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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Government initiatives bolster operational success of State-owned enterprises

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance at the Economic Committee Meeting 8/2023 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Economic Committee Meeting 8/2023 in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 October 2023.

AS the tasks being done by the government contribute to the development of the State and the people, it is necessary to strive to achieve success in operating State-owned enterprises, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance at the Economic Committee Meeting 8/2023 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the meeting hall of the SAC Chairman yesterday.

In his address, the Senior General recounted that at a time when the market economic system was implemented, some enterprises under ministries were dissolved, and some enterprises were handed over to the private sector for operations or transformed into joint venture services. So, in the term of the previous government, some businesses being implemented by ministries were halted, causing burdens for the State, he added.

As such, he continued that in its term the State Administration Council reoperated appropriate factories and enterprises.

He noted that some halted enterprises, factories and workshops of ministries have taken land plots for various reasons but they cannot manage operations. For the sake of the nation, these land plots should be taken by capable factories and organizations for manufacturing products, he pointed out.

In this regard, the Senior General urged all to primarily manage manufacture required for the State and the operations must be aligned with prescribed policies as well as rules and regulations.

Moreover, he underlined that these businesses must be handed over to the persons capable of actually managing the production with success.

Furthermore, the Senior General stressed the need to systematically calculate the necessary budgets to be demanded from the government in implementing the development projects, adding the State budget must be efficiently spent on the projects within the set period.

With regard to the agricultural sector, the Senior General called for striving to meet the target cultivation and production of monsoon crops as summer yielded 96.24 baskets per acre across the nation in the 2022-23 financial year.

He highlighted that only when the cultivation of monsoon crops has a 100-per-cent success and high yield will the country have local food security and export surplus abroad.

Union ministers and region and state chief ministers presented their reports on their respective sectors, and the Senior General gave necessary guidance.

The meeting was also attended by SAC members Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Nyo Saw and U Shwe Kyein, Union ministers and deputy ministers together with region and state chief ministers through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

Salient points in the speech of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at Economic Meeting 8/2023

- Land plots should be taken by capable factories and organizations for manufacturing products.
- The State budget must be efficiently spent on the projects within the set period.
- Only when the cultivation of monsoon crops has a 100-per-cent success and high yield will the country have local food security and export surplus abroad.

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NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Notification No 217/2023

4th Waxing of Thadingyut 1385 ME
18 October 2023

Enforcement date for Industrial Designs Rights Law

THE Industrial Designs Rights Law enacted with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 2/2019 shall come into force on 31 October 2023 (2nd Waning of Thadingyut, 1385 ME) under Subsection (b) of Section 1 of that law.
I hereby sign under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Notification No 218/2023

4th Waxing of Thadingyut 1385 ME
18 October 2023

Enforcement date for Copy Rights Law

THE Copy Rights Law enacted with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 15/2019 shall come into force on 31 October 2023 (2nd Waning of Thadingyut, 1385 ME) under Subsection (b) of Section 1 of that law.
I hereby sign under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Russian delegation explores civil service, defence training in Myanmar

A high-level delegation led by Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich, Chairman of the External Relations Committee of the Government of St Petersburg in the Russian Federation, arrived in Mandalay yesterday. Their visit is focused on exploring collaborative opportunities with Myanmar's Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar) and the Defence Services Academy.

The delegation was warmly received at the TadaU International Airport by Mandalay Mayor U Kyaw Hsan and other local officials. This marks the start of an important diplomatic mission aimed at fostering closer ties between St Petersburg and Myanmar in the realm of civil service and defence training.

Upon arrival, Chairman Grigoriev and his delegation made their way to the Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar). There, they met faculty members led by CSA Rector U Kyaw Soe to engage in discussions about potential collaboration. Key topics of conversation included the development of new courses for civil service organization chief training, senior level officials training, capacity-building programmes for lecturers and tutors, as well as the teaching of the Russian language.

Following their meetings, Chairman Grigoriev and his delegation toured the academy to observe classes, basic military parades, small arms exercises, and shooting practice at the academy's range. They also visited the civil serivce organization chief training course No 14, and the senior level officials training course No 16, and inspected the dormitories.

In the afternoon, the delegation continued their visit by heading to the Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin. There, the commandant and rector of the academy provided comprehensive insights into the academy's operations and shared valuable data about its programmes.

The visit to the Defence Services Academy concluded with a tour of the academy's museum and a visit of the cadet officers' battalions. This offered Chairman Grigoriev and his party a firsthand study of the training and facilities available at the academy. — MNA/TS

A Russian high-level delegation led by Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich visits the Defence Services Academy and the Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar) yesterday.

NATIONAL

Rehabilitation projects are being implemented for Mocha-hit areas to have better situations than in the past: Vice-Senior General Soe Win

EFFORTS are being made to implement the rehabilitation projects in cyclonic storm Mocha hit areas to have better situations than in the past to be the regions with the resilience to natural disasters, said Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win who is also in the capacity of Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee delivered a speech at the ceremony to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 — IDDRR convened at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In a clarification on rehabilitation at storm-hit areas, the Vice-Senior General recounted that these areas could return to normal in a short time thanks to the guidance of the SAC Chairman, the leadership of the National Disaster Management Committee and relevant governments in addition to local and foreign well-wishers.

State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Premier Vice-Senior General Soe Win speaks on the commemorative occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Vice-Senior General presents cash awards to the personnel of the Disaster Management Department yesterday.

He warned that some 400 natural disasters happened across the world yearly till 2015 bringing terrible loss and damage, according to the global survey report (2022), and it showed that some 560 disasters may occur throughout the world yearly till 2030. Especially, he continued that the whole world may face disasters due to global warming and climate change.

He expressed his reviews that the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha hit Rakhine state and Chin state on 14 May this year. Since the start of the storm at the sea, the Head of State himself monitored and gave guidance for making preparations under the natural disaster management plan. The people on the route of the storm were evacuated to safer places whereas warnings for the storm were released. As the response to the storm was undertaken in different steps on time, casualties in the storm Mocha were much less than those of storm Nargis in 2008, he added.

The Vice-Senior General stressed that in implementing the disaster risk reduction measures, it is necessary to consider gender equality, the requirements of vulnerable groups and firmly manage the sustainability of livelihoods.

Next, a video message from the chief of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction was presented. Vice-Chairman 2 of the management committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win reported on disaster management measures.

The Vice-Senior General, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, U Than Swe, Dr Nyunt Pe and Dr Soe Win presented prizes to winners in the basic education high school-level essay and painting contests to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction-2023.
— MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

The group documentary photograph of the 39th ACMF Chairs Meeting held in Indonesia on 16-18 October 2023.

Myanmar attends 39th ACMF Chairs Meeting

MYANMAR delegation led by Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, in his capacity as Chairman of the Security and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM), attended the 39th ASEAN Capital Markets Forum – ACMF Chairs' Meeting and International Conference and Technical Workshop held in Indonesia from 16 to 18 October.

During the 39th ASEAN Capital Markets Forum on 16 October, the deputy minister discussed ASEAN Collective Investment Schemes (CIS), Operators and Foreign Sustainable and Responsible Funds (SRF) ("Handbook for ASEAN CIS-SRF"), capacity building programmes with the support of Asian Development Bank for ASEAN capital market development, Transition Finance Guidelines, ASEAN Voluntary Carbon Market Study of Climate Works Centre (CWC), the roadmap for ASEAN capital market forum, amendment of ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard, regulations for digital possessions, adoption of criteria for sustainable businesses released by International Financial Reporting Standards, agreement between ACMF and IFRS Foundation and future work plans to release Private Placement for bond of infrastructure financing.

On 17 October, at the International Conference, he discussed the ASEAN Taxonomy Version 2 related matters, progress in the Carbon market, fundamental principles to reduce carbon for transition to a low-carbon economy, outcomes from ASEAN Transition Finance Guidelines based study, enhancement of knowledge on IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards and ISSB standards, potentials for implementation of ISSB standards and ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard (ACGS) related cases.

