

Southeast Asia's Enduring Myanma Railways: A Vital Strategic Service for the Nation

Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Naungkar junction-Pangpet railway commissioned into service

The over-146-year rail transport service in Myanmar is a long-lasting rail service in Southeast Asia as well as the strategic service for Myanmar, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address on the role of rail service at the ceremony of commissioning the Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Naungkar junction-Pangpet railway into service held at the railway station in Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State, yesterday morning.

The Senior General and party on their arrival at Taunggyi station were warmly welcomed by local ethnic people.

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SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sprinkles scented water on the locomotive of the train to run along Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Naungkar junction-Pangpet railway section yesterday.

Ayeyawady Region's products, foodstuffs on sale at Chaungtha Beach



Products and foodstuffs are displayed at pre-Thadingyut festival at Chaungtha Beach. **PHOTO: KYAW KYAW (IPRD)**

The Ayeyawady Region's foodstuffs, commodities and handicrafts which are made of cane, water hyacinth and bamboo are sold at Chaungtha Beach as a pre-Thadingyut festival, according to the regional government.

The products from six districts of Ayeyawady Region and other products of MSMEs will be on sale at the event.

The Kyonpyaw district displays 106 kinds of products made of cane, 37 kinds of commodities by the region Small Scale Industries Department and Women's Vocational Training School, 25 kinds of foodstuffs by Myanaung District, 15 types of foodstuffs including fish-paste, salt and rice and so on by Labutta District, 32 kinds of foodstuffs by Pyapon District, 25 types of foodstuffs including murta mat by Maubin District, 36 types of foodstuffs, cane products and murta mat by Hinthada District,

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NATIONAL **PAGE-2**



Mid-Year Gems Emporium 2023 continues for third day in Nay Pyi Taw

BUSINESS **PAGE-7**



More than 1 million tonnes of fertilizer needed as input requirements in current financial year

NATIONAL



A gems merchant evaluates pearl lot on the third day of the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Mid-Year Gems Emporium 2023 continues for third day in Nay Pyi Taw

THE third day of the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium was held at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Patron of the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi viewed round pearl lots, jade lots, lots of gems and jewellery stores at the Maniyadana Jade Hall, the venue for the exhibition yesterday morning.

Local and foreign merchants looked around and viewed the displays of pearl, jade, and gem lots in the hall and uncut jade lots outside the hall.

In the Gems Emporium, pearl lots No 151 to 300 are being put on sale under the open tender system.

Tender No 3, encompassing bids from lot No 151 to lot No 225, was opened at 1 pm. Subsequently, Tender No 4 was initiated at 5 pm and officials announced the sale of 150 lots of pearl.

During the exhibition, 300 lots of pearl were sold through an open tender system. On the fourth day, 160 lots of gems were also sold through the same system, with participation of both domestic and foreign jewellers. — MNA/KZW

Certificate awarded for donation of teaching aid to Shwe Kyar Pin Gems & Jewellery Vocational School

WITH the aim of promoting the development and cooperation of the China-Myanmar gems and jade industry, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi attended the certificate presentation ceremony for the donation of 68 items in six types of teaching aid by China's Pingzhou Gemstone & Jade Association and Yan Yang-ho International Jewellery Co., Ltd to the Shwe Kyar Pin Gems & Jewellery Vocational School at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday morning. During the event, the Union Minister expressed his special gratitude for the donation of educational materials, and mentioned that it would contribute to the development of the finished jewellery sector. Discussions related to the development of finished jewellery were conducted in a friendly and open manner. Following this, the Union Minister presented certificates of appreciation to the officials of the donor company. — MNA/KZL



Russian delegation meets businesspersons at UMFCCI

A delegation led by Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich, Chairman of the External Relations Committee member of the Government of St Petersburg in the Russian Federation, met businesspersons at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI Office in Yangon yesterday.

First, Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, the General Secretary of the UMFCCI gave a speech. Then, Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich discussed cooperation between Russia and Myanmar in marine product industry, agricultural produce, and other export sectors, as well as the sectors to increase business



A meeting between a Russian delegation led by Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich, Chairman of the External Relations Committee, member of the Government of St Petersburg and officials from UMFCCI in progress in Yangon yesterday.

activities.

He invited Myanmar products to be displayed at the exhibition

and market fair, which will be held in St Petersburg in the winter, where products from 30

countries will be displayed. He also talked about solar technology and Russian tea production,

small hydropower sector and environmental protection.

After that, the businessmen who attended the event discussed the economic aspects that will benefit the two countries and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee explained the sectors that will be connected to the rice export sector, the aquatic products sector, and the shipping and technical sector in the deep sea fishing, and the garment industry.

The meeting between the Russian delegation and Myanmar businessmen is to promote Russian-Myanmar business cooperation and increase the trade sector. — MNA/KZL

Southeast Asia's Enduring Myanmar Railways: A Vital Strategic Service for the Nation



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing waves to ethnic people riding the train from Taunggyi to Pangpet railway section yesterday.

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The Senior General pointed out that the rail transport service, on which the basic strata people rely, is the most basic and important one for all.

At present, he continued that the Myanmar Railways, the experienced service, transports a large number of passengers at lesser fare to the destinations as well as a large volume of commodities to relevant regions in railway networks in a short time with least charges, showing a strong point of Myanmar Railways.

After taking the State responsibilities, he underscored that the current government is implementing the unfinished projects of previous government as well as new necessary projects for the people.

He unveiled that the 10.78-mile segment from Naungkar junction railway station to Pangpet near Hopong on the Taunggyi-Saikkhaung railway section has been successfully constructed.

The Senior General remarked that using the rail transport service with least environmental impacts can help sustainable conservation of environment in hilly areas as well as develop socioeconomic life of the people. As such, newly-opened Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Naungkar junction-Pangpet railway section brings a remarkable result to all, he added.

The Senior General highlighted that Taunggyi which is home to more than 400,000 ethnic nationalities is a capital of Shan State. Hence, he recognized the endeavours of all service personnel from Myanmar Railways for successfully upgrading the railway section and new section to develop Shan State.

SAC member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo presented a commemorative gift to mark the opening of Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Naungkar junction-Pangpet railway section to the

Salient points in speech of the Senior General in opening of Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Naungkar junction-Pangpet railway section

- Myanmar Railways transports a large number of passengers at lesser fare to the destinations as well as a large volume of commodities to relevant regions in railway networks with least charges.
- Newly-opened Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Naungkar junction-Pangpet railway section brings a remarkable result to all.
- Endeavours of all service personnel from Myanmar Railways for successfully upgrading the railway section and new section to develop Shan State.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents cash award for ethnic dance troupes and students through an official.

Senior General.

The Council Joint Secretary, SAC member Deputy Prime Minister General Mya Tun Oo, Council members General Maung Maung Aye, Lt-Gen Nyo Saw and the Shan State Chief Minister cut the ribbon to inaugurate the new railway section.

The Senior General and party viewed the maiden trip of the train from Taunggyi railway station to Pangpet station and waved to local ethnic people who rode the train.

The Senior General, wife and party rode the train from Taunggyi to Pawmu stations together with local ethnic people and cordially waved to people along the route.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the 10.78-mile Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Naungkar junction-Pangpet railway section was extended from the Naungkar junction station to Pangpet on the Taunggyi-Saikkhaung railway. MR has carried out the Shwenyaung-Saikkhaung section to be smoothened and strengthened more with upgrade works to ensure the secure transport for passengers and commodities.

The Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Naungkar junction-Pangpet railway section comprises 129 small and large bridges and nine block stations. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and congregation observe the Five Precepts and listen to Parittas from the Oxford Sayadaw yesterday.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday made an inspection tour of building the Shan State Ethnic Affairs and Vocational Training Centre aimed at conducting vocational training courses for ethnic nationalities in Shan State to have higher socioeconomic life.

At the meeting hall, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung reported to the Senior General on progress of building the centre in Ayethaya of Taunggyi Township in Shan State.

