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Kyaikmaraw Pagoda to host Tazaungdine lighting festival, Mathoe robe weaving event



State Administration Council Chair Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents the championship trophy to the Camp Commandant's Office team yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing crowns Champion Camp Commandant's Office team in 60th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw Football Tournament

The Camp Commandant's Office of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) clinched the title with a 6-5 win over Eastern Command in the 60th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament. The final match of the football tournament took place at Zeyathiri Tatmadaw Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Among the spectators were Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and

his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and his wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, Union level officials and wives, senior military officers and officials. In the final match, Camp Commandant's Office and Eastern Command teams showed off their skills in competing with each other to score the leading goal. In the four minutes, the Eastern Command team scored an opening goal. From then on, the Camp Commandant's Office

team controlled the football in influencing the opponent. So, the Camp Commandant's Office team could translate their efforts into an equalizer in 16 minutes. Both teams have chances to kick the balls into the nets but they could not transform their chances into goals. After that, the Eastern Command team utilized precise kicks to win two more goals in the 39 and 46 minutes. At the end of the first half, the Eastern Command led the match with a 3-1 result over the Camp Commandant's Office team.

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2023 Myanmar-China Media Forum held in Yangon



The 2023 Myanmar-China Media Forum in progress yesterday in Yangon.

THE 2023 Myanmar-China Media Forum was held at Wyndham Grand Yangon located in Yangon Region's Mingala Taungnyunt township on 24 November. It was attended by Mr Zheng Zhihong, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and the embassy staff, Chinese media and Myanmar media. Mr Zheng Zhihong gave an opening speech at the event. In his opening speech, Mr Zheng Zhihong said China has established close diplomatic relations with many countries in-

cluding neighbours and ASEAN nations; about the implementation of projects like Mekong-Lancang Cooperation aiming to help to prosper together with Asian countries including Myanmar; about the implementation of more than 100 projects as a part of Mekong-Lancang project including National Theatre Project and Thuwunna Stadium Project in Myanmar which is an important friend of China. He also explained China's foreign affairs policy and cooperation in ensuring

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NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Central Committee on Myanmar Special
Economic Zone

Notification No 3/2023

8th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
20 November 2023

Re-constitution of Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee

1. The Central Committee on Myanmar Special Economic Zone reconstituted the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee under Sub-Section (d) of Section 9 in Chapter V of the 2014 Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law as follows: -

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| (a) | U Kyaw Shwe Tun
Officer on Special Duty
Ministry of Commerce | Chairman |
| (b) | U Win Myint
Deputy Director-General (Retired)
Department of Urban and Housing Development | Vice-Chairman |
| (c) | U San Shwe Maung
Member
Rakhine State Government | member |
| (d) | Head of Department of Planning (Rakhine State)
Ministry of Planning and Finance | member |
| (e) | Deputy Commissioner
Kyaukpyu District Department of General
Administration Ministry of Home Affairs | member |
| (f) | State in-charge
Myanma Port Authority (Rakhine State)
Ministry of Transport and Communications | member |
| (g) | Director
Department of Urban and Housing Development
(Rakhine State)
Ministry of Construction | member |
| (h) | Dr Kyaw Hsan Oo | Secretary |
| (i) | Deputy Director-General
Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization
Ministry of Commerce | Joint Secretary |

2.The duties and functions of the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee are similar to the duties and functions of the management committee described in the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law.

Sd/ Soe Win
Vice-Senior General
Chairman
Central Committee on Myanmar Special Economic Zone



Among these approved investments, two are 100 per cent Myanmar citizen-owned, and one is 100 per cent foreigner-owned, all within the industrial sector in Yangon Region.

YRIC approves three
investments worth K3,779.972
mln, US\$0.605 mln

THREE new investments, with the potential to create job opportunities for 877 workers and a total value of K3,779.972 million and US\$0.605 million, have received approval, as announced by U Myo Khine Oo, director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (Yangon Region). Among these approved investments, two are 100 per cent Myanmar citizen-owned, and one is 100 per cent foreigner-owned, all within the industrial sector in Yangon Region.

"The Yangon Region Investment Committee meeting

11/2023, held on 22 November, decided to greenlight these three investments," stated U Myo Khine Oo.

In addition to these three investments, the Yangon Region Investment Committee has also approved new investments, increased investment amounts, and expanded workforces in November.

To foster job opportunities, new investments by Myanmar citizens and foreign investors are allowed monthly, following established laws and procedures. — ASH/ZS

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နှိုင်းစာကပ်ချိန်စီ ပုံနှိပ်လိမ့်မည် ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်

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A total of 148 production workers, who were despatched to the ROK by the Public Overseas Employment Agency, arrived at Incheon Airport on 22 November.

Myanmar sends 148 workers to
ROK under EPS in Nov

THE Myanmar Embassy in Seoul announced that a total of 148 Myanmar national workers were despatched to the Republic of Korea this month under the Employment Permit System (EPS).

The report states that it was the first batch sending the production workers to South Korea in November.

When the workers arrived at Incheon International Airport on 22 November, the labour attaché of the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul welcomed

them at the airport and provided necessary assistance.

Sending workers from Myanmar to South Korea was relatively declined after September. Only 332 workers in total were despatched, divided by twice, in October, the report said.

Myanmar sent 148 workers on 22 November following the recent announcement made by South Korea inviting over 12,000 foreign workers of blue-collar including Myanmar. — TWA/ TMT

NATIONAL



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and congregation take Five Precepts from the Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended the Kathina robe-offering ceremony of the State Administration Council for 2023 at Sasana Maha Beikman in the precinct of Up-patasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and offered Kathina robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

The Senior General and party viewed round Kathina robes and alms to be donated to Maha Wizitayon Monastery in Zabuthiri Township.

The Senior General and wife donated Kathina robes and offertories to Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Patron of Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtamabyan Buddhist Learning Centre Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, SSMNC Vice-Chairman Kyaukme Thiho Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre Presiding Patron Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Chandanasara

State Administration Council holds Kathina robe-offering ceremony for 2023



The Senior General and his wife offer Kathina robes to the Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw yesterday.

and Abbot of Maha Wizitayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanuttara of Zabuthiri Township respectively.

The SAC Secretary, the Joint Secretary and wife, Council members and their wives, Union-level persons, Union ministers and senior military officers offered Kathina robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

Sayadaw of Ngwetaung Tawya Monastery in Tatkon and Sayadaw of Ohntaw Monastery in Pyinmana staged the question and answer session about the Kathina robe offering ceremony.

The Senior General, wife and congregation offered day meals to members of the Sangha.

Donations of 50 Padethabin (the structures decorated with currency notes) and K90,158,500 at the Kathina robe-offering ceremony of SAC for 2023 total amounted to K136,714,600. — MNA/TTA

MoI conveys financial aid from SAC Chairman to support flood victims, Hlegu TWA



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the handover event of cash assistance yesterday to Hlegu TWA flood victims.

THE handover ceremony of cash assistance provided by the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister for the members of the Hlegu Township Writers' Association, who were affected by the flood, was held at the Mingala Hall of the Yangon Region Government Office yesterday.

First, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said the cash assistance was provided by the SAC Chairman Prime Minister to the Hlegu Township Writers' Association which was affected by the flood. The government sets the plans to ensure the peace and stability of the country and develop the socioeconomic status of the people.

The government assists the members of the literary field and the doyen literati as much

as it can, and the literati and writers should describe true news and correct information for the State and the people against misinformation and fake news to escape from the dangers due to the false news regarding the situations in Shan State (North).

