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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents Championship trophies to the Shan State men's team and Mandalay Region women's team at yesterday's event.

Mandalay women, Shan men champion in Inter-State/Region Volleyball Tournament 2024

Shan State men's team and Mandalay Region women's team clinched titles in the Inter-State/Region Volleyball Tournament 2024,

held from 7 to 16 May in Nay Pyi Taw. In the final match of the women's event, the Yangon Region team and the Mandalay Region team played and put

pressure on each other in turns. Finally, the Mandalay Region team thrashed the Yangon Region team 3-0.

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By **THAN HTUN**
(GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

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Battery bike sale rises up before schools resume

Udom Thani International Horticultural Expo 2026 welcomes presence of Myanmar businesspeople

MYANMAR entrepreneurs are invited to participate in the Udom Thani International Horticultural Expo 2026, which will be held in the city of Udom Thani, Thailand, from 1 November 2026 to 14 March 2027, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

This Udom Thani International Horticultural Expo 2026, with the theme of "Diversity of Life: Connecting People, Water and Plants for Sustainable Living", aims

to achieve one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showcasing the sustainable way of living and the connection between natural resources and people, and the diversity along the Mekong.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Interior of Thailand, Thailand Exhibition and Convention Bureau will jointly hold the event.

For further information about the expo, individ-

uals can contact secretary Dr Parichart Potchanasin of the Sub-Working Group of International Affairs and Gardens through contact number +66 2569 6162 and email: Interudonexpo2026@gmail.com and interhort2565@gmail.com, and Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through email: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com and phone numbers 067 408622 and 067 408623. — NN/EM

NATIONAL

Exploring Bagan-era cloth paintings at Bagan Museum

ACCORDING to officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch), Bagan-era cloth paintings can be observed at the Bagan Archaeological Museum, located within the World Heritage Site in Nyaung-U Township, Mandalay Region.

Cloth paintings from the 12th century AD exhibited in the Bagan Archaeological Museum were unearthed on 2 March 1984 inside the Taungpon Lawkanatha Pagoda in Wetkyeinn village by the Department's field survey and enumeration team. These paintings underwent restoration at the antiques preservation and renovation centre in Italy from October 1986 to December 1987.



A glimpse of cloth paintings—one of the exhibits at the Bagan Archaeological Museum.



One of the cloth paintings depicts the 96th story from the 550 stories of the Buddha, narrating the journey of a prince from Varanasi to Gandhara. Despite facing the temptations of the ogress with whom he met on the way, he succeeded in overcoming them and ultimately reclaimed his throne. In contrast, his five brothers perished while succumbing to similar temptations.

The Bagan Archaeological Museum boasts several specialized galleries, including those dedicated to Bagan-era architecture, handicrafts, literature, daily life, Buddhist art, Buddha statues, and mural paintings, showcased across ten booths. — Dipalin/TKO

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Nay Thwe Kyi as Rector of Bhamo University of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Chinese tourists explore Bagan World Heritage Site on Myanmar-China FAM trip



Chinese tourists seen being warmly welcomed on their arrival of Bagan.

THE Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan) reported that Chinese tourists visited the Bagan World Heritage Site in NyaungU township at 12:30 pm on 16 May as part of a Myanmar-China tourism familiarization trip.

During this trip, they will explore the ancient cultural sites of Bagan, including its historical pagodas and lacquerware production. Additionally, they will plant trees in the region as a commemorative gesture, donate station-

ery to monastic schools, and witness the sunset scenery of Bagan.

The Chinese visitors on the familiarization trip were greeted by U Saw Win Tun, the chairperson of the NyaungU district administration body, along with team members. They were also welcomed by U Nan Tint, the chairperson of NyaungU township administration body, Deputy Director U Win Aung of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan branch), along with staff members, U Zaw Weik from the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Bagan zone), along with other members, at the Heritage Bagan Hotel, where they enjoyed traditional Myanmar dance performances. — Dipalin / TRKM

MNA starts Yangon-Nanning-Yangon cargo transport flight

MYANMAR National Airlines launched its Yangon-Nanning-Yangon Cargo Flight from Yangon International Airport at 12:15 pm yesterday.

A Boeing 737-800 Freighter was operated on the Yangon-Nanning trip yesterday as a cargo flight, carrying 16 tonnes of aquatic products such as crabs and eels.

Yangon-Nanning-Yangon cargo flights will be operated

three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The Boeing 737-800 Freighter aircraft arrived in Myanmar on 24 January this year, and Myanmar National Airlines has announced that it is operating Yangon-Kunming-Yangon, Yangon-Bangkok-Yangon, Yangon-Singapore-Yangon and Yangon-Mansi-Yangon cargo trips. — Lin Yama/KZL



The Yangon-Nanning-Yangon cargo flight is seen ready to start operations. **PHOTO: LIN YAMA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Law Amending the Myanmar National Aviation Law
(State Administration Council Law 53/2024)
9th Waxing of Kason 1386 ME
16 May 2024

The State Administration Council has enacted this law in accordance with Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

1. This law shall be called the Law Amending the Myanmar National Aviation Law.
 2. "The Ministry of Transport, the Union Government", mentioned in the Sub-Section (a) of Section 2 of the Myanmar National Aviation Law, shall be substituted with "the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Union Government".
 3. In Chapter IV of the Myanmar National Aviation Law,
 - (a) The title shall be substituted as follows: -
"work categories of Myanmar National Airlines and ways to operate".
 - (b) Sub-Section (g) of Section 7 shall be substituted as follows: -
"g. purchase of aeroplane and related accessories, undertaking in hire purchase system, hiring and selling at home and abroad"
 - (c) Sub-Section (n) of Section 7 shall be annulled.
 - (d) Original Sub-Sections (o) and (p) shall be rearranged as Sub-Sections (n) and (o).
 - (e) Section 8 shall be placed behind Section 7 as follows: -
"8. Myanmar National Airlines shall invest its capital and invite shares of the people to form a public corporation as well as a company for carrying out its functions. The State shall own the majority shares of the company".
 4. Original Section 8 of the Myanmar National Aviation Law shall be numbered as Section 9.
 5. Section 10 shall be added behind the rearranged Section 9 as follows: -
"10. The Chairman and members of the Management Board shall be designated as members of the Board of Directors of the company".
 6. Section 14 of the Myanmar National Aviation Law shall be annulled.
 7. In Section 17 of the Myanmar National Aviation Law,
 - (a) Sub-Section (a) shall be substituted as follows: -
"a) Myanmar National Airlines shall conduct borrowing and repaying of necessary monetary capital, disbursement of loans, collection of loans and taking of aid from government departments, organizations, banks at home and abroad and monetary organizations in accord with the law under the agreement of the ministry in advance in order to operate its functions according to this law"
 - (b) Sub-Section (n) shall be added behind Sub-Section (m) as follows: -
"(n) purchase of aeroplane and related accessories, undertaking of hire purchase system, hiring and selling at home and abroad"
 8. Sub-section (c) shall be added behind Sub-Section (b) of Section 19 of the Myanmar National Aviation Law as follows: -
"(c) Action can be taken against the staff who committed crimes directly or indirectly harming interests of Myanmar National Airlines in accord with the staff manual of Myanmar National Airlines, and they shall also be prosecuted under criminal and civil laws".
 9. Section 23 of Myanmar National Aviation Law shall be annulled.
 10. Original Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 shall be rearranged as Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.
- I hereby sign the law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/
Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries watch the final match of the Inter-State and Region Volleyball Tourney 2024 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

FROM PAGE-1

In the men's event, Shan and Kayin state teams poured out their utmost efforts to win over each other. Finally, the Shan State team beat the Kayin State team 3-1.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented cash awards and championship trophies to the Shan State

Mandalay women, Shan men champion in Inter-State/Region Volleyball Tournament 2024

men's team and Mandalay Region women's team and cordially greeted players at the prize-awarding ceremony at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium C in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen

Ye Win Oo presented individual medals to the Champion Mandalay Region women's team and Shan State men's team.

SAC members and Union ministers presented cash awards and individual medals to

second- and third-prize winning men's and women's teams and best player award winners.