In his guidance, the Senior General gave guidance on systematic construction of roads to the centre, beautification

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects progress of Shan State ethnic affairs and vocational training centre in Taunggyi

at environs of the centre, and preparations for accommodation and food supply of trainees at the training period.

The Senior General inspected progress in building the training centre.

Construction of the centre commenced in 2022 with the aim of conducting the vocational courses for ethnic people residing in Shan State to enjoy higher socioeconomic life, exchanging culture and customs of ethnic people, contributing to peace

and stability of the ethnic areas, rule of law and development undertakings, and narrowing the development gap among Mekong regions.

In the afternoon, the Senior General, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and officials offered alms to the world missionary Oxford Sayadaw at Shan State Buddhist University in Phayaphyu Ward of Taunggyi.

The Senior General and wife donated Tri Pitakat treatises in Pali and Romanized

languages, the Maravijaya Buddha replica image and offerings to the Oxford Sayadaw who returned Dhamma books he wrote.

Oxford Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Dhammasami, founder of Shan State Buddhist University, secured outstanding awards in Buddhist universities in Myanmar and international Buddhist academies and obtained the PhD degree from Oriental Institute, University of Oxford in 2004.

The Sayadaw is serving missionary duties at international universities and colleges across the world. He founded Shan State Buddhist University on 7 February 2016 and is striving for shaping it as a university to give Buddhism ideology and research process similar to the international universities.

The Sayadaw writes Buddhism propagation treatises in English, Myanmar and Shan languages and translates the treatises. — MNA/TTA



Information delegation leaves for China to attend ASEAN-China Media Forum

A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint left Yangon for Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, yesterday to attend the ASEAN-China Media Forum 2023.

The delegation was seen off by officials from Ministry of Information and Chinese Embassy to Myanmar at the Yangon International Airport.

The forum will be attended by deputy ministers and senior officials related to the information and media from ASEAN member nations and senior information and media officials of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

Union Chief Justice attends CACJ Retreat in Malaysia

A Myanmar delegation involving officials from Supreme Court of the Union led by Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay attended the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) Retreat hosted by the Federal Court of Malaysia from 18 to 21 October in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The meeting was held to review the achievements over the past ten years of CACJ and to establish future strategic agendas.

On 19 October, Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay together with the Chief Justices of ASEAN countries visited the Federal Court of Malaysia located in the Palace of Justice

in Putrajaya to observe the use of AI technology in Malaysian courts. Then, the Chief Justices attended a briefing of CACJ Model Rules, established by the ASEAN Chief Justices Council and implemented by the Malaysian Supreme Court, including the 10th anniversary commemorative stamp exhibition.

The Union Chief Justice attended the CACJ Retreat at the Shangri-La Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on 20 October. At the meeting, Hon Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia, made an opening remark before Union Chief



Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay poses for documentary photo together with chief justices at CACJ Retreat in Malaysia on 18-21 October.

Justice U Tha Htay and the Chief Justices of ASEAN participated in the review of the achievements of CACJ over the ten-year period and the future strategic agendas. — MNA/TH

Star tortoise from at Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary to be released into forests

MYANMAR'S star tortoise, previously kept in farms at Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Magway Region, will now be released into natural forests, as announced by the warden office of the wildlife sanctuary in Minbu, Magway Region.

A total of 1,000 star tortoises, which are rare and endangered and native to Myanmar, are scheduled to be released into natural habitats. The purpose of releasing them into the sanctuary is to allow the tortoises to grow naturally. Young tortoises are raised in the sanctuary to increase their chances of survival in the wild.

Over 2,000 rare Myanmar star tortoises have been raised in the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary. Among 1,000 tortoises being released into the natural forest, there are 500 males and 500 females. Between 2018 and 2019, 1,750 tortoises were released into their natural habitat during three separate occasions.

Currently, Myanmar star tortoises are bred and kept in Shwesettaw, Lawkananda, and Minnsontaung Wildlife Sanctuaries using a farm cage system. The population is steadily increasing and has reached approximately 20,000.

In these three sanctuar-



A baby star tortoise cracks egg shell at the nursery of Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Magway Region.

ies, the Department of Forest ensures that the star tortoises have access to water and food, especially during the summer. Star tortoises, typically found in tropical regions, help promote plant growth by consuming seeds and later dispersing them, contributing to the growth of trees and forests.

Myanmar's star tortoises are also showcased in zoos lo-

cated in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay for public observation. Collaborative efforts from the Department of Forest, the Department of Fisheries, the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar Programme) and the Tortoise Generation Survival Group aim to conserve and protect these rare turtle species native to Myanmar. — ASH/KZL

Pre-Thadingyut festival fair held at Chaungtha Beach

THE pre-Thadingyut festival fair is being held at the Chaungtha Beach in the Ayeyawady Region, starting from 21 October according to the Ayeyawady Region government.

The festival is scheduled to last for two days, on 21 and 22 October. The event aims to develop tourism industry and MSME businesses and

expand the market for handicrafts made of rattan, bamboo and water hyacinth, according to U Tin Aye, Minister for Economic Affairs of the Ayeyawady Region government.

The opening ceremony of the market took place on the morning of 21 October in front of Azura Hotel at the Chaungtha Beach. — ASH/KZW

Ayeyawady Region's products, foodstuffs on sale at Chaungtha

FROM PAGE-1

26 types of foodstuffs by Myaungmya District, eight types of foodstuffs including ready-made food by Global Earth Agro and Aqua Industry Public Co Ltd, and nine types of the product by Wah Wah Win Agriculture and Livestock Company. Moreover, there is a booth of the region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, another booth of the region Forest Department that features 40 types of cane, bamboo and forest products and a booth of Pathein District that displays 41 types of foodstuffs.

The regional product exhibition and trade fair aim to develop the Chaungtha beach tourism, study the MSMEs products for travellers and locals, promote the production sector based on raw materials in respective districts and townships and lure the local and foreign travellers to study and buy the cane, bamboo and water hyacinth products of Ayeyawady Region.

The event took place on 21 and 22 October. — ASH/KTZH

NATIONAL



The photo shows panoramic scene of Monghein (expanded) protected public forest.

MoNREC confirms two protected public forests in Kachin State, Taninthayi Region

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation designated the area of 8,841 acres in Mansi Township, Bhamo District in Kachin State, as Monghein (expanded) protected public forest on 20 October 2023, under the Forest Law promulgated in September 2018.

And also, the ministry confirmed

the area of 1,424 acres in Palaw Township, Myeik District in Taninthayi Region, as “Pyinbugyi-2 protected public mangrove forest the same day, under Notification No 126/2023 by exercising the authority conferred under Sub-section (e) of Section (6) of the Forest Law promulgated in 2018.

Such forests aim to protect rare

species of flora and fauna and create chances for local people to extract timber and forest products for their living standards. Thanks to the forests, wild animals can inhabit the forests as their safe places whereas rare species of plants can thrive as part of environmental conservation.

— TWA/KZW

Myanmar Pay mobile payment to be available soon

MYANMAR Pay mobile payment will be available soon, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar. Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe said at a meeting held on 19 October that the development of mobile payment systems will help reduce cash handling.

According to the National Payment System Strategy 2020-2025, the Digital Payment Switch (Myanmar Pay) is being implemented so that all mobile payment systems can be connected to each other to develop a digital payment system, she added. — TWA/KZL



An illustration of a digital payment system that can be interconnected with various payment methods implemented by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Police issue alert about impersonating apps online loan services

THE Myanmar police force has warned the public about fake applications applied in committing online scam under the guise of online loans.

When somebody download these applications, referred to as online loan apps, users are asked to grant access to seven different permissions, which include their mobile phone’s camera, phone number, location, email, and social network accounts.