Myanmar delegates of SECM, Yangon Stock Exchange and listed companies attended the workshop on IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards and ISSB standards and ISSB-related matters on 18 October. — ASH/KTZH

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

Labour Party with its headquarters located at No 33/49, Corner of Maha Bandoola Park Road and Bank Road, Ward 1, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, applied on 13-10-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In such an application, it is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.

Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

The flag design of the Labour Party

The emblem of the Labour Party

Union Election Commission

COVID-19 report, 18 October 2023	NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
	3,340	2	0

Public overseas employment agency to send seasonal workers to Korea

The office sign of the Public Overseas Employment Agency.

ACCORDING to the Public Overseas Employment Agency of the Ministry of Labour, seasonal workers, including female workers, will be sent to South Korea in October under the G-to-G Programme as part of the Myanmar-Korea inter-governmental agreement.

Female workers will be recruited as a priority, and the types of businesses they have to work in as seasonal workers are farming and manufacturing.

"This is the first time we will try to send them under the programme of the Public overseas employment agency. We will issue an E8 visa type for those who go to work for the first time. This is an eight-month work, three-month brake system. If they do not return home after eight months of work, action will be taken for an overstay. Their visas will be terminated," said an official from the government overseas employment agency.

Korean employers and their representatives will personally interview the workers. If they pass the personal interview, they will have to undergo relevant medical examinations at designated clinics. — ASH/CT

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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

MRF earmarks K50 mln financial support for flood-torn farmers

A flooded farm and houses are pictured in Bago Region recently. MRF earmarks K50 million financial support for flood-torn farmers in Bago Region.

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has earmarked about K50 million to help the farmers whose paddy fields in the eastern part of Bago Region have been flooded, according to the central executive committee of the federation.

The decision was made in a joint business coordination meeting between the central executive committee, executive committee and member companies, with the K40-million contributions made by sister organizations of the MRF.

The meeting also covered topics such as domestic and international rice market conditions, loan programmes with warehouse registration and insurance systems, and measures for providing short-term financial support for the purchase of rice in collaboration with rice-specialized companies and MSMEs in the states and regions.

In addition, the measure to provide full loans during the crop growing season to improve the agricultural production of farmers who own more than 10 acres, plans to carry out local inflows of rice between the areas in the domestic trading, export-based rice reserve programme, matters to be emphasized for the re-entry of export earnings and the issues of paddy/rice trading at reasonable prices are also discussed in the meeting. — ASH/TH

Arrest warrants released for two men to take legal action

AN arrest warrant was issued in Hopan District Court on 17 October 2023 to prosecute Chanyangpan (alias) Pauk Aik Pann and Shoyangpan (alias) Houchuenting, who are committing online scams, luring people, kidnapping, and soliciting people as well as attempting and encouraging such crimes in the Wa Self-Administered Division, Shan State. — MNA

Chanyangpan

Shoyangpan

Traffickers sentenced to jail

AUNGLAN Township Court has sentenced two human traffickers to six years of imprisonment with hard labour under Section 26 of the Overseas Employment Law.

The four victims, including Ma…, aged 20, and Daw…, aged 36, both from Aunglan Township in the Magway Region, were sent to Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, by May Phone (aka) Kaythi Myint of North Okkalapa Township and May Thazin (aka) Zin Nge of Yankin Township. They had persuaded the victims by promising monthly earnings of K800,000-1,000,000 if they worked in Dubai, the UAE.

The traffickers were prosecuted at Aunglan Myoma Police Station under Section 26 of the Overseas Employment Law.

Each of the two traffickers has been sentenced to six years of imprisonment with hard labour under Section 26 of the Overseas Employment Law. — MNA/MKKS

Timbers, foodstuffs, industrial materials, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

THE combined team captured a Nissan Diesel truck (estimated value of K30 million), headed to Mandalay from Muse, carrying seven kinds of goods worth K81.292 million, including 1,560 kilogrammes of cat litter and four sets of auto transfer switches that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID), at the Milepost 21/6 Milepost on Muse-Mandalay Road on 17 October. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the combined on-duty teams confiscated a total of 1.16 tonnes of illegal timbers, four raw teak beds and two teak settees worth about K1 million in Yinmabin township, nine kinds of goods worth K36.686 million, including 3,056 ceramic tiles without official documents at a warehouse near Mingalamuse in Muse township and a Toyota Succeed car (approximately worth K15 million) travelling from Myawady to Hpa-an and carrying two kinds of goods worth K4 million, including 9,000 bags of instant vermicelli (blue) without official documents, at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

On 17 and 18 October, the combined teams seized a Mitsubishi Fuso bus (estimated value of K30 million) travelling from Myawady to Yangon carrying 5,000 kilogrammes of Innopulus low-density polyethylene worth K8.5 million that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID), near the Shwethanlwin Tollgate in Phayagyi, an Asia Star bus (approximately K20 million) travelling from Myawady to Pathein carrying five kinds of goods worth K6.23 million, including 600 litres of vegetable oil, and two Honda Wave Alpha motorbikes without official documents, at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray station and a total of 2.575 tonnes of illegal teak worth about K1.142 million in Toungoo district. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

A total of 13 arrests were made on 17 and 18 October, with an estimated value of K233,876,928, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Confiscated illegal items are seen in Mandalay Region.

NATIONAL

Weekly updated prices of Bayintnaung Commodity Market

PRICES of onions and garlic increased in the Yangon Market from 12 to 18 October. The price of pigeon peas remained stable despite the black gram price increased. The reference price of palm oil also decreased.

Onion

Only 120,000 visses of onions arrived at the market on 18 October, and the depot opening prices of Seikphyu and Monywa onions in wholesale ranged from K1,900 to K3,300 per viss.

The highest price of onions in regional markets was K2,650 per viss. A total of 40,000 visses entered the Pakokku market on 17 October at the highest price of K2,650 per viss.

Garlic

On 18 October in the Yangon market, a viss of Shan garlic was priced at K8,000 for S2, K8,500 for S3, K8,800 for S4, and K9,100 for S5, while Kyukok garlic was valued at K7,600.

Potato

The Yangon potato market only published the price of Chinese potatoes on 18 October, with the wholesale price of Chinese potatoes at K1,800 per viss.

The photo shows shoppers and vendors at a kitchen grocery retail outlet in Yangon.

Chilli Pepper

On 18 October, in the Yangon chilli pepper market, Eainme and Panye long chilli peppers were priced at approximately K5,000–K7,000 per viss, while new Pyawbwe Moehtaung chilli peppers were priced at K10,500 per viss. Sinphyukyun and delta region bell peppers were valued at K14,000–K16,000 per viss.

Rice

On 18 October, the price per bag of old monsoon non-premium rice was K60,000, old non-premium rice grown under multiple cropping was K66,000, the 90-day rice variety was K72,000, and the Pawkywe rice variety was K88,000.

Pawsan rice varieties ranged from K98,000 to K125,000 per bag, depending on the rice-producing regions.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil from 16 to 22 October is K4,275 per viss, decreasing by K65 per viss compared to the previous week. A tonne of palm oil on the foreign market rose to US$832.5 on 16 October.

Beans and pulses

On 18 October, the price of black gram was K2,691,000 per tonne for RC and K2,981,000 per tonne for SQ/RC. Meanwhile, a tonne of pigeon peas was valued at K4,075,000.

Additionally, the price of green gram (Kayan Shwewah variety) and Pakokku variety fetched K3,630 and K3,080-K3,250 per viss, respectively, while that of half of chickpeas was K5,850–K6,100 per viss. — TWA/CT

Admission to medical universities open to students from 6 ethnic regions

THE Ministry of Health has announced that students from the Naga, Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, Kokant, and Wa regions who have passed the 2023 matriculation examination and meet the specified qualifications are eligible to apply for admission to universities of medicine.

Applications are to be sent directly to the Department of Human Resources for Health by 16 November. For more information, applicants should visit the Ministry of Health website at www.moh.gov.mm and the Department of Human Resources for Health website at ww.hrh.gov.mm. — TWA/KZW

CORRIGENDUM

Please read "Floods affect 4% …" instead of "Floods damage 4% …" in the headline of the news story on page 6 of The GNLM on 18 October 2023.