The tournament aims to further cement friendly relations among players from regions and states, turn out

selected national players and improve Myanmar's volleyball standard.

A total of 13 men's teams and 12 women's teams participated in the ISR Volleyball Tournament 2024. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Bago region holds campaign to develop libraries, raise reading habit

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended a ceremony to launch the “developing libraries and raising reading habits campaign” at the Bago City Hall in Bago Region yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union Minister, who is also the Chairman of Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, said the youths should know the value of literature and keep reading to know what is right and what is wrong. The campaigns will be held across the nation at the university level and basic education level.

He then urged the students to visit the library during school holidays and to try hard to be intelligent students and achieve



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the launch of the developing libraries and raising reading habits campaign in Bago yesterday.

five essential strengths.

He also said that on 9 May, well-wishers donated K2,205 million to 147 libraries in the campaign to develop libraries and improve reading habits in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

He presented K30 million for the repair work of six libraries and K45 million to establish three new libraries in the Bago Region to regional Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win.

Moreover, the Union minister received a K165 million cash donation from the well-wishers to establish 11 new libraries.

The Union minister and party observed the books and publications displayed at the event. — Regional IPRD/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Deceitful media misrepresents clashes between security forces and terrorists

TO sow discord between security forces and the public, certain deceitful media outlets are disseminating false information alleging that security forces ignited a blaze in Ywashay village, Myingyan Township, resulting in the deaths of five individuals on 14 May.

However, the reality is that PDF terrorists committed an attack on security forces fulfilling their local security duties in Myingyan Township, employing both small and heavy weaponry. This led to an exchange of fire, during which the terrorists suffered



The screenshot validates misinformation.

significant casualties and subsequently retreated into Ywashay village in disarray.

Following the skirmish, security forces conducted a thorough search of the battleground, uncovering the body

of one deceased PDF terrorist and confiscating three heavy weapons and two small arms. It was during this engagement that heavy weapons launched by the terrorists inadvertently ignited fires in the village, damaging several residences.

These deceitful media outlets persist in fabricating misinformation, disregarding the actual events on the ground and concealing the terrorist actions. Moreover, they are creating misunderstanding between security forces and the public by accusing and blaming security forces. — MNA/TKO

False claims: Security forces kill one resident, arrest 30 people in Letpadan

SUBVERSIVE media spread false stories that one was killed and 30 arrested by security forces amidst the clashes in Yayngan Village, Letpadan Township, Bago Region, on 15 May.

There was no truth in the news, and there were no clashes with terrorists in and around Yayngan Village on that day. Terrorists planned to plant mines on the road connecting Yayngan Village and Htantaw Village on 13 May, and the security forces took the necessary security measures to ensure that the people were not hurt. But terrorists escaped with many injuries, said a responsible

official.

Afterwards, the security forces cleared the place where terrorists were laying mines on the village road and seized the related equipment for hand-made mines. They also seized the bodies of two terrorists who were killed by bombs near Htantaw Village and hand-made mines and explosive devices.

Subversive media outlets are purposely spreading fake news on social sites to misrepresent the situation on the ground in order to deal a political blow against the military and tarnish its reputation. — MNA/KZL

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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

Tree planting ceremony of Myanmar-China FAM Trip held

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine attended a tree planting ceremony for Myanmar-China Tourism Promotion Familiarization Trip (FAM Trip) persons in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the event, the Union Minister highlighted the intention of the tree planting programme and green tourism promotion activities.

Then, a representative of FAM Trip handed over cash donations to the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Hoteliers Association.

After the ceremony, the Un-

ion Minister received the delegation of Japan's Sendai-based Grape City Company Limited at the ministry.

During the meeting, the two parties discussed tourism promotion video recording and editing, broadcast of tourism documents on the website and social media, cooperation in technology and human resources development, promotion of ethnic traditional culture and food in each tour site and measures to promote the country as a place that is actually worth visiting at the international meetings. —

MNA/KTZH



Myanmar-China FAM Trip participants pose for the group documentary photo at yesterday's event.



The group documentary photo of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and related meetings on 14-15 May in Laos.

MoE Deputy Minister discusses improving early childhood care, education

DEPUTY Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint yesterday attended the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Ensuring Equal Access to Quality Early Childhood Development and Care, being held in Lao People's Democratic Republic under the theme of Building Climate Resilience from the Start: Early Childhood Education for Sustainable Future.

During the meeting, the deputy minister talked about the vital role of physical and mental development of children today in addition to the education and social status, the need to train the children since their childhood to withstand and overcome while the world is facing natural disasters more and more, holding of Education Conference in My-

anmar in 2023, establishing of school-based kindergarten and the environmental education to the children depending on their age groups.

Then, the attendees approved the Vientiane declaration on ensuring equal access to equality early childhood development and care in the ASEAN community. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar-India Science & Tech Cooperation Joint Working Group meet



Myanmar-India Joint Working Group Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE joint working group meeting on Myanmar-India science and technology cooperation was held on 16 and 17 May at the Ministry of Science and Technology Office in Nay Pyi Taw. They discussed the events in science and technology fields that will allow cooperation between Myanmar and India in the future, the possibility of joint projects and joint activities, and the establishment of joint research projects in science and technology.

The meeting was presided over by Ministry of Science and Technology Permanent Secretary Dr Sai Kyaw Naing Oo, and Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India Director-General Dr Praveen Kumar Somasundaram acted as co-chair. Members of the Myanmar-India Science and Technology Cooperation Joint Task Force, directors-general, representatives from the Indian Department of Science and

Technology, representatives of the Indian Embassy in Yangon and representatives of the Indian Liaison Office in Nay Pyi Taw attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed plans for renewable energy research, metals and element research on electric vehicle batteries and research on electric vehicles and accessories, development activities and technology dissemination activities and Geospatial Technology, unmanned aerial systems, food, medicine and agriculture, including biotechnology, nanotechnology, blockchain, research activities on robotics and AI virtual reality and augmented reality (3D imaging technologies), green technologies, joint projects to collaborate on Smart University technologies, joint workshops, ability to organize conferences and training, science and technological strategic planning and analysis. — MNA/TS

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NATIONAL



Kyaiktiyo Pagoda with throngs of devotees.

Ceremony to pray for traveller safety planned at Kyaiktiyo Pagoda

A ceremony to pray for the safety of travellers will be held on the full moon of Kason, 22 May, at Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Mon State, according to U Soe Hla, the pagoda board of trustees.

Since November last year, pilgrims from every corner of the country have journeyed to the pagoda. Despite the usual decrease in visitors during the

monsoon season, approximately 100 vehicles traverse the mountain road to the pagoda daily.

U Soe Hla said, "The pagoda festival commences with the opening ceremony on the full moon of Thadingyut and traditionally concludes on the full moon of Kason. However, due to the continuous influx of visitors throughout the year, we aim

to conduct a special ceremony dedicated to the safety of all our visitors."

Currently, 800 to 1,000 visitors travel to the Golden Rock daily, with the number increasing to up to 1,500 on public holidays. The pagoda opens daily, with the Buddha Pujaniya festival scheduled from Thadingyut (October) to Kason (May). — ASH/NT

Ethylene oxide to be reclassified as restricted chemical instead of being prohibited



The meeting of Central Leading Body for Prevention of Hazards from Chemicals and Related Substances (1/2024) was held at Ministry of Industry on 14 May.

ETHYLENE oxide, previously listed as a prohibited chemical, will now be classified as a restricted chemical, according to the Central Leading Body for the Prevention of Hazards from Chemicals and Related Substances.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win, Vice-Chairman of the Central Leading Body, said

at its meeting on 14 May that as ethylene oxide can cause diseases such as cancer, specific guidelines regarding its usage, quantity, and application areas must be outlined for issuing licences.

Ethylene oxide is a hazardous substance primarily used in industries such as hand washing, printing, dyeing, and

as a cleaning agent in chemical industries. Despite its historical use for sterilization, it poses significant risks due to its flammability and explosiveness, making long-distance transportation challenging. American chemist Lloyd Hall patented the ethylene oxide sterilization method in 1938, and the method is still in use. — TWA/MKKS

MoH introduces QR codes for accessing health information

THE Ministry of Health has announced that the QR code system can be used to access more information about the health system, enabling people to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

The Centre for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, under the Department of Public Health, is promoting health awareness through pamphlets and posters. These materials educate the public about the

risk factors for non-communicable diseases and how to live healthily.