If users accept these requests, the person who designed the application can access the user’s profile photo on the phone, video call logs, phone numbers, email and social network accounts, mobile banking accounts, and location. This could potentially lead to malicious activities, including fraud and threats to extort money, which could have serious consequences for people’s lives. — TWA/KZW

COVID-19 report, 22 October 2023

NEW TESTS	2,302
NEW CASES	5
CASUALTIES	Nil

210 of 3,200 food samples unfit for consumption in six months

၂၀၂၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလမှ ဇွန်လအတွင်း စာတိဒ္ဓိစစ်ဆေးသည့်အသား အစားအသောက်၊ အစားအသောက်၊ အစားအသောက်၊ အစားအသောက်၊ အစားအသောက်၊ အစားအသောက် စစ်ဆေးတွေ့ရှိသည့် အစားအသောက်၊ အစားအသောက်၊ အစားအသောက်၊ အစားအသောက်၊ အစားအသောက်၊ အစားအသောက်					
စဉ်	အစားအသောက် အမျိုးအစား	အမှတ်တံဆိပ် နံပါတ်/အမှတ်အသား	စစ်ဆေးတွေ့ရှိမှု	လုပ်ငန်းခွင်	မာတိကရပ်
၁	ပုလင်းကြီး (ကြေး)	ထွက်ရှိ 240 g/Plastic bottle (Exp: 10-3-2023)	Water သက်တောင့်သက်သာ ဖြစ်နေသည့်အတွက် ပြန်လည်စစ်ဆေးပါသည်။	မန္တလေးမြို့၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်	မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်
၂	ဓာတ်အားပေးပေး	၁/ Cup	Sodium Cyclamate သက်တောင့်သက်သာ ဖြစ်နေသည့်အတွက် ပြန်လည်စစ်ဆေးပါသည်။	မန္တလေးမြို့၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်	မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်
၃	ဓာတ်အားပေးပေး	၁/ Cup (Exp: 12-4-2023)	Water သက်တောင့်သက်သာ ဖြစ်နေသည့်အတွက် ပြန်လည်စစ်ဆေးပါသည်။	မန္တလေးမြို့၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်	မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်
၄	သံလွန်ကြေး	၁/ Cup (Exp: 8-2023)	Bonito and ၁/ Cup Sodium Cyclamate သက်တောင့်သက်သာ ဖြစ်နေသည့်အတွက် ပြန်လည်စစ်ဆေးပါသည်။	မန္တလေးမြို့၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်	မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်
၅	ဓာတ်အားပေးပေး	၁/ Cup	Sodium Cyclamate သက်တောင့်သက်သာ ဖြစ်နေသည့်အတွက် ပြန်လည်စစ်ဆေးပါသည်။	မန္တလေးမြို့၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်	မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်
၆	ဓာတ်အားပေးပေး	Fruity 200 ml/Plastic cup	Sodium Cyclamate သက်တောင့်သက်သာ ဖြစ်နေသည့်အတွက် ပြန်လည်စစ်ဆေးပါသည်။	မန္တလေးမြို့၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်	မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်၊ မော့တိုင်းမြို့နယ်

The photo shows foods being discovered inedible among the samples tested in the laboratory from January to June 2023.

WITHIN the first six months of this year, according to the Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA), more than 3,200 food samples were collected from the market, and approximately 210 of them were found to be unsuitable for consumption.

Of the approximately 210 unfit samples, 19 different types were found, and there was no indication of their place of production or the identity of the manufacturer.

The area where the food was produced has also been rechecked. Production was temporarily halted, the facility was prepared for inspection, and after passing the inspection, production was resumed.

Out of these 19 types of food, the majority are sold in shops in the Magway region, with participation from Shan State, Kayin State and Rakhine State as well. Food must not contain dyes that are prohibited for use by distributors. It is imperative to avoid the use of unauthorized, long-lasting chemicals entirely. Additionally, it is important to adhere to prescribed limits when using approved food additives.

If the warning is not followed, the Ministry of Health stated that action will be taken under Section 28 (a) of the National Food Law, as notified by the Food and Drug Administration Department. — TWA/KZW

New brown slab-sugar enters market at price of K4,000 per viss

ON 21 October, new brown slab-sugar entered the brokerage houses in Bayintnaung market at a wholesale rate of K4,000 per viss, as reported by Ko Min, a dealer, to the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

During this month, wholesale slab-sugar is selling for 3,770 kyats per viss, while the jaggery from Yesagyo is priced at K5,500-K5,600 kyats per viss.

New brown slab-sugar arrived at the market this month, with wholesale prices of sugar and jaggery from Yesagyo set at K3,770 and K5,500-K5,600 per viss, respectively. The old brown slab-sugar is priced at K3,100-K3,200 per viss, while jaggery from NyaungU bleached by chemicals is valued at K4,100-K4,200 per viss. NyaungU jaggery mixed with sugar added with chemicals is available at K3,700 per viss, Mahlaing area jaggery at K3,600-K3,700 per viss, and raw jaggery from Pakokku



New brown slab-sugar seen in the market.

at K3,800-K3,900 per viss.

With the prices of sweet food products such as sugar and jaggery on the rise, new brown slab-sugar is en-

tering the market at high prices. In addition to new brown-slab sugar, peanut brown slab-sugar has also arrived in the market at a

price of K2,775 per viss.

Brown slab-sugar from Pyay and Nattalin areas usually enters the Yangon market toward the end of October, while brown slab-sugar from Upper Myanmar makes its way into the Mandalay market by the end of the year.

The surge in the price of a tonne of sugarcane from around K38,000 in 2019 to K120,000 at the close of 2023 has contributed to the increased cost of brown slab-sugar.

Brown slab-sugar is typically a seasonal food. According to a seller of brown-slab sugar on Aung Thapyay Road, bagged brown slab-sugar is used in baking and dairy cattle feed.

The sugar and jaggery market notes that it's challenging to predict price fluctuations as sugar and new brown slab-sugar enter the sweet products market before year-end, and new jaggery typically enters in the early months of the year. — TWA/CT

Strong demand, low supply elevate chickpea prices

CHICKPEA prices have risen on the back of strong demand by millers and traders involved in quality chickpea saving for the next cultivation season amid low supply in the market, according to the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre.

At present, traders who keep the stocks are selling them. The steadily growing demand by oil millers and traders involved in seed saving pushed up the prices.

The prices moved up slightly compared to that of the previous week. The prices touched the highest of K260,000-K280,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss on 21 October.



Sales of chickpeas have been good in the Yangon market after Thingyan. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

Chickpea is cultivated between October and November as a winter crop and harvested during the January-April period. It is commonly found in Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Magway regions.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans are also grown in the country. Agriculture is the backbone of Myanmar's economy. Among agricultural produce, various beans are pulses are one of the main items.

More than 18,000 kilos worth US\$13.139 million were exported to foreign countries in the previous financial year 2022-2023 (April-March), according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. — NN/EM

More than 1 million tonnes of fertilizer needed as input requirements in current financial year

THE Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development stated that more than one million tonnes of fertilizer will be required as input for this financial year at the coordination meeting of the Urea Fertilizer Procurement Committee on 19 October.

Regarding input requirements, the Union Minister further explained that about 1.1 million metric tonnes of fertilizer will be necessary in the upcoming winter for 10.53 million acres of summer paddy and 10 kinds of crops, including oil crops.

To address the challenges faced by farmers and increase per-acre yield of crops, plans will be developed to distribute and sell fertilizers and pesticides that meet the standards required by farmers in their agricultural activities at affordable prices. — TWA/CT



A farmer is seen broadcasting fertilizer in the paddy field.

Preserve performing arts and fraternity among contestants

In a concerted effort to elevate national prestige, safeguard integrity, and protect cultural heritage, a multifaceted initiative has been set in motion. Rooted in the profound desire to celebrate the unique tapestry of a nation’s identity, this endeavour seeks to enrich and fortify the cultural traditions that define diverse ethnic groups. In essence, it aims to serve four critical objectives:

Firstly, commitment to uplifting the nation’s prestige and safeguarding its integrity is unwavering. The heritage is a source of immense pride, and nurturing it remains paramount. Through the meticulous preservation of traditional performing arts and the distinct cultural characteristics of ethnic groups, everybody aims to showcase the rich cultural tapestry to the world. The preservation of these artistic expressions is not just a matter of historical significance, but an avenue through which they proudly assert national identity.