Then, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein explained the timely assistance during the flood, the opening of relief camps and future work plans to prevent the floods.

The Union minister and the regional chief minister presented cash assistance provided by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the relevant officials.

Then, the Hlegu Township Writers' Association chairman expressed gratitude for cash assistance. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

15th COMMIT SOM, RTF Meetings held in Nay Pyi Taw



The 15th Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking Senior Official Meeting & Regional Task Force Meeting in progress online on 23-24 November 2023.

THE 15th Coordinated Mekong Trafficking-(COMMIT) Senior Regional Task Force Meet-
Ministerial Initiative against Official Meeting- (SOM15) and ing-(RTF) held a videoconfer-

ence on 23 and 24 November in Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by departmental representatives led by Police Brig-Gen Myint Htoo of the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force and COMMIT member countries such as representatives of Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam and representatives from the COMMIT Secretariat.

They discussed relevant events in the meetings such as the achievements of the coun-

tries in the Mekong Sub-Region from the implementation of the 4th Sub-Regional Plan of Action-SPA IV, perfect experiences and challenging difficulties, to element the conditions of the 5th Sub-Regional Plan of Action-SPA V, the conditions to be implemented for the long-term development of the COMMIT process, Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM) (Draft) approval issues, and issues of cooperation in combating human trafficking crimes caused by abuse of technology. — MNA/TS

Public losses fully guaranteed:
Assurance from CBM

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) fully guarantees that money deposited by the public will not be lost and other branches of a bank will conduct verifications upon submission of evidence for money lost in recent attacks on some banks, according to Deputy Governor Dr Lin Aung.

As CBM keeps a close watch based on possible risks, it can fully guarantee that there will be no loss of public deposits and CBM as well as other banks have a sufficient amount of cash using a Core Banking System that connects among branches to provide services, he added.

If a branch of any bank has to cease services for various reasons, it will not result in a situation where the public cannot withdraw their money. Customers can still withdraw money at any branch of the bank nationwide based on the type of their deposits.

For money deposited with full trust in the banks, it will still be recorded in detail with a specific number and specific owner's name under any circumstances at any time. In addition, customers are entitled to enjoy CBM's accountability and its comprehensive protection, it



CBM Deputy Governor Dr Lin Aung.

is learnt.

Moreover, CBM has also arranged for the banks to reimburse money lost by the customers in recent attacks on some banks upon submission of evidence for public deposits made in those banks.

Account verification can be handled at any branch for such withdrawals, as all banks have the account data of affected customers.

If it is a new account (Special Account), the same amount of cash deposited can be withdrawn from the same bank where it was deposited. As the amount of cash in stock varies according to the size of a bank's vault, if there are many customers wishing to withdraw, it would be advisable to notify the

bank in advance of the amount required for convenient withdrawals.

Currently, people are widely using digital payment methods like electronic cards, mobile pay, internet banking and mobile wallets with day-to-day progress and those systems can also be utilized more everywhere like cash usage.

In controlling the monetary system, ATMs that are safe and accessible to the public are also supplied with cash for withdrawals of small expenses up to a specified amount in line with the rules and regulations of international standards. In addition, people are free to carry out money transactions as well as account transfers from one bank to another by digital method, local card system or CBM Net System without any restrictions.

Having more than enough money in circulation outside the banks can encourage the tricks of speculators on property prices, gold and exchange rates leading to a high inflation rate. It may also invite a situation where a certain percentage of the commission has to be given illegally to withdraw one's own money. — ASH/ZN

Counter-argument to false information

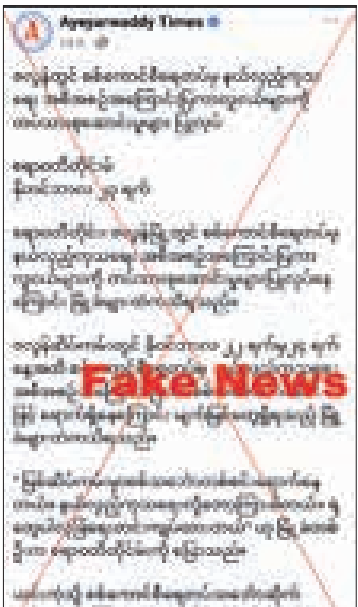
Misinformation spreads in
Zalun: False claims of Tatmadaw
recruiting for military roles

AYEYARWADDY Times media's social media page has published false news that Tatmadaw is recruiting young people in Zalun for military purposes while the warship is visiting Zalun Township, Ayeyawady Region for medical treatment.

Tatmadaw sent medical naval vessels named Thanlwin, Shwepuzun and Saku accompanied by physicians and nurses from Tatmadaw and the Ministry of Health on 31 October.

Tatmadaw provides healthcare services to the local people along the Ayeyawady River and along the coastal areas. The people are satisfied with the military's visit and providing the necessary medical treatment, and they are very grateful to Tatmadaw leaders who made the arrangements and the medical teams who are providing the treatment.

Intending to divide the friendship between the people and Tatmadaw, some media



Screenshot shows spread of false information regarding Tatmadaw recruitment.

outlets have written and distributed false news on social media pages to mislead the public about the Tatmadaw.

Tatmadaw continues to carry out necessary healthcare activities for the social development of the people and the improvement of the health sector, as stated by the Tatmadaw. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

The new Hopong View Point has been launched located near Phaya Koesu Monastery on the Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung Asia Highway (AH-2) near Naunglay Village in Taunggyi Township of Shan State (South).

At the Hopong View Point, travellers can relax, go for picnics and take beautiful photos. If travellers leave Taunggyi for about 10 minutes to the east, they can enjoy the beauty of the yellow wild sunflowers along the road and relax at the Hopong View Point by enjoying the beautiful nature of the hills and mountains in Pa-O region, the beauty of the endless green fields and also the urban beauty of the Hopong.

The Hopong View Point was built with K95.8 million budget of the Shan State government during the 2023-2024 financial year by the Gigabuilt Company. It becomes a place offering a beautiful location to travellers and residents to visit Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival and residents and to take relaxation. — Pa-O-IPRD/TRKM



Travellers unwind at Hopong View Point in southern Shan State.



A general panoramic view of Taunggyi.

Sightseeing of Taunggyi’s spectacular views offered during Tazaungdine holidays

MYANMA RAILWAYS of the Ministry of Transport and Communications is running a special train for local and foreign travellers for the sightseeing of the breathtaking scenes of Taunggyi-Pawmu and Pawmu-Taunggyi railways from 25 to 27 November during Tazaungdine holidays starting at 8 am from Taunggyi Station.

The railway between Taunggyi and Pawmu is 11.41 miles apart and it takes one hour and 30 minutes. During the journey, the train will stop at Htethain Station to able to enjoy beautiful scenes around the Bawathanthaya Roundabout and it will be stopped for an hour as the train sets time to turn back to Taunggyi. The train has two upper-class carriages with a 2,000 horsepower locomotive and it will run with two upper-class carriages, two ordinary-class carriages and one guard coach. For the Taunggyi-Pawmu trip, the upper-class ticket is K2,000 per

person and K2,000 for the return trip. The ordinary-class ticket is K1,000 and the return trip costs K1,000.

Train journeys will be reportedly extended depending on the number of travellers and planned to enjoy the trip in peace and relax. — MNA/TRKM



A special train for the sightseeing trip.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing crowns Champion Camp Commandant’s Office team in 60th Defence Services ...

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In the second half, the Camp Commandant’s Office scored one more equalizer in the 66 minutes and equalized the match with another goal for its third in the 93 minutes. As such, the final match ended at a 3-3 draw in the final whistle. In the extra time, both teams could score no more goals. In the penalty decision, the Camp Commandant’s Office deservedly won over the Eastern Command 6-5.

