Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 158, 8th Waxing of Tawthalin 1385 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Friday, 22 September 2023

Message from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I am pleased to convey my warmest congratulations to you and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of our bilateral diplomatic relations.

Over the past three decades, Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar have enjoyed warm and long-standing ties in education and people-to-people exchanges. I look forward to strengthening further both our bilateral and regional cooperation.

With my kindest regards and best wishes for your continued good health and happiness, as well as for the progress and prosperity of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Message from Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam

ON behalf of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and on my own behalf, I take great pleasure in conveying our congratulations and best wishes to Your Majesty and the people of Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam which falls on 21 September 2023.

It is with great satisfaction to witness that as members of the ASEAN family, Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam have been enjoying the cordial ties of friendship and cooperation both bilaterally and multilaterally while contributing towards promoting the peace and prosperity of our region. As our friendly relations and bilateral partnership open a new chapter in our relations, I have every confidence that through our collective efforts, we shall be able to consolidate our friendship and expand cooperation across many areas in the best interests of our two peoples and countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warm wishes for Your Majesty's good health and happiness, as well as for the lasting prosperity of Brunei Darussalam and its people.

Please accept, Your Majesty, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

MoCRD initiates collaboration with MLC members to strengthen MSME empowerment

The Capacity-building Workshop on Scaling up Digital Connectivity for MSMEs Resilience in Myanmar was held on 19 September in Nay Pyi Taw.

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An insight into dedicated workers at an MSME workplace.

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MTA (Central) to honour around 1,300 elderly artistes across Myanmar in October

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207 construction permits issued in three weeks of September

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Flooding market causes drop in peanut prices amid weak global demand

NATIONAL

The peace talks between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the Restoration Council of Shan State in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

NSPNC holds peace talks with RCSS

NATIONAL Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC and representatives from the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) engaged in a peace talk at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Lt-Gen Min Naing, the secretary of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and members and RCSS Secretary-1 Sao Sai Ngin, Central Executive Committee members Sao Saung Han and Sao Um Khe and Central Steering Committee members Sao Sai Han and Sao Sai Lyan.

In the meeting, agendas for discussion were set first before the secretary of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the RCSS secretary-1 delivered their keynote speeches.

Arrangements to celebrate NCA's 8th birthday profoundly, to cooperate in measures to conduct free and fair general elections in EAO-active areas, to collaborate in humanitarian aid providing efforts in EAO-dominated areas, sections that deserve to be amended in 2008 Constitution and regional development were discussed.

Both parties also exchanged views on the requirements for the economy presented by RCSS.

The second day of the meeting will be held on 22 September. — MNA/TH

Let's Go VACS YANGON Travel Fair 2023 to be held at Yangon Convention Centre

THE Let's GO VACS YANGON Travel Fair 2023 is scheduled to take place at the Yangon Convention Centre in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, from 22 to 24 September, as announced by the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Yangon Region).

This three-day event, running from 22 to 24 September, will comprise more than 100 booths and will be open to visitors from 10 am to 6 pm daily.

At the fair, attendees can explore a diverse range of exhibitors, including travel tour companies, hotels and resorts, local product vendors, and sellers of travel accessories. The event will also offer various travel packages, air tickets, exclusive promotions for car rentals, visa services, and hotel reservations.

Moreover, the fair will feature five distinct tourism zones, where entrepreneurs will provide information about both domestic and international tourist visas and trips. Additionally, there will be informative tourism seminars and lectures available for participants. — ASH/KZW

MTA (Central) to honour around 1,300 elderly artistes across Myanmar in October

Aged theatrical performers are seen at the previous respect-paying event.

U Nay Win, Secretary of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), announced that the association plans to organize a ceremony in October in Yangon to pay tribute to approximately 1,300 elderly theatrical artistes from all over Myanmar.

The 3rd respect-paying ceremony for aged theatrical performers is scheduled to be held at the National Theatre (Yangon) on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, on 7 October. Currently, there are approximately 1,300 artistes aged 75 and above who have played various roles in theatre.

Many of these aged theatricians come from various fields of dramatic arts, including Anyeint, Myanma traditional orchestra, drama, Ramayana, marionette, circus, and magic shows.

The Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) is making efforts to provide permanent support to veteran artistes, host an annual respect-paying ceremony for senior theatrical performers nationwide, and preserve and promote various forms of dramatic arts. — ASH/CT

COVID-19 report, 21 September 2023

NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
5,587	6	0

NATIONAL

Press Release

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam which falls on 21 September 2023, messages of felicitations were exchanged between Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance and Economy and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and between U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam.

Message from Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I extend my sincere congratulations to you and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar continue to enjoy warm and long-standing ties in areas of shared interest. I look forward to continuing our work in further enhancing the bilateral cooperation as well as through our partnership in ASEAN towards lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

With my kindest regards and best wishes for your continued good health, happiness and success.

Message from U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam

I extend my warm felicitations and congratulations to Your Excellency as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam on 21 September 2023.

Myanmar has always cherished its relations and bilateral cooperation with Brunei Darussalam since the establishment of our diplomatic ties in 1993. I truly believe that the 30th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations offers us a great opportunity to further consolidate our friendship and expand cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral contexts to serve the interests of our two countries and peoples, as well as ASEAN as a whole.

I wish you continued success and for the people of Brunei Darussalam, lasting prosperity.

With the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

DPM & MoFA Union Minister receives UNOPS Asia Regional Director

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Sanjay Mathur, Regional Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Asia Region based in Bangkok, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed ways and means pertaining to existing and further cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the UNOPS. Also present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ms Sara Austin Netzer, Country Director ad interim of the UNOPS Myanmar in Yangon. — MNA

The UNOPS Asia Regional Director calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

SAC Member Porel Aung Thein meets personnel from the Kayah State Sports and Physical Education Department in Loikaw yesterday.

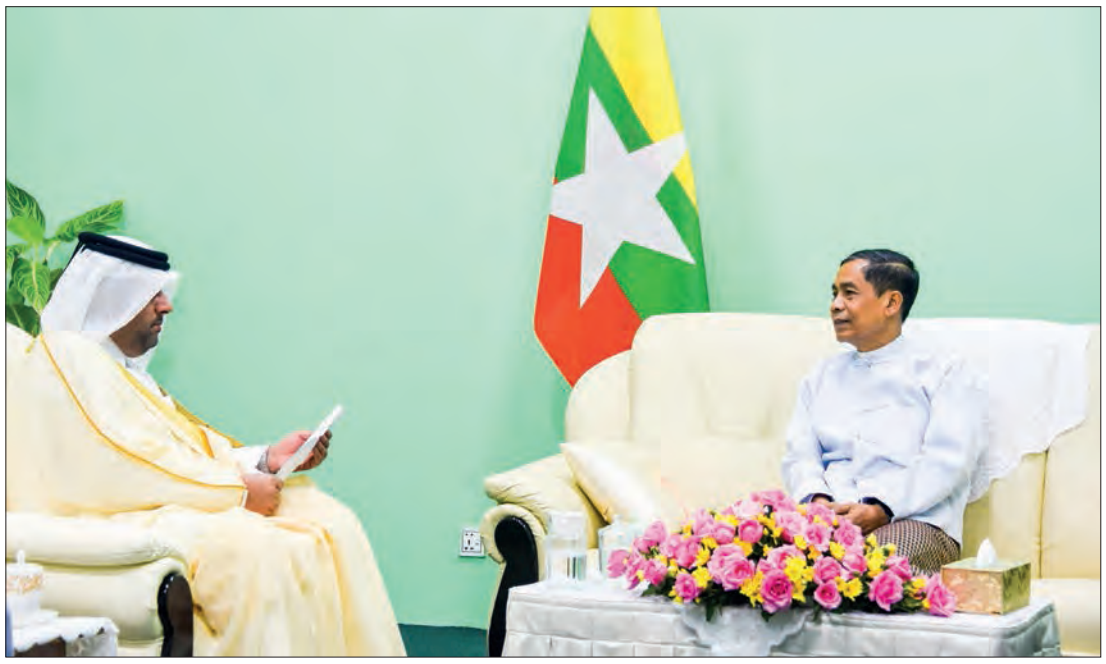
Government encourages athletes to improve sports skills and talent

THE government is enhancing the sports sector and deservedly honouring the outstanding athletes, said Member of the State Administration Council Porel Aung Thein at a meeting with staff of Kayah State Sports and Physical Education Department in Loikaw yesterday morning.