Twenty-one pamphlets and three posters have been made available via QR codes. The public can read these materials on the Ministry of Health's webpage by scanning the QR codes with the QR scanner or camera on their mobile phones.— TWA/TKO

Myanmar, Thailand discuss northern border trade and tourism development

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar consul-general met the governor and mayor of Chiang Mai to discuss Myanmar-Thailand bilateral relations, focusing on border trade and tourism development between the nine northern provinces of Thailand and Shan State (East) of Myanmar.

U Min Kyaw Linn, Myanmar Consul-General in Chiang Mai, visited Chiang Mai City Mayor Mr Assanee Buranupakorn at the mayor's office on 14 May. In the afternoon, he met Chiang Mai Governor Mr Nirat Pongsitthaworn at the provincial governor's office for discussions.

During the meeting, the Myanmar consul-general highlighted the long-standing bilat-

eral relations between Myanmar and the northern regions of Thailand, including Chiang Mai, emphasizing their shared cultural and traditional similarities that have resulted from centuries of good relations.

In addition, the Myanmar consul-general explained to the governor and mayor of Chiang Mai the developments in Myanmar's political landscape and the key activities that the Myanmar consulate-general is undertaking for Myanmar nationals.

The Myanmar consul-general also discussed measures to collaborate with the Chiang Mai Provincial Governor's Office and the Chiang Mai Mayor's Office in providing care for Myanmar nationals and workers in Chiang Mai. — ASH/TH



Consul-General U Min Kyaw Linn of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Chiang Mai is seen discussing with officials from Thailand.

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Equity market trading value sinks to K473 mln in April

THE grand trading value of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) registered the lowest of K473 million in April owing to the long Thingyan holidays, according to the monthly report released by the exchange.

The equity market registered trading values of K1 billion with 425,102 shares in January 2024, K693 million with 253,178 million in February and K1.34 billion with 560,687 shares in March, respectively.

At present, shares of eight listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd. (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are traded in the security market.

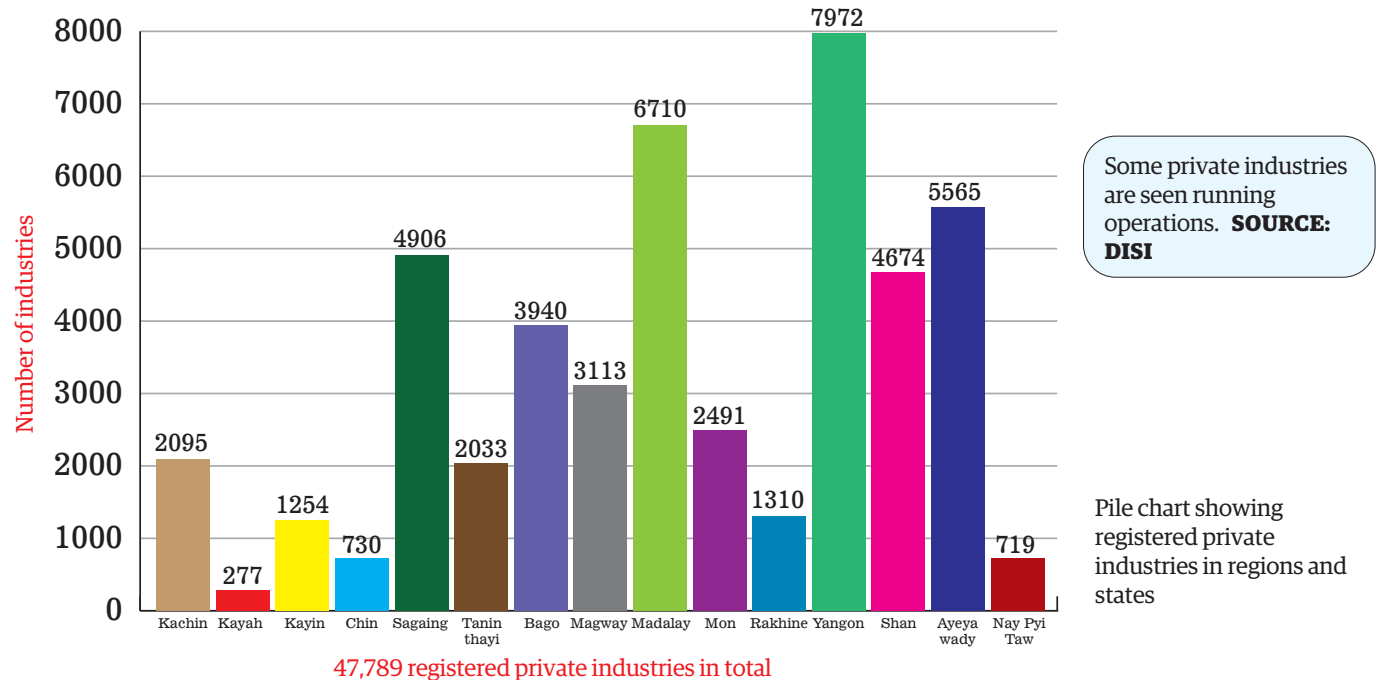
The total trading volumes were registered at 8,316 shares of FMI worth K71.73 million, 61,000 shares of MTSH worth K174.4 million, 125 shares of MCB worth K0.99 million, 25,452 shares of FPB worth over K38.18 million, 3,010 shares of TMH worth K7.64 million, 4,986 shares of EFR worth over K8.42 million, 452 shares of AMATA worth K2.07 million and 14,376 shares of MAEX worth K28.79 million respectively last month.

The closing share prices per unit were K8,300 for FMI, K2,850 for MTSH, K8,000 for MCB, K1,550 for FPB, K2,450 for TMH, K1,650 for EFR and K4,500 for AMATA and K1,800 for MAEX in April.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market since 20 March 2020.

The YSX launched in 2015. It conducts stock investment webinars and training courses in order to disseminate rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading among the public. YSX Investment Virtual Series also offers insight talks with listed companies' executives and investment presentations by security companies every weekend at 4 pm on YouTube, Facebook, Viber and Telegram platforms of the YSX, along with panel discussions with experts. — NN/KK

Private industries registered with DISI reach 47,789 as of end-April



A total of 47,789 private industries have been registered with the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection so far, according to the Ministry of Industry's data.

The registered private industries grew to 47,609 in the previous financial year 2023-2024 from 43,359 in the 2013-2014 FY, showing a significant increase

of 4,250 in a decade. A total of 180 industries were officially listed in April of the current FY 2024-2025.

With the private industries growing domestically, the DISI is providing services for small and medium enterprises to get access to technical assistance and funding, explore markets, register the private industrial enterprises in ac-

cordance with existing laws and conduct safety inspections of boiler and electrical usage at worksites and environmental impact assessment.

Yangon Region, a commercial hub of Myanmar, is home to the private industries with 7,972, followed by Mandalay Region with 6,710 and Ayeyawady Region with 5,565. — TWA/KK

Myanmar pulse exports total 250,000 tonnes over one past month

MYANMAR generated earnings of US\$217.5 million from over 254,000 tonnes of pulses as of 3 May in the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's seaborne trade recorded over 247,700 tonnes of pulses exports worth \$211.75 million, whereas over 6,340 tonnes of pulses worth \$5.77 million were sent to the neighbouring countries between 1 April and 3 May this FY.

The value of Myanmar's pulses exports hit over US\$1.484 billion from over 1.76 million tonnes in the previous FY 2023-2024 (April-March), the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to



Pulses and beans seen in the market.

