address, and contact information.

- (3) the creditors of the Company are requested to submit their proof of debts or claims together with the detailed particulars and evidence of the debts or claims to the undersigned liquidator, within one month from the date of this advertisement, at No-15/17, Seventh Floor, Bo Saw Oo Street, Kyimyindaing Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar 11101 and electronically to any of the email addresses of the undersigned as indicated below, using the prescribed form, set out below.

Form -11
(Proof of debt or claim)
Insolvency Law 2020, section 207
Insolvency Rule 87

To: Liquidator

f. This is to state that Company Company with company registration number was on date and still is justly and truly on date indebted to me as amount of

[* To fill in (as appropriate) the date when the Order to windup was passed or in the case of voluntary winding up the date when the resolution to wind up was passed.]

Date	Consideration (how the debt arose)	Amount	Remarks (include details of voucher substantiating payment and attach copies)

2. To my knowledge or belief the creditor has not, nor has any person by the creditor's order, had or received any satisfaction or security for the sum or any part of the debt or claim, other than as disclosed in the First Schedule to this document.

If any bills or other negotiable securities are held, show them in a schedule in the following form:

Date	Drawer	Acceptor	Amount	Due Date

3. The creditor holds no security for the debt or claim, other than as disclosed in the Second Schedule to this document.

4. I am authorized in writing by the creditor to make this statement. I know that the debt described above was incurred for the consideration stated and that the debt remains unpaid and unsatisfied.

* Strike out irrelevant.

Signed: _____
Name: _____
Date: _____

The creditors of the company who fail to submit the claims within one month from the date of this advertisement will be excluded from:

- (i) the benefit of a distribution made before your claim is submitted; and
- (ii) objecting to that distribution.

Daw Myat Myat Chit
NRC No. 1/MaNyaNa (N) 081592
Liquidator
Contact Number: +95 9450022074
Email Address: myat@myatandassociates.com/ myatandassociates@gmail.com
Alliance One Myanmar Company Limited (In Liquidation)

Mr. Leandro Bitencourt Da Silveira
Passport No. YE415874
Managing Director
Contact Number: +66 81 9923323
Email Address: lsilveira@aointl.com
Alliance One Myanmar Company Limited (In Liquidation)

Nepalese tea debuts in China's Xizang via land port

A batch of Nepalese golden needle tea made its debut in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region recently, marking the first time that tea from Nepal has been imported into the region via the Gyirong land port, according to Lhasa customs on Wednesday.

The Gyirong port is one of the largest land ports between China and Nepal, providing an effective route for goods crossing between the two countries.

The customs of Gyirong, affiliated with the Lhasa customs, provided border residents with personalized explanations of the quarantine requirements and import procedures for the Nepalese golden needle tea being brought into China. Green channels were also established to facilitate the efficient inspections of the tea, and measures have been taken to enhance convenience for border residents. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3406S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3406S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB408A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB408A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects a major operational training base at an undisclosed location in North Korea on Wednesday. **PHOTO: KCNA / KNS / VIA AFP**

N Korea's Kim handles gun as he inspects training base

Kim oversaw firing drills and inspected weaponry, instructing the army to improve combat capabilities.

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un brandished a gun while inspecting a major operational training base, urging his military to intensify "actual war drills", state media reported Thursday.

Wearing a black leather jacket, Kim was shown talking to ranks of heavily armed soldiers in camouflage, overseeing firing

drills and inspecting weaponry, images in the official Korean Central News Agency showed.

During his Wednesday visit to the base in the country's western region, Kim told the North Korean army to "steadily intensify the actual war drills aimed at rapidly improving its combat capabilities for perfect war preparedness",

KCNA reported. His visit comes as Seoul and Washington conduct their annual spring military exercises, known as "Freedom Shield", which involve field exercises, missile interception drills and some live firing. Pyongyang has called the drills "reckless", warning the allies they will pay a "dear price". — AFP

Troop deployment to Ukraine would violate NATO's consensus, Hungary opposes

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto emphasized that deploying Western troops to Ukraine would contravene NATO's consensus decision, which Hungary supports.



A Russian serviceman of an artillery unit is seen near a 2A65 Msta-B towed howitzer, in the southern sector in the course of Russia's military operation in Ukraine, at the unknown location. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

LAST week, French President Emmanuel Macron said Western leaders had discussed the possibility of sending troops to Ukraine and had neither reached a consensus on the matter or ruled out the possibility. The United States has since rejected the prospect of sending US troops to fight in Ukraine.

A deployment of Western troops to Ukraine, which Hungary opposes, would violate NATO's common consensus, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto told RIA Novosti.