Together with Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin, the SAC member inspected the stadium, the gymnasium and stands and a 400-metre track in Loikaw and fulfilled the needs.

He enjoyed the final matches of the Kayah State Chief Minister's Trophy U-25 men's and women's volleyball tournament at the Kayah State Karatedo gymnasium and presented championship trophies, individual medals and cash awards to the first prize-winning Shadaw women's team and Demawhso men's team respectively. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL



The Qatari Minister/Charge d' Affaires ai calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Government Office 2 UM receives Qatari Minister/Charge d'Affaires ai

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister at the Union Government Office 2 received Dr Rashid Abdulla AL-Kuwari, Minister/Charge d'Affaires ai of the Embassy of the State of Qatar and his delegation at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the courtesy call, they cordially discussed enhancing the bilateral relations between the two countries, the support and coordination offered by Qatar in the process of repatriation of the displaced persons from Rakhine State and the humanitarian assistance. — MNA

MIFER Union Minister receives UNOPS Asia Regional Director

The UNOPS Asia Regional Director calls on Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received Mr Sanjay Mathur, Asia Regional Director for the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and his delegation at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially discussed matters relating to the ongoing cooperation programmes and exchanged views on the future cooperation between Myanmar and UNOPS. — MNA

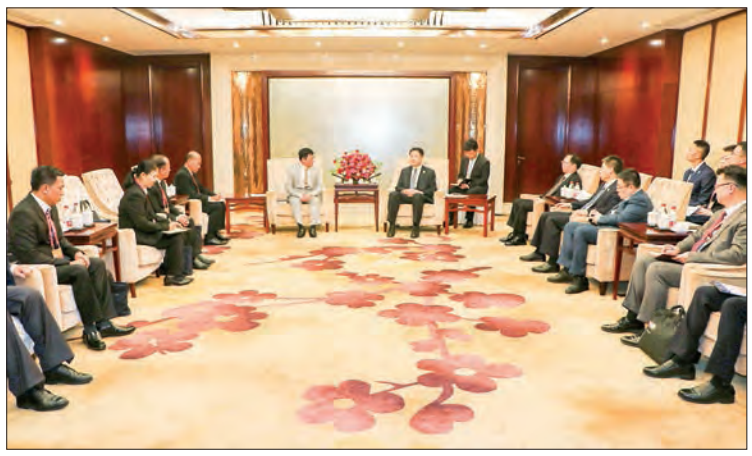
Myanmar delegation attends 2023 Global Public Security Cooperation Forum

A Myanmar delegation headed by Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing participated in the opening ceremony of the 2023 Global Public Security Cooperation Forum held in Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province, China on 20 September. Over 50 countries were represented by their Security Ministers, deputy ministers, and officials at the ceremony.

During the opening ceremony, Mr Wang Xiaohong, State Councillor of the People's Republic of China and Minister of Public Security, delivered the inaugural address. Security Ministers, deputy ministers, and delegates from the participating nations also addressed the gathering.

Following the ceremony, Union Minister U Myint Kyaing had a discussion with Mr Wang Xiaohong, State Councillor and Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China.

During the meeting, the discussions between China and Myanmar covered such various key areas as the long-standing friendly relationship between the two countries, ensuring security, stability and peace within their shared borders, collaborative efforts to enhance relations between their citizens, preventing illegal border crossings, combatting drug trafficking, human trafficking, and online gambling associated with gaming, successful cross-border cooperation among China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos in addressing crimes, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and money swindling, China's commitment to assist with the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State, adding border posts between the two nations and increasing cooperation in immigration operations, mutual entry and exit arrangements for citizens holding passports from the Muse-Ruili entry point, and enhancing cooperation in matters related to border area stability and peace, as well as immigration-related activities.



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing holds talks with Mr Wang Xiaohong, State Councillor and Minister of Public Security in China on 20 September 2023.

The meeting also underscored the importance of collaboration between China and Myanmar in addressing various security and border-related challenges while maintaining their close diplomatic ties. — MNA/TS

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

China-Myanmar Cooperation Symposium on Metrology held in Yangon

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw addressed the opening ceremony of the China-Myanmar Cooperation Symposium on Metrology in Yangon yesterday.

The symposium was jointly organized by the Department of Research and Innovation, the National Standards and Quality Department and the National Institute of Metrology (Myanmar).

At the event, the Myanmar delegates discussed the standardization of national-level infrastructure and the National Institute of Metrology (Myanmar), and the Chinese experts focused on the Myanmar-China bilateral research, Dimensional Metrology and Temperature Metrology.

Then, the entrepreneurs and stakeholders presented the requirements of measurement for industrial production and discussed effective measures for manufacturing industries through metrological activities.

The Union minister then headed to the University of Computer Studies (Yangon) with the relevant officials. On arrival at the university, he stressed the need to be an international standard research-based university and to ensure safe learning at the university, research being conducted with international organizations, capacity-building training for faculties, management sectors, image of the university and greening activities.

They then observed the Robotics Programming Knowledge Sharing Seminar jointly held by the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute(ERTI) of Korea and inspected the university campus. — MNA/KTZH

The China-Myanmar Cooperation Symposium on Metrology in progress yesterday in Yangon.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn is pictured before departing for Viet Nam yesterday.

MoI Union Minister leaves for Viet Nam to attend 16th AMRI & related meetings

A delegation led by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn left for Da Nang, Viet Nam, yesterday to attend the 16th ASEAN Ministers' Responsible for Information (16th AMRI), 20th Senior Officials Meeting on Information (20th SOMRI) and its related meetings. The 16th AMRI will be held on 22 and 23 September.

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung of the Ministry of Information and delegates attended the 20th Senior Officials' Meeting Responsible for Information (SOMRI) and its related meetings that are being held on 19 and 21 September in advance. Ministers and senior officials responsible for information from ASEAN member states, China, Japan and Korea will attend the meetings. — MNA/TH

Water from Kyeeohn Kyeewa Dam overflows from spillway

THE Kyeeohn Kyeewa Dam in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, which local farmers rely on for agricultural water, has seen an increase in the inflow of rainwater due to recent rains.

Rainwater inflow into the dam increased yesterday morning and the water overflowed from the spillway about 5.3 feet above the 340 feet high of the full point of the dam, according to U Soe Tint, assistant engineer of the dam.

As the rainfall decreased at the beginning of September, the overflow from the dam's excess water gradually decreased, and now, due to the rains, the inflow of rainwater increased again.

Although there is overflow from the spillway, there is no concern for the local people downstream the dam, and the spillway and related buildings are strong and in good condition.

Regarding the overflow from the spillway of the dam, the staff on duty take turns to monitor the water level and inform the residents of the villages downstream the dam about the situation of rainwater entering the dam daily in a timely manner according to the natural disaster prevention plan.

The Kyeeohn Kyeewa Dam in Pwintbyu Township is one of the dams that can store the most irrigation water in Minbu District, providing sufficient water for agriculture and crops for the local people.

If there is an increase in rainwater in the dam due to the rainfall, the hydropower plant will operate 24 hours a day, and the electricity generated will be sent to the national grid, benefiting the electricity supply.

Due to the good rainfall this year, rainwater can be stored in the dam, and the water can be sent to the Mezali diversion weir and distributed it to the farmers in the region to grow crops. — Hlaing Win Lay (Pwintbyu Myay)/KZL

A clear view of water overflowing from the Kyeeohn Kyeewa Dam's spillway in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

A bird's eye view of the office of Yangon City Development Committee.

207 construction permits issued in three weeks of September

IT is known that 207 construction permits were issued within the municipal areas of the Yangon City Development Committee during the three weeks of September.

According to the Engineering Department (Buildings), 207 construction permits and 49 building completion certificates (BCCs) were granted in the three weeks of September.

In addition, to allow the construction of the building, 13 letters of recommendation were sent to the Department of Fire Services, 48 letters to the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), eight letters to the Department of Urban Land Management, one to the Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges), two to the Engineering Department (Water Course Management), and four to the Department of Urban and Housing Development. — TWA/CT

YCDC initiates four-week training for garbage vans operation & maintenance

THE Yangon City Development Committee launched a training programme focused on the systematic operation and maintenance of garbage vans on 20 September.