Please also read "… affected …" instead of "… damaged …" and read "… hit …" instead of "… destroyed …" in the paragraphs of the news body of the same news story.

Errors are regretted. - Ed.

The photo shows a thriving cotton field in Myanmar.

Heavy rains lessen cotton quality

HEAVY rains this year cause high moisture content in cotton and bring down the prices.

The prevailing prices of cotton stand at K2,800-3,000 per viss. High moisture content scales down the prices.

In the pre-monsoon season, the cotton fetched K3,500 per viss. Dried cotton is mostly purchased at higher prices in the domestic market as it can be exported to external markets.

The cotton is mix-cropped with monsoon sesame in May and June. Certain goods can enjoy preferential tariffs with the Certificate of Origin (Form E) under the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement while delivering goods through the Muse 105th mile trade zone. Cotton is mostly granted Form E. Myanmar Cotton and Cotton Products Merchant Association is prioritizing ramping up the yield of quality cotton per acre rather than expanding the growing acres to meet export targets beyond self-sufficiency. The association called for government officials to link with the companies for the importation of hybrid cotton.

At present, the requirement for cotton consumption is 363 million visses whereas the production rate is only 198.7 million visses. Thus, the cotton yield meets only half of the demand. — TWA/EM

NATIONAL
BUSINESS

450 companies fail to file AR in Sept: DICA

A total of 450 companies failed to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system in September 2023, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to file its AR on MyCO is to be struck off the register from the date of the directive, under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

This year, 500 companies in January, 400 each in February and March, 200 in April, 550 in May, 750 in June, 600 in July and 750 in August did not file the AR on the MyCO. In the past nine months this year, 4,600 companies failed to file the AR.

Additionally, 5,000 companies failed to submit AR in 2022, the DICA stated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days before the financial year ends, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing returns late.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM

UMFCCI, YPGCC to bolster Yunnan-Myanmar economic cooperation

UNION of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry's officials met a delegation led by the chairperson of Yunnan Provincial General Chamber of Commerce (YPGCC) on 17 October 2023 and exchanged ideas on boosting bilateral economic cooperation and enhancing trade.

Yunnan Province is ranked 37th in the global economy. It plays a pivotal role in the Belt and Road Initiative. It is the commercial and transport hub. Myanmar is the largest trade partner of Yunnan Province and the biggest import sourcing and export market. In 2020, 190 non-financial foreign investment projects were brought into Myanmar.

Officials from UMFCCI and YPGCC exchange gifts at the bilateral economic cooperation and trade meeting in Yangon on 17 October 2023.

UMFCCI President U Aye Win gave a remark at the meeting that "Yunnan is the important land port in trade and economic cooperation with Myanmar. Myanmar's agricultural produce is primarily sent to China. The UMFCCI asked the YPGCC to assist Myanmar businesses to meet China's import rules and regulations. The federation also invited investments in the power sector and other sectors. The YPGCC plays a key role in the active involvement of private sectors to step up economic cooperation and trade promotion activities."

Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor (CMEC) was signed on 7 February 2018.

Dr Gao Feng, chairman of the YPGCC, addressed that the purpose of the visit is to reinforce the MoUs signed between Yunnan and Myanmar, cooperate in the energy and mining sector, disaster mitigation, tourism, poverty alleviation and upgrade the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor. Businesspersons from Yunnan accompanied him during his visit to bolster economic and trade cooperation between Yunnan and Myanmar.

Furthermore, bilateral investment development, communication development for trade promotion, information exchange, reinforcing practical cooperation, port business, rice supply, fertilizer supply, agricultural exports, digital transformation and cross-border trade were also highlighted at the meeting.

The representatives from the two chambers also discussed matters regarding potential cooperation opportunities and opinions on the mining sector, iron and steel, transport, e-commerce, tourism, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, sugarcane, sugar, peanut, vegetable, fisheries, food products, research and agricultural chemicals. — NN/EM

Black gram price hits fresh new peak of approximately K2.7 mln per tonne

Various kinds of beans are seen at a market.

THE black gram price was moving upwards, reaching a record high of around K2.7 million per tonne.

The price fluctuated in early October 2023. The price was registered only at K2.465 million per tonne on 3 October and peaked at K2.69 million per tonne on 18 October, showing a sharp rise of K226,000 per tonne within 15 days.

Nonetheless, the pigeon pea price remained stable on the high side at K4.075 million per tonne.

India's strong demand pushed up Myanmar's black gram and pigeon pea prices.

Myanmar's various pulses export earnings were estimated at over US$715 million from over 860,000 tonnes in the H1 of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April.

Myanmar's pulses exports earned over $1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mostly shipped to India while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

Black grams which India primarily purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM

Promote green investment for sustainable development in Myanmar

GREEN investment in Myanmar encompasses financial initiatives aimed at enhancing the natural environment and promoting sustainable practices within the tourism industry. This strategic approach not only has the potential to bolster the state's economy but also plays a pivotal role in climate change mitigation and the preservation of the nation's invaluable natural resources.

While global attention is increasingly turning towards green businesses, many perceive the tourism industry as primarily involving hotels and tour guide services. However, the tourism sector is a multifaceted industry encompassing accommodation, hospitality, healthcare, transportation, energy, infrastructure development, urban and rural development, as well as support for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

> By harnessing the potential of this sector and working collaboratively, Myanmar can continue to showcase its remarkable natural beauty and cultural richness while securing a brighter, more sustainable future for its people.

One noteworthy aspect is the inclusivity of green businesses, allowing people with disabilities and individuals from ethnic regions to engage in meaningful employment opportunities. Surveys reveal that 54 per cent of those employed in the tourism industry are women, highlighting its potential to empower entrepreneurs and MSMEs while simultaneously contributing to poverty alleviation and regional development. Furthermore, the tourism industry can significantly aid in the conservation of the ecological system and the development of digital infrastructure.

In a report by the World Travel and Tourism Council, it was disclosed that the tourism industry contributed to 7.6 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022, generating employment for 295 million people worldwide, constituting nine per cent of global employment. In Myanmar, the tourism industry contributed 2.1 per cent, equivalent to K2,448 billion, to the country's GDP in 2022. Therefore, it is imperative to bolster the tourism sector in Myanmar to foster peace and prosperity.

Myanmar's abundant green forests, mountains, diverse landscapes, ancient cultural heritage, ethnic traditions, waterfalls, snow-capped mountains, wildlife, migratory bird sanctuaries, beaches, and other breathtaking landmarks offer both opportunities and challenges for green investment.

In the tourism industry, the core objective is to create a comfortable and enjoyable experience for guests. This necessitates ongoing improvements in the quality of services and infrastructure within the tourism sector. Therefore, all stakeholders from various domains must unite in their efforts to advance the tourism sector, enhance socioeconomic conditions, and protect the environment.

Green investment in Myanmar's tourism industry is not merely a financial endeavour; it is a holistic approach towards sustainable development, economic growth, and environmental conservation. By harnessing the potential of this sector and working collaboratively, Myanmar can continue to showcase its remarkable natural beauty and cultural richness while securing a brighter, more sustainable future for its people.

Turning Cow Dung into Sustainable Space Propulsion

By AUGUSTIN

This revelation heralds a sustainable future by turning waste into fuel, revolutionizing space propulsion with broad-reaching potential through a fusion of science, technology, and sustainability.

I RECENTLY came across a news article that left me truly astounded and in awe. In the article, they discussed the use of cow manure to produce rocket fuel, which is truly remarkable.

This groundbreaking news represents a remarkable fusion of innovation, sustainability, and the sheer potential of harnessing resources that are often overlooked in the quest for scientific and technological advancements.

The idea that cow dung, which we usually think of as farm waste, can be turned into rocket fuel is really clever. It shows how smart people are at finding new ways to solve important problems.