India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also en-

titled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

Myanmar's black gram output is estimated at 400,000 tonnes per year, whereas pigeon pea production crosses 50,000 tonnes.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM

OPINION

Beware of the spread of malaria in society

WITH the scattered rains falling across various parts of Myanmar at the beginning of the second decade in May 2024, while providing relief from the summer heat, they have left behind wet and muddy environments, perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes, regardless of the species, pose significant risks to human society, often causing outbreaks of diseases. It is essential for everyone to be cautious of mosquito-borne diseases, among which malaria is one of the most prevalent. Malaria is currently a significant health concern not only in Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar, but also in many other parts of the world. Annually, malaria claims the lives of over 600,000 people across more than 100 countries.

The ongoing global warming and climate change are likely to expand the areas affected by malaria. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that between 2030 and 2050, around 60,000 individuals may lose their lives due to spreading malaria disease. All global countries are making strenuous efforts to eliminate malaria by 2050, but they face numerous challenges, including financial constraints and other obstacles.

According to WHO reports, in 2022, approximately 249 million individuals were afflicted with malaria, the age of five. While 43 countries have been declared malaria-free, millions of people in several countries still face the threat of malaria infection.

Climate change, population movements, the emergence of drug-resistant malaria strains, the proliferation of counterfeit and substandard malaria drugs, and changes in mosquito behaviour carrying the malaria virus pose significant challenges to global malaria control efforts. The approval of the first-ever malaria vaccine by WHO in 2021 marked a significant milestone in the fight against malaria. The vaccine requires four doses to be administered to each patient, ensuring a reduction of the risk of malaria outbreaks by 30 per cent.

In Myanmar, Malaria is one of the major diseases that can have significant social and economic impacts, leading to decreased productivity. Therefore, it is essential for not only relevant departments of the government but also individuals to participate actively in efforts to combat malaria. This includes maintaining clean environments to prevent mosquitoes from breeding and following the guidelines for disease prevention issued by the Ministry of Health, thereby improving overall health conditions and reducing the risk of malaria infection in society.

EPISODE:34

Geology and Ore Deposits of the Bawdwin Mines

The GSI geologist J Coggin Brown reported geology and ore deposits of Bawdwin Mines in 1917, and the concise account of his report is as follows:-

Introduction

The Bawdwin Mines of the Burma Corporation Limited lie in Longitude 97 18', Latitude 23 6', approximately in the Tawnpeng (Taungbaing) State, one of the smaller Northern Shan States. They are connected with the Mandalay-Lashio section of the Burma Railways by a narrow-gauge (two-foot) line, 50 miles long, that meets the Burma Railways at Namyao, 517 ½ miles from Rangoon and 167 ½ miles from Mandalay. The narrow-gauge railway, which winds about in the usual manner of mountain lines, crosses the Namtu River at Namtu, the site of the head offices, smelters, and residential quarters of the company, and then ascends through the gorge of the Nam Pangyun stream to Bawdwin, gaining elevation as it does so use a spiral loop and double reverse.

According to Maclaren, the average height of the mine area above sea level is 3,200 feet. The collar of the vertical shaft is about 3,240 feet. The lowest part of the concession below the mouth of the E R Valley is 2,790 feet, while the highest (Mount Herschell) is 4,615 feet. The bed of the Nam Pangyun drops 1,000 feet while passing through the lease. The average depth of the bed of the river beneath the crests of the ridges on either side is 1,000 feet. The concession area is 2,496 acres, and all the known old workings and slag heaps are within it.

Previous work and acknowledgements

Geological fieldwork was commenced near Bawdwin by Dr J Malcolm Maclaren, then Mining Specialist to the Government of India, in 1906. A preliminary report on the results of a fortnight's visit to the mines in February 1907 has been published by T H D La Touche and myself (Rec, GSI, Vol XXXVII). At that time, it was found impossible to survey the area accurately until the completion of the 1 inch = 1 mile map of the Survey of India. This was available in 1909-10, and the present investigation was undertaken in 1914-15 when I was again deputed to Bawdwin by the Government of India. The months of November, December, and January were occupied by a study of the silver-lead-zinc ores discovered in situ since my earlier visit and by the mapping of the rhyolites and associated tuffs. In February, March, and April, I made extension tours through the

surrounding districts.

The Bawdwin mines, although operated for centuries by the Chinese, are still in the early stages of development, and hardly a day has passed without the revelation of some fact requiring a modification of a previously formed theory. With these reservations, it may be stated that this report is intended to describe the broad outlines of the geology of the district and to summarize the available evidence regarding the origin and distribution of the ores.

I owe a great deal to the courteous cooperation of Burma Corporation Limited, which has invariably given free access to maps and plans and furnished any information asked for. Amongst those to whom I am particularly indebted are Mr C H Macnutt, Resident Manager, Mr T E Mitchell, Mines Manager, and Mr M H Loveman, Geologist of the Company. The friendly help of these gentlemen given ungrudgingly in the office, the field, and the mine is gratefully acknowledged.

Only the geologist who has worked in unexplored parts of the Shan States is in a position to appreciate adequately the pioneer work of T H D La Touche. It is certainly a result of his labours that new districts can be surveyed at any reasonable time at all. I have made free use of Dr J M Maclaren's results as set forth in his earlier manuscript report to the Government of India and his later one written as a result of a recent visit on behalf of the company. To both of these gentlemen, my thanks are acknowledged here.

History of the Mines

The Bawdwin Mines, known to the Burmese as "Bawdingyi" or "Great Silver Mines" and to the Chinese as "Lao-Yin-Chang" or "Old Silver Mines", have been worked for silver for hundreds of years, though they did not attract the attention of Europeans before 1795.

The date of commencement of the Chinese operations at Bawdwin is lost in antiquity. It has been stated that this date was probably more than 1,000 years ago, but there seems to be no authority to consider it as early as this. Maclaren is of the opinion that Bawdwin was made Chinese during the invasion of 1343 AD and placed considerable reliance on an inscription that came into his hands and was said to have been found at Bawdwin. According to Mr Taw Sein Ko, the Government Archaeologist in Burma, this record states that work was commenced at Bawdwin by the Chinese in the 9th year of Emperor Ching-tsoo (Yonglo) of the Ming dynasty. This date in Western reckoning is 1412 AD.

Recent Chinese records show that the mines were worked during the



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

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

reigns of Chia Ching (1796-1821) and Tao Kuang (1821-1851). In the accounts of the early missions to the Burmese court at Ava, from Michael Symes in 1795 to that of Sir A Phayre, who was accompanied by Dr T Oldham, Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, in 1855, references can be found to the mines. Still, no European was allowed to visit them, and in 1895, when the 6th edition of the quarter-inch topographical map was compiled, so little was known of them that their position was not marked. Symes, in 1795, called the place Badouem and said it was a six-day journey from Bamoo (Bhamo). Crawford, in 1827, had the advantage of seeing two Chinese traders from Bawdwin and estimated the value of the annual production to be 960,000 ticals, while the royalty payable to the King of Ava was 4,800 ticals per annum. He places the locality, which he calls Bor-twang, at a 12-day journey from Bhamo and states that the number of men employed was about 1,000 (Crawford: Journal of an Embassy to the Court of Ava).

At the time of my first visit to Bawdwin, there were abundant traces of the Chinese occupation quite apart from the furnaces and enormous slag dumps. A typical Chinese stone-paved road ran up the valley, crossing the

stream by three arched stone bridges in perfect preservation. In one prominent position now occupied by the geologist's bungalow, the remains of a large stone temple were approached by a broad flight of stone steps and guarded by two carved stone lions. The extensive deforestation of the surrounding country is also essentially Chinese. The bare appearance of the immediate neighbourhood and the country to the north and northeast is most striking in a land clothed for the most part in the primaevial forest. It is due to several causes: the destruction of the timber for the fuel supply of the smelters, the action of the acid fumes in the south-west monsoon, and, finally, to the general Chinese strategy, which invariably strips a country of all its big vegetation.

The Chinese finally abandoned Bawdwin in about 1868 as a direct result of the great Mahomedan rebellion in Yunnan. It is said that after the final departure of the Chinese, the Burmese kings Mindon and Theebaw sent "armies" to work the mines, but epidemic diseases and the ravages of a bad climate killed the colonists. It is very doubtful if the Burmese ever possessed sufficient mining or metallurgical skill to make a success of an ore deposit like that of Bawdwin.