This initiative aims to improve knowledge and skills related to garbage truck maintenance and operation, ensuring their prolonged use in preserving Yangon's cleanliness. The training programme has several objectives, including enforcing departmental work rules among drivers, enhancing safe driving practices in compliance with traffic regulations, and proficiency in managing hydraulic systems. The primary goal is to prevent major vehicle weaknesses through daily checks of critical components like oil, water, air and lubricant.

A garbage truck is seen collecting waste in the community ward.

The course covers various essential aspects, such as effective ground cleaning techniques, economical use of vehicle maintenance supplies, vehicle maintenance procedures, and strict adherence to traffic regulations. Instruction on engine operation in the currently employed garbage vans will be provided by experienced motorists and engineers from the Department of Urban Environmental Conservation and Sanitation.

This comprehensive training programme is attended by 45 trainees from township offices under the Department of Urban Environmental Conservation and Sanitation, spanning four weeks. — TWA/KZW

MRF declares paddy reference price during monsoon paddy harvest season

MYANMAR Rice Federation announced on 19 September the reference prices of various monsoon paddy varieties produced in 2023.

The floor prices and the ceiling prices are set at K1.3-1.5 million per 100 baskets of low-grade monsoon paddy (Ngasein/Aemahta) varieties, K1.6-1.8 million for Ayeyawady Pawsan and Ayeya Padaytha paddy varieties, K1.8-2 million for Shwebo Pawsan paddy. The federation urged the traders not to offer higher prices than the reference prices.

To have a decent price during the harvest season of monsoon paddy, the MRF set the reference prices upon the decisions of the related non-governmental organizations, officials of the MRF, and rice exporting companies, to have a certain profit for the stakeholders in

Some growers are seen harvesting monsoon paddy in a field.

the supply chain including millers, traders and producers and to ensure the fair price for the consumers, under the guidelines of the State for the commodity price stability.

However, the MRF has not revealed the measurement for one basket. Normally, it is measured at 46 pounds per basket of paddy. Depending on the moisture content, the measurement increased to 50 pounds and above per basket while traders were buying them from farmers.

The reference price of paddy was set at K320,000 per 100 baskets (a basket is equivalent to 46 pounds) in the 2012-2013 financial year. The price soared to K1.5 million per 100 baskets after a decade.

The yield rate of monsoon paddy is estimated at 70 baskets per acre, allowing the farmers to earn K1 million. Before the monsoon paddy harvest season, the paddy prices surged to K1.8-2.8 million per 100 baskets of low-grade monsoon paddy and Ayeyawady Pawsan paddy in early September from K1.45-1.9 million recorded in early February 2023. The price of Shwebo paddy jumped to K3.7 million per 100 baskets in September from K2.5 million in early January 2023. — TWA/KK

LOCAL BUSINESS

Flooding market causes drop in peanut prices amid weak global demand

THE prices of peanuts tumbled down in the Mandalay market owing to the excess supply of peanuts when the global demand faltered.

It is the harvest season of peanuts so they are flooding the Mandalay market. At present, demand by the main buyer China is also slowing.

Moreover, oil millers' demand is also sluggish, as per the Mandalay Commodity Centre.

The peanut prices hit a high of K11,000 per viss on 18 August on the back of strong foreign and domestic demand.

The prevailing prices move in the range between K6,450 and K8,800 per viss depending on the varieties, indicating a one-month drop of K1,100-2,200 per viss.

Nonetheless, the peanut oil price is still high at K15,000 per viss.

A man shows some of the white peanuts in Monywa market. **PHOTO MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

Myanmar has been exporting oil seeds (sesame and peanuts) to foreign countries. In April 2022, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil to reduce domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May 2022 to ensure oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department.

The country conveyed about 90,000 kilogrammes worth US$14.503 million to foreign markets through seaborne and border trade channels over the past five months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April. — NN/EM

Mandalay Thiri Marlar market sees influx of China's carrots

MANDALAY Thiri Marlar market is bustling with trading activities of China's carrot, said U Aung Moe Naing, an owner of Mandalay's Aung Depot.

There is an inflow of three to four 12-wheel trucks loaded with China's carrots to Mandalay market daily. A 6-viss carton of carrots fetches K27,000-35,000.

"The market sees only carrot supply from neighbouring China. The inventory of locally produced carrots is pretty low.

"Moreover, the acreage of carrot cultivation is decreasing. The price of imported carrots is rising. Tomato, cauliflower, potato, Chinese mustard, French bean, radish and broccoli are selling well in the Mandalay market," he added.

The carrot is cultivated in Mandalay and Sagaing Regions. It is a lucrative crop and can be harvested throughout the year. There is an influx of China's carrots to the Thiri Marlar market every day. — Maung Aye Chan/KK

Fuel oil prices indicate a three-day decrease of over K100 per litre

FUEL prices showed a three-day decrease of over K100 per litre in the domestic market.

Fuel prices were K2,440 per litre of Octane 92, K2,565 for Octane 95, K2,650 for diesel and K2,725 for premium diesel on 18 September and then, the prices slipped to K2,330 per litre for Octane 92, K2,435 per litre for Octane 95, K2,530 for diesel and K2,610 for premium diesel on 21 September, indicating a decline of 11-130 per litre depending on types of oil.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, weighs on the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Last August 2022, the oil prices touched the highest of K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel and K3,245 for diesel.

The committee is therefore steering the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively so as not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in the Yangon Region is set on the MOPS's price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general costs and health profit per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily covered on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department daily starting from 4 May.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices compared to that of Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar.

Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

OPINION

Strengthen national strategic plan for women's advancement

IN MYANMAR, women and girls hold a special place in society, with priority accorded to them across various domains. Recognizing the disparities in physical strength, men often empathize and assist women in tasks requiring physical prowess. Within the household, while the husband traditionally assumes the role of family leader, it is the wife who exercises control over family matters, reflecting the longstanding customs of Myanmar society. Consequently, it is imperative to empower women to manage affairs at different levels, drawing upon their extensive experience within their families.

The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) was a pivotal framework designed to elevate the status of women in Myanmar across a wide spectrum of areas. Phase II of this strategic plan, spanning from 2023 to 2032, has been crafted to encompass 12 priority areas aligned with the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). These areas include livelihoods, education, health, violence against women, economics, decision-making, implementation mechanisms, human rights, media, environment, girls' issues, and armed conflict.

> Myanmar recognizes the vital role of women and girls in the society. By bolstering the National Strategic Plan, the nation aims to empower women across diverse domains, fostering a more equitable and peaceful society. This commitment to gender equality is not just an investment in women but a step towards a brighter future for all.

Myanmar boasts a population of 55.8 million, comprising 26.7 million men and 29.1 million women, according to estimates from 1 October 2022. Given these numbers, it becomes evident that women and girls play a pivotal role in enhancing the socioeconomic fabric of the nation.

The Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs has assumed a leadership role in implementing the National Strategic Plan. Their mission includes elevating the capacity of Myanmar women and safeguarding them against violence. In doing so, these countless women can emerge as a dependable force for the state.

To achieve these aspirations, relevant ministries and organizations must prioritize gender mainstreaming in conjunction with projects related to the 12 priority areas outlined in the strategic plan. This collaboration among work committees is imperative because comprehensive societal development can only be achieved when women are empowered. The empowerment of women is a linchpin in constructing a prosperous society.

As a result, both genders can progressively reduce disputes, contentious issues, conflicts, and friction between them. This will undoubtedly lead to an upsurge in peace and the gradual resolution of problems, from the familial to the national level, contributing to the overall progress of the nation.

Myanmar recognizes the vital role of women and girls in the society. By bolstering the National Strategic Plan, the nation aims to empower women across diverse domains, fostering a more equitable and peaceful society. This commitment to gender equality is not just an investment in women but a step towards a brighter future for all.

ARTICLE

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

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

EPISODE:20

HENRY Crookshank (1893-1972) was born in Dublin the son of Charles Henry Crookshank and Elizabeth nee Stokes. His mother was related to the bacteriologist Adrian Stokes and archaeologist Margaret McNair Stokes. He was educated at St Columba's College and then Trinity College, Dublin where he studied mathematics but World War I interrupted his studies. He joined the Dublin Fusiliers in 1914 and served in the Middle East and France.