Secondly, at the heart of this endeavour lies a profound commitment to explore, safeguard, and elevate the traditional performing arts that have been cherished by ethnic nationals for generations. These art forms are the lifeblood of cultural heritage, and nurturing them is essential for the continuity of national legacy. By doing so, everybody ensures that the vibrant mosaic of cultural diversity remains a shining testament to collective identity.

Moreover, everybody needs to recognize the imperative to engage youth in the preservation and propagation of traditional cultural heritage. The torchbearers of the future, the young generation need to be well-acquainted with the national spirit that unites all. By providing them with access to rich cultural heritage, everybody equips them with a profound connection to roots and an enduring appreciation for the treasures of the past.

Lastly, this initiative extends its support to measures in the field of national culture, underpinning the principles of development, peace, and tranquility within the State. A thriving cultural heritage contributes to a prosperous and harmonious society. It fosters unity among citizens and strengthens the bonds that tie all together as a nation.

This comprehensive endeavour, rooted in the aspirations of uplifting national prestige, preserving integrity, and cherishing cultural heritage, represents a cornerstone of commitment to a great nation. By celebrating the performing arts of ethnic nationals, safeguarding national cultural characteristics, instilling the national spirit in them, and fostering an environment of development, peace and tranquility, they take deliberate strides towards a brighter future. It is a testament to the dedication to preserving the legacy of cultural heritage and affirming the values that define a great nation.

EPISODE:22

Murray Stuart was deputed to investigate the kaolin deposits and glass-making materials of the Raajmahal Hills, Bengal, and left for the field on 18 January 1908. Returned to headquarters on 19 May 1908. Posted to Mr Pascoe’s party in Burma and left for the field on 30 October 1908. Part iv of vol xxxviii of the Records of the Geological Survey of India (1910) contains two papers by Mr Murray Stuart on the oil-bearing beds of western Prome and Kama, in Lower Burma. The strata of economic interest, the Kama clays, are of Miocene age, ranging from Burdigalian to Pontian. He contributed ‘Geological Traverses from Assam to Myitkyina, through the Hukong Valley; Myitkyina to northern PutaO; and Myitkyina to the Chinese Frontier in 1923 and ‘The recorrelation of the Pegu System in Burma with notes on the horizon of the oil-bearing strata (including the Geology of Padaukpin, Banbyin and Aukma-nein) in 1908.

The Galena Deposits of North-Eastern PutaO

Of all Murray Stuart’s contributions to the geology of Myanmar, in this episode, I would like to extract the significant parts of his report on ‘The Galena Deposits of North-Eastern PutaO’ as follows: -

The galena deposits of North-eastern PutaO occur in the Nam Tamai, Nam Tisang, and Upper Nam Kiu valleys in the extreme northeast of Burma, bordering on the China-Tibet frontier. The area is that lying between longitudes 97° 30’, and 98°, and latitude 27° 30’, and 28°. The Nam Tamai and Nam Tisang valleys are connected with Fort Hertz, the headquarters of the district, by a mule track, the Nam Tisang valley being five days march from Fort Hertz, and the Nam Mamai valley ten. Fort Hertz is connected with Myitkyina by a good mule road, which is 220½ miles long and is divided into nineteen stages with a rest-house at each stage. The Upper Nam Kiu valley has no mule track, and most of the way one has to climb along the bed of the river; there being no other path. The district is extremely mountainous and covered with dense forest everywhere, and except on the few mule tracks of the district, it is necessary to

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

BY THAN HTUN
(GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

cut one’s way through the dense undergrowth. This makes geological surveying exceedingly slow, and the only possible course is to make a number of traverses across the country wherever it offers facilities for a path being cut and to leave unsurveyed the intervening country, which is frequently inaccessible and always obscured by dense vegetation. Rice can be obtained on the PutaO plain, but all other food and supplies necessary for a survey party must be brought from Myitkyina mules. The PutaO plain is about 1,100 feet above sea level, the Nam Tisang valley about 1,500, and the Nam Tamai valley about 3,500 feet.

The Nam Tamai valley is sparingly strewn with isolated collections of lead “slag,” practically all located along the path that winds along the valley, and along which all the habitations in the valley are situated. None of these collections of slag is of any size and no individual heap that I saw would provide enough slag to fill a wheelbarrow. The total amount of slag seen by me during my investigations was probably less than a ton. This so-called “slag” consists of partially burnt galena containing fragments of charcoal, and is mixed with broken slabs of litharge. The latter is sought by the Nungs who at present inhabit the valley, and is reduced by them to lead, which they use for weighting their fishing nets and also to trade with the neighbouring tribes who require lead for the manufacture of bullets.

There is a report current among the tribes of the north-eastern frontier that many years ago silver was obtained from the Nam Tamai valley and that extensive mines existed there. In the Nam Tisang Valley, there is one locality which was worked for a few months by some Chinese many years ago. They extracted about half a ton of low-grade ore but soon, owing to sickness and the unhealthiness of the locality,

they have never returned. The occurrence in the Nam Kiu valley has been known to the Nungs for years but has never been considered worthy of attention by them. The topographical map used by me was only a provisional one and suffers from occasional inaccuracies. Geological boundaries must consequently be regarded as merely approximate.

History of the area

The PutaO district until a few years ago consisted of unadministered territory and was only taken under administration after 1912. South of the PutaO plain also known as Khamti Long the district is peopled by Kachins. On the plain is an isolated colony of Shans, and to the northeast, the country stretching to the Tibetan and Chinese frontiers is populated by Nungs. South of Nung territory is the area occupied by Lissus, but all that I am concerned with for the purposes of this report is the area occupied by the Shans and the Nungs.

Geology of the area

The PutaO district is extremely mountainous, the mountain slopes are frequently precipitous and mountains and valleys alike are covered with the densest forest. In the centre of the district is the PutaO plain, an isolated plain surrounded everywhere by mountains. The plain is approximately twenty-six miles long, and in its widest part eight miles broad. The hills and mountains in the south seldom exceed 4,000 feet in height, the height of the majority being less than 3,000.

To the north and north-east of the PutaO plain, however, the mountain ranges rise to 6,000 or 7,000 feet where they fringe the plain, and to as much as 16,000 and even 20,000 along the Tibetan border. North-east of the PutaO plain most of the mountain ranges are either composed of granite or have granitic cores. This granite is exceedingly soft and decomposed at the surface,

and landslips are a very frequent occurrence, one of the characteristic features of the granite mountain-slopes being grate rock avalanche tracks scoured clean of all vegetation where slips of the decomposed granite have occurred. On the western side of the Nam Tamai Valley, there occurs a series of highly siliceous limestone, forming steep jagged peaks. It is in this series that the occurrences of galena that I found in the Nam Tamai Valley all occur. The rocks of the area consist of the following: -

The Tertiary sandstones and clays: These consist of yellowish and whitish sandstones often containing kaolin, with occasional leaf impressions; they are frequently false-bedded. The clays are rare, but where seen consist of thin bands of blue clay in the sandstone. Leaf impressions are more common in the clays and certain horizons are crowded with them. The conglomerates occur interbedded with the sandstones and sometimes apparently overlying them, the commonest pebbles being syenite from the neighbouring intrusions into the metamorphic series of the area. The Tertiary series is seen on the Myitkyina-Fort Hertz road between Paukaung, 27 miles north of the confluence of the Nmai Hka and the Mali Hka, and Fort Hertz.