"I have to tell you that there's a NATO decision in place which we support and this common decision of ours does not allow any ground troops to be deployed to Ukraine because that will be a violation of our common NATO decision," Szijarto said.

Szijarto noted that it is reassuring to him to see a vast majority of the European leaders, including NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, oppose the prospects of sending Western troops to Ukraine in light of Macron's statement. — SPUTNIK

Two Philippine crew among dead in Huthi missile attack: Govt

TWO Filipino crew members were among those killed in a missile attack by Yemen's Huthi rebels on a ship in the Gulf of Aden, the Philippine government said Thursday.

Those killed in the attack

on Wednesday appear to be first deaths resulting from Huthi attacks on merchant vessels transiting the key Red Sea trade route. "With great sadness, the Department of Migrant Workers

confirms the deaths of two Filipino seafarers in the most recent attack by Houthi rebels on ships plying the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden," the agency said in a statement. — AFP

German rail, air workers walk out in new strike round

HUNDREDS of thousands of passengers in Germany faced travel misery Thursday as rail and airport workers stage new strikes to back demands for higher wages.

Germany has been troubled by strikes for months as workers and management wrestle over terms amid high

inflation and weak business activity.

Industrial action has hit the transport sector; supermarkets and the civil service.

Rail workers began a 35-hour strike on freight services at 1700 GMT on Wednesday and on passenger services at 0100 GMT on Thursday morning.

The length of the strike is intended to underline a key ask of the GDL train drivers union to reduce the working week to 35 hours from 38. Rail employees have been staging strikes for months to demand a pay rise to help members manage the higher cost of living in light of inflation. — AFP



Deutsche Bahn, the national railway company of Germany, has condemned the walkout. **AFP/FILE**

SPORTS

Liverpool, Leverkusen aim to play up to favourites tag in Europa League

Despite Sparta's strong performance in the Czech league and in Europe, Liverpool's exceptional form makes them the favourites to advance to the quarter-finals.



Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool head to the Czech Republic to face Sparta Prague. **PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS / PHOTO: OLI SCARFF/AFP**

LIVERPOOL and Xabi Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen are the standout contenders to go all the way in this season's Europa League with both teams this week heading east for last-16 ties they will be expected to win comfortably.

Jurgen Klopp's side are one of four British teams still alive in the competition and hoping to go all the way to this season's final, which will be played in Dublin on 22 May.

However, while Brighton and Hove Albion, West Ham United and Rangers all face

difficult last-16 ties, it would be a major surprise if Liverpool slipped up against Sparta Prague and missed out on the quarter-finals.

Sparta are top of the Czech league and have had some fine results in Europe this season, qualifying from their group ahead of Real Betis and then eliminating Galatasaray in the knockout round play-offs.

Yet Liverpool are in fantastic form and still in contention to win a remarkable quadruple in Klopp's final season as manager at Anfield. — AFP

PEP Guardiola said Manchester City have earned their place among the perennial contenders for Champions League glory after reaching the quarter-finals for a seventh consecutive season on Wednesday.

Guardiola could even afford the luxury of resting a host of star names in a 3-1 victory over FC Copenhagen at the Etihad that completed a 6-2 aggregate rout.

Goals from Manuel Akanji and Julian Alvarez killed the tie as a contest inside 10 minutes before Erling Haaland drilled in his 29th goal of the season.

'Respected' Man City now belong among European heavyweights, says Guardiola

Guardiola was able to rest several key players during the match, with goals from Manuel Akanji and Julian Alvarez securing an early lead.

Mohamed Elyounoussi briefly reduced the Danish champions' deficit to 2-1 on the night, but Copenhagen were outclassed over two legs as the European champions remain on course for another treble.

City conquered Europe for

the first time in the club's history last season, but Guardiola acknowledged his side are now seen as favourites for the competition ahead of the likes of Real Madrid and Bayern Munich. — AFP

Team Myanmar prepares for international tournaments

MYANMAR women's football team is currently training for the upcoming international tournaments, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar has been undergoing training since 4 March and is handled by Japanese national Tetsuro Uki as the head coach. The Myanmar national women's team is made up of 30 preliminary players, and Khin Mala Tun and Win Theingi Tun, who are playing in foreign clubs, did not participate.

Goalkeeper May Zin Nwe, defenders Zun Yu Ya Oo and Phyu Phyu Win, midfielders Naw Htet Htet Wai, Khin Mo Mo Htun and strikers Myat Noe Khin and San Thaw Thaw are present in the lineup.