He returned in 1918 to study engineering and joined the Geological Survey of India in 1929. The geological work began with oil surveys near Karachi and later studied sapphires in the Vizag area, and studied in the Satpura Gondwana Basin. Crookshank returned from the field on the 16th of May 1933. Appointed to officiate as Superintendent from the 27th of March to the 21st of September, 1933, and again from the 6th of October to the 22nd of December 1933. Placed in charge of the Southern Circle till the 22nd of December 1933. Crookshank served in the Northwest Frontier in the early 1940s but was shot in both legs and flown back to Rawalpindi. After recovering he was posted in charge of mica production in Rajputana.

He became the superintending geologist in 1944-45 and worked on the geology of the northern slopes of the Satpuras between the Moraud and Sher rivers. He was a fellow of the Indian National Science Academy. Almost a month before Clegg's death, H Crookshank was asked telegraphically, when he was on the point of going on leave out of India, to take officiating charge of the post of Director, as Clegg had been suddenly taken ill. He continued to officiate in the post on Clegg's death until he was able to avail himself of leave. Crookshank published his 'Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India' in 1936.

Geological Surveys of Burma Circle

Crookshank mainly worked in India and no record has been found of his geological activity in Burma, therefore, some geological surveys of Burma Circle, in the 1936-37 field season, during his term in GSI, could be described as follows:

From the 1st of April 1937, a separate Burma Geological Department was created, consisting of Messrs. Clegg, Bradshaw, and Dutt, who were placed on foreign service with the Government of Burma. During the field season, Mr Clegg continued the extension of his survey of the Mogok Stone Tract by examining various outcrops in sheets 93 B/4, 93 B/3, and 93 B/2 between Mandalay and Thabeikkyin, and then continued mapping in sheets 93 A/4 and A/8 north of Thabeikkyin.

Mandalay Hill

The area south of Thabeikkyin is included in La Touche's map of the Northern Shan State but no attempt was made by La Touche to divide the rocks into the calcareous and granitic rocks which were known to exist. Mr Clegg found that all the isolated outcrops which protruded from the alluvium in the southern area consisted of either metamorphosed calcareous rocks, metamorphosed calcareous rocks intruded by granite, or solely granites. The exposures commence at Mandalay Hill, which consists essentially of crystalline limestones and diopside calciphyres, penetrated on the eastern flank by granite and pegmatite dykes. The granite, which is excellently exposed in the quarries on the east side of the hill, varies from fine aplitic to coarse porphyritic biotite granite, and in it quartz veins are common. The general strike of the granite dykes is N. 5° W. The calciphyre is very contorted and has veins of granite material injected along, as well as across, the bedding.

Kyanigan Hills

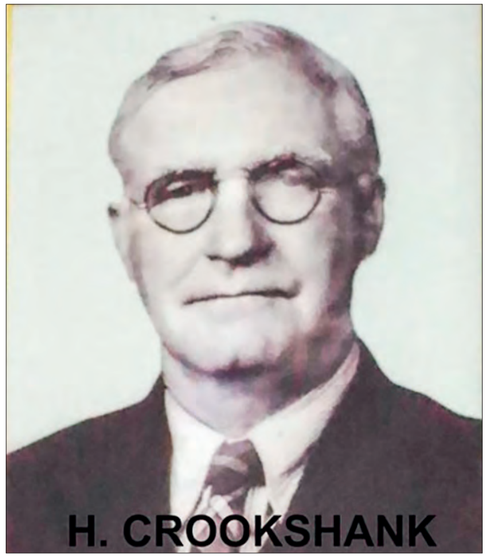
Seven miles north of Mandalay the Kyanigan hills are composed of the greater part of metamorphosed calcareous rocks with acid igneous intrusions on the south-west. The calcareous series are generally fine-grained, banded, show local contortions, and weather irregularly according to the composition of the bands; they consist of diopside-granulites containing free calcite, scapolite, diopside, quartz and felspar; occasionally, as one mile east of Kyanigan, iron pyrite is present. The granite is mostly coarse, biotite, and gneissic; thin bands richer in biotite are almost schistose, and white bands consist almost entirely of tourmaline, quartz, and felspar. Sometimes a fine-grained biotite-muscovite gneiss occurs in association with the tourmaline granite.

Boywa Hill

Eleven miles north of Mandalay the isolated Boywa hills consist entirely of gneissis medium-grained biotite granite.

West of Chaung-Magyi Chaung

In sheet 93 B/3 a large granite boss lies to the west of the Chaung-Magyi Chaung. West of this boss the Sagyin hills rise abruptly as a straggling line of irregularly shaped hills made up of crystalline limestone and metamorphosed calcareous rocks of a more impure nature. These continue intermittently to the north and from the calcareous hills to the north and south-west of Pinle-In; they are broken by granitic intrusions, which form outlying smaller intrusions of the massive boss to the east, and from which they are separated by an alluvial valley possibly overlying calcareous rocks. Northwards metamorphosed calcareous rocks are found bounding on the south of another of these outlying granite intrusions immediately north by east of Nyaungwun.



Henry Crookshank (1893-1972) Source: GSI

> The Sagyin Hills consist of massive white crystalline limestones which dip east by north at 42°. Some of these marbles contain rhombs of calcite up to three inches in length; others are finely saccharoidal. In the low hills just over a mile SSE of Sagyin a little crushed calcareous gneiss consisting of quartz, diopside, sphene, a little scapolite, and felspar, occurs intercalated in coarse crystalline limestone.

Sagyin Hills

The Sagyin Hills consist of massive white crystalline limestones which dip east by north at 42°. Some of these marbles contain rhombs of calcite up to three inches in length; others are finely saccharoidal. In the low hills just over a mile SSE of Sagyin a little crushed calcareous gneiss consisting of quartz, diopside, sphene, a little scapolite, and felspar, occurs intercalated in coarse crystalline limestone. In the hills north of Sagyin, diopside, phlogopite, and pink spinel were found to be common in the calciphyres near Tawyokyaung, whilst Hngetkyizin hill consists of white crystalline limestone and a medium-grained calcareous gneiss composed of plagioclase, a little orthoclase, and microcline, diopside, sphene, a little quartz and epidote.

Pinle-In-Ywezu Hills

The Pinle-in-Ywezu calcareous series is very similar to that found further to the south. It is intruded to the east by biotite-granite of both fine and coarse-grained types. The junction is not sharp and, near it, granite has penetrated the calcareous rocks in a series of bands and small bosses. At the extreme north, the hills end up in a tourmaline granite dyke in which crystalline limestone and diopside-calciphyre are caught up.

Hills north of Nyungwun

North-east of Nyaungwun the calcareous series consists of calciphyres composed mainly of calcite, a little diopside, sphene, and scapolite and dips east by north at about 40°. In this area also granites intrude into the series. North-east of Magway Taya calcareous rocks, mostly of calciphyre and calcareous gneiss, are found as a fringe to the main granitic intrusion to the east. Close to the boundary, the latter is a tourmaline granite.

Main granite mass

The main granite mass of sheet 93 B/3 and 7 forms an almost impenetrable mass of mountainous forest country. The common type of granite present is normal biotite-granite but its texture varies from coarsely gneissic to fine-grained. The fine-grained is indistinguishable from the Kabaing granite of the Mogok area. Near the contacts of the granite with rocks of sedimentary origin, tourmaline-granite is common, as is for example seen (1) one and a half miles north of Sedaw, (2) below Sedaw inspection bungalow, (3) north-west of Kadetchin and (4) four miles east of Nyaungwun.

Pyingyittaung Ridge

This main granite mass continues north into sheet 93 B/2 and B/6, in the same type of mountainous forest country. Although the highest point (3,531) in this granite range lies to the south, the most prominent peaks along the watershed to the north are never less than 2,300 feet. Flanking this intrusion on the west are rocks of the metamorphosed calcareous series. These make up the ridge of Pyingyitaung south of Kokku and continue to the southern edge of the sheet; northwards they are found again in the valley of Kyunbyingyi Chaung.