The metamorphic series: The metamorphic series with its included igneous intrusions seems to cover the rest of the district. The age of the rocks is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to fix. The series in places seems to exhibit certain Dharwar-like characteristics. For instance near the confluence of the Mali Hka and the Nmai Hka, nearly 160 miles south of the area the schists are veined with red jasper; along the road, north of Nsop, 18 miles north of the confluence of the Mali Hka and the Nmai Hka.

The intrusive igneous rocks: These include various granites, syenites, diorites, andesites, pyroxenites and peridotites. The

main igneous intrusive rock seen along the road between Myitkyina and Fort Hartz is a biotite-syenite. East and northeast of the PutaO plain is a mass of intrusive biotite granite with white feldspars. For some distance outwards from the plain, this granite shows foliation and in some places passes into a kind of quartzose gneiss without mica. This granite forms the mountain ranges on either side of the Nam Tisang valley and nearly all the mountainous country at the head of the Nam Tisang and Nam Kiu, and to the northeast of the PutaO plain.

The centre of the Nam Tamai Valley is occupied by another variety of white granite, containing much more free quartz than the varieties above-mentioned and generally little or no biotite. Although all the granites contain biotite and white feldspar there is a distinct difference between them in the field, and, for simplicity, I have separated them into the PutaO granite, the Taron granite, and the Nam Tamai granite.

The geology of the Nam Tamai Valley

I have already pointed out that the centre of the valley is occupied by the Nam Tama granite. To the west, it is in contact with highly silicious, calcareous rocks, white in colour, with slaty cleavage planes almost vertical, and weathering into extremely steep jagged peaks. The divide between the siliceous limestone country and the Nam Puti valley is composed of hard quartzite. North of the Nam Puti valley the top of the western range bounding the Nam Tamai valley seems to consist of PutaO granite, which from there seems to stretch across the Nam Kiu to the north of the PutaO plain.

All the galena veins that I saw in the valley occur in the siliceous limestone, but it is possible that they may occur along the line of fracture and may not be genetically connected with this rock. In the Tari Wang, there is an immense

amount of a coarse siliceous limestone breccia which may well be a fault breccia and may indicate a fault running more or less along the line of the Tari Wang; this may account for the rather irregular shape of the range just about the head of the Tari Wang.

The Galena

An old galena mine occurs on the northern side of the Pyit Wang. It is situated some 4 miles up the stream, above its junction with the Nam Tamai, and is high up on the left side of the gorge, about 1,000 feet above stream level, in the highly siliceous limestone already mentioned. The climb to it from the stream is extremely steep. The mine itself is an old natural cavity – probably largely dissolved out by percolating water carrying a vein of ferruginous material 10 inches wide. This was probably, originally, iron pyrites with sparsely disseminated veinlets of galena. I saw no vein of galena of greater thickness than ½ inch and that died out within a distance of six inches. In places the country rock contains galena and pyrite in minute particles scattered through it, but not in sufficient quantity to be of any economic value. Good crystalline galena from the veinlets assays lead, 81 per cent, and silver; 38.75 ounces per tonne of ore. Ore of low-grade assays: lead, 23.5 per cent and silver 10.75 ozs per tonne of ore.

The Sheng Wang Mine

Starting southwards from Paralangdam one crosses the Nam Tamai at its junction with the Sheng Wang and thence follows up the bed of the Sheng Wang to the foot of Klangtung Razi. From this point, at which I camped for the night, it is a stiff climb up the steep mountain side, to approximately the 8,000 feet level, to the mine. The mine is in a vein of ferruginous material in siliceous limestone running approximately south 20° east, and cutting across a projecting spur of



Geological sketch map of Burma by F Noetling

the hill. The vein had been completely worked out and no galena could be found in situ. The deposit seems to have been very similar to that at Pyit Wang but is even less valuable.

Galena other than in the Nam Tamai Valley

Gum Ti: Galena was once worked at the headwaters of the Gum Ti, a western tributary of the Nam Tisang. It occurs as a vein six inches wide in siliceous, slightly calcareous, schistose rocks, on the southern bank of the Lun Shit Wang. It was worked many years ago by Chinese who had heard of the place and who came across from China to investigate it. They dug out the vein to a depth of two feet below water level, but sickness and fever compelled them to abandon this work and they left behind them all the material they had extracted. The vein runs north and south, and due south across the Gum Ti is Noi Ngun which is sometimes said to mean “silver mountain” but there

is no record of why the mountain received this name and the extension of the vein is extremely doubtful. The ore assays: lead 50 per cent and silver 49 ounces per tonne of ore.

Geology Assessment

The Nam Lang: High up on the Nam Kiu-Nam Tisang divide, on the western slope of Lang Razi, is a small deposit of galena in granite on the northern bank of the Nam Lang. The galena occurs merely as small ramifying veinlets, and nowhere did I see a vein of more than a few inches in thickness, that of most veins being only half an inch or less. The galena assays: lead 69 per cent and silver 49.75 ozs per tonne of ore. The occurrence has no economic value. It would appear therefore that PutaO has no known galena deposit worth consideration. References: Stuart Murray, (1919): The Galena Deposits of North-Eastern PutaO, Records of Geological Survey of India, Vol. L.

NATIONAL



Myanmar citizen, schools win awards for ASEAN eco-champions, eco-schools

THE 17th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment and the 18th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution took place in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic on 23 and 24 August this year.

In August, Dr Kaung Htet Swan representing Myanmar secured the 2nd ASEAN Youth Eco-Champions Award in the senior class, which is awarding once every four years, for his endeavours in sustainably environmental conservation practices.

Moreover, No 1 Basic Education High School in Ayeyar Ward of Myitkyina in Kachin State was awarded the 4th ASEAN Eco-Schools Award at the secondary level and BEPS in Daunkkwe Village of Kyaunggon Township in Ayeyawady Region, the same award at the primary level for honouring excellent endeavours of the two schools in environmental conservation activities. — GNLM

ADVERTORIAL

I am Nay Myo Set from Bhamo, Myanmar. I am a huge fan of the Chinese classic novel, “Romance of the Three Kingdoms”, which contains the stories of my favourite character, Dian Wei.

So, I chose the Chinese name “Dian Xing” for myself. “Xing” means revitalization in Chinese, which urges me to revitalize my own country and shoulder the responsibility for the future prosperity of my nation.



Dapein Story: Where My Dream Started

New Stage, New Family

Thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative, I was given the privilege to work at Dapein Hydropower Station of China Datang Corporation Limited (“CDT”) after my graduation in 2019. I was attracted to the magic power and unique charm of this place, and have enjoyed its first-class office environment and relaxed working atmosphere ever since. As an important energy export base in Myanmar, the station pro-

vides the best platform and resources for every employee. There are masters who have taught me technical skills, as well as brothers with whom I have made much progress. My proficiency in Chinese has been substantially improved here, and I have established “Pauk-Phaw” camaraderie with my Chinese brethren.

Since the day that I joined the mechanical professional team, under the leadership of the masters, I have been

actively involved in unit inspections and daily maintenance of the facilities and participated in flood control many times. Now, I am capable of carrying out the operation of basic facilities and defect elimination skillfully.

Keep Learning to Keep Progressing

In my spare time, I have kept learning to familiarize myself with the mechanics and maintenance techniques of various mechanical facilities, so as to improve my business level. Meanwhile, I have strictly abided by the universal safety principles of hydropower stations (such as “Two Tickets and Three Systems”, Four “Not Hurts”, and “Stop, Judge, and Operate” before operations), to increase my awareness of safe production and eliminate potential safety hazards.

After some time since I took up my job, I found it necessary to better my Chinese, so that I could understand the tooltips and instructions of the facilities and tools, and communicate with my Chinese colleagues about work. To continuously improve my work abilities, I learned Chinese at my own expense and communicated actively with my colleagues. During the past four

years, my Chinese expertise has been greatly enhanced. Nowadays, language is no longer a difficulty or obstacle for me at work. I can not only talk with my colleagues freely but also read and understand the manuals of facilities, along with the written work arrangements of the company. In addition, I am proficient in English and my native tongues, the Burmese and Jingpho languages. Therefore, I was given the opportunity to participate in the interpretation during the external collaboration of the station and the foreign affairs coordination of Myanmar PV projects, when my performance was recognized by the leaders.