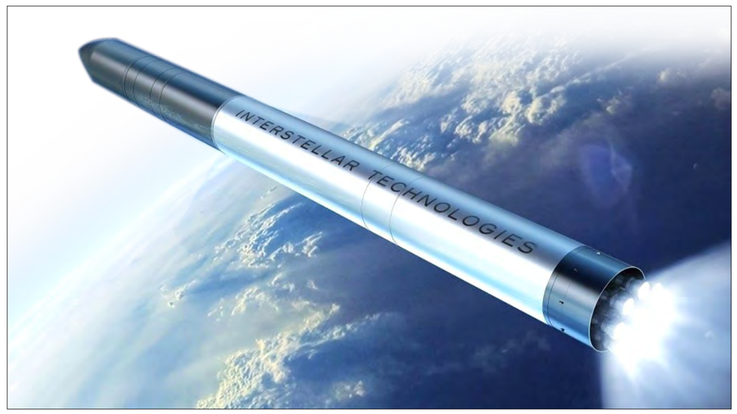
In an innovative and environmentally conscious venture, a Japanese chemical manufacturing company, Air Water Inc, is pioneering the creation of liquid biomethane from cow waste, with the intent of using it as rocket fuel.

This groundbreaking initiative not only holds potential benefits for space exploration but also offers a sustainable solution to the disposal challenges faced by dairy farmers.

Moreover, the collaboration between Air Water Inc and the space startup Interstellar Technologies Inc, situated in Japan's Hokkaido region, brings an intriguing aspect to this initiative.

Air Water Inc has been actively involved in producing liquid biomethane in Hokkaido. This process includes the fermentation of cow dung and urine at a facility situated on a dairy farm in Taiki, Hokkaido.

The produced biogas is subsequently transported to a facility in Obihiro, where it undergoes additional processing. During this stage, the methane is separated from the by-products, cooled, and converted into liquid biomethane, which serves as a crucial element in rocket propulsion.



A rendering of Interstellar Technologies' rocket, Zero, is expected to be fuelled by liquefied biomethane produced by Air Water. **ILLUSTRATION: COURTESY OF INTERSTELLAR TECHNOLOGIES / VIA KYODO**

High-Purity Methane

One of the crucial aspects of space exploration is the demand for powerful and efficient rocket propulsion systems. Traditionally, high-purity methane used for this purpose is obtained from liquefied natural gas.

However, Air Water Inc's project seeks to tap into the potential of waste-derived biogas to create methane of comparable quality. This innovation has the potential to revolutionize space propulsion technology by introducing an environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative.

To verify the feasibility of utilizing liquid biomethane derived from cow waste as rocket fuel, Interstellar Technologies Inc has partnered with Air Water Inc.

This Japanese space startup, headquartered in Hokkaido, intends to conduct comprehensive tests to ensure that the fuel produced from cow waste meets the stringent requirements for space-bound equipment.

Their primary goal is to integrate this innovative fuel into the propulsion system of their 'Zero' rocket, a design tailored for launching small satellites into space.

The conversion of cow waste into rocket fuel signifies a significant advancement in the pursuit of sustainable solutions for space exploration.

Air Water Inc's innovative efforts turn farm waste into eco-friendly rocket fuel, addressing environmental concerns. Collaborations like with Interstellar Technologies show a commitment to greener space exploration. It showcases how science, tech, and sustainability can create a brighter, more equitable future.

Cow waste, consisting of dung and urine, contains organic matter and beneficial microorganisms. Biomethane, primarily composed of methane (CH_4), is a clean and renewable gas produced from organic sources like cow waste. It serves as a substitute for natural gas and is eco-friendly.

Liquid biomethane from cow waste manages waste, reduces methane emissions, and supports renewable energy for climate action.

Traditional Uses of Cow Waste in Asia

In many Asian countries, cow waste, also known as cattle dung or cow manure, has been traditionally utilized in various ways due to its rich organic content and nutrient value.

Cow dung is commonly used as a natural fertilizer in agriculture. It is rich in organic matter, nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, and beneficial microorganisms. Farmers spread dried or composted cow dung on their fields to improve soil fertility, enhance water retention, and promote plant growth.

Cow dung is a primary feedstock for biogas production in many Asian countries. Biogas plants are set up to convert cow dung into methane gas, which can be used for cooking, heating, and generating electricity. This not only provides a renewable energy source but also helps in waste management.

In rural areas, dried cow dung cakes are used as a traditional cooking fuel. These cakes are easy to store, and when burned, they release a steady and consistent heat source. Although this practice is less common due to the availability of modern fuels, it still prevails in certain regions.

In some areas, especially rural communities, cow dung mixed with straw is used as a binding material in construction. It is applied to walls and floors to reinforce and insulate structures. When dried, it forms a durable and insulating layer.

Traditional medicine systems in some Asian countries utilize cow dung for its supposed medicinal properties. It may be used in poultices or as a topical treatment for various ailments, although these practices are less common today.

In certain cultures and religions, cow dung holds symbolic significance. In Hinduism, for example, cow dung is considered sacred and used in various religious rituals and ceremonies. It is also used to create intricate patterns (rangoli) on the ground during festivals.

Paper Production with Cow Dung

In some Asian regions, particularly Nepal and Tibet, cow dung is used in paper production. It is mixed with water and other plant fibres to create a pulp, which is then used to make handmade paper.

Cow dung, when mixed with water and sprayed on crops, can act as a natural pest repellent. It deters insects and pests from damaging plants.

In some areas, cow dung is used as a cleaning agent for floors and walls. It is mixed with water and applied to surfaces to provide a natural, antibacterial cleaning solution.

While the uses of cow dung in Myanmar have historical significance and continue to be relevant in some rural areas, modernization and urbanization have led to a decline in certain practices. However, in remote and traditional communities, cow dung remains a valuable resource for various purposes, particularly in agriculture and household activities.

As cow dung and urine are harnessed for their potent potential, they undergo a profound metamorphosis. From humble beginnings on rural farms, they find themselves thrust into the cosmic arena. Their journey culminates in a remarkable transformation — becoming the very essence of rocket fuel, green and deep.

This revelation holds the promise of a sustainable future, where waste becomes fuel, and innovation knows no bounds. It invites us to contemplate the fusion of science, technology, and sustainability — an alliance that propels us toward the stars while preserving our precious planet.

This rocket fuel is not just environmentally friendly on the surface but goes beyond that — it signifies a profound departure from conventional rocket fuels. It implies that the use of cow waste-derived fuel is a transformative shift in the field of space propulsion, with far-reaching implications and potential.

■

POEM

BY CHIT KO PE

Towards Fairness

Nature's love and warmth,
we're shared on this earth.

Here or there, far or near,
globe gathers us together.

Geo-boundaries do divide,
rather we shall not fall on fate.

Irrespective of being rich or poor,
it shall not matter and falter.

Disaster risk is boomed,
falling we are doomed.

Under the one sky on high,
all shall enjoy equal rights.

Elsewhere inequality may arise,
with resilience, we shall fight.
The future shall be set right!

(In honour of International Day for Disaster Reduction, 18 October 2023)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Wednesday 18 October 2023)
BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Northwest Bay and Westcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEACTURES: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Tropical Storm "Sanba" over the South China Sea is likely forecast continue to move Northwestwards.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 19 October 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Southern Shan and Mon states, scattered in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Eastern Shan, Kayah and Kayin states and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway regions and (Northern)Shan and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather has been partly cloudy the remaining Regions and States.

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

India plans manned Moon mission, space station

India aims to send a man to the Moon and establish a space station by 2040, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the country intensifies its space programme, with a focus on building on past successes.

A rocket carrying Chandrayaan-3 lifts off from the spaceport in Sriharikota. **PHOTO: R. SATISH BABU/AFP/ FILE**

INDIA plans to send a man to the Moon and set up a space station by 2040, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, as the country ramps up its space programme.

The premier's announcement comes as the world's most populous country readies for a key test flight due Saturday for its first crewed space mission.

Modi told space agency officials that they should "build on the success of Indian space initiatives".