In the awarding ceremony, General Maung Maung Aye presented a championship trophy, a duplicate trophy and a cash award to the Southern Command team in the B-class football tournament.

The Senior General presented a championship trophy, a duplicate trophy and a cash award to the Camp Comman-

dant’s Office team of the Office of the Command-in-Chief (Army) which stood first in the A-class football tournament. At the ceremony, senior military officers also presented prizes to the respective winning teams. In the tournament, the South-West Command team and Yangon Command team secured the fair play awards in the B and A class football tournaments.

The 60th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament which started on 6 November 2023 was categorized as A and B classes. A total of 16 football teams competed in the A-class football tournament and eight teams in the B-class tournament, totalling 24 teams. — MNA/TTA

2023 Myanmar-China Media Forum ...

FROM PAGE-1

stability and the rule of law in Myanmar’s border areas.

Local media including the Media Development Department, Skynet Media and Yangon Media asked questions on China’s foreign affairs policy based on development and peace for neighbouring countries, about armed conflicts happening in the north east of Myanmar; about China’s plans which can help maintain the stability of border areas and issuing correct information so that false information will be eliminated.

Mr Zheng Zhihong responded to the media questions that Myanmar is China’s important friend and since Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping made his historic visit to Myanmar in 2010, China has always opposed actions and organizations which aim to make Myanmar unstable using China’s territory and China’s policy was never changed. He added that China has constantly worked on ensuring stability and the rule of law in border areas in collaboration with Myanmar government, China doesn’t want to see instability in Myanmar’s border areas. He concluded that they would record all positive discussions and suggestions between the two countries’ media. — ASH/ZS

NATIONAL



A general view of teak plantation operated by the private sector.

ACCORDING to the Department of Forest under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, over 94,000 acres of teak, which had been allowed to be operat-

Recall of non-compliant private sector operations, streamlined procedures for law-abiding entrepreneurs

ed by the private sector, were recalled due to non-compliance and dedication.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the establishment of private teak plantations in the forest lands managed by the ministry has been granted a total of 265,644.08 acres for teak plantation to private entrepre-

neurs since 2006. This is under Section 14 (b) of the Forest Law and has the approval of the Union Government to develop the private forestry sector.

Although the government allowed it, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation confiscated the land due to non-compliance and the failure of the entrepreneur to adhere to the condi-

tions.

However, entrepreneurs who can carry out cultivation under the law can apply to the director-general of the Forest Department. The application should state the specific address of the region/state, township, exact location, area, acreage, type of tree to be planted, location map, and other necessary details. — TWA/TKO

Onion prices rise, Kyukok garlic prices decline

THE price of onion rose in the Yangon market on 23 November, while the price of Kyukok and Shan garlic fell.

A total of 120,000 visses of onions are coming into the Yangon Market on 23 November, causing K2,600 to K3,900 in Seikbyu, K2,400 to K3,700 in Myingyan, K2,400 to K3,600 in Taungtha and K2,400 to K3,700 in Pyawbwe respectively.

The prices of the onions rose again on 18 November, K300 up for this week.

A total of K650 for each viss of the big onion in the Seikbyu market on 27 October. The Yangon market's onion price is likely to go up as well in November and December.

Monsoon Myittha onions, which can catch bigger prices are likely to come into the Yangon market this month rather than the summer season's onion, market experts said.



Onions in the Pakokku market on 23 November.

Onions kept in the warehouse did not come in the Pakokku market in the second week of November 2022 as the rainy season's onions were entering.

Remarkably, massive numbers of onions kept in the warehouse are coming in the Pakokku market on 16, 17 and 21 November, causing K2,550 per viss on 15 November, K2,850 per viss on 16 November and K3,200 per viss on 21 November and K3,125 per viss on 23 November.

When the price of onion rose, the prices of Kyukok and Shan garlic fell again.

The Kyukok garlic price stood at K13,500/K14,500 per viss on 15 November and dropped significantly to K11,500/K12,000 on 23 November.

Similarly, Aungban garlic price stood at K11,000 to K12,500 per viss on 13 November and fell to K10,300 to K11,800 on 23 November.

Kyukok garlic price rose to K5,000 per viss for this month while Shan garlic to K3,000 for the same period.

Onion prices rose again, but when the new rain onions arrived in the market, there were still a large amount of old summer onions left in the market. So, there is little chance that the price will reach the high level it was in early December last year, said an onion buyer. — TWA/KZL

Myanmar entrepreneurs invited to Agros Expo, Potato Horti Agritech in Moscow

AGROS Expo and Potato Horti Agritech Trade Fair will be held in Moscow, the Russian Federation from 24 to 26 January.

This is an essential international trade fair in the Russian agricultural and industrial technology sector, and AGROS Expo trade fair is for animal fertilization, food production for animals, veterinary medicine, poultry and pig farming and production, animal feed crop harvesting, animal feed production machinery and crop storage technology.

Potato and vegetable production and processing technology will be displayed at the Potato Horti Agritech Trade Fair. More than 600 producers and consumers from Russia and more than 20 other countries will participate in the exhibition. About 65 business-related events will be

held at the exhibition, and more than 350 business professionals and around 17,000 agriculturists from neighbouring countries are expected to attend. Entrepreneurs from Myanmar are also invited to attend this trade fair so the bilateral friendship between Myanmar and Russia will be strengthened and there will also be prospects for collaboration in trade promotion.

In addition, an International Joint Pavilion has also been planned for the convenience of participating companies.

Myanmar businessmen who want to participate in the trade fair should contact the Trade Development Division of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization via email: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com by 30 November. — TWA/TKO

Yenangyoung introduces bicycle tours to attract visitors

A bicycle tour is being implemented to attract more visitors to Yenangyoung, Magway Region, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The designated area for the tour is in Jatkyia area, close to the town. This region features a 1,871-foot-long valley road covered in fine sand, with the highest point reaching 31 feet. It is situated near the city's eastern bypass road from

Yenangyoung on the way to NatkanU Village.

The cyclists can reach speeds of up to 20 kilometres per hour as they navigate the highs and lows of the mountains and experience the local terrain, as stated by the directorate in Magway Region. The hills vary in height from 10 to 30 ft, forming a continuous terrain ideal for cycling excursions. Magway Region welcomed 1.5 million visitors in the past 10 months. — TWA/NT



Advert of Agros Expo and Potato Horti Agritech Trade Fairs.

Thailand’s sourcing of food raw materials from Myanmar rises

CHILLI pepper, onion and fisheries are primarily exported through the Myawady border.

Myanmar sees increasing demand for food raw materials from Thailand and the main export items through the Myawady border are chilli pepper, onion and fisheries, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exports chilli pepper, cabbage, onion, sesame, black gram and fisheries such as dried swim bladder, crab, shrimp, minced fish, anchovy, grouper fish, snakehead fish, and tongue fish.

Thailand’s demand for raw materials for the food industry has risen with the restaurants and food businesses in Thailand growing. While screening export items, Myanmar prioritizes perishable goods such as fisheries and green commodities – on-



Lorries laden with export cargoes seen on the Myanmar-Thailand border.

ions and chilli pepper to ensure smooth exports.

Additionally, garment products based on the CMP basis are also commonly exported to Thailand via the Myawady trade zone, along with minerals (lead

and minerals).