From that time until modern history begins, the huge slag heaps and the mines have lain undisturbed, except for the occasional visits paid by bands of Kachins who carried off the richer lead matte and smelted it in small furnaces with charcoal on the hills around, using the lead so produced for bullets. Tiny heaps of these re-treated slags are common in the country around the mines. According to Maclaren, the mines were first brought to the notice of the authorities as the source from whence the Kachins drew their supply of lead.

From the records preserved in the archives of the Superintendent of the Northern Shan States at Lashio, I

to the license being granted, said that he knew the locality in question, that silver was found there and extracted many years ago in the time of his father. On 22 April 1902, the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma sanctioned the issue of a prospecting license for silver over an area of 16 square miles to Messrs. Sarkies Brothers, and on 26 May, the prospecting license indenture was signed. On 29 January 1903, the Lieutenant-Governor sanctioned the transfer of the prospecting license from Messrs. Sarkies to the Great Eastern Mining Company Limited, the chairman of which was Mr M F Kindersely. The prospecting license was extended for a period of one year in March 1903,

and zinc, which the Government of India granted. Up to June 1905, according to the Administration Report of the Northern Shan States for 1904-05, they took no further steps and withdrew all their employees from Bawdwin, so it seemed that the project had been abandoned or at least deferred. The same report for 1905-06 stated that it was understood that the Great Eastern Mining Company had been reconstituted and would shortly take steps to obtain the Bawdwin lease. In 1906-07, the new company known as the "Burma Mines Railway and Smelting Company Limited," which had purchased the interests of the Great Eastern Mining Company, who were unable to carry on their projects due to lack of funds, obtained the Bawdwin lease for 30 years and made their progress in the construction of the light railway from Manpwe, on the Lashio branch of the Burma Railways, to the concession, a total length of slightly over 50 miles.

In 1907-08, the name of the company was again changed to the "Burma Mines Company Limited." Disappointingly slow progress was being made with the railway, owing to labour difficulties and troubles from slips and wash-outs during the rains. Still, at the end of the period, 42 miles of rail were open, half of which was ballasted and half packed with earth. The bridge, which spans 134' across Namtu, was about half finished. The transportation of the old Chinese lead slags by road for 2 ½ miles to a point where they could be shot onto the line was started. A tunnel was also commenced at Bawdwin to tap the mines below the level of the Chinese workings. The erection of the smelting plant to treat the slags at Mandalay Shore was completed.

In 1908-09, the bridge across the Namtu was completed; at the beginning of 1909, the railhead was at Tiger camp, and it was completed at the main slag heaps at Bawdwin by the first week of December 1909. Up to this date, mules and bullocks have brought slag from the mines to Tiger camp. The first slag was hauled over the line in December 1908, and from that time to the end of 1909, a total tonnage of 14,019 tonnes of slag and ore was delivered at Manpwe. The difficulties met with in railway construction are shown by the fact that between Tiger camp and Bawdwin - a difference in elevation of 500 feet in a distance of 2 miles as the crow flies - over 5 miles of track had to be laid down to get a workable grade, including a section of 2 miles running up the sides of Waller's gorge necessitating very heavy cuttings, some of which are over 70 feet high, and the use of two reversing stations.



The Sarkies Brothers (from left), A viet, Arshak, Martin, and Tigran.
PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA, THE FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA

gather that Messrs. Sarkies Brothers of Rangoon were the first to apply for a Prospecting License over the area on 8 January 1902. In March of the same year, the Taungpeng Sawbwa, when stating that he had no objection

and again in June 1904, with a yearly rent of Rs 48 being charged each year. But in the same year 1904, the Great Eastern Mining Company applied for a mining lease of 3.9 square miles at Bawdwin to extract silver, copper, lead,

SEE PAGE-12

NATIONAL

Oil crop plantations thrive in Thaphanseik irrigated zones



A thriving oil crop plantation with an irrigation system fed by the Thaphanseik Dam.

THE Regional Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department has reported that sesame crop productivity is high in the Thaphanseik irrigated zones this summer cultivation season, thanks to the dams, lakes, and water reservoirs developed by the State. There are 35 sites in Sagaing Region and one at the border of the Sagaing and Magway regions, benefiting a total of 539,332 acres for water storage to support seasonal cultivations.

Water distribution in the Thaphanseik irrigated zones began in February, during which the water level in the dam was 544.10 feet, with a storage volume of 2,707,822 acre-feet. Currently, it has decreased to 531.22 feet with a volume of 1,626,860 acre-feet. Summer paddy cultivation covering 141,898 acres and

cultivation of other crops on 113,373 acres have taken place in Kanbalu, KhinU, Shwebo, Wetlet, Sagaing, YeU, Debayin, Ayadaw, Budalin, and Taze townships. Additionally, 84,972 acres of summer sesame cultivation have occurred in KhinU, Shwebo, Wetlet, Debayin, and Ayadaw townships, with solar energy utilized via rain guns to achieve designated sesame crop yields.

The Thaphanseik Dam, situated in Kyunhla Township, Kanbalu District of Sagaing Region, has a water storage capacity of 2,880,000 acre-feet. It annually distributes water for 483,000 acres of monsoon paddy, 235,000 acres of summer paddy, and 33,000 acres of other crops. Furthermore, the dam generates 120.659 million kilowatt-hours of electricity throughout the year. — Regional IPRD/TMT

Efforts to boost electricity supply for rice mills in rice-growing regions



One of the rice mills located in the Ayeyawady Region.

THE Myanmar Rice Federation has disclosed ongoing discussions to secure an additional four hours of electricity in areas with numerous rice mills to enable them to operate at total capacity.

Rice mills in the Ayeyawady, Yangon, and Bago Regions have been operating below capacity due to inadequate access to electricity, resulting in decreased rice production reaching the market.

Authorities are deliberating on ensuring a continuous four-hour supply of electricity to allow rice mills to function optimally.

MRF President U Ye Min highlighted the challenges faced

by rice mills in grinding paddy into rice due to limited electricity access and the resulting market fluctuations.

Negotiations involving the electricity and power departments, regional government bodies, and MRF aim to address this issue and implement planned electricity allocations in Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Bago.

Myanmar has 15 million acres of monsoon paddy fields, yielding 1,088 million baskets of rice annually, alongside two million acres of summer paddy fields contributing 213 million baskets of rice annually. — ASH/TMT

Djenkol beans anticipate strong market as season approaches

THE season for djenkol beans, one of Myanmar's most popular fruits, will start next month, and its opening market is expected to be good, according to the interviews.

At present, djenkol beans are still young and rare, and there are few consumers.

"From next month, djenkol beans will be plentiful. Current fruits are young, so there are only a few consumers. If the price is cheaper, there will be more consumers. In their season, we sell about 500 to 600 pieces of big fruits daily. Sometimes, all our stock is sold out. When it rains, djenkol beans are ripe, and we can sell about 1,000

pieces a day. We will start selling next month. With more supply, the price will drop more," said a djenkol bean business owner in Yangon.

Djenkol beans, one of the most consumed fruits in Myanmar, are a perennial tree whose fruits can be harvested in about seven years. Some grow naturally, while others are grown on commercial plantations.

"Around Tawthalin month of Myanmar, the stock of djenkol beans is exhausted, and their sprouts enter the market. When Marian plum season ends, djenkol bean season begins," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

Myanmar's Seintalone and Shwehintha mangoes gain regular market share in Chinese market

SEINTALONE and Shwehintha mangoes produced from Myanmar are gaining a regular market share in the Chinese market, according to a fruit trader at the border.

Of the mangoes exported via the Mongla-Tarlaw route, a case of good quality Seintalone costs 90-120 yuan and that of Shwehintha is priced at 80-100 yuan in the Chinese market.

"At present, we are exporting Seintalone and Shwehintha mangoes. They have a market with buyers. The price is not bad," he said.

About 700 tonnes of these mangoes have been exported to China since April, he added.

Despite the market share of Myanmar's mangoes in China this year, overhead costs

including transport charges have been rising, while the challenges such as export route and cost need to be taken into account in advance, so only the high quality mangoes should be exported more, he suggested.