The country "should now aim for new and ambitious goals, including setting up 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' (Indian Space Station) by 2035 and sending first Indian to moon by 2040," he said in a statement late Tuesday.

Modi asked them to develop plans for "a series of missions" to the Moon.

India runs a low-budget space operation. It became the first to land a craft near the largely unexplored lunar south pole in August and, a month later, successfully launched a spacecraft to observe the outermost layers of the Sun.

In 2014, India became the first Asian nation to put a satellite into orbit around Mars, and its space agency Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched 104 satellites in a single mission in 2017.

India's current focus remains on its first manned mission into outer space, called Gaganyaan or "Skycraft".

The three-day mission, expected to take place next year, aims to send a three-member crew into Earth's orbit at a cost of about $1.08 billion, according to ISRO.

The country also plans to launch a probe to the Moon with Japan, land a craft on Mars, and send an orbital mission to Venus within the next two years.—AFP

In Argentina, trash is a lifeline for army of recyclers

AYELEN Torres weaves her trolley expertly through the streets on the outskirts of Argentina's capital, stopping every few steps to sift through trash in search of recyclable cardboard or plastic. She is part of an army of "cartoneros" -- tens of thousands of poor Argentines who scour the streets for material to sell and put food on the table.

Since the pandemic, and an economic crisis that has seen annual inflation hit 138 per cent and pushed poverty levels to 40 per cent, the numbers of those turning to the informal recycling industry have exploded.

"I think it's a very denigrated job but, at the same time, it's a beautiful job... what picking things up means, how it helps the environment. The strength you have to have, the courage, because in the street you encounter many things," said Torres, 25. — AFP

Since the pandemic, and an economic crisis that has seen annual inflation hit 138 per cent and pushed poverty levels to 40 per cent, the numbers of those turning to the informal recycling industry have exploded. **PHOTO: AFP**

To find out how wildlife is doing, scientists try listening

Scientists are using artificial intelligence to track animal life and gauge biodiversity in recovering habitats, like a forest in Ecuador, by monitoring the soundscape of the ecosystem.

A reedy pipe and a high-pitched trill duet against the backdrop of a low-pitched insect drone. Their symphony is the sound of a forest, and is monitored by scientists to gauge biodiversity.

The recording from the forest in Ecuador is part of new research looking at how artificial intelligence could track animal life in recovering habitats.

The tool has some limitations, including the relatively few bird calls available with which to train the computer model. **PHOTO: RODRIGO BUENDIA/AFP**

When scientists want to measure reforestation, they can survey large tracts of land with tools like satellite and lidar. But determining how fast and abundantly wildlife is returning to an area presents a more difficult challenge -- sometimes requiring an expert to sift through sound recordings and pick out animal calls. — AFP

COGNITIVE ABILITIES

32% of university students in Japan using ChatGPT: survey

ABOUT 32 per cent of university students polled in Japan said they have used artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT, with many saying it enhances their thinking abilities, according to a recent survey by a Japanese research group.

ChatGPT was used the most by students in the departments of science, technology and agriculture, at 45.5 per cent overall, and far more by men, at 44.8 per cent, than women, at 27.1 per cent, the online survey found. Carried out between 24 May and 2 June, the survey received responses from 4,000 students enrolled in universities across the nation. — Kyodo

LIFESTYLE
WORLD

Michelle Yeoh, the first Asian woman to win an Academy Award, was one of eight new members voted in on the final day of the 141st IOC session. **PHOTO: AFP**

New IOC member Yeoh aimed to be an Olympian not a movie star

Michelle Yeoh, the first Asian woman to win an Academy Award, revealed her dream of becoming an Olympian before her acting career.

MICHELLE Yeoh said she had wanted to be an Olympian before becoming a movie star, after she was voted onto the International Olympic Committee on Tuesday.

The first Asian woman to win an Academy Award — when she scooped best actress for "Everything Everywhere All at Once" earlier this year — Yeoh added she hoped to use her new role to continue her work with refugees. She was one of eight new members voted in on the final day of the 141st IOC session in Mumbai, India. Before the vote, Britain's Princess Anne, the chair of the IOC's member election committee, introduced Yeoh as "a Malaysia junior squash champion". "Sadly, her other different skills took her away from her sporting life but a very fulfilled career and a lot of interest in sport throughout that."

A smiling Yeoh, speaking to reporters afterwards, said: "I remember when someone asked me how did you become an actress and I always said 'I never dreamed of being an actress, but as a child I always dreamed of being an Olympian.

"Sports was very much part of my life growing up, I was very much involved with squash, athletics, swimming and diving." — AFP

Secret Cold War Balkan 'Bond' base opening to world

In recent years, the base has become a tourist attraction, drawing more than 150,000 visitors annually, especially after featuring in a Slovenian mockumentary.

LIKE something out of a Bond film, the giant Zeljava airbase was carved into a mountain between Bosnia and Croatia and designed to withstand a nuclear strike.

But for decades it sat idle, with only the occasional intrepid tourist daring to venture into its crumbling cavernous core.

Built in secret in the 1960s to hide a fleet of Soviet fighter jets in what was then Yugoslavia — a socialist federation that sought a middle ground between Moscow and Washington during the Cold War — it had its own power, water purification and ventilation systems and could operate autonomously.

In its heyday, the underground base could hold nearly 60 MiG-21 aircraft, with its 3.5 kilometres (2.2 miles) or so of tunnels also home to command centres, offices and dormitories.

The remains of the enormous 100-tonne retractable concrete doors at its four entrances are still visible with metal reinforcements protruding from the structures.

Beyond its cavernous interior, the base had five runaways that straddle the border between Croatia and Bosnia.

"All the systems were state-of-the-art at that time," said Mirsad Fazlic, a former pilot who worked at the base for nearly a decade in the 1980s.

"It was the then best military and civilian technology." — AFP

An old DC-47 Dakota covered with stickers at the abandoned Zeljava underground airbase on Croatia's border with Bosnia. **PHOTO: DAMIR SENCAR/AFP**

While seaweed is a staple in Japan, it has long been shunned by traditional Western diets. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Back on the menu? Europeans once ate seaweed, research shows

EUROPEANS now rarely eat seaweed, but it was an important part of their diet until the late Middle Ages, archaeologists said Tuesday, calling for the eco-friendly aquatic plant to be put back on the menu.

Seaweed, a healthy and sustainable source of protein, is a staple food in some Asian countries such as Japan. But it has long been shunned by traditional Western diets — with a few exceptions, such as the Welsh dish laverbread.

It was previously thought that since the rise of farming, Europeans had mostly used seaweed as fuel, fertilizer or to feed livestock. It was only eaten to stave off hunger during famine, so the thinking went.