In the third week of November 2023, Myanmar mainly conveyed over 845 tonnes of dried chilli pepper worth US\$1.3 million, 1,637.24 tonnes of onion worth \$1.26 million, garment products

worth \$0.474 million, 1,986 tonnes of cabbage valued at \$0.399 million, 128 tonnes of black gram worth \$0.153 million, 36 tonnes of coffee worth \$0.152 million, 95.7 tonnes of metal and ores worth \$0.15 million, 279.4 tonnes of fresh

chilli pepper worth \$0.09 million, 40 tonnes of black sesame worth \$0.06 million and 41.37 tonnes of various fish worth \$0.04 million to Thailand through Myawady border.

Meanwhile, feedstuffs, bicycles, clothes, stationeries, automobile parts, construction materials, machinery, bicycle parts, electronic devices, food products, cosmetics, CMP raw materials, pharmaceuticals, footwear, various fruits, household goods, consumer goods, industrial goods, machines and equipment and fishing equipment were imported by Thailand.

The value of the Myawady border trade between 1 and 17 November amounted to \$53.836 million, comprising exports worth \$10.389 million and imports worth \$43.447 million, as per the Ministry of Commerce. — NN/EM

Commerce Ministry to focus on value-adding in textiles for exports

THE Ministry of Commerce will work together with all the stakeholders in the textile industry to penetrate international markets with value-added products.

Under the support of the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar exports agricultural produce, livestock products, forest products, minerals, fisheries, finished industrial goods and other goods to external markets.

At present, Myanmar consulates and embassies to the relevant countries are striving for the value-added products supplied by Myanmar’s SMEs that meet international standards and criteria to enter the international markets.

Those interested businesspersons can contact the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce and the commercial attaché of Myanmar’s Consulate in Dubai through the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association and Myanmar Textile and Garment Manufacturers Association to penetrate the foreign markets with their value-added products from the garment sector. — NN/KK

MAEX targets 2024 launch for agricultural collector market project

MYANMAR Agro Exchange Public Limited is expected to commence the collector market with the storage facility for agricultural produce in southern Shan State next year. The project is planned to cover some land in Kalaw and Pindaya districts in southern Shan State, as per the MAEX’s statement.

The collector market will include facilities for sorting and packaging units where agricultural produce are classified according to quality and standard, cold storage to increase the shelf life of the products, dry storage and market buildings for growers.

MAEX is making efforts to seek permission from the Myanmar Investment Commission to implement the project in the initial phase of the project at present.

The project is aimed to start in 2024. The MAEX is exerting concerted efforts to kick off the project earlier than expected.

Afterwards, the finance and project management team is compiling the necessary financial analysis. The project starts with careful planning. Estimated financial statements and budgets will be revealed. The MAEX purchased project lands at reasonable prices from residents. Directors or other stakeholders are not directly or indirectly associated with their benefits or interests.

The statement disclosed that the project is in compliance with the company’s policy and expected to reap a fruitful result in the long term. It plays a key role in supporting the supply chain and trading at Danyingon wholesale centre and

the project area is strategically located for agriculture. The project will increase the income of the growers, enhance the livelihood of the local community and their income, and contribute to the agriculture sector. So, a board of directors highlighted in the statement and called for the State’s support. The land purchase and feasibility study processes have been agreed upon.

The MAEX successfully developed the Danyingon wholesale market project in the Yangon Region. It is endeavouring to carry out collector market projects where there are facilities for agricultural produce produced from the Kalaw and Pindaya districts in southern Shan State, connected to the Danyingon market. — NN/EM

DICA blacklists 3 construction firms for non-compliance

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) put three construction companies on the blacklist for failure to comply with the existing rules and laws, according to DICA’s recent statement.

The DICA has already notified that the registrar will publicly declare the blacklist and weak compliance matters on the DICA’s website if companies registered on the online registry sys-

tem, MyCO fails to comply with the existing law, rules and bylaws of the government institutions concerned and provisions stipulated in Myanmar Companies Law.

Super Sunshine Design and Construction Co Ltd won a tender to construct a two-storey eye operation theatre it failed to complete the project. According to the meeting decision of the Yangon Region Government on 5

October 2023, it was blacklisted until the 2024-2025 financial year, the DICA notified on 21 November.

Similarly, the two companies; Bhone Htut Aung Co., Ltd and Mega Crown Co Ltd were found project failures so they got blacklisted until the 2024-2025 financial year, as per the meeting 30/2023 of the Yangon Region government held on 17 August 2023. — NN/EM

Seek true information
discarding misinformation,
and false news

IN TODAY’S digital age, the spreading of misinformation, false news, and fake news poses a significant threat to societal stability and peace. Unscrupulous individuals, with malicious intent, employ deceptive tactics to disseminate fabricated news, creating a climate of panic and uncertainty among the populace.

In recent weeks, a surge in propaganda, laden with misinformation and false news, has fuelled widespread concerns among the public. Issues ranging from soaring commodity prices and fuel shortages to the unstable conditions in certain regions and the looming threats of terrorists and insurgents have become fodder for these deceptive narratives.

The escalation in fuel, gold, and commodity prices is intricately linked to the inflation of the US dollar and other foreign

currencies in the global market. Consequently, imported goods in Myanmar bear the brunt of these high prices, adversely affecting the daily lives of the people. Coupled with the instability in certain areas and the looming threats from terrorists and insurgents, the challenges of securing basic necessities like food, clothing, and shelter have become even more daunting.

The unfortunate reality is that the deliberate spread of misinformation and false news exacerbates the instability of public life, instigating unnecessary worries. Unscrupulous actors even go so far as to disseminate misleading information about clashes between terrorists and the government’s security forces, amplifying the already precarious situation for the citizens.

As such, not only authorities but also people have to immediately debut the misinformation and false news with the presentation of true news and clarification about relevant incidents to ensure the people and society calm down. Swift action must be taken to debunk fabricated news and misinformation, replacing them with true and accurate information and clarifications about relevant incidents.

By doing so, society can regain a sense of calm, and the prices of commodities, driven by the effects of instability, can naturally subside.

down. Swift action must be taken to debunk fabricated news and misinformation, replacing them with true and accurate information and clarifications about relevant incidents. By doing so, society can regain a sense of calm, and the prices of commodities, driven by the effects of instability, can naturally subside.

Moreover, individuals must exercise caution in accepting information at face value, especially from various media platforms. Critical thinking and rational analysis, based on past incidents, should guide the evaluation of news items. Now more than ever, all citizens of Myanmar must actively scrutinize the information circulating on media platforms, ensuring a focus on the interests of the people and the nation. By collectively engaging in the analytical process, all the entire people can effectively overcome the challenges posed by misinformation, fake news, and false information.



EPISODE: 24

Gerald de Purcell Cotter

G de P Cotter returned from the field on 4 May 1906. Deputed to Kumaon in connection with the secular movement of glaciers and left headquarters on 7 June, returning on 8 November 1906. Posted to Burma under Mr Pascoe for work in connection with the oil industry and left headquarters for the field on 25 November 1906 (Records of GSI, Vol 35). Mr Cotter returned from Burma on 14 May 1908. Granted 3 months privilege leave with effect from 3 July 1908. Returned from leave on 12 October 1908 and re-posted to Burma in connection with the petroleum industry. He left for the field on 25 October 1908 (Records of GSI, Vol 38).

In 1914, he also announced the discovery in Burma of mammalian remains in beds which he believes to correspond to the Pondaung Sandstone and to be of Upper Eocene age. If this proves correct these are the earliest reported land mammalian in Asia. Cotter’s report “The Geology of Parts of Minbu, Myingyan, Pakokku, and Lower Chindwin District, Burma” which is included in the Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Vol 72, Part 1, 1938 is a comprehensive report and useful for oil exploration.