Ngawuntaung-Kaduda Taung and Taunggyun Taung

West of the latter, the outer line of intrusion, which in this sheet consists predominantly of fine to medium-grained granite of the Kabaing type, makes up the hill mass of Ngawuntaung (1,217) in the south, emerges from the alluvium some three miles to the north to form Kaduda Taung and then from the calcareous series just over a mile further north to join the granite hills of which Taunggyun Taung forms the highest point. The latter hills continue to the north of the sheet but in the north, crystalline limestones, calciphyres and calcareous gneisses are very clearly seen caught up in the medium-grained granite on Chaunggyi chaung between Chaunggyi and Zibyugon.

Hornblendic Series

West of this line of intrusion in the south, Recent alluvium flanks the granites but to the north rocks of the calcareous series occur. The latter differ little from those to the south on the east side of the outer line of granites, but on the west, in the extreme north of the sheet, crystalline limestones occur in association with a hornblende series, the rocks of which Mr Clegg regards as more metamorphosed types of the altered limestones, lavas, tuffs, and ashes found south of Male and in the Cretaceous series in sheet 93 A/4 north of Thabeikkyin.

Olivine Basalts

On the west side of the Nweyon and Ywathit chaungs olivine basalts of late Tertiary age protrude through the soil cap; they encroach across the river at the bend one and a half miles southwest of Konaing. Further west similar lavas occur in sheet 84 N/14 where they were mapped by Mr V P Sondhi as forming the line of hills between the right-angled bend of the Ayeyawady below Thabeikkyin, to Singu.

Disturbed area bounds Mogok Series on the North

This work was only partially successful, as in the south of sheet 93 A/4 there is a pronounced change in the strike of the rocks. Nevertheless, the strike of the less metamorphosed series in the north is found to conform, within the limits which might be expected in a very disturbed and intruded area, with that of the Mogok series to the south, and it appears fairly certain that Cretaceous rocks are included in part in the Mogok series, rocks which in the past have been classed as of Dharwar age. A gap of about three miles exists between definitely shelly limestone rocks and totally re-crystallized and homogeneous crystalline limestones of the Mogok series.

Varying degrees of metamorphism of the rocks

(1) A northern, little altered zone consisting of quartz and felspar porphyries, calcareous tuffs, ashes, agglomerates, and limestone in which traces of fossils can be seen. The shelly limestones occur mostly on the eastern side of Nansein Chaung where they form a series of steep hillocks and small cliff sections and are very much intermixed with lavas and ashes.

(2) An intermediate zone composed of metamorphosed ashes, and blotchy limestone, in sections of which no trace of organic structure can be seen but which, megascopically, looks fossiliferous, phyletic rocks of ashy origin, serpentinized peridotite and crushed granite.

(3) A southern zone composed of completely metamorphosed rocks of the Mogok series in which granites of the Kabaing type, crystalline limestones, calciphyres and calcareous gneisses predominate. This series occupies the high mountainous tracts of the Pinkan, Kyaukyi and Shwe-u-daung forests.

Dr L A N Iyer continued the geological survey of the Amherst district begun by him in the 1935-36 field season, northwards in sheets 95 E/11 and 15, 95 E/14, and 95 I/1, 2, 6, and 7. Many of the observations recorded in the General Report for 1936, naturally apply with equal force to the area mapped during this field season. The main geological formations mapped were as follows: -

1. Laterite and laterite with gravel.
2. Moulmein limestone
3. Granite intrusions and contact altered rocks.

References: Heron A M,1938: General Report of the Geological Survey of India for the year 1937, Record of Geological Survey of India, Part 1, Vol 73.

■

NATIONAL

2 women, 6 houses swept away by river-bank collapse at Thamata bank

The aftermath view of a landslide incident along the Thamata bank in Dala Township.

It has been reported that a riverbank collapse occurred at Thamata bank in Saphachaung Kyaungsu Ward, Dala Township, Yangon Region. This incident resulted in the sweeping away of six houses and two women, leading to one fatality.

Members of the rescue team from Dala Fire Station rushed to the scene to conduct rescue operations after receiving a report that a 1,300-foot-long and 60-foot-wide sagment of land had collapsed, and a house was washed away at the zero-mile mark of the Twantay Canal in Saphachaung Kyaungsu Ward, Dala Township. This incident occurred around 5:20 pm on 20 September.

The two women who fell into the water during the collapse were successfully rescued, but unfortunately, a 42-year-old woman among them succumbed to her injuries at the township hospital.

According to the Myanmar Fire Brigade, Dala Fire Station facilitated the relocation of 297 people from 68 households who resided near the riverbank to the monastery in Tagyi Ward and Aungtawmu Monastery in Kyansittha Ward. — TWA/CT

MoCRD initiates collaboration with MLC members to strengthen MSME empowerment

FROM PAGE-1

MINISTRY of Cooperatives and Rural Development will link with Mekong-Lancang Cooperation countries and other development partners to enhance the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through appropriate platforms, Union Minister for the MoCRD highlighted at the Capacity-building Workshop on Scaling up Digital Connectivity for MSMEs Resilience in Myanmar held on 19 September.

"MSMEs play a pivotal role in the economic development of the country. The departments concerned need to provide financial and technical assistance and assist in market exploration. The ministry is committed to moving forward to the development of the cooperative sectors and SMEs, and the sustainable growth in the socioeconomy of the rural community to help improve the development of the country," he emphasized.

"The ministry has been conducting awareness campaigns of the MSMEs development and industrial products expo and technical dialogue. This workshop aims to boost digital literacy skills for the MSMEs in Myanmar and realize the crucial role of digital connectivity in their efforts to bolster MSMEs," he added. — TWA/EM

CRIME NEWS

Offenders are seen alongside seized drugs and a saloon.

Mingaladon, Shwepyitha seize stimulant tablets valued at over K720 mln

OVER K720 million worth of 720,000 stimulant tablets were captured in Mingaladon and Shwepyitha townships, the Myanmar Police Force stated.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Task Force arrested Zaw Min Htun (aka) Ko Nay, Thant Zin Oo, Zaw Lwin, Kyin Thein (aka) Maung Soe and Antawno with a saloon and 200,000 stimulant tablets at the Khayaypin Yeikmon street in Chitteegon ward of Mingaladon at 6 pm on 14 September.

After interrogating them, police seized 520,000 stimulant tablets from a house rented by Thant Zin Oo, in ward 3 of Shwepyitha township at 9 pm on the same day. Offenders admitted the captured drugs were carried from Shan State (South) to Yangon. Police have taken legal action against offenders and an investigation is underway to identify perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

Confiscation of illegal items: lead, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles

The combined on-duty teams under the supervision of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated a Mitsubishi Fuso bus (estimated value of K33 million), headed to Mandalay from Muse, carrying 21 kinds of goods worth K15.687 million, including four pieces of sofa chairs and 23,000 lighters (made in China) without official documents, at the Milepost 21/6 on Muse-Mandalay Road on 18 September. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined teams under the management of Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured 330 Wi-Fi routers worth K6.6 million that were smuggled and piled up by the side of road over the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse township and a Toyota HiAce vehicle (estimated value of K30 million), travelling from Muse to Lashio, carrying eight kinds of goods worth K5.04 million, including 12 luggage without official documents, at the detour in Lashio township on 19 September. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Customs teams conducted inspections on 18 and 19 September and impounded three kinds of goods worth K19.746 million, including 957 kilogrammes of paper cups that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port, 16,118 metres long polyester fabric worth K37.232 million and 58,000 kilogrammes of solar mounted structure worth K281,358,000 that exceeded the quantity mentioned the ID from six containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and 5,808 kilogrammes of Garuda lubricants worth K12.196 million that exceeded the quantity mentioned in the ID from three containers at the MITT. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team seized K2,606.855 million worth of illegal items — 185 charcoal bags, 81,852 kilogrammes of lead and a wooden boat — on the Myinse island in Kawthoung township. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law. A total of 12 arrests were made on three consecutive days from 18 to 20 September, with an estimated value of K3,047.716 million as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

India revs up for maiden MotoGP at circuit where F1 stalled

Race organizers in India are hoping to capitalize on the increasing popularity of powerful and high-end motorcycles in the country, aiming to attract more people to MotoGP.

INDIA hosts its maiden MotoGP on Sunday as the premier motorcycling championship looks to tap a potentially lucrative new fan base and succeed on a track where Formula One stalled.