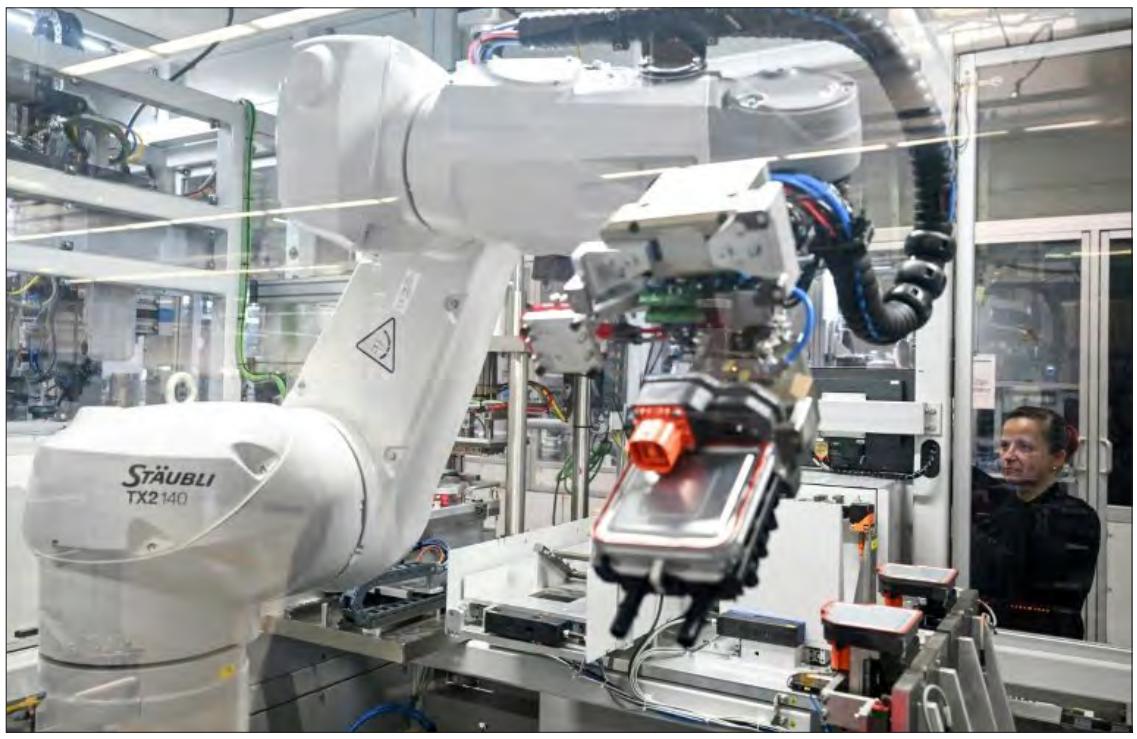
But a new study published in the journal Nature Communications found that Europeans were gobbling up seaweed millennia after that point, and suggested the continent re-embrace the nutritious food.

To find out about ancient seaweed consumption, a UK-led team of researchers analyzed dental plaque extracted from the teeth of 74 different people who lived thousands of years ago at 28 sites ranging from Scotland to Spain. Using a mass spectrometry technique to identify organic compounds, they found evidence that the teeth had chowed down on several different aquatic plants. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Transition trouble: German car suppliers struggle with electric shift

German auto industry suppliers, once profitable from fossil fuel-powered car components, are facing challenges as the shift to electric mobility gains momentum.



While Germany is well known as the home of titans like Volkswagen, Mercedes and BMW, there are also hundreds of other companies in the country that form part of the sprawling auto sector. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFTER years earning bumper profits by producing parts for fossil fuel-powered cars, German suppliers to the crucial auto industry are struggling as the transition to electric mobility gathers pace.

While Germany is well known as the home of titans like Volkswagen, Mercedes and BMW, there are also hundreds of other companies in the country that form part of the sprawling auto sector.

They range from huge firms like ZF and Continental, to far smaller companies, making everything from spark plugs to heaters and exhaust pipes.

But as the industry speeds towards an electric future — the EU is planning to ban the sale of new combustion engine cars by 2035 — specialized suppliers in Europe's top economy are struggling to keep up, experts warn.

German suppliers have lost nearly three percentage points of global market share since 2019, according to a study by consultancy Strategy&, part of the PwC network.

"The success of the past 20 years is at risk of being eroded in a short span of time," it warned.

"In particular, Asian suppliers have made substantial gains by investing heavily, and aligning themselves clearly towards future growth in emerging technologies."

Still, analysts say some of the larger players are navigating the transition better while smaller firms are most at risk.

High energy prices, interest rates

One company that has traditionally relied on fossil fuel-powered vehicles is Eberspaecher, whose products include exhaust systems and heaters.

But the firm, which supplies major car brands, has for some time been seeking to pivot to manufacturing more items for electric cars. — AFP

Equities drop, oil rallies on fears of broader Middle East war

Oil prices surged on Wednesday as tension escalated in the Middle East . **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ASIAN equities retreated and oil prices rallied Wednesday on fears that the Israel-Hamas conflict could spill over into a regional war after a strike on a Gaza hospital dealt a blow to President Joe Biden's diplomatic drive.

Markets had enjoyed a healthy run Tuesday on optimism that while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was preparing for a ground offensive in the territory, the crisis could be contained. Biden had planned to visit Israel and Jordan on Wednesday to talk to Netanyahu as well as Jordanian King Abdullah II, Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in hopes of finding a way to de-escalate.

There was an increase in fighting between Israeli troops and Tehran-backed Hezbollah on the Lebanon border.

"The whole region is at the brink of falling into the abyss that this new cycle of death and destruction is pushing us towards," King Abdullah II said following talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin on Tuesday.

"The threat of this war expanding is real."

Asian markets mostly fell, with Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Wellington, Taipei and Manila all down. — AFP

Fuel cost pushes S Africa's inflation up

INFLATION in South Africa rose for a second consecutive month in September, pushed up by higher fuel prices after a period of cooling, official data showed Wednesday.

Annual consumer price inflation reached 5.4 per cent last month, up from 4.8 per cent in August, national statistics agency StatsSA said.

"This brings the rate to the same level as June this year," the agency said.

"The transport category — mainly influenced by fuel — exerted strong upward pressure," it added.

Fuel prices rose by 7.6 per cent between August and September, with the cost of 95-octane petrol in some areas reaching a 13-month high. — AFP

Fuel prices rose by 7.6 per cent between August and September, with the cost of 95-octane petrol in some areas reaching a 13-month high. **PHOTO: SHELL**

Chevron workers withdraw Australia gas plant strike threat

CHEVRON workers say they have endorsed a proposed deal on new pay and conditions, averting a planned strike on Thursday at Western Australian plants that pump out more than five per cent of global liquefied natural gas.

Union members at the US energy giant's facilities agreed to "suspend" their plan to resume industrial action, the Offshore Alliance representing them said in a statement on Wednesday — the eve of the threatened strike.

The alliance said it had cancelled its notification of industrial action after members endorsed three new enterprise agreements with Chevron covering the vast Gorgon and Wheatstone facilities.

The Wheatstone facility operated by Chevron in Pilbara Coast, Western Australia, is one of the largest gas liquefaction plants in the world. **PHOTO: CHEVRON**

"We hope this can now be put to rest," said Brad Grady, spokesperson for the Offshore Alliance, a partnership between the Australian Workers Union (AWU) and the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA).

Grady said workers had shown "incredible patience" and accused the US firm of seeking to alter the terms of a deal reached last month. Chevron said it welcomed the "in-principle agreement" with the Australian Workers Union on new enterprise agreements at the gas facilities.

"The AWU has advised Chevron Australia that industrial action by its members, which was planned to commence tomorrow, will no longer go ahead," a Chevron Australia spokesperson said. The US group said the proposed agreements would be provided to employees on Wednesday evening, opening a seven-day period before a ballot on the deal next week. — AFP

Swedish Tesla workers to strike over union demands

TESLA mechanics in Sweden will walk off the job on 27 October unless the electric carmaker agrees to sign a collective wage agreement, the metalworkers union IF Metall said Wednesday.

"Over a long period of time, we have attempted to discuss with Tesla the signing of a collective agreement, without success. Now we see no solution other than to take industrial action," the union said in a statement. The strike would affect Tesla's 120 mechanics at seven workshops across Sweden, IF Metall spokesman Jesper Pettersson told AFP. He said "many" of Tesla's workers in Sweden were members of IF Metall, but would not disclose an exact number. Despite being union members, they cannot benefit from industry-wide collective bargaining agreements. – AFP

US retail sales higher than expected in September: govt

RETAIL sales in the United States came in stronger than expected in September according to government data released Tuesday, supported partly by sales in the auto sector and at gasoline stations.

Sales rose 0.7 per cent last month in the world's biggest economy, reaching $704.9 billion, while the pace of growth in August was revised upwards to 0.8 per cent, the Commerce Department said on Tuesday.

While the latest figure marks a slight slowdown, it remains significantly higher than analysts expected.

US consumption has shown resilience despite higher interest rates, after the central bank embarked on an aggressive campaign to lower inflation last year.