You Reap What You Sow

Four years of hard work and the careful guidance of my Chinese masters have turned me into a qualified CDT employee, who was awarded the honours of advanced worker of CDTO in 2021 and advanced worker of the group company in 2022. After winning these rewards, I became firmer in believing one Chinese saying, “You reap what you sow”. In the future, I will continue to contribute to my post with intense enthusiasm and a fine working style. I am determined to learn more about the Chinese culture and language, as well as our corporate culture, so that I can better integrate into the company and devote myself to my work, to make my own contributions to the high-quality development of CDT and the Belt and Road Initiative between China and Myanmar.



NATIONAL



Myeik Archipelago tour agencies back to businesses from Thadingyut holidays

TOURISM businesses in the Myeik Archipelago are gearing up for Thadingyut long holidays, thereafter, the Taninthayi Region will kick off the peak season, as per the tour agencies.

Most of the tour companies in Myeik Archipelago shut down their businesses over the last three years. They will resume business operations from the upcoming Thadingyut holidays.

“Myeik District Tourism Association observed designated islands to promote domestic tourism in the previous days. Out of 20 tour companies engaged in the Myeik Archipelago, eight will start offering service from Thadingyut holidays,” said an official of the



Photos show the beautiful beaches of Myeik Archipelago. **PHOTOS : MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

Myeik District Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The tour companies have

drawn itineraries for the famous spots for homegrown visitors and tourists such

as Laykyun (Harris Island), Smart Island, Bailey Island, Kyalleik Island, Donenyaung-

hmine Island, Don Waterfall, and Padan Island. The packaged travel cost for islands is around K200,000-K350,000 per person.

“Some passengers have already booked a tour. During the Thadingyut holidays, eight companies will run the businesses. Flight booking and high fuel oil prices pose certain difficulties for them.

The tourism will initially try to revive with the home-grown visitors,” Managing Director U Moe Zaw from Moe Travels and Tours Co Ltd.

“We see a rise in flight ticket prices caused by fuel oil price hike. We are preparing for necessary measures to provide a great service in our itinerary. The big challenges for customers to visit the Myeik Archipelago are security concerns and high travel costs for now,” said an official of the Adman Beauty Tour Agency.

Myeik Archipelago consists of more than 800 islands. The enchanting coastline, picturesque views, natural pebble beach, sandy beach, tradition, customs and living styles of Salon people are the attractions in the Myeik Archipelago.

Additionally, the visitors can enjoy fun sporting activities such as cycling, swimming, diving and snorkelling, fishing, studying natural rainforests and fishing businesses.

The famous destinations for tourists were Smart Island, Bailey Island, Kyalleik Island, Padan Island, Laykyun Island, Donenyaunghmine Island and Don Waterfall. — Myint Oo (Myeik) EM

Plans underway to implement new camping site with mountain view in Abe Village near Ngapali Beach

A new camping site with a view of the mountains is being implemented in Abe village on Ngapali beach in Rakhine state, according to U Wai Yan, the founder of the new camping site.

The new camping site in Abe village has been developed in the form of a mini camping site, and it is also planned to include watchtowers, tents, swings, and bamboo chairs for relaxation.

“This is the first-ever new camping site to appear on Ngapali Beach. Currently, four tents have been built in it. Four groups, consisting of five visitors in each group, can be accommodated here. A transport route has also been arranged from Ngapali Beach Hotel Zone to Abe Village. Here, we can go fishing, see the scenery on the mountain, and see the sights of the Abe Village,”

said U Wai Yan. The camping site is located in Abe village on Ngapali Beach. There are around 50 houses, and the locals are mainly engaged in agricultural and fishing industries.

Currently, there are about 50 hotels, motels, and guesthouses in the Ngapali Beach Hotel Zone. Foreign and domestic tourists mainly visit Blue Lagoon, Safari Beach, Floating Bridge, Paradise



A watchtowers at the new camping site in Abe village on Ngapali beach in Rakhine state is seen.

Beach, Fisherman Village, White Sand Island, Light House, and Pearl Island.

There are 102 hotels and

guesthouses in Rakhine State, only 70 of which are operating and providing services currently. — ASH/CT

ECONOMY WORLD

Israel-Hamas conflict may compound global oil supply woes

Despite international sanctions and damage to its production, the OPEC member has increased its output over the past year.

THE escalation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas could further strain global oil and gas supplies, already disrupted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, experts have warned.

Increases in oil prices in response to the conflict, triggered by the bloody attack by Hamas in Israel on 7 October, have so far been relatively mild.

Brent, the European benchmark, has gained around 10 per cent, while its American equivalent has gained around 9 per cent.

Prices are around \$90 per barrel, still far from their historical highs.

"Israel is not an oil producer and no major international oil infrastructure runs close to the

Gaza Strip or southern Israel," Edoardo Campanella, analyst at UniCredit, told AFP.

However, investors are conscious of the "Middle East tinder box's inherent risk to global oil supply. Hence they have been diving into contracts compounding matters", explained Stephen Innes, analyst at SPI AM.

The OPEC member has seen its production and exports damaged by years of international sanctions, but has nevertheless increased its production over the last year and is suspected of smuggling barrels onto the market. This has helped contain global prices despite rising demand and tight supply, leading the Biden administration in the



Oil tankers frequently pass through the Strait of Hormuz, carrying a significant portion of the world's oil supply. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

US to "turn a blind eye", according to Helge André Martinsen, analyst at DNB.

Even if Tehran stays out of the conflict, "the West might decide to tighten sanctions on

Iran or simply to enforce existing sanctions more effectively", said Campanella. — AFP

German solar industry looks to rise again

A decade after a wave of bankruptcies all but wiped out the German solar industry, the sector is looking to reestablish itself in the face of stiff competition from abroad.

In Bitterfeld-Wolfen, a solar cell plant opened in 2021 by the Swiss group Meyer Burger on the site of defunct German producer Q-Cells is a sign of a possible renaissance.

"We managed to recruit a number of former employees in the sector, and we are benefitting from their know-how," the director of the Meyer Burger factory, Jochen Fritsche, told AFP.



Germany's solar cell industry is hoping for a renaissance. **PHOTO: AFP**

At the plant in the eastern German city, a million of the blue cells roll off the line each day, ready to be assembled into the modules that make up solar panels. — AFP

US budget deficit widens to \$1.7 trillion on lower tax revenue

THE US budget deficit has widened to \$1.7 trillion, government data showed on Friday, in a development that could add pressure on President Joe Biden as he seeks reelection in 2024.

The deficit expanded by \$320 billion for the fiscal year

ending 30 September, following a drop in tax revenues and lower deposits of earnings by the Federal Reserve on the back of higher interest rates.

Elevated rates also added to spending, bringing the 2023 shortfall to its third-largest on record.

Total government outlays decreased slightly from the previous year, after the Supreme Court canceled Biden's student loan forgiveness program, noted a joint statement by the Treasury Department and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). — AFP

Argentines to vote, seeking escape from economic shambles

The country, once one of the world's richest, has faced cycles of fiscal crises, debt, and financial mismanagement, resulting in 140 per cent year-on-year inflation.

ARGENTINES head to the polls on Sunday in a presidential election dominated by fury over decades of economic decline and record inflation that has propelled political outsider Javier Milei to the front of the race.

Once one of the richest countries in the world, Argentina has stagnated in recent decades, unable to escape cycles of fiscal

crises marked by debt, financial mismanagement, and inflation which now stands at 140 per cent year-on-year.