Two-wheelers are India's most popular means of petrol-powered transport with more than half of all households owning at least one motorbike or scooter, compared to just eight per cent with cars.

Sales figures show an increasing appetite for high-end, high-octane motorbikes, and organizers are banking on the trend to fuel interest in the sport in the world's most populous country.

"We have more than a million bikes in the 250cc-plus category selling every year in India, which means more than a million people are buying bikes for more than just transportation," Vaibhav Sinha, chief executive of Indian MotoGP promoters Fairstreet Sports, told AFP.

"They are using it for thrills, adventure, sports and leisure riding," he added.

"We intend to tap this potential to make biking a very big sport in our country."

But the lead-up to the race has seen concerns raised about the safety of the Buddh International Circuit, with particular fears about walls that are too close to the asphalt.

"In India all the riders together are going to walk the track before we get on the bike to understand the situation," Spanish rider Aleix Espargaro was reported as saying.

Some MotoGP personnel and riders also had problems getting visas for India, but organisers on Tuesday blamed a technical glitch and said it was on the way to being resolved. — AFP

Spanish rider Aleix Espargaro. **PHOTO: AFP**

London Fashion Week says sheer is back for spring, summer 2024

TRANSPARENT and revealing looks will make a comeback for spring and summer 2024, according to trends spotted at London Fashion Week, which wrapped up on Tuesday.

Midriffs on display

Crop top lovers can carry on baring their midriffs, and more, while staying bang on trend. Most designers had models in bralettes or bandeaus, or even simple bikini tops, worn with a jacket or open knit. Erdem had an elegant take on the look, pairing bralettes with high-waisted long skirts.

All laced up

A light yellow JW Anderson tank top used multiple ties at the front to give glimpses of skin without revealing too much.

Di Petsa, whose collection was inspired by Venus the goddess of love, embraced lacing in a different way to reveal models' breasts and midriffs.

Short and transparent

Tiny skirts and dresses came thick and fast on the catwalks and even when they were long, they were very figure-hugging.

Sheer looks were also in vogue, with Feben offering a completely transparent shirt in both lilac and black. Feben, a recent graduate of London's Central Saint Martins university, sent out a collection of largely transparent dresses made entirely of beads with long fringed skirts. — AFP

A model presents a creation during a catwalk presentation for British fashion house Burberry's Spring/Summer 2024 collection, at London Fashion Week in London 18 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Paris petanque paradise makes pitch to avoid eviction

A storied Paris petanque club on Tuesday argued in court against a city eviction order, hoping to stay put in a secluded garden coveted by its boutique hotel neighbour.

For 50 years, the leafy haven at the top of the Montmartre district has housed the Lepic-Abbesses Petanque Club (CLAP) and its 257 members, fans of France's national bowling pastime. The players oversee the upkeep of the 765 square metres (8,200 square feet) of grounds, a rare remnant of the vegetation that once covered the butte, with the city giving tacit approval by hooking up water and electricity.

Even amid rapid gentrification and a surge of tourism the club maintained its Montmartre village vibe, with club access restricted to members and their guests. But last year, city officials warned the nonprofit club that it was squatting the site without any authorization, and said it would consider rival projects for use of the public land. The CLAP says its the victim of the luxury Hotel Particulier adjacent to the site, whose owner is a former club member who wants his own private garden. — AFP

People play petanque in Paris in 2022. **PHOTO: EMMANUEL DUNAND / AFP**

TOP HEADLINE

Snake no mistake: Australian fined for surfing with python

AS if sharks were not already enough to worry about, an Australian surfer has been seen paddling out with a python coiled around his neck.

The intrepid surfer caused a stir on Australia's Gold Coast after footage emerged of him carving through the azure waves while carrying his pet carpet python.

But authorities said he did not possess a permit to have the reptile in public, and fined the man 2,322 Australian dollars ($1,500).

"To take an animal out in public or display it requires a separate permit," Queensland's Department of Environment and Science said Monday in a statement. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

EU proposes 10-year renewal for glyphosate herbicide

Glyphosate is a widely recognized and extensively used herbicide known for its effectiveness in various agricultural and land management applications.

Monsanto's Roundup based on glyphosate has been sold worldwide. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE European Commission is proposing to renew the use of the controversial and widely used herbicide glyphosate in the EU for 10 years in a text published on Wednesday, after a report saw no reason to block it.

The European Union's 27 member states will discuss the proposal on Friday. It has to be approved by a weighted majority of countries during a meeting on 13 October.

Current authorization expired in December 2022 but was extended by a year pending a scientific study of the herbicide, one of the most widely used weed-killers in the world.

The proposal comes after the European Food Safety Authority in July said it had not found "any critical areas of concern" preventing glyphosate from being reauthorised, sparking a backlash from environmental groups.

Environmental activists said there was scientific evidence that glyphosate may cause cancer, poison aquatic life and can be fatal to key pollinators like bees.

The commission's proposal would authorise its usage until 15 December 2033, double the previous five-year authorisation but less than the 15-year period initially planned.

The text says the use of glyphosate must be accompanied by "risk mitigation measures".

For example, there must be a "non-sprayed buffer strip" of five to 10 metres (16 to 33 feet) in a field and equipment used to drastically reduce "spray drift".

The EU agency's report noted there were gaps in the data in some areas, and "identified a high long-term risk to mammals" in 12 of 23 of the proposed uses of glyphosate. — AFP

US drops anti-whaling wording opposed by Japan in Indo-Pacific pact

Japan resumed commercial whaling after leaving the International Whaling Commission in 2019. Anti-whaling language in the trade pact would have hindered Japan's ability to continue whaling.

File photo shows a Japanese commercial whaling ship in Onomichi, Hiroshima Prefecture, in June 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE United States has abandoned efforts to include anti-whaling language in its Indo-Pacific trade pact following fierce opposition from Japan, sources familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

The resolution of the main point of contention between two key members of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework has paved the way for a comprehensive agreement to be reached at a summit in San Francisco in November.

After withdrawing from the International Whaling Commission in 2019, Japan resumed commercial whaling in waters off its shores. The inclusion of anti-whaling language in the trade pact would have made it difficult for Japan to continue such practices.

The administration of US President Joe Biden had been pushing for the inclusion of anti-whaling language in the IPEF since launching the framework in May 2022, according to the sources. — Kyodo

Gold and mercury, not books, for Venezuela's child miners

AT 10 years old, Martin cannot read, but he is an old hand at detecting traces of the gold he and his young cousins dig for at an open-pit mine in southeastern Venezuela.

In the town of El Callao, extracting gold from soil starts as a kid's game, but soon becomes a full-time job that human rights activists slam as dangerous exploitation.

Small and agile, the children's size helps them shimmy into narrow wells to hack out muddy earth, hoping it will contain gold — which has become ever more precious as Venezuela's oil production has plummeted. Doubled over, they carry heavy bags of earth under the relentless sun to murky puddles of water where they rinse it in wooden trays.

Martin explains that "whatever is gold gets stuck to the mercury," a poisonous and environmentally toxic substance they use for its ability to extract gold from ore.

He is one of around a thousand children in the region involved in illegal gold mining, a booming industry in the resource-rich country that has been battered by multiple economic crises.

Martin — not his real name — lives in El Peru, a nearby hamlet. He has never been to school.

Carlos Trapani of the Cecodap children's rights NGO, told AFP that the backbreaking work and its associated dangers have become "normalized" in these communities. — AFP

Venezuelan children work in a puddle of muddy water while searching for gold in an open-pit mine. **PHOTO: YRIS PAUL / AFP**

Strike standstill in Greece over labour bill

GREEK unions on Thursday staged a 24-hour walkout paralyzing services and snarling public transport over labour legislation that will allow greater job flexibility.

Civil servants, hospital workers, school teachers and dock workers joined the strike, which also shut down the Athens subway and left buses operating on reduced hours.

A key part of the bill, which is expected to be approved by parliament later Thursday, is that private sector staff will be allowed to work at more than one employer daily.

Businesses will also be able to require staff to work six days a week in an emergency. Opposition parties and unions have accused the conservative government of empowering employer exploitation in a poorly-supervised labour market where many workers are afraid of losing their jobs.

The labour ministry says the purpose of the legislation is to "boost employment" and "increase the number of viable and justly paid jobs".