"We can't eat all the locally produced mangoes. So, we export them and it seems that a new market has developed. For example, if we buy mangoes to export, we may suffer losses. But, if a farmer exports the mangoes produced on his farm, the monetization will be quick. Early Seintalone can fetch a good price in domestic market, but in the long run, people cannot afford to buy it as many other ripe mangoes will enter the market," he said. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Battery bike sale rises up before schools resume

BEFORE schools resume, battery bikes have been selling well.

The bicycle trading had been slow in previous months, however, as of May, it has started increasing and especially battery bicycles have been selling better.

"The sale was terribly bad in previous months. But it has steadily increased back from the beginning of May, it may be due to the approaching school reopening season. This month's sale has been good. Generally

in monsoon, the bicycle market has been slow to some extent. But based on the last year's experience, the market has never come to a halt, just encountered a slowdown," said owner of JoeZ Bike bicycle trading.

Probably, restriction on motorcycle ride led to an increase in battery bicycle sale as manual bike sale has declined, he said.

"The use of bicycle has been larger. We can see more and more battery bicycles in the communi-

ty. Battery bicycle cannot faster like motorcycle but it can go farther. We also prefer to use bicycle. Battery bikes can run by both battery and pedalling. As far as I know, there are two kinds of markets for used and new bicycles. Some buy used bicycle and some buy new bicycles and customize it. I also use bicycle after customizations," said U Myint Naing who owns a battery bicycle from Thingangyun township. — Thit Taw/ZS



Ebikes are on sale at an outlet.

PDF terrorists attack Buddhist monk in Dabayin: Tatmadaw investigates



The location map of the incident.

PDF terrorists, prompted by NUG/CRPH, have been committing crimes, includ-

ing intimidation, murder, and abduction of administrative personnel, civil servants, and

peace-seeking members of the public across the nation. Moreover, PDF terrorists have committed bombing attacks on revered pagodas, stupas, and temples, which are sacred to Buddhists and have targeted Buddhist monks for violence.

On 9 May, the revered Buddhist monk, Bhaddanta Khemacara, aged 50 and residing two Vasa from KonthaU monastery in Dabayin Township, Sagaing Region, was shot by five PDF terrorists while he was on alms round in the town. Reports indicate that the monk sustained injuries as a result of the gunfire by the PDF terrorists.

The Tatmadaw security forces transported the injured monk to the public hospital in Dabayin, and they are currently conducting an investigation into the incident with the aim of apprehending the perpetrators. — MNA/TMT

Illegal goods seized in various states/regions

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

On 14 May, the combined team under the Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force captured a Nissan Atlas truck (worth approximately K20 million) heading to Thaton from Mawlamyine, carrying 7,200 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk and 840 bottles of Two-Shrimp brand palm oil without official documents, near Myaynigon bus terminal in Mawlamyine. This enforcement was carried out under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the on-duty teams supervised by the Customs Department impounded nine kinds of goods worth K524.328 million, including 200 sets of KAZU lead acid batteries and 950 sets of solar panels from China that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID), from seven containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, four kinds of goods valued at K151.74 million, including three Faw Baling truck (without body) and 4,300 boxes of Caine Bupivacaine injection from India that were different from the ID, from 33 containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated value of K40 million), heading to Yangon from Hpa-an), carrying 102

Sailun tyres from Viet Nam without official documents, at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

During inspections on 15 May, the combined teams nabbed a light truck (worth approximately K15 million) carrying illegal timbers weighing 0.631 tonne worth K2.841 million at the 16th-Mile Kyaukechaw checkpoint, a Nissan Diesel truck (worth approximately K50 million) carrying two kinds of goods worth K9.552 million, including 1,020 kilogrammes of hair wig from Thailand without official documents, at the Kywetatson checkpoint, a Nissan Diesel truck (worth approximately K35 million) carrying two kinds of goods valued at K64.095 million, including 4,050 kilogrammes of Apple tissue from China without official documents, at the Myitnge checkpoint and three fuel bowsers carrying 8,744 gallons of illegal diesel worth K97.084 million at the Shwekyin checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 24 arrests were made on 14 and 15 May, with an estimated value of K128 billion. — MNA/MKKS

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

ECONOMY

WORLD/ARTICLE

S Korean banks' loan delinquency ratio falls in March

The delinquency ratio had previously been increasing since hitting a low of 0.20 per cent in June 2022, largely influenced by the high policy rate.

SOUTH Korean banks' loan delinquency ratio fell in three months due to more bad loan settlement than new delinquent loan, financial watchdog data showed Wednesday.

Bank loan overdue at least one month stood at 0.43 per cent of the total at the end of March, down 0.08 percentage points from a month earlier, according to the Financial Supervisory

Service (FSS). New delinquent loan amounted to 2.4 trillion won (1.8 billion US dollars) in the month, lower than the settlement of non-performing loans worth 4.2 trillion won (3.1 billion dollars).

The delinquency ratio has roughly been on the rise after hitting a bottom at 0.20 per cent in June 2022 on the back of the high policy rate. The central

bank had left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 3.50 per cent since January last year, after hiking it by 3.0 percentage points for the past one and a half years.

Excluding the settled bad loan, the delinquency ratio for new bank loan came to 0.11 per cent in March, down from 0.13 per cent in the previous month. — Xinhua



Pedestrians are seen in front of the Bank of Korea (BOK) in Seoul, South Korea, on 24 November 2022. **WANG YILIANG/XINHUA**

Qatar eyes more long-term gas supply deals this year

Minister Kaabi highlighted the growing demand from both Asia and Europe, emphasizing the need for secure long-term supplies.

QATAR expects to sign more long-term natural gas supply deals this year to meet growing international demand, Energy Minister Saad al-Kaabi said on Wednesday.

The minister, who is also chief executive of QatarEnergy, said the state-owned giant had secured sales of 25 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the past year and expected to be "signing more this year".

"It's just agreeing on terms and conditions and pricing... but

I think there's a huge demand out there, whether it's from Asia or Europe," Kaabi told the Qatar Economic Forum.

"I think even Europe is realising now they have to do something different to secure long term," he added.

Qatar is one of the world's top LNG producers alongside the United States, Australia and Russia. Asian countries led by China, Japan and South Korea have been the main market for Qatari gas, but demand from European countries has grown

since Russia's war on Ukraine threw supplies into doubt.

In February, Qatar announced plans to expand output from its North Field, saying they would boost capacity to 142 million tonnes per year before 2030.

Kaabi said there could be further expansions to the emirate's LNG production capacity.

"The technical capability of doing more in Qatar is going to be assessed in the future and, if there is more, we probably will do more," he said. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

DP World, Einride announce largest deployment of electric, autonomous freight mobility in Middle East

DP World has formed a partnership with freight mobility company Einride to electrify inter-terminal container flows at Jebel Ali Port, improving efficiency and sustainability at the 10th busiest port in the world.

This will be the largest deployment of electric, autonomous freight mobility in the Middle East, operating 24/7 to reshape the landscape of transport in the region. — ANI

UAE: 'Jaywan' poised to generate savings of up to AED1 billion

ABDULAZIZ Al Ghurair, Chairman of the UAE Banks Federation (UBF), affirmed that the national domestic card scheme, Jaywan, is poised to generate substantial financial savings for numerous companies and retailers across the country, amounting to AED 1 billion compared to conventional cards such as Visa and MasterCard. — ANI

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions ...

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In the lower portion of the line, the heavy rains caused bad wash-outs and the settlement of large banks, while the softness of the bed in the unballasted portion made the use of heavy locomotives impossible. Despite these difficulties, the first smelting furnace at Mandalay Shore was blown in on 5 February 1909, and the second on 8 February. During the first two months, the

usual initial troubles were experienced due mainly to the difficulty of obtaining suitable fluxes, but by the end of 1909, 12,762 tonnes of slag and ore were treated, of which 11,850 tonnes were Chinese slag from Bawdwin averaging 46.045 per cent lead and 1.78 oz silver and 912 tonnes consisted of ore, 466 tonnes of which came from Bawdwin and the rest from the ill-fated Mount Pima mine and other sources. The calculated total lead content of the

slag was 5,715 tonnes, and the actual amount produced was 5,029 tonnes, a recovery of 88 per cent. About 14 tonnes of nickel and copper speiss and matte were also accumulated. The coke used in reduction came from the Plean colliery in Scotland. The Dead Chinaman Tunnel, which eventually was to reveal the great Chinaman ore body, was cleaned out and cut down to a workable size, 324 feet in from the portal, when the work was stopped

owing to bed ventilation. An incline shaft was also started from the Quartz Tunnel with the idea of getting down under the Amphitheatre.