With 40 per cent of the population living in poverty and a middle-class brought to its knees, many voters are keen to see the back of the traditional parties they see as the architects of their misery. — AFP



Charismatic Economy Minister Sergio Massa represents the center-left Peronist coalition, a populist movement heavy on state intervention and welfare programmes. **PHOTO: LUIS ROBAYO / AFP**



A Cathay Pacific airlines passenger plane prepares to take off from the international airport in Hong Kong. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Cathay cancels flights between Hong Kong and Tel Aviv

Several major airlines, including Delta, American Airlines, Air France, Lufthansa, Emirates, and Ryanair, suspended flights to Tel Aviv, Israel, due to safety concerns.

HONG Kong's flagship carrier Cathay Pacific said on Sunday that it was cancelling all flights between the city and Tel Aviv until the end of the year, over the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"In view of the ongoing situation in Israel, all Cathay Pacific flights between Hong Kong and Tel Aviv from today up to and including 31 December 2023 will be cancelled,"

the airline said in a statement on its website.

It also urged its customers to continue to check its flight information and announcements for updates on departures beyond 31 December.

At least 1,400 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in Israel following Hamas' attack on 7 October, according to Israeli officials.

Israel has retaliated with relentless strikes on the Gaza Strip that have killed more than 4,300 Palestinians, also mainly civilians, the Hamas-run health ministry in the enclave says.

Tens of thousands of Israeli troops are massed around Gaza for a widely predicted ground invasion.

Cathay is the latest in a string of airlines to

halt flights to Israel over the conflict.

Last week, US carrier Delta said it was cancelling all flights to the country as it searched for "safe alternatives" for customers travelling to Tel Aviv.

American Airlines, Air France, Lufthansa, Emirates and Ryanair also suspended flights to Tel Aviv last weekend. — AFP

Repeated Versailles evacuations frustrate tourists

ANOTHER day, another evacuation at the Palace of Versailles.

"For security reasons, the Palace of Versailles is evacuating visitors and will reopen as soon as the checks have been completed. Thank you for your understanding," the great former royal residence outside Paris said Saturday in a now all-too-familiar message.

Saturday's evacuation after a bomb threat which turned out to be false was the sixth such one in a week.

The situation is now starting to agitate not just tourists but also lo-

cal officials and tourism sector players, who see the risk of a key income source dwindling.

France upped its attack alert level in the wake of a fatal stabbing of a schoolteacher earlier this month by a man who claimed the act in the name of the Islamic State extremist group.

The attack in the northern city of Arras also came amid heightened concern over security after the attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas against Israel which has been followed by retaliatory air strikes on the Gaza Strip. — AFP



France's Palace of Versailles was evacuated on Saturday following a bomb threat. PHOTO: CHRISTOPHE ARCHAMBAULT / AFP

Global stocks retreat further on Middle East fears

GLOBAL stock markets slid Friday on worries that an expected ground invasion of Gaza by Israel would spark a wider conflict in the Middle East.

Wall Street stocks declined Friday, as investors looked to lower their risk going into the weekend.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 0.9 per cent, while the S&P

and Nasdaq indexes fell over one percent.

The yield on the 10-year US Treasury, which briefly rose this week to levels not seen since 2007 amid concerns the Fed is entering a long period of high interest rates, slipped slightly.

The Federal Reserve has been raising its benchmark lending rate to cool demand and bring down stubborn inflation,

with some success. Nevertheless, rates remain stuck above its long-term target of two percent.

At the same time, markets are warily eyeing ongoing conflict in the Middle East, for signs it could spread to other countries.

"Going into the weekend there is a downward trend as short-term investors try to square positions," Jack Ablin,

Cresset Capital's chief investment officer, told AFP.

"There is an unwillingness from certain investors (to) hold risk positions over the weekend," he added.

Major stock markets in Europe closed down more than one per cent, while those in Asia also saw declines.

Oil prices finished slightly slower. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB340A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB340A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-10-2023** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

India to host the world’s largest textiles event, Bharat Tex 2024

It highlights India's preparedness to compete globally in the textile industry, producing goods not only for the country but for the entire world.

IN a momentous initiative, the Indian textile industry, in collaboration with industry bodies, is set to host “Bharat Tex 2024,” heralded as the world’s largest textiles event. This mega exhibition is scheduled to take place from 26 February to 29 February 2024, in New Delhi. Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal, unveiled the

event during a curtain raiser at Vanijya Bhavan, New Delhi, read the press release issued by the Ministry of Textiles. The initiative marks India’s dedication to becoming a global textile powerhouse, combining innovation, collaboration, and the “Make in India” spirit. Bharat Tex 2024 represents India’s 5F vision, encompassing Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.



A cotton spinning mill. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ FASHION NETWORK

It emphasizes the nation’s readiness to take on global competition in the textile sector, creating products not only for India but the entire world. — ANI

European hospitality? Norway joins list of nations ready to pay Ukrainian refugees to go home

MILLIONS of refugees flocked to Europe last year as the Ukrainian security crisis exploded into a full-blown NATO proxy war with Russia. But while leaders continue to vow to support Kiev for “as long as it takes”, national bureaucracies have started dropping loud hints that their ability and readiness to host refugees is reaching its limits. Oslo has introduced a scheme designed to get some of the roughly 51,000+ Ukrainian

refugees living in Norway to go home, offering cash payments of nearly €1,500 to Ukrainian nationals willing to leave the Kingdom. The scheme, whose details have appeared on the cabinet of ministers’ website, promises 17,500 Norwegian krone (€1,495) to persons “granted collective protection or residence on the grounds of strong humanitarian considerations” who decide to return home. — SPUTNIK



Ukrainian refugees are registering with the Norwegian police at the National Reception Centre in Råde, where the UDI (immigration administration) and several others are trying to take care of the many arrivals. PHOTO: JAVAD PARSА / NTB/SPUTNIK

Brazil president vetoes bill limiting Indigenous land claims

BRAZIL’S president announced on Friday that he will partially veto a bill restricting Indigenous groups’ claims to ancestral lands, overriding Congress’s recent approval of the legislation. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will veto a core stipulation of the bill which would have only recognized Indigenous peoples’ right to claim territories they occupied or were legally disputing in October 1988, when the constitution was ratified, Minister of Institutional Relations Alexandre Padilha announced.

The land rights legislation, backed by the powerful agribusiness sector, is seen by some critics as an effort to counteract Lula’s efforts to bolster environmental and Indigenous land protections, after his campaign pledge to demarcate new tribal territories. Padilha said that the president’s veto would be partial and not total as Indigenous movements had requested, with the rest of the bill signed into law. “Everything that attacked the rights of Indigenous peo-



Brazilian Indigenous men outside the Supreme Court in Brasilia celebrate as the court rule against efforts to restrict native peoples’ rights to reservations on their ancestral lands. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ples, and which contradicted the constitution, and the recent decisions of the court, were vetoed,” Padilha said. The bill drew backlash with its 1988 “time-frame argument”, or Marco Temporal thesis, which was pushed by the country’s powerful farm lobby. Indigenous groups filed a lawsuit arguing that many people had been forced from their ancestral lands, including during the military dictatorship that ruled Brazil from the 1960s to 1980s. The Supreme Court sided with the Indigenous activists and climate campaigners last month. But days later, Congress approved the legislation, in conflict with the court’s ruling. The president’s veto will take effect after publication in the official gazette, and will be analyzed by Congress, which could still reverse it, setting up another Supreme Court challenge. Sonia Guajajara, Brazil’s first Indigenous Affairs Minister, who was appointed by Lula, called the president’s move “a great victory”. — AFP

SPORTS

Golf tournament for juniors concludes in Yangon

THE Junior Golf Tournament to mark the 10th anniversary of Junior Golf Myanmar (JGM) jointly organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and JGM continued at Yangon Golf Course (Danyingon) in Yangon yesterday.

An award ceremony was held after the tourney.