The bill also forbids strikers to prevent other staff from working during a walkout, and disallows layoffs linked to discrimination. — AFP

The strike has brought transport to a standstill. **PHOTO: AFP**

French Apple workers call strike on iPhone 15 debut

WORKERS at Apple stores in France are set to strike and disrupt the launch of the iPhone 15 in a battle over pay, trade unions told AFP on Wednesday. The unions called for two days of action on social media beginning on Friday, when the new handset is due to launch, saying Apple management had ignored their "perfectly legitimate" demands.

Apple workers in France have been campaigning for a seven per cent pay rise. **PHOTO: AFP**

Apple has faced a rough time in France lately, with the government blocking sales of the iPhone 12 last Tuesday after it returned illegally high readings for radiation emissions.

The global launch of the iPhone 15 was also overshadowed by the firm's capitulation to European Union demands for smartphones to be kitted out with universal charging ports rather than Apple's proprietary "lightning" ports.

Apple workers in France have been campaigning for a seven per cent pay rise but management have offered 4.5 per cent — which the unions say is too low given vast increases in the cost of living. — AFP

After Niger coup, sanctions pain strikes at shutdown Benin border

LINES of hundreds of trucks stretch back many kilometres close to Benin's northern border with Niger, their cargo wasting and their drivers going broke after weeks stranded at the closed frontier.

Almost two months since a coup ousted Niger's president, the trucks blocked in Malanville at Benin's border are the most striking symbol of the fallout Niger's neighbours are suffering from sanctions imposed on Niamey.

After 15-member West African bloc ECOWAS banned trade with Niger and threatened military action to restore democracy, the new junta also blockaded a bridge border crossing with Benin. Nigerien driver Mahamat Kabirou Amadou left Benin's economic capital Cotonou for Niamey 50 days ago and now sits stuck in Malanville. Not only has the coup and border closure cut him off from his country and family, but weeks of rain and sun have rotted his cargo of rice. — AFP

Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
Myanmar: Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Project
CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SOLAR MINI-GRID ELECTRICITY PROJECTS

The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development is inviting interested companies to submit mini-grid proposals for the following projects,

(i) Kyein Mae Taung Solar Mini-grid Electricity Supply and Cold Storage for Fishery Products Projects (Solar- 165.68kW) at Kyein Mae Taung village, Boke Pyin Township in Tanintharyi Region

(ii) Kan Seik Solar Mini-grid Electricity Supply and Water Supply Distribution Project (Solar- 81kW) at Kan Seik village, Dedaye Township in Ayeyarwady Region

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be delivered to the address below at 10:00 AM Local Time on 4th Oct 2023

Interested companies should visit the DRD Website (https://drdmyanmar.org/) or directly contact the following address for further information:

U Myo Myo, Director
Office No.36, Department of Rural Development, Naypyitaw,
Tel./Fax+ 95 673 418635, 418636
Email: drdnepmg@gmail.com; ksaung@gamil.com; myomyonpd@gmail.com

No objection advertisement

The following (10) pesticides registering by **Hangzhou Xinlong Industrial Co., Ltd.** is changing the name of distributor from **Kyaw Moe Min Co., Ltd.** to **A.T Phone Myint Kyaw Co., Ltd**. Any objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within 14 days.

Reagarding the above matter, notify that distribution of the following (10) types of pesticides have been abandoned by **Kyaw Moe Min Co., Ltd**. and have been authorized to **A.T Phone Myint Kyaw Co.,Ltd**. as a distributor in Myanmar by **Hangzhou Xinlong Industrial Co., Ltd**.

(10) kinds of pesticides that are registering by **Hang Zhou Xinlong Industrial Co., Ltd**. are as follow,

1. Emamectin Benzoate 5.7% WG
2. Atrazine 50% SC
3. Dimethomorph 50% wG
4. Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 69 gl EW
5. Pyrazosulfuron-Ethyl 10% WP
6. Cyhalofop-butyl 50gl +Penoxsulam 10 gl OD
7. Quizalofop-p-ethyl 10.8% EW
8. Chlorfenapyr 240 gl SC
9. Fomesafen 250 gl AS
10. Atrazine 50% + Mesotrione 5%SC

A.T Phone Myint Kyaw Co., Ltd.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB336A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB336A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Syria's Assad visits China seeking funds

The Syrian civil war, which began in 2011, has resulted in a death toll exceeding half a million people, with millions more displaced and extensive damage to Syria's infrastructure and industry.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad arrives in Hangzhou, capital city of east China's Zhejiang Province, 21 September 2023. Bashar on Thursday arrived here to attend the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games. **PHOTO: HUANG ZONGZHI/ XINHUA**

SYRIAN President Bashar al-Assad on Thursday began his first official trip to China in almost two decades, with Beijing saying the visit will take ties to a "new level" as the Arab leader seeks financial support to help rebuild his devastated country.

China is one of only a handful of countries outside the Middle East that Assad has visited since the 2011 start of a civil war that has killed more than half a million people, displaced millions more, and battered Syria's infrastructure and industry.

He arrived Thursday in the eastern city of Hangzhou, where he will attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Games on Saturday.

The Syrian president's Air China plane was greeted on the tarmac by jubilant music and rows of performers wearing colourful costumes, as Chinese and Syrian flags flapped in the sky, footage from state broadcaster CCTV showed.

He and other foreign leaders will meet Xi in Hangzhou, CCTV said. According to the Syrian presidency, Assad will also travel to Beijing. The visit is his first to China since 2004.

China's foreign ministry said the visit will serve to take ties to a "new level". "China and Syria have a traditional and deep friendship," foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular briefing. — AFP

Germany says not in favour of idea to deprive Russia of veto power in UN Security Council

During his UN Security Council address, Zelensky criticized the organization's deadlock caused by Russia's veto power.

GERMANY does not support Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's initiative to deprive Russia of the right of veto in the UN Security Council and is not always in favor of ideas voiced by Kyiv, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock stated.

"No, we do not support this, and I have told my negotiating Ukrainian partners about this on many occasions. I think the issue is important for the discussion in Germany: not everything that Ukraine offers to our government is supported by us," Baerbock told German a broadcaster on Wednesday. She also stressed the need to protect the UN Charter and consider ways to modernize the organization. During his address to the UN Security Council on Wednesday, Zelensky said the United Nations was at a "dead end" due to Russia having the right of veto in the organization. In this regard, he urged the reform of the UN, including its veto power mechanism, saying that the UN General Assembly should be enabled to override a veto by two thirds majority vote.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock. **PHOTO: JOHN MACDOUGALL/SPUTNIK**

The UN General Assembly should examine the reasons why the previously adopted UNSC resolutions were not implemented instead of discussing the veto decisions under pressure from Western countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stressed in response to the statement of the Ukrainian president. — SPUTNIK

South Korea parliament clears way for opposition leader's arrest

Lee Jae-myung, leader of the Democratic Party, is accused of bribery in connection with a firm suspected of sending $8 million to North Korea and of breaching his duties, which resulted in a $15 million loss to a Seongnam city-owned company during his mayoral term.

IN a surprise move, South Korea's opposition-controlled National Assembly voted Thursday to strip the leader of the opposition of his parliamentary immunity, potentially allowing his arrest over corruption allegations.

Lee Jae-myung, leader of the Democratic Party, has been accused by prosecutors of bribery in connection with a firm that is suspected of illicitly transferring $8 million to North Korea.

He is also accused of breaching his duties, which allegedly resulted in a loss of 20 billion won ($15 million) for a company owned by Seongnam city during his term as its mayor.

Despite his party's majority in the 300-member parliament, the motion to lift Lee's immunity passed by a 149-136 vote.

South Korea's National Assembly has voted to strip opposition leader Lee Jae-myung of his parliamentary immunity. **PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE/AFP**

At least 29 members of Lee's party voted to strip his immunity, South Korean's Yonhap news agency reported.

Lee has denied all the allegations against him, and on Wednesday asked his party members to reject the motion, which he called "clearly illegal and unjust".

This triggered escalating criticism from within the Democratic Party, local reports said, as Lee's stance contradicted his earlier promises to relinquish immunity if needed.— AFP

SPORTS

Koepka gets major-level thrill from playing for USA at Ryder Cup

FIVE-TIME major champion Brooks Koepka says playing for the United States in next week's Ryder Cup will bring the same thrill as battling for top individual titles.