G De P Cotter contributed the following reports for the geology of Myanmar: -

1. Notes on the Tatkan area: blocks 21-26-N, Yenangaung, 2. Notes on fossils from the Miocene of Burma, 3. The structure and age of the Taungtha Hills, Myingyan district, Upper Burma, 4. The southern part of the Gwegyo Hills, including the Payagyigon-Ngashandaung oil field, 5. The northern part of the Yenangyat oilfield, 6. The Pegu-Eocene succession in the Minbu district near Ngaphe, 7. Notes on some Nummulites from the Burma Tertiaries, 8. Notes on the limestone hill near Thayetmyo, 9. Notes on the value of Nummulites as zone fossils, with a description of some Burmese species, 10. Some newly discovered coal seams near the Yaw River, Pakokku district, Upper Burma, 11. A note on the geology of Thayetmyo and its neighbourhood, including Padaukbin, 12. Note on the age of the limestone

opposite Martaban Railway Station, Thaton district, Burma, 13. The oil shale of Eastern Amherst, Burma, with a sketch of the geology of the neighbourhood. Of all the above, I would like to extract some significant points from his report No 3 as follows: -

The structure and age of the Taungtha Hills, Myingyan District, Upper Burma

The range of hills culminating in Taungtha Hill which I visited in March 1907 (Lat. 21° 18'; Long. 95° 30' is about six miles in length, extending in a direction NNW – SSE. Taungtha Hill, the highest point of the range (1,788 feet) is a landmark only inferior to Mount Popa and can be seen from a great distance owing to the flatness of the surrounding country. The level plains around are more or less covered by alluvium, and the water-courses are marked by plantations of toddy palms (Borassus flabellifer). The Taungtha Hill range is covered by thick and thorny scrub jungle and is included in the area of reserved forests.

Structure

On the top of Taungtha Hill, the strata appear to be almost horizontal with perhaps a slight easterly dip, but the exposures are very poor. The sandstone is of a coarse massive type, and its bedding planes are vague. On the flanks of Taungtha Hill, the dips radiate outwards from the summit, being very steep on the NNW and SSE. The structure is therefore a flat-topped elliptical dome whose long axis appears to run in a direction roughly 30° W of N. A somewhat similar dome structure characterises the most northerly hill of the range which is marked on the map by two triangulated points 1,263 feet. and 1,315 feet. Between these two domes, the intervening hills show great confusion of strata and such dips as were obtainable seemed to point to a saddle structure between the two domes, but the constant change of direction and angle of dip shows that this is complicated to a great extent by minor folding and very possibly faulting.

Mr Pascoe in an unpublished note, describing a traverse from Taungtha village to the hill-top,

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

says: - Proceeding up the steep dip-slope of the main hill, the dip becomes less, gradually at first, but rapidly as we approach the top of a broad WNW – ESE ridge flanking the hill on this side. As far as could be made out, this broad ridge forms the crest of the anticline. I saw dips on the other side which I estimated at about 20° .” The dome is asymmetrical, the crest apparently lying west of the summit of Taungtha Hill and close to the western scrap.

To the north of the area, an interesting section, on the Taungtha-Myingyan road south of the “1,315 feet” hill, shows towards the west shales dipping gently

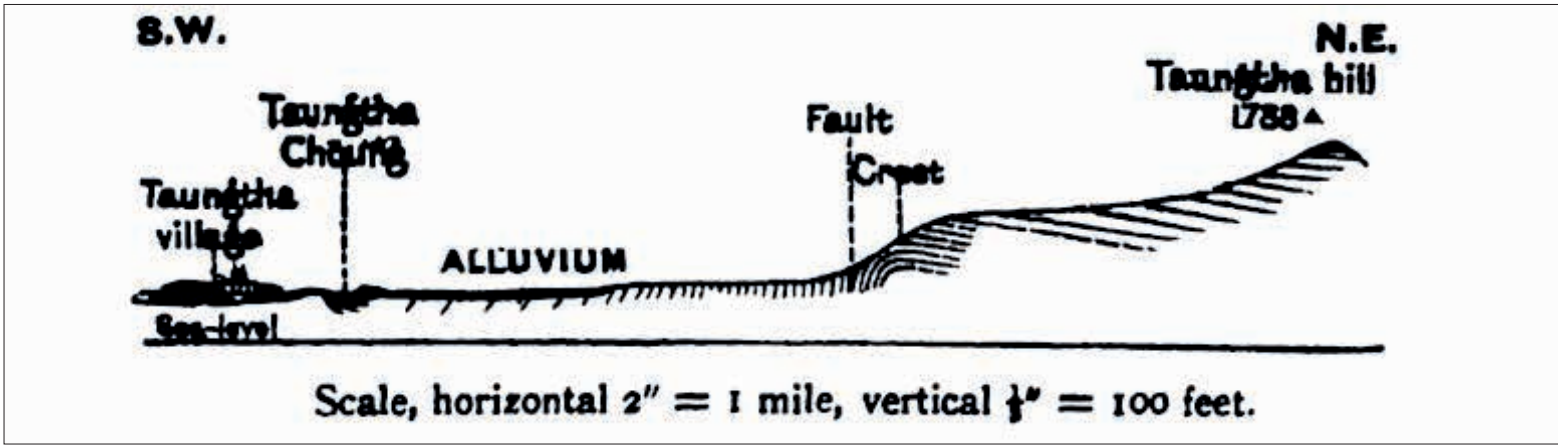
throw is to the east.

I failed to trace this fault southwards so as to meet the fault to the south-east of the hill, which strikes 20° W of N. It is possible that they meet in the valley between the “860 feet” hill and Taungtha Hill. Again, in the Magyibinde Chaung, due east of the “860 feet” hill, steeply dipping fault rock is seen striking 25° N of W and heading to the north.

To the north of the area, an interesting section, on the Taungtha-Myingyan road south of the “1,315 feet” hill, shows towards the west shales dipping gently

Fragments of clay rock metamorphosed into schistose phyllites showing pressure wrinkles were obtained from the slopes of Taungtha Hill; in one specimen the laminae have been bent into an arc. Warping of the shale beds was observed in many localities.

It is remarkable that the anticlinal crests at Yenangyat and Minbu have a direction of 19° W of N while those of Yenangaung and Taungtha are about 30° W of N. It will be interesting in future investigations of the other anticlines of the Burma oil belt, to decide whether their crests run



Geological Cross Section of Taungtha Hill. Source: GSI

Faults

It is evident that such a structure as above described could not exist without serious faulting. There is reason to suppose that there is a strike-fault skirting the west base of Taungtha Hill, in a direction 40° W. of N. In the south-east of Taungtha Hill in the Magyibinde Chaung, a section shows a very considerable fault. The width of the fault rock is over ¼ mile. The fault strikes 20° W of N, and can be traced within ¼ mile of the foot of the hill. Another faulted area bounds Taungtha Hill on its east side and is marked by vertical strata which rapidly change on either side of the fault line to gently dipping strata. Its general direction is about 35° W of N. The down-

westward, and somewhat contorted. Proceeding east, fault rock is seen; the strata are upturned and much broken. To the east of this fault, the strata cover their gentle westward dip. The beds rise gradually to a crest as we proceed east. The section shows that the crest, which is really the production of the major axis of the elliptical dome structure of the “1,315 feet”. hill, is seriously faulted, and the vertical strata of the fault-rock strike to 40° W of N.

Contortion

Many instances of great contortion indicate the high degree of pressure to which the rocks of these hills were subjected, probably in post-Pliocene times.

in either of these two general directions.