The Federal Reserve lifted the benchmark lending rate rapidly, increasing the cost of borrowing and lowering demand by making it pricier to get funds for big-ticket purchases or business expansion. — AFP

US retail sales was much stronger than expected in September, likely supported by a still resilient job market. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ministry of Commerce

Department of Consumer Affairs

Calling for Expression of Interest (EOI) for improving capability and development of Laboratories of Commodity testing and quality management CTQM

Commodity Testing and Quality Management CTQM Division of Department of Consumer Affairs under Ministry of Commerce is located next to Yangon-Bago road, Kyunggalay Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

Conducting laboratory tests of agricultural produces, the laboratories in CTQM has been rendering technical assistance to exporters as well as importers by issuing test reports needed for trade facilitation.

By collaboration with domestic and/ or foreign testing business entrepreneurs, the intention of calling for EOI is to obtain international certification (ISO/IEC 17025) and ensure all round development especially for economic viability by commercialization.

Interested companies shall download the Expression of Interest (EOI) form via www.doca.gov.mm and submit it to the (52) Office, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Commerce during office hours or via email address itqmconsumer@gmail.com between 20th October, 2023 to 15th November, 2023.

Company credentials to be submitted along with Expression of Interest (EOI) are as follows:

(a) Clear Notice expressing interest for doing business (in the form of Joint Operation - JO)
(b) Valid Company Registration Certificate
(c) Information of foreign company if the prospective investor is local company and there is a foreign company that cooperate technically with it.(attach details)
(d) Business experience carried out by the prospective investor (attach the evidence if there is experience on working with the local government or foreign organizations)
(e) Financial evidences of the prospective investor (attach the report audited by certified auditor within the previous 3 years)
(f) Name of Company; Contact person and his/her Business Occupation, National Identification Card (N.R.C)/ Passport, Address, Phone number and email address

(For more information, please contact to office linephones: 067-3430459, 067-3430510)

Department of Consumer Affairs

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (W164)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (W164)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-10-2023** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

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09 454 237 515

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Putin calls Gaza hospital strike a "tragedy"

Concerns were raised about the situation and the imperative need for humanitarian access to Gaza.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said a strike on a hospital in Gaza that killed hundreds was a "tragedy" and showed the need to bring the conflict between Israel and Hamas to an end.

"This is a terrible event... I really hope that this will be a signal that this conflict needs to end as soon as possible," Putin said at a televised press conference on the sidelines of a summit in Beijing. In another development, the World Health Organization on Wednesday urged against any attacks on healthcare centres, a day after a Gaza hospital strike that killed at least 200 people.

"We call ... at a minimum to stop any attacks on healthcare facilities," the head of the WHO's European branch, Hans Kluge, told AFP in an interview, listing it as a top priority.

"Number two (is) to protect civilians and children, and number three (is) to get humanitarian access from Rafah inside Gaza, because all our supplies are based there already but there is no border opening yet," he said.

Kluge said the WHO was "very, very worried" about the situation. At least 200 people were killed Tuesday in a strike on the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in central Gaza, the health ministry in the Hamas-run Palestinian territory said. — AFP

Several countries in the Middle East and North Africa saw protesters march after hundreds of people died in an explosion at a hospital in Gaza. People take part in a protest outside the Israeli consulate to show solidarity with Palestinians, in Istanbul early on 18 October 2023. **PHOTO: UMIT TURHAN COSKUN / AFP**

UK's British Museum says hundreds of stolen items recovered

The museum plans to put the recovered items on display in a previously unplanned exhibition. **PHOTO: DANIEL LEAL / AFP/FILE**

THE British Museum in London has recovered 350 of approximately 2,000 artefacts believed to have been stolen from its collection by an ex-employee, chairman George Osborne said Wednesday.

The storied museum, one of the UK capital's biggest tourist draws best known for housing the Rosetta Stone and the Parthenon Marbles, first revealed the thefts in August.

It has launched an appeal -- including a webpage describing the types of missing items -- urging the public to help recover them.

The museum has also dismissed a staff member suspected of involvement in what Osborne called Wednesday "an inside job", and alerted police who have interviewed a person but made no arrests. The museum plans to put the recovered items on display in a previously unplanned exhibition. "We are intending to put on display the objects we have recovered -- there is a lot of public interest in these objects," Osborne told MPs quizzing him about the thefts.— AFP

Six French airports evacuated after 'threats of attack': police source

Authorities sought to address the credibility of these threats, following a series of similar incidents in recent days.

SIX airports across France were evacuated on Wednesday after emailed "threats of attack", a police source told AFP, the latest in a series of similar threats in recent days.

The evacuations at Lille, Lyon, Nantes, Nice, Toulouse and Beauvais airport near Paris would allow authorities to "clear up any doubts" that the threats might be real, the source said.

The incidents followed other bomb threats in France since Hamas's 7 October attack on Israel and Friday's fatal stabbing of a teacher in northern city Arras by a man claiming allegiance to the Islamic State group.

A spokesman for France's DGAC aviation authority confirmed evacuations over bomb warnings only at Lille, Lyon, Toulouse and Beauvais, and was unable to give further details immediately.

The DGAC's online dashboard showed significant delays at Lille, Lyon and Toulouse.

A post on Nice airport's X (formerly Twitter) account said that "following an abandoned baggage item... a security perimeter was set up to allow the usual checks".

"The situation has now returned to normal," it added.

Airport authorities at Lyon's Bron airport also said that the all-clear had been given.

In Lille, an airport spokeswoman said three flights had been diverted, while a post on its X account said security forces were on the scene. — AFP

Authorities reportedly evacuated the airports of Lille (LIL), Lyon (LYN), Nantes (NTE), Nice (NCE), Paris-Beauvais (BVA), and Toulouse (TLS) due to bomb threats on the morning of 18 October. **PHOTO: RÉMY GABALDA/AFP/FILE**

SPORTS

Myanmar U-19 marches vigorously for international tourney

MYANMAR U-19 men's football team is setting their preparation for the upcoming international tourney in 2024, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Players from the Junior Lions team who competed in the 2023 MNL-2 tournament and those who have shown their skills from other clubs have been selected for the squad.

They will play two selection matches against Star FC, who selected the players from the Inter-State and Region U-18 Championship that was held in October and will select more potential players.

In addition, Myanmar Football Federation officials will select players who have shown their skills in the MNL tournament and are old enough for that team, as stated by the federation.

The Myanmar U-19 team led by head coach U Aung Naing will compete in the 2024 ASEAN U-19 Championship and Asian Cup U-20 qualifiers. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

The Myanmar U-19 team player (red) attempts to pass the Inter-State & Region team player (white) during a friendly match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 31 August 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

Barcelona president Joan Laporta charged over referee scandal: court

BARCELONA president Joan Laporta has been charged as part of the investigation into alleged bribes paid to referees, a Spanish court said on Wednesday.

The club itself and two of its former presidents, Josep Maria Bartomeu and Sandro Rosell, as well as the former head of Spain's referees body, Jose Maria Enriquez Negreira, and his son have already been charged.

Laporta has been charged in relation to his first spell as president of Barcelona from 2003 to 2010.

In his report published on Wednesday, the judge leading the investigation said, in his opinion, Laporta could not benefit from the statute of limitations because of the seriousness of the accusations.

Negreira allegedly earned over seven million euros ($7.5 million) from Barcelona between 2001 and 2018, through companies supposedly producing refereeing reports for the club.

Barcelona, the 27-time Spanish champions, have been fighting off accusations for months and deny any wrongdoing. — AFP

Barcelona president Joan Laporta poses during the official presentation of Portuguese defender Joao Cancelo in September. **PHOTO: AFP**

Schauffele looks to forget Ryder Cup woes at Zozo Championship

XANDER Schauffele said Wednesday that he was "still chasing a win this season" as he attempts to brush off his Ryder Cup disappointment at this week's Zozo Championship in Japan.

The Tokyo Olympics gold medallist is back in action for the first time since being part of the American team that failed to retain the Ryder Cup following a miserable start in Rome last month. Schauffele's American team-mates Collin Morikawa and Rickie Fowler are also among the field at the US PGA Tour event at Narashino Country Club.

Defending champion Keegan Bradley and 2021 winner Hideki Matsuyama return for the 78-man, no-cut event.

Schauffele said he "had a lot of fun despite losing" at the Ryder Cup and turned his attention towards trying to win his first title since July last year.