The 33-year-old American, who captured his third PGA Championship in May at Oak Hill, will compete in this week's LIV Golf Chicago tournament before joining the US squad next week in Italy for the Ryder Cup.

Koepka, who has a history of playing his best at majors, has been preparing for weeks to face holders Europe as the Americans seek their first victory on European soil in 30 years.

He sees the Cup as an equal test to a major in those terms.

"I think it is," Koepka said Wednesday. "My whole mindset has been to practice for that the last few weeks.

"I think it's one of the top six, seven, biggest sporting events you can have, so I like it when there's a little bit more eyeballs, a little bit more pressure.

"It's obviously different with the whole team thing. Sometimes you don't play every match so you are just cheerleading from the side, which can be quite fun as well.

"I've enjoyed it. It has been great and I'm looking forward to it."

Koepka was a selection by US captain Zach Johnson after barely missing out on an automatic qualifying spot despite being banned from the PGA Tour after defecting to LIV Golf last year.

Being on the opposite side of the PGA-LIV divide did not give Koepka any problem on a trip two weeks ago to Rome to see the host course before next week's showdown.

"Good trip," he said. "Most of the guys were there. Got to see the golf course. It's pretty difficult, but it will be interesting to see how they set it up." — AFP

Brooks Koepka will be the only LIV player involved in the Ryder Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar suffers big loss to China in Asian Games

Myanmar's Captain Zaw Win Thein (red) vies for the ball with a Chinese player during the XIX Asian Games men's football match. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE second day of the 19th Asian Games men's football tournament, hosted by China, continued yesterday, with the Myanmar team losing 0-4 to the host Chinese team.

With the defeat, Myanmar will have to wait until the last match to advance to the next round. The goals conceded in the first half forced team Myanmar to lose.

The Myanmar squad made some changes to the starting lineup and launched with young players. The host team scored three goals from 15 to 22 minutes and added another goal near the end of the first half.

The winning goals for the Chinese team were scored by Tan Long in the 15 and 19 minutes, Jhiwan in the 22 minutes and Wei Qidi in the 44 minutes. Both teams failed to score in the second half, so the match ended with the same result as the first half.

In the other Group A match, India beat Bangladesh 1-0. After playing two games, the host Chinese team advanced to the next round with two wins and six points, while Myanmar and India had three points each, while the Bangladesh team lost both games and has not yet scored a point.

The Myanmar team will play against the Indian team on 24 September as the final group game. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Onana laments poor start as Man Utd crisis deepens

The Cameroonian starred for Inter Milan on their run to last season's Champions League final, but has struggled in the early weeks of his United career since joining in a £47 million ($58 million) move. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANCHESTER United goalkeeper Andre Onana said he had let his teammates down after a howler set the tone for a 4-3 Champions League defeat to Bayern Munich.

A third consecutive defeat ramps up the pressure on United manager Erik ten Hag and two late goals from Casemiro masked the gulf in class between the sides at the Allianz Arena on Wednesday.

However, United had started brightly until Leroy Sane's strike slipped through Onana's grasp on 28 minutes.

"After my mistake we lost control of the game. It's a difficult situation for us, for me especially because I'm the one who let the team down," Onana told TNT Sports.

The Cameroonian starred for Inter Milan on their run to last season's Champions League final, but has struggled in the early weeks of his United career since joining in a £47 million ($58 million) move.

The Red Devils have now conceded three or more goals in three consecutive games for the first time since 1978.

"My start in Manchester is not so good, it's not how I want (to play)," added Onana.

"Today is one of my worst games and it is difficult because we have big ambition, we want to win everything - it was a big opportunity for us to bounce back after the situation we are facing. — AFP

Biggest-ever Asian Games ready for liftoff in China after Covid delay

THE biggest Asian Games in history, boasting about 12,000 competitors — more than the Olympics — will open on Saturday in the Chinese city of Hangzhou after a year's delay because of Covid.

Athletes including world and Olympic champions will fight for medals in 40 sports from athletics, swimming and football to eSports and bridge. Nine sports, among them boxing, break dancing and tennis, will serve as qualifiers for next year's Paris Olympics. The Games were supposed to take place last September but were postponed because of China's strict zero-Covid rules, before China's ruling Communist Party abruptly abandoned the policy.

The 19th edition of the Games, which were first held in New Delhi in 1951, throws together competitors from 45 countries and territories across Asia and the Middle East.

For China, which hosted the 2022 Winter Olympics in a Covid-secure "bubble" in Beijing, it is a chance to show off its organizational, sporting and technological prowess after the pandemic years cut the country off from the sporting world. — AFP

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India's lower house votes to reserve third of seats for women

INDIA'S lower house of parliament passed a bill Wednesday that would more than double the number of women lawmakers in its ranks, following several failed attempts to enact the measure stretching back decades.

The proposed law would reserve one-third of seats in India's lower house and state assemblies for women once it takes effect, which could take until at least the end of the decade.

It would not take effect before national elections next year but will be a further fillip to the already commanding position of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party ahead of that poll.

A total of 454 lawmakers voted for the bill, with only two against.

"The proposal has been passed with more than a two-thirds majority of the members present in the house," said Om Birla, the speaker of parliament.

Modi, calling himself "delighted" on X, formerly Twitter, thanked lawmakers who voted across party lines and said it would "further boost" women's empowerment.

When Indira Gandhi took office to lead India in 1966 as prime minister, she became the world's second woman head of government in a parliamentary democracy, following Sri Lanka's Sirimavo Bandaranaike six years earlier.—AFP

The new Lok Sabha (the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament) has a seating capacity of 888 members, almost thrice the number compared to the current chamber. **PHOTO: ANI**

Biden, Netanyahu mend fences with Saudi deal in mind

Joe Biden and Benjamin Netanyahu met Wednesday to smooth over months of tension, eyeing a deal to normalize Israel's ties with Saudi Arabia despite US concerns over the state of Israeli democracy. Biden said the pair had a "candid, constructive conversation" in New York, their first talks since the Israeli prime minister was reelected in December at the head of a hard-right government.

The fence-mending meeting comes as the US president pushes Netanyahu to agree on a potentially historic deal to end decades of enmity with Riyadh, one of Washington's main regional allies.

And while Netanyahu was not hosted at the White House this time due to Biden's concerns over his government's controversial judicial overhaul, he won a coveted invitation to Washington later this year. — AFP

Venezuela seizes control of gang-run prison with pool, disco

VENEZUELA said Wednesday it had seized control of a prison from the hands of a powerful gang with international reach, in a major operation involving 11,000 members of its security forces.

The Tocoron prison had served as the Tren de Aragua gang's headquarters, where it had installed amenities such as a zoo, a pool and gambling rooms, according to an investigative journalist recently interviewed by AFP. In a statement, the government congratulated law enforcement officers for regaining "total control" of the prison in the northern state of Aragua, adding the operation had "dismantled a centre of conspiracy and crime". — AFP

Members of the Bolivarian National Guard of Venezuela sit on an armoured vehicle in front of the Tocoron prison, where authorities say they seized control from the hands of a powerful gang. **PHOTO: AFP**

Poland no longer arming Ukraine: Polish PM

POLAND said Wednesday it will no longer arm Ukraine and instead focus on its own defence, as the two allies clashed at a key moment in Kyiv's fightback against Russia.

In a mounting row over grain exports from Ukraine, Poland summoned the Ukrainian ambassador to protest remarks at the UN by President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The Ukrainian leader said some countries were only pretending to support his nation as it wages a counteroffensive to retake land taken by Russia. Warsaw took offense at this.

Poland has been one of Ukraine's staunchest supporters after Ukraine war in February 2022, and is one of Kyiv's main weapons suppliers.

Much of the weaponry that the United States and other countries send to Ukraine passes through Poland, which borders Ukraine to the west.

Poland also hosts some one million Ukrainian refugees, who have benefited from various kinds of state aid.

Tensions between Warsaw and Kyiv were sparked by a Polish ban on Ukrainian grain imports, with the goal of protecting its own farmers. — AFP

Warsaw says it is ending its supply of weapons to Ukraine amid a dispute about a grain import ban with Kyiv. Farmers take a break from sowing their oat field in Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**