Lithology

The rocks are a series of alternating sandstones and clay beds with occasional slabs of limestone, and on the whole, the sandstones predominate. Red ferruginous conglomeratic bands crop out close to the SW base of Taungtha Hill, and in one exposure the conglomerate is seen to contain abundant selenite. I am uncertain whether these bands are to be correlated with the Ferruginous Conglomerate horizon in the Yenangaung and Yenangyat-Singu anticlines; I have not observed selenite in the beds overlying these bands, and it is possible that they belong

BY THAN HTUN
(GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

to the uppermost zones of the Yenangaungian series. Apart from bands of true conglomerate, beds of red earth and brick-like bands crop out around the southern foot of the hill range, from near Thapanbin to “860 feet” hill. Similar beds are exposed on a “678 feet” hill near Mingan. It is remarkable that small fragments of silicified wood are found lying on the surface of these beds; such fragments are not however very common. I have found similar specimens on the lower slopes

usually about three or four inches in length. Two blocks of granitic gneiss were also found on the hill slopes, one specimen being water-worn; and these may well have been carried by water action to the hills. Mr Pascoe notes a similar occurrence at Kabat.

The exposures on Taungtha Hill show a coarse micaceous sandstone with large spherical concretions. I have observed traces of brown carbonized wood on the fresh fracture surfaces of some specimens. The sandstone is massive and its bedding planes are very vague. It immediately underlies the beds of red earth alternating with the sandstone described above.

North of Taungtha Hill several sections show blue selenite-bearing shales and well-bedded olive fine-grained sandstones of a typical Upper Miocene appearance. Current bedding and ripple marks in sandstones were seen to the south of the hills. That the Miocene extends northwards to at least ¼ mile N of Gwebinyo is shown by exposure at this spot of ferruginous beds containing selenite, which may possibly be its upper boundary.

Age of rocks

The general aspect of the rocks, the presence of selenite, and the occurrence of marine fossils indicate the rocks to be of Upper Miocene age. Although the evidence is somewhat meagre, I think it is probable that the lower Miocene is not exposed here. Selenite, which is found in some of the lowest beds, is characteristic of the Upper Miocene at Yenangaung.

The boundary of the Pliocene and Miocene is very difficult to fix in this area. Fossil wood, except when in situ, cannot be regarded as good evidence of Pliocene age. Selenite is known to occur

in Pliocene strata at Yenengyat, but never in large quantity, and I have regarded the horizon at which it dies out as the boundary here in the absence of other evidence. Ferruginous beds such as are found in the SW of Taungtha are characteristic of the beds immediately above and below the Pliocene-Miocene boundary.

The evidences of Pliocene age have been as follows: -

(1) They lie immediately above selenite-bearing beds of ferruginous conglomerate and ferruginous earth, and no selenite was found in the exposures themselves.

(2) The beds exposed in the stream bed are bedded sandstones with ochreous staining and contain a network of irregular veins of calcareous matter described by Mr Pascoe. These are more characteristic of the Pliocene than of Miocene strata.

Fossils

Marine fossils were found in two localities: -

(1) On a small hillock at the S. foot of Taungtha Hill, a fragment of Turritella was found.

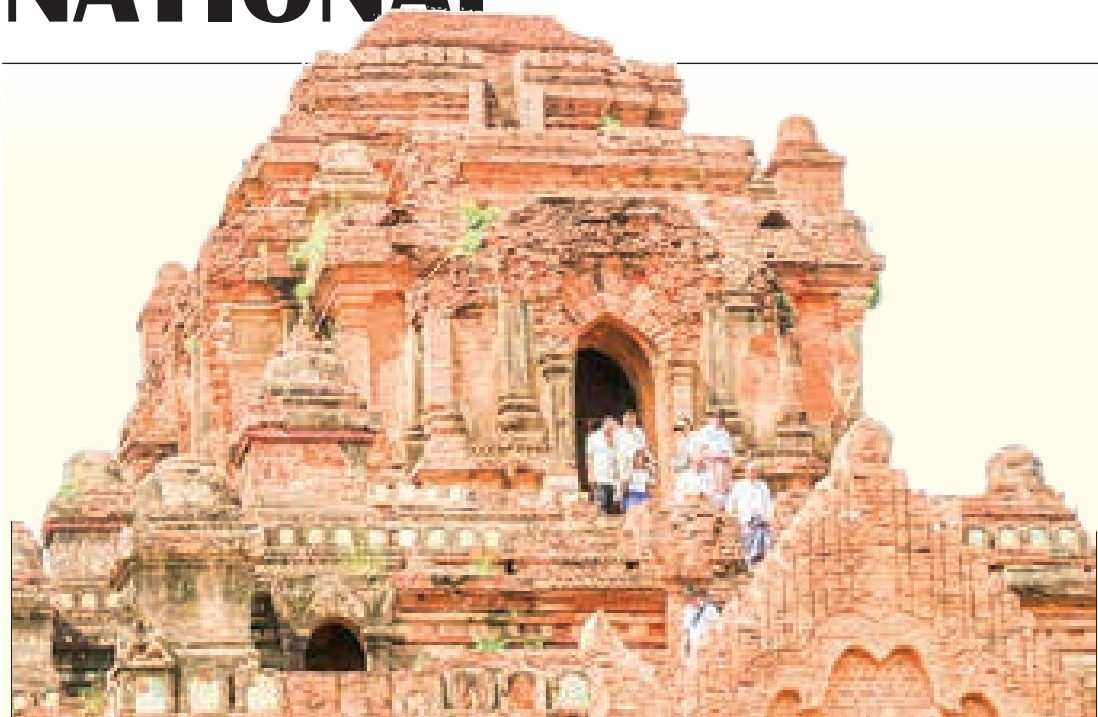
(2) Close to Gwebinyo village north of the hills, a fossiliferous limestone containing clay pebbles and crowded with fragments of pelecypods and gastropods was found, but the fossils were too fragmentary to admit of identification. The Ostrea, Pyrula, Turritella and a simple hexa-coralloid coral, possibly Ceratotrochus have been doubtfully identified.

Markings of probable organic origin and resembling leaf markings were found ½ mile NE of Thapanbin on the weathered surface of a white calcareous clay. Besides these, the only fossils found in this area were the carbonized wood in sandstone and the fragments of silicified fossil wood mentioned above. One specimen of silicified wood shows the structure of palm wood, the fibro-vascular bundles crossing one another in the manner characteristic of monocotyledonous wood (Palmoxylen, Schenk.).

References: Cotter, G de P, 1907: The Structure and Age of Taungtha Hills, Myingyan District, Upper Burma, Records of Geological Survey of India, Vol XXXVI, Part 3.



NATIONAL



Officials assessing a temple in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone.

Repair of 59 storm-affected Bagan buildings complete

REPAIR and maintenance works of 59 ancient buildings in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone damaged by the Mocha cyclonic storm have been completed, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

Cyclone Mocha caused 53 structural damages and six damage related to murals and plaster art. But the repair and reinforcing works are finished in time.

Moreover, U Kyaw Myo Win, director of the

Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch), mentioned that efforts are underway to address water inundation issues caused by the storm in 15 ancient religious buildings.