In 1909-10, a site was selected for the vertical shaft. A good deal of work was done to finish off the railway and provide rolling stock and shops. At the end of the administrative year in 1910, 21,558 tonnes of slag contained between 46 and 48 per cent lead and about 1.8 oz silver was railed to the

smelters. The lead produced amounted to 9,423 tonnes, containing approximately 44,658 oz of silver.

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US high tariffs on Chinese-made EVs hurt American consumers - media

Some Western media outlets argue that the White House's decision to raise tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) imports could hinder US climate goals, industrial competitiveness, and consumer interests.

SOME Western media believe that the White House's decision on Tuesday to increase the tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) imports from some 25 per cent to 100 per cent will hurt US climate goals, industrial competitiveness and consumer interests.

"US consumers mostly haven't realized how good and how cheap Chinese-made EVs are, and the new tariff increase will stop them from doing so," said an article carried Tuesday by Foreign Policy magazine. "After all, Americans will be slower about switching to EVs if they're left with costly options."

An analysis by The Economist magazine pointed out Tuesday that "US domestic producers may also feel less of an incentive to develop cheap goods in the long term, knowing that



This photo taken on 10 January 2024 shows a factory of Chinese electric vehicle (EV) maker Li Auto Inc. in Changzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province. PHOTO: JI CHUNPENG/

they are shielded from foreign competition ... Behind a 100 per cent tariff wall, American officials and corporate bosses will have less urgency to come up with an answer".

"The Biden administration's plan to slap heavy new tariffs on Chinese elec-

tric vehicles and batteries would provide temporary protection for US auto jobs, potentially at the expense of White House efforts to fight climate change by accelerating US EV adoption," said a Reuters report published Tuesday.

According to the re-

port, industry executives and some analysts believed that a clean-technology trade war between the United States and China could also drive up the costs of EVs, batteries and other EV hardware, keeping overall EV prices high. — Xinhua

Israel appropriates millions to aid small businesses owned by military reservists

ISRAEL'S Ministry of Economy and Industry will invest 10 million Shekels (US\$ 2.73 million) in the development and operation of aid projects for small businesses owned by men and women serving in military reserve duty during the war against Hamas in Gaza.

The investment will be made through the ministry's Agency for Small and Medium Businesses in the Ministry of Economy and Industry.

Of the 10 million Shekels, three million (US\$ 820,000) will be earmarked for the promotion of ventures in cooperation with the private and third sectors and seven million (US\$ 1.9 million) for consulting and accompaniment.

Director-General of the Ministry of Economy and Industry, Amnon Merhav, "The State of Israel is committed to those who put aside their families and businesses and enlisted in the war, and we have the duty to mobilize now and give them all the necessary assistance both on the personal level and on the business level, so that businesses can return to activity and growth." — ANI

Honda to spend 10 tril yen on EVs through fiscal 2030

HONDA Motor Co said Thursday it will double its investment in electric vehicle technology from its previous plan to around 10 trillion yen (\$65 billion) for the 10-year period through fiscal 2030. The investment is aimed at enhancing the Japanese automaker's competitiveness with powerful overseas rivals. Honda seeks to increase the ratio of electric and fuel-cell vehicles to 100 per cent of its overall new car sales in 2040. Honda CEO Toshihiro Mibe said the EV industry is still nascent but that "in the long run the EV shift will continue to proceed steadily".

The 10 trillion yen investment will include about six trillion yen in building a next-generation factory system and manufacturing new cars, two trillion yen for software research and development, as well as two trillion yen for battery production, the company said. — Kyodo

Visitor arrivals to Hong Kong double in first 4 months

of this year, Hong Kong registered about 14.62 million tourist arrivals,



Tourists visit a scenic spot at Tsim Sha Tsui in Hong Kong, south China, 14 November 2019. PHOTO: ZHU XIANG/XINHUA/FILE

HONG Kong saw 3.4 million visitor arrivals in April, up around 20 per cent year on

year, the Hong Kong Tourism Board said Tuesday. In the first four months

doubling the number of the same period last year, the tourism board said in

a press release.

Data showed that in April, Hong Kong recorded about 2.48 million visitor arrivals from the Chinese mainland.

Addressing the press on Tuesday, John Lee, chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said that besides wooing tourists with various events and wonderful activities, the HKSAR government will roll out a series of measures to attract tourists. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (177N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (177N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Laos, Thailand prepare for cross-border train service



A test run of the railway service from Thanaleng to Khamsavath stations in Laos is scheduled from Tuesday to Friday. Each day, nine journeys will be conducted between 08:30 am to 03:30 pm local time. **PHOTO: VT**

Khonesavanh Khamphivong, the manager of Thanaleng station, mentioned that the trains are operating smoothly, and further trial runs will continue until Monday.

LAO and Thai authorities are carrying out trial runs of train service in preparation for the start of a cross-border service between Nong Khai railway station in Thailand and Khamsavath railway station in Lao capital Vientiane.

The test run from Thanaleng railway station to Khamsavath railway station in Laos is scheduled from Tuesday to Friday. Nine journeys are being trialed each day between 8:30 am to

3:30 pm local time, according to Lao National Radio report on Thursday.

Khonesavanh Khamphivong, manager of Thanaleng railway station, said the trains are running smoothly and more trial runs will be carried out until Monday. From Saturday to Monday, a trial service will run from northeast Thailand's Udon Thani province, through Nong Khai, and end at Khamsavath railway station. — Xinhua

BRIEFS: WORLD

France declares state of emergency in New Caledonia as violent protests rage

FRANCE has declared a state of emergency in its overseas Pacific territory of New Caledonia after deadly protests by native-born, pro-independence activists who oppose efforts to expand the voting rights of French residents on the archipelago.

Mainland France is glued to the events thousands of kilometers away — where fires were still burning Wednesday after two straight days of rioting that killed several people and left hundreds more wounded. Protesters have looted shops and torched cars and buildings, in the worst violence to hit the area in decades.

Police have arrested hundreds, and French authorities extended a nighttime curfew.

Sparking the anger is a measure to amend France's constitution to give voting rights to French residents who have lived in New Caledonia for at least a decade. It passed France's lower house on Wednesday. Both chambers of parliament still must vote a final time for it to become law. — AFP

Israeli PM Netanyahu advances contentious bill to conscript orthodox men

ISRAEL Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office announced on Wednesday that the Israeli premier will advance contentious legislation for conscripting members of the Orthodox Jewish community into army service.

"In order to bridge the disagreements and bring about a broad consensus, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to advance the conscription law that passed its first reading in the previous Knesset," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

The legislation being presented was prepared in 2022 by former Defence Minister Benny Gantz during the previous government. That legislation never set specific quotas for Haredi, or Orthodox enlistment, but its goal was for the majority of Haredi men to be conscripted. — ANI

Egypt trials 1st fleet of electric taxis in New Administrative Capital

EGYPT kicked off a pilot programme on Wednesday for operating the country's first fleet of electric taxis in its newly-built New Administrative Capital (NAC), aiming to provide eco-friendly and smart transportation options.

The initial phase sees 10 electric vehicles deployed within the NAC, currently home to most government ministries and institutions.

The fleet, owned by Egypt's Ministry of Transportation, will consist of 85 China-made MG4s and 60 Chevrolet Bolt cars. It will be operated by a local Egyptian company. "These initial 10 electric cars mark the first stage," said George Michael, CEO of Caesar Clean Energy Transportation Solution, the

project operator, told Xinhua, indicating a swift rollout for the remaining vehicles and potential expansion beyond the NAC boundaries.