Officials awarded outstanding prizes to young golfers including Hsu Hnin Phyu who got a Hole In One record, Aung Than Htut who secured the first place with 163 strokes in the boys' tourney and Moe Pyae Sone Khin in the girls' tourney, and other award winners in their respective categories. The golf tournament took place on 21 and 22 October. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



The young golfer (right) receives the award after the Junior Golf Tournament. PHOTO: MGF

'More subdued' Shelton enjoys first ATP title

Shelton credited his "more subdued" approach to his victory and mentioned celebrating with a cheeseburger.

RISING star Ben Shelton said he planned to celebrate his first ATP Tour title with a cheeseburger and credited his "more subdued" approach for his Japan Open victory on Sunday.

The 21-year-old American beat Russian Aslan Karatsev 7-5, 6-1 in Tokyo to lift his first trophy, just over a year since turning professional.

Shelton's powerful shots and on-court theatrics have made headlines but he said he had made a conscious effort to be "calm, cool and collected"



Ben Shelton won his first title on the ATP Tour at the Japan Open. PHOTO: AFP

Morikawa recaptures mojo at Zozo Championship, ending title drought

COLLIN Morikawa said he had refound "the golf I miss playing" after ending a two-year title drought with a resounding victory at the US PGA Tour's Zozo Championship in Japan on Sunday.

The twice major champion finished six strokes clear at Narashino Country Club after rattling off seven birdies to card a bogey-free 63 and finish on 14-under overall.

It gave the 26-year-old his sixth win on the US PGA Tour and his first title since the 2021 DP World Tour Championship in Dubai. Morikawa said it "meant the world" to lift the trophy. "Having this two-year drought, just struggling at times, not really contending, to do what I did through this entire week — that's the golf I miss playing," said Morikawa, whose last US PGA Tour win was at the 2021 British Open.— AFP

El Shaarawy's late strike fires Roma past 10-man Monza

Stephan El Shaarawy's late goal secured a 1-0 victory for Roma over 10-man Monza, moving Roma up to sixth in Serie A and within three points of Napoli, Fiorentina, and third-placed Juventus in the race for Champions League places.

STEPHAN El Shaarawy shot Roma to within touching distance of Serie A's Champions League places with the late winner in Sunday's 1-0 success over 10-man Monza.

Italy international El Shaarawy lashed in a low finish in the 90th minute

at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, pushing Jose Mourinho's team up to sixth.

Roma, who also struck the woodwork through Romelu Lukaku and Sarder Azmoun, are three points behind Napoli, Fiorentina and third-placed Juventus who take on AC Milan in the

weekend's big match later on Sunday.

El Shaarawy's first goal of the season came at the end of a tough match against Monza who who had to play the entire second half with 10 men following Danilo D'Ambrosio's harsh sending off two minutes before half-time.

Mourinho was sent off in the dying moments of stoppage time as tensions flared between the two dugouts after El Shaarawy struck.

Defeat for Monza was harsh as the away side put up a brave fight despite being a man down for half the match, El Shaarawy's winner the first goal they have conceded from open play since being thumped by Atalanta the start of September.

Raffaele Palladino's Monza look set for another decent season in Italy's top flight after being promoted last year and weren't fazed by new signing Papu Gomez being hit with a two-year doping ban on Friday. — AFP



Roma's Italian forward Stephan El Shaarawy celebrates his late winner against Monza in Serie A. PHOTO: AFP

this week. The world number 19 said his new approach had "really helped me to keep my head on straight".

"How much energy I spend, when to show emotion, when not to show emotion, it's something that I'm kind of learning and figuring out for myself," he said.

"Compared to most of my weeks out on tour, I was much quieter, more subdued this week.

"I think it's all about finding the balance."

Shelton was more composed than world number 50 Karatsev, who smashed his racquet in the second set as the match spiralled out of his control.

Shelton won the first set after breaking his opponent for a 6-5 lead, and comfortably took the second as Karatsev fell to pieces.

Shelton reached the Australian Open quarter-finals in January and the US Open semi-finals last month, and he said that his fledgling career had exceeded his expectations. — AFP



WORLD



Around 100,000 people took part in a 'March For Palestine' in London on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

Nearly 100,000 in pro-Palestinian march in London: police

The London march caused a traffic jam at Marble Arch, and the police reported on social media that nearly 100,000 people participated.

POLICE in London say nearly 100,000 people marched in the British capital in an event organised by pro-Palestinian groups, one of several such protests across Europe.

Demonstrators held signs reading "Freedom for Palestine", "Stop Bombing Gaza" and "End Israeli Apartheid". Many waved Palestinian flags and some chanted "5, 6, 7, 8, Israel is a terrorist state" and "Free Palestine".

Since shock Hamas attacks on Israel on 7 October, which left 1,400 dead, Israel has launched devastating air and ground bombardments of Gaza. The Hamas authorities say 4,385 people have died.

The London march brought traffic at the Marble Arch landmark to a standstill, and police said on X (formerly Twitter) that almost 100,000 had attended. It broke up peacefully close to Downing Street.

"We came to show our support because we can't stay silent, watch the news, and then do nothing," Mariam Abdul-Ghani, an 18-year-old student whose family is from the Palestinian territories, told AFP.

David Rosenberg, a member of the Jewish Socialists Group, said he was there "to give solidarity and to disrupt that narrative that says it's Muslims versus Jews, Palestinians versus Israelis".

"I'm 65 but there's people here in their 20s and 30s, who have grown up in mainstream Jewish households, who cannot stand what is supposedly done in their name," he added.

"I do have cousins, family and friends (there)," said Nivert Tamraz, a 38-year-old marketing consultant, who came with her children so they "understand that sometimes everyone has to stand for humanity and not just shy away." "I have a friend whose family is in Gaza, they can't even get in touch with them, it's horrible for them, they don't know if they are dead, if they are alive," she added. — AFP

AMID THREAT OF
GROUND INVASION

Israel steps up Gaza strikes ahead of ground invasion

ISRAEL heavily bombarded Gaza overnight after warning it would intensify strikes ahead of a ground invasion, as the war sparked by Hamas's bloody attack entered its third week on Sunday.

A first trickle of aid entered the besieged Gaza Strip on Saturday, but the 20 trucks permitted to cross were described as a "drop in the ocean" given the "catastrophic" humanitarian situation for 2.4 million people.

Hamas militants stormed into Israel from the Gaza Strip on 7 October and killed at least 1,400 people, mostly civilians who were shot, mutilated or burnt to death on the first day of the raid, according to Israeli officials. — AFP

ANTI-MASS
MIGRATION STANCE

Populist right set to sweep Swiss polls

AS the final votes were being cast Sunday in Switzerland's general elections, right-wing populists look set to sweep the polls following a campaign fuelled by anti-mass migration rhetoric and pledges to combat "woke madness".

Polling stations are only open for a few hours on Sunday morning as the vast majority of Swiss voters post their ballots in the four weeks leading up to election day. "Flyers, fake videos, provocative subjects on election posters: the parties are leaving no stone unturned to attract as many sympathisers as possible to the ballot box in the final spurt of the election campaign," the SonntagsZeitung newspaper said. — AFP

Drought in Brazil's Amazon reveals ancient engravings

The rock carvings are hidden beneath the water of the Negro River, and they've become visible now because the river's water level is the lowest it has been in 121 years.

AN extreme drought in parts of the Amazon has led to a dramatic drop in river water levels, exposing dozens of usually submerged rock formations with carvings of human forms that may date back some 2,000 years.

Livia Ribeiro, a longtime res-

ident of the Amazon's largest city, Manaus, said she heard about the rock engravings from friends and wanted to check them out.

"I thought it was a lie ... I had never seen this. I've lived in Manaus for 27 years," said Ribeiro, an admin-

istrator, after viewing the dazzling relics.

The rock carvings are not usually visible because they are covered by the waters of the Negro River, whose flow recorded its lowest level in 121 years last week. — AFP



Archaeologist Jaime Oliveira shows one of the rock engravings at the riverbank site in Praia das Lajes, Brazil. PHOTO: AFP