Most of the young players are included in the preliminary list that has been selected. The Myanmar Football Federation



Myanmar women players are seen in their training sessions ahead of the international tournaments. **PHOTO: MFF**

is inviting teams from Asia to play friendly matches with the Myanmar national women's team. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Murray opens Indian Wells with win over Goffin

ANDY Murray launched his 16th appearance at the ATP-WTA Indian Wells Masters on Wednesday with a 6-3, 6-2 defeat of qualifier David Goffin.

Britain's 2009 finalist in the California desert took 80 minutes to produce a satisfying win to improve to 8-0 against the former top-10 Belgian.

Murray, a three-time Grand Slam champion who acknowledged in Dubai last month that he is unlikely to keep playing beyond this season, swept the final 10 points of the opening set and went up a double break for 5-2 before polishing off the

win. "I was striking the ball well from the back of the court, it was a solid performance," the 36-year-old Murray, ranked 61st, said.

"This could be the best I've ever served here. I've struggled serving here for at least 10 years. Today felt much better." — AFP



Erling Haaland (centre) was on target in Manchester City's 3-1 win over FC Copenhagen. **PHOTO: AFP**



SHOCKING

Lightning strikes Boeing 777 after takeoff at Vancouver Airport

LIGHTNING hit an airliner shortly after take-off from Vancouver airport this week, an eye-witness who captured the incident on video told CTV News.

Ethan West, 19, a student pilot, was near Vancouver International Airport when a lightning bolt struck on Monday evening. He was watching planes when he saw it happen. The plane struck was a Boeing 777-300ER.

"It's one of my favourite aircraft... It makes this really loud roaring noise, so I was trying to get that from the take-off thrust," said West, who is in the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) pilot program.

After the incident, West checked an online flight tracker. He confirmed that the Boeing plane continued its journey to London's Heathrow airport. "I watched it, it kept climbing...I guess they decided it was safe and okay to fly," he noted.

According to McGill University's Office for Science and Safety, lightning strikes a plane "about once a year". While it is scary, passengers inside are safe because of "smart design elements in airplanes", the article says.

Planes attract lightning bolts once or twice per year. While it may be frightening, passengers are usually unharmed thanks to the smart design of modern aircraft. — SPUTNIK



A scene from an international peace summit in Cairo, Egypt, on 21 October, 2023, where heads of state and ministers from several countries urged an end to the ongoing Israel-Hamas armed conflict in the Gaza Strip, is displayed on a screen at the media centre.
PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WANG DONGZHEN/XINHUA/FILE

China supports Palestine in becoming full member of UN: FM

Wang emphasized the urgency of resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, calling it a humanitarian disaster and a stain on civilization. He urged the international community to prioritize an immediate ceasefire.

CHINA supports Palestine in becoming a full member of the United Nations (UN), Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Thursday.

Noting that the failure to end the humanitarian disaster caused by the Palestinian-Israeli conflict today in the 21st century is a tragedy for humanity and a disgrace for civilization, Wang called on the international community

to act to give priority to an immediate ceasefire.

The foreign minister said the Palestinian people have the right to live in the world, calling for the release of all those held captive.

Restoring justice to the Palestinian people and fully implementing the two-state solution is the only way to break the vicious circle of Palestinian-Israeli

conflicts, Wang said.

"We support Palestine's full membership in the UN, and urge certain UN Security Council member to stop laying obstacles to that end," Wang said, adding that China calls for a more broad-based, more authoritative, and more effective international peace conference to work out a timetable and road map for the two-state solution. — Xinhua



Despite global efforts, the sector's greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, highlighting the urgent need for innovative solutions to decarbonize construction practices and align with climate goals outlined in the Paris Agreement. **PHOTO: PIX FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/AFP**

UN, France co-host forum to decarbonize construction sector

FRANCE and the UN Environment Programme co-host a two-day conference starting Thursday to find ways to cut the sizeable carbon footprint of the construction sector, a major contributor to climate change.

Nearly 2,000 government officials, diplomats, industry representatives and members of civil society from 50 countries are gathering in Paris for the Buildings and Climate Global Forum.

The buildings and construction sector's global greenhouse gas emissions are continuing to rise, the French ecological transition ministry said.

"The sector is not on the right path to decarbonize by 2050," the ministry said.

"It is therefore crucial to fundamentally rethink the way we build and use our buildings in order to ensure that national climate policies succeed and the Paris Agreement on climate is

respected," it said.

The UN says the world must reach net-zero emissions by 2050 in order to meet the Paris accord's ambitious goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Coming on the heels of the UN's COP28 climate summit in Dubai, the Paris forum in Paris is expected to produce a joint statement that has been negotiated for months. — AFP