"The new electric cars are

very safe...they are equipped with interior and exterior surveillance systems, and GPS devices to ensure the safety of commuters during trips,"

Michael said. — Xinhua



Electric taxis are seen during a pilot programme ceremony in New Administrative Capital, Egypt, on 15 May 2024. **PHOTO: AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA**

Russia strongly condemns attack on Slovak PM, calls it 'great tragedy': Kremlin

RUSSIA strongly condemns an assault on Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday, calling the incident a great tragedy.

"We, of course, condemn

in strongest possible terms this assault, and we believe it we consider it absolutely unacceptable, it is indeed a great tragedy," Peskov told Russian newspaper Izvestia.

Peskov recalled that Rus-

sian President Vladimir Putin sent a message to Slovak President Zuzana Caputova, in which he expressed sympathy and wished Fico a speedy recovery. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Myanmar U-20 to play 2 friendlies against Chinese U-20 after beating top MNL clubs



Myanmar U-20 team under training in the football ground.

MYANMAR'S U-20 men's football team, made up of talented new-generation players who have won some top domestic clubs, will play two friendly matches

against China U-20, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar U-20 is formed with players from the Myanmar Football Academy

of the MFF, selected players from regional and state teams, and new, young, outstanding players from Myanmar National League (MNL) clubs. Its head coach is U Aung Naing.

After prior coordination between the Chinese Football Association and MFF, Myanmar U-20 will play two closed-door friendly matches against Chinese U-20 in Xianghe, China, on 30 May and 2 June.

This Myanmar team has been taking training in camps for a long time to prepare for the U-19 ASEAN Football Federation Championships in July 2024, to be hosted by Indonesia and U-20 Asian Cup qualifiers in September. During their camp training, Myanmar U-20 played friendly matches against top MNL clubs such as Shan United Club, Hanthawady United Club and Yangon United Club, resulting in two wins and one defeat. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw (C) receives the AFC Distinguished Service Award from FIFA President Infantino. PHOTO: MFF

U Zaw Zaw secures AFC Distinguished Service Award

MYANMAR Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw garnered the AFC Distinguished Service Award, which is an honorary performance award of the Asian Football Confederation, during the 34th Asian Football Confederation Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 16 May.

The Asian Football Confederation is honouring U Zaw Zaw for his strong efforts during the COVID-19 epidemic and for his outstanding efforts in the development of football in the Asian region.

FIFA President Infantino and Asian Football Confederation President Mr Shaikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Kalifa presented the honorary performance award to U Zaw Zaw.

The AFC Distinguished Service Award is an honorary performance award that honours a person who has worked tirelessly for the development of football in the Asian region and who has made outstanding contributions to society along with football.

In presenting the award, Mr Datuk Seri Windsor John, Secretary General of the Asian Football Confederation, said that U Zaw Zaw built a 1,000-bed ICU/HDU COVID-19 Centre in Yangon and a 375-bed COVID-19 Centre in Mandalay and treated more than 12,000 COVID-19 patients free of charge during the COVID-19 pandemic.

U Zaw Zaw has also built free COVID testing centres and tested more than 22,000 people.

He has been actively involved in the football world and human benefit processes since taking office as president of the Myanmar Football Federation, he explained.

Currently, U Zaw Zaw is serving as the senior vice-president of the Asian Football Confederation, as well as the chairman of the AFC Social Responsibility Committee and as a board member of the AFC Dream Asia Foundation. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Juve beat Atalanta to clinch 15th Coppa Italia title

JUVENTUS avoided finishing another season without a trophy as they registered their 15th Coppa Italia title on Wednesday after beating Atalanta 1-0 in the final, thanks to Dusan Vlahovic's goal in the opening minutes.

Juve had won the tournament 14 times before with their last victory coming in 2021, while Atalanta only

won the title once in the 1962-63 season.

The Bianconeri made a dream start just four minutes into the game when Andrea Cambiaso's through-ball reached Vlahovic, who resisted a shoulder-to-shoulder challenge to find the net.

Vlahovic had penalty appeal in the 54th minute

when he went down in the box, but the referee waved play on, before another goal from the Serbian was wiped out due to offside.

Atalanta had the opportunity to equalize but Ademola Lookman saw his strike hit the woodwork in the 80th minute, while Juve's Fabio Miretti also had a shot onto the bar.

With inferior possession, Juve still held their nerve to keep the scoreline down, despite head coach Massimiliano Allegri's red card in the dying minutes.

It was an important night, playing a final is always a wonderful event. We went through three hard months that will be of great growth. — Xinhua

AFC Grassroots Football Day Event held in Yangon

AFC Grassroots Football Day was celebrated with a ceremony at Bahan Sports Complex, Yangon, on 15 May, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation. The football event is held every year not only in Myanmar but also in various Asian countries. The ceremony emphasizes that the lawn soccer field and the players are one.

U Tun Tun Aung, joint general secretary of the Myanmar Football Federation, gave an opening speech, and officials kicked the balls into the field to launch the AFC



Children are seen participating in the AFC Grassroots Football Day Event 2024.

Grassroots Football Day Event 2024. At the ceremony, football coaches taught basic football skills to students from basic education schools. — ASH/KZL



ON THE morning of 16 May, Chinese President Xi Jinping held large-group talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is in China on a state visit, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Xi again extended a warm welcome to Putin for his state visit to China. He pointed out that this is President Putin's first foreign visit after he began his new term as the president. This fully demonstrates the great importance President Putin himself and the Russian government attach to developing China-Russia relations. China highly appreciates this.

Xi emphasized the significance of the 75th anniversary of China-Russia diplomatic relations, highlighting it as a milestone in their history.

Xi said this year marks the 75th anniversary of the China-Russia diplomatic relations. It is an important milestone year in the history of China-Russia relations. Over the past 75 years, China and Russia together have found a new path for major countries and neighbouring countries to treat each other with respect and pursue amity and mutually beneficial cooperation.

With the concerted efforts of the two sides, China-Russia relations have been moving forward steadily, with enhanced comprehensive strategic coordination and further cooperation on economy and trade, investment, energy, people-to-people exchanges, at the subnational level and in other fields. This has made positive contributions to maintaining global strategic

Xi holds talks with Putin



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping exchange bilateral documents during a meeting in Beijing, China 16 May 2024. **PHOTO: SERGEI BOBYLEV/SPUTNIK**

stability and promoting greater democracy in international relations, Xi added.

Noting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Xi said

China is advancing Chinese modernization on all fronts and moving faster to foster new quality productive forces through high-quality development, which will add new drivers to global economic growth. — Xinhua

Climate change could force Bangkok to move, official warns

THAILAND may have to consider relocating its capital Bangkok because of rising sea levels, a senior official in the country's climate change office told AFP on Wednesday.

Projections consistently show that low-lying Bangkok risks being inundated by the ocean before the end of the century.

Much of the bustling capital already battles flooding during the rainy season. Pavich Kesavawong, deputy director-general of the government's department of climate change and environment, warned that the city might not be able to adapt with the world on its current warming pathway.

"I think we are beyond the 1.5 (degrees Celsius) already," he told AFP, referring to the increase in global temperatures from pre-industrial levels. "Now we have to come back and think about adaptation." — AFP



Maya Bay, Thailand. More than three-quarters of Thailand's coral reefs have been damaged by rising sea temperatures and tourism activities. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/YURIY SUROV,CC BY-SA 3.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

AMID ONGOING CONFLICT

Arab leaders head to Bahrain for Gaza-focused summit

ARAB leaders are gathering Thursday in Bahrain for a summit dominated by the Israel-Hamas war which has been raging in the Gaza Strip without a ceasefire in sight. Heads of state and government began touching down on Wednesday in Manama, capital of the Gulf nation, where the flags of the Arab League's 22 members were flying.

It is the first time the bloc has come together since an extraordinary summit in

Riyadh, capital of neighbouring Saudi Arabia, in November that also involved leaders from the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation, based in the Saudi city of Jeddah. At that meeting, leaders condemned Israeli forces' "barbaric" actions in Gaza but declined to approve punitive economic and political steps against the country, despite growing anger in the region and widespread support for the Palestinian cause. — AFP