Similarly, 1,276 unwanted plants near 89 ancient structures were killed with chemicals between 6 September and 22 October. The trustees and relevant departments have cooperated to install lightning rods at 11 ancient buildings to prevent lightning strikes. — MNA/NT

Kyaikmaraw Pagoda to host Tazaungdine lighting festival, Mathoe robe weaving event

THE Tazaungdine lighting festival and Mathoe robe weaving ceremony will be held on 26 and 27 November at Sutaungpyae Pagoda in Kyaikmaraw Township of Mon State, according to Nai Pe Tin, a member of Kyaikmaraw Sutaungpyae Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The 21st Mathoe Robe weaving ceremony and contest are set to be held on the pagoda platform during the Tazaungdine lighting festival.

“The Tazaungdine lighting festival and Mathoe Robe weav-

ing ceremony will be held for two days starting at 6 pm from 26 November to 27 November. The Mathoe Robe will be created at five looms on the pagoda platform on 14th Waxing of Tazaungmone and offered to the pagoda on 27 November (full moon day of Tazaungmone),” said Nai Pe Tin.

The females from Mudon Township of Mon State will weave Mathoe robes using five looms and the event will feature a stage show and Anyeint entertainment and food donations. — ASH/KTZH



Females preparing for weaving Mathoe robes.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal fuel oil, foodstuffs, industrial materials, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

A combined team managed by the Ayeyawady Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force intercepted 250 bags of charcoal valued at K1 million in Nyaungdon township on 18 November. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

During the inspections on 21 and 22 November, the combined teams impounded 30 gallons of illegal petroleum and five gallons of illegal diesel worth K485,000 in Mogaung township, 80 bottles of Two Shrimps brand Palm oil (4.5 litres) worth K2.2 million without official documents in Pakokku township and a Nissan Diesel tractor head with a trailer (approximately K70 million) carrying seven types of goods estimated



Offenders seen alongside seized illegal commodities.

value of K12.53 million including 64 sets of JBL car speaker that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Ywathagvi Dry Port. The actions were taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law, the Essential Supplies and Services Law and Customs procedures.

On 22 November, the on-duty teams supervised by the Customs Department captured 12 kinds



Confiscated illegal goods.

of goods valued at K57,087,300 including 1,680 sets of Greatnice wireless speaker 4” that were submitted by the owner to abandon from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port, a Hino Pro-fia truck (estimated value of K25 million), travelling from Myawady to Yangon, carrying 3,000 kilograms of Silicone coated pet roll sheet worth K3 million that were not declared in the ID at the Mayanchaung permanent

checkpoint and an unregistered Honda Insight car (approximately K8 million) that was parked in a rubber filed on the detour of Moppalin-Suppanu-Ingapu route. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 10 arrests were made on 18, 21 and 22 November, with an estimated value of K179,302,300, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

K-pop stars Blackpink get UK honours for climate advocacy

The honorary MBEs were awarded in recognition of Blackpink's efforts as advocates for the COP26 climate summit in 2021.

THE four megastar members of K-pop girl group Blackpink were given one of Britain's most prestigious honours Wednesday by King Charles III, recognizing their work as environmental advocates.

The South Korean sensations received honorary MBEs (Members of the Order of the British Empire) from the British monarch, which reward outstanding achievement or service to the community.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and First Lady Kim Keon Hee — on a state visit

to Britain — looked on as Roseanne Park (Rosé), Jennie Kim, Jisoo Kim and Lalisa Manoban (Lisa) were handed the honours at a Buckingham Palace ceremony.

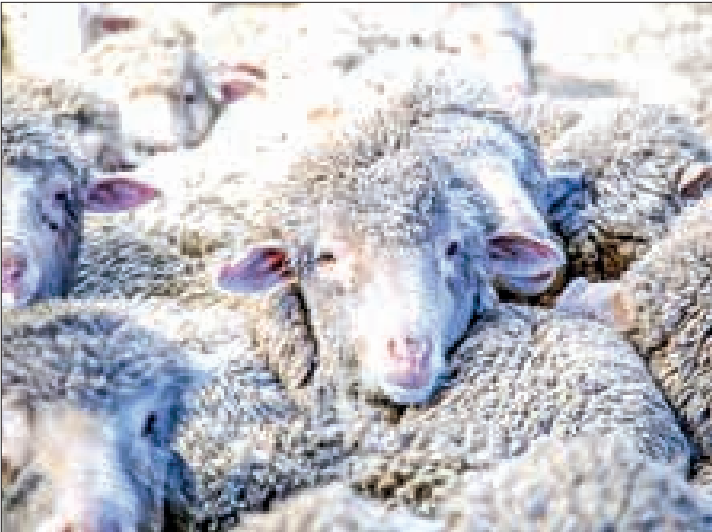
The K-pop quartet — and first couple of South Korea — were back at the palace just hours after attending a lavish state banquet held there for Yoon and Kim on Tuesday night.

Announcing the MBEs, the palace said Blackpink were honoured for its members' work as advocates for the COP26 climate summit in 2021. — AFP



Blackpink's members (from left) Lalisa Manoban, Roseanne Park, Jisoo Kim and Jennie Kim pose with their medals following a special investiture ceremony to present them with Honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire at Buckingham Palace in London today. **PHOTO: AFP**

Shear bliss for New Zealand's pampered sheep



Sheep at New Zealand's 6,500-hectare Lake Hawea Station may be the most pampered in the world. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLASSICAL music, soft mattresses and the gentlest touch of a wool clipper: welcome to the New Zealand farm indulging what may be the world's most pampered sheep.

Forget any preconceptions of rough-hewn shearers manhandling the flock as they quickly deprive them of their fleece in crowded, noisy wool-sheds.

At Lake Hawea Station on New Zealand's South Island, owners Geoff and Jus-

tine Ross are advocates of the gentler, more soothing art of "slow-shearing".

The sounds of Debussy, Vivaldi and Mozart may be wafting through the shed as shearers usher the ewes from their pens before trimming off their thick wool with slow, methodical strokes of the clippers.

Shearers are paid according to the sheep's overall experience: stress, bruises and cuts can lead to lower wages.

The trimming is performed on pristine white-washed boards, to better reveal any nicks inflicted on the sheep's skin.

Once shorn, each sheep is guided towards a chute, where it slides into a holding pen — landing not on gravel but on a soft mattress.

New Zealand, a major wool exporter, sent 84 million tonnes valued at US\$232 million overseas in the last financial year.

Shearing, a physically demanding task, requires skill and stamina, as shearers handle sheep weighing up to 60 kilogrammes (132 pounds), occasionally delivering painful kicks. Traditionally focused on speed, contemporary shearing emphasizes animal welfare.

According to Carolyn Clegg of New Zealand's shearing association, while the primary goal is still to trim the best quality wool, there is now an increased concern for the well-being of the sheep, avoiding cuts and stress during the process. — AFP

Banksy is 'Robbie' -- artist reveals first name in 2003 interview

A rare nugget of information about the famously enigmatic street art superstar Banksy emerged Tuesday when he gave his first name as "Robbie" in an unearthed 2003 BBC interview.

In the interview, one of the few known to exist with the global art phenomenon, he is asked if his name "Robert Banks", to which he replies: "It's Robbie."

His identity has long been the source of speculation, with some claiming his name was Robin or Robert Banks.

Banksy talks about his distinctive stencilling style in the interview, a podcast bonus part of a series called "The Banksy Story". "It's quick... I want to get it done and dusted," he is heard to say of his work. The artist was in his 20s at the time, and was promoting the opening of his "Turf War" show in east London.