"I played OK at the Ryder Cup, not great," said Schauffele, ranked number six in the world.

"I stayed in Italy for about five more nights so I had a quick turnaround in Nevada before I came here, but my game's going pretty good." — AFP

Maguire hits out at England fans who booed Henderson

HARRY Maguire has criticized supporters who jeered Jordan Henderson during international matches at Wembley, saying "proper England fans don't boo players".

Henderson was booed off the pitch during Friday's 1-0 friendly win over Australia, admitting it was "disappointing" to be on the receiving end of a negative reaction.

The 33-year-old came under fire when he swapped his role as Liverpool skipper for the Saudi Pro League, joining Steven Gerrard's Al-Ettifaq in July.

The midfielder had been a high-profile supporter of LGBTQ rights during his time at Anfield and last month apologised for any hurt he caused by moving to a country where homosexuality is illegal.

There were murmurs when Henderson's name was read out before the Australia clash but a vocal minority audibly jeered when he was replaced in the second half and a smattering of boos were heard as he came off the bench in Tuesday's 3-1 Euro 2024 qualifying win over Italy. — AFP

England's Jordan Henderson (left) in action against Australia at Wembley. **PHOTO: AFP**

Putin calls Gaza hospital strike a "tragedy"

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Xi emphasizes cooperation and development for the 10th Anniversary of BRI

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Wednesday attended the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

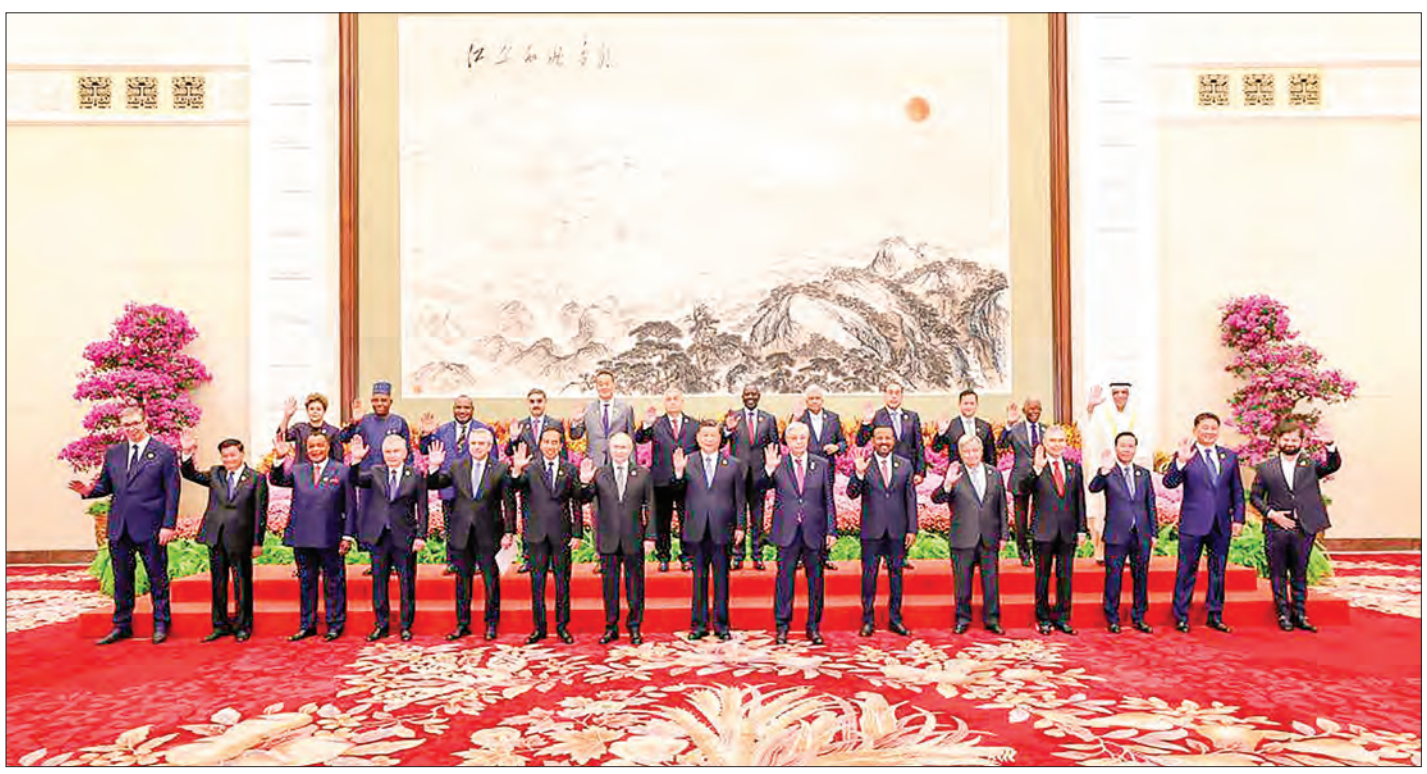
Furthermore, in a different development, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday hosted a banquet to welcome guests attending a high-profile forum celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), stressing cooperation and development in the pursuit of what he called another "golden decade" for the initiative.

"Belt and Road cooperation, robust and fruitful in its first decade, is now full of dynamism and vitality. We must embark with drive and enthusiasm on the new journey towards another golden decade," Xi told the guests, including state leaders and heads of international organizations, when giving a toast at the banquet held at the Great Hall of the People.

Xi, on behalf of the Chinese government and people and in the name of himself and his wife Peng Liyuan, extended a warm welcome to the guests attending the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation slated for Tuesday and Wednesday. Representatives from over 140 countries and 30-plus international organizations have confirmed their attendance at the forum. More than 4,000 delegates have registered for participation.

At the banquet, Xi struck a strong note on peace, development and cooperation while noting major global challenges.

Belt and Road cooperation, robust and fruitful in its first decade, is now full of dynamism and vitality. We must embark with drive and enthusiasm on the new journey toward another golden decade: Xi



Chinese President Xi Jinping poses for a group photo with distinguished guests attending the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 18 October 2023. Xi on Wednesday attended the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and delivered a keynote speech. **PHOTO: HUANG JINGWEN/ XINHUA**

In another development, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday lauded the China-Russia relations when he held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The political mutual trust between the two countries are continuously deepening. The two countries have maintained close and effective strategic coordination and bilateral trade volume has reached a historical high, which is progressing towards the goal of 200 billion US dollars set by the two sides, Xi said. — Xinhua

Sweden detects damage to Swedish-Estonian undersea cable as functions remain active

Diver checking underwater protection of cable. **PHOTO: CC BY 2.0 / THE OFFICIAL CTBTO PHOTOSTREAM / SPUTNIK**

THE communication cable connecting Sweden and Estonia sustained damages in the Baltic Sea, Swedish Minister for Civil Defence Carl-Oskar Bohlin said on Tuesday. "So far we are not exactly sure what damaged the cable," a Finnish news agency quoted the minister as saying at a news conference. Bohlin indicated the details regarding the damage to the Swedish-Estonian cable are similar to damages identified last week that affected the Balticconnector gas pipeline, which connects Estonia and Finland. However, the government official noted the cable remained operational.

Swedish Defence Minister Paul Johnson told media "the government takes the situation very seriously and attaches great importance to the matter, given that it is a critical security infrastructure issue." Estonia's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications reported that on 11 October it had received information on the declined capacity of the cable between Estonia and Sweden, pointing out that the fault site is located in Estonian waters, some 50 kilometres from the Estonian island of Hiiumaa, east of Sweden. — SPUTNIK

ASSOCIATED RISKS

G7 agrees on draft guidelines to harness AI development

OFFICIALS from the Group of Seven leading democracies have broadly agreed on a draft of guiding principles for developers of advanced forms of artificial intelligence, hoping to mitigate associated risks such as harassment, disinformation and privacy concerns. The G7, involving Japan, the United States and the European Union, has been discussing the need for international standards to harness rapidly developing technologies like AI bot ChatGPT. – Kyodo