The series also contains a 2005 interview the artist purportedly gave with US broadcaster National Public Radio (NPR). — AFP



This Banksy piece shows a 1950s housewife with a swollen eye, and missing a tooth, shutting a man in a freezer, which was later removed by council workers. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY

WORLD



File photo taken on 7 June 2021, shows a building that houses the headquarters of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S telecom giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp will launch a business-use generative artificial intelligence platform in March, in an effort to catch up with foreign rivals in the fast-expanding market. The AI platform has higher Japanese language processing capabilities than ChatGPT, a widely used AI chatbot developed by US-based OpenAI, NTT said earlier in the month. The new AI model called tsuzumi, named after a Japanese hand drum used in traditional events, can read documents containing charts and

NTT to launch generative AI platform for corporate customers in March

Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp aims to launch a business-use generative artificial intelligence platform in March, boasting superior Japanese language processing capabilities compared to widely used AI chatbot ChatGPT by US-based OpenAI.

diagrams. NTT said it aims for annual sales of over 100 billion yen (\$670 million) in this AI platform business by 2027. "The market size will grow bigger and bigger as many companies compete with each other," NTT President Akira Shimada told a press conference in early November. — Kyodo

MEPs urge EU commission to be 'pragmatic' on UK electric car tariffs

German, French, and British automakers are lobbying for tariff delays, but the commission seems committed to the planned implementation.

EU lawmakers urged the European Commission to be "pragmatic" Thursday about a post-Brexit 10-per-cent tariff on electric vehicles that are sold to, or imported from, Britain that is due to apply from January. The appeal, made by co-chair of the European Parliament's trade committee Bernd Lange, came as the legislature adopted its first review of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) that governs post-Brexit ties. "I call on the EU Commission to find pragmatic and sensible solutions otherwise there is a threat of tariffs of 10 per cent on electric cars," said Lange.



New Volkswagen ID.4 electric vehicles are ready for delivery at the automaker's customer centre in Wolfsburg, Germany, on 26 March 2021. **PHOTO: RONNY ARTMANN/AFP/FILE**

The TCA requires the 10 per cent tariffs to start on 1 January on vehicles that do not have at least 45 per cent UK- or EU-made content in them, and with batteries that are at least 50-60 per cent sourced from each of those territories, under "rules of origin". Those thresholds are very difficult to meet under current manufacturing supply lines which rely on Chinese-made battery components. German, French and British automakers have been lobbying hard to have the tariffs delayed. — AFP



Multinational fossil fuel companies have a well-documented track record of countering climate science. **PHOTO: AFP**

IEA calls on oil firms to invest 50% in clean energy by 2030

THE International Energy Agency on Thursday called on oil and gas companies to devote half of their investments to clean energy by 2030, urging them to face a "moment of truth" at next week's COP28, the largest UN climate change conference ever held. The IEA urged producers to make the "pivotal choice" between deepening the climate crisis or helping to limit global warming to +1.5°C, in line with the Paris Agreement. "In a pathway to reaching net zero emissions by mid-century, which is necessary to keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C within reach, oil and gas use would decline by more than 75 per cent by 2050," the IEA said in a special report. While the oil and gas sector is responsible for more than half of global energy supply, it has been "a marginal force at best in transitioning to a clean energy system", according to the report. It estimated oil and gas companies currently account for one percent of clean energy investment globally.— AFP

Nissan to invest additional 2 bln pounds in British EV production

NISSAN Motor Co on Friday announced an additional investment of up to two billion pounds (\$2.5 billion) to expand electric vehicle production at its Sunderland plant in Britain. The plant, Britain's biggest car factory, will be the production site for electric versions of the popular Qashqai and Juke sport utility vehicle models, in addition to the Leaf, the Japanese automaker's flagship electric vehicle.

The new investment is in addition to the one billion pounds the automaker said it would spend on electrification of cars in the country in 2021, pushing the total amount to three billion pounds.

Employing around 6,000 people, the Sunderland plant has been operational since 1986 and has produced over 11 million vehicles, including the Bluebird, gasoline-powered Juke and Qashqai models, as well as the Leaf. While the outlook of the plant appeared clouded at one point after Britain left the European Union in 2020, the latest announcement underscores Nissan's eagerness to make the plant a key EV production hub in Europe amid competition over the environmentally friendly cars with rivals such as Tesla Inc. — Kyodo



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (R), seen here with finance minister Jeremy Hunt, said the Nissan investment is a 'huge vote of confidence' in the UK auto sector. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

Hong Kong high-speed rail's cumulative passengers surpass 17 mln this year

HONG Kong's MTR Corporation said on Thursday that the passenger volume of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) reached over 17 million as of 19 November which has surpassed the total number of passengers in 2019.

The Hong Kong section of the high-speed rail resumed service earlier this year. According to its operator the MTR Corporation, the number of passengers travelling between Hong Kong and Shenzhen by the high-speed rail has increased significantly.

In addition to the growth in Hong Kong passengers, mainland pas-



The train G5607 bound for Hong Kong is pictured at the Shenzhen North Railway Station in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, 15 January 2023. PHOTO: MAO SIQIAN/XINHUA

sengers have accounted for more than half of the passenger volume of the Hong Kong section since March.

The Hong Kong section of the XRL is about 26 kilometres long, connecting Hong Kong with 73 mainland stations. It started operation in September 2018. — Xinhua

HMV reopening raises revival hopes for London's Oxford Street

BRITISH music retailer HMV returned to the iconic site of its former flagship store in central London on Friday, in a much-needed boost to the flagging fortunes of the capital's premier shopping street.

The re-opening of the historic shop comes as authorities fight back against a wave of so-called American candy stores which have plagued central London since the pandemic.

UK 1980s band Madness joined Canadian owner Doug Putman as the store threw open its doors. — AFP



Pedestrians walk past the HMV store on Oxford Street in central London on 23 November 2023. Music retailer HMV is set to re-open its doors at its flagship Oxford Street site on 24 November. PHOTO: BEN STANSALL/AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PETKUM VOY.NO. (0UV4UE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PETKUM VOY.NO. (0UV4UE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-11-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2320S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2320S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-11-2023** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RUKUN VOY.NO. (0121N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RUKUN VOY.NO. (0121N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-11-2023** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



The opening ceremony for the Azabudai Hills complex featuring Japan's newly-built tallest skyscraper, the Mori JP Tower at a height of 330 metres, is held in Tokyo's Minato Ward on 24 November 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan's 330-metre tallest skyscraper Azabudai Hills opens in Tokyo

JAPAN'S tallest skyscraper opened in the heart of Tokyo on Friday, with visitors on its first business day expressing their excitement about the capital's new nature-rich 330-metre landmark.

Some 30 million people are expected to visit the Azabudai Hills Mori JP Tower and its surrounding facilities each year, said Mori Building Co, the developer of the 640 billion yen (\$4.3 billion) complex.

The 64-storey tower, which contains offices from its fifth to 52nd floors, beats the previous title holder Abeno Harukas in Osaka by 30 metres and is almost as tall as Tokyo Tower, which stands at 333 metres. The building is the main feature of the Azabudai Hills complex, which features expansive green space and houses 122 rooms of Aman Resorts' upscale hotel, as well as 1,400 residential units. High-end restaurants, luxury shops, teamLab's digital art museum and the British School are also contained in the complex. — Kyodo

Xi's special representative to attend World Climate Action Summit

Chinese President Xi Jinping's Special Representative, Ding Xuexiang, is scheduled to attend the World Climate Action Summit in the United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 2 December.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's Special Representative, Ding Xuexiang, will be in the United Arab Emirates for the World Climate Action Summit from 30 November to 2 December, a foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Friday.

The trip will be made at the invitation of President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, spokesperson Mao Ning said.

Ding is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice-premier of the State Council. — Xinhua



This aerial photo taken on 16 November 2023 shows the Dingdongpo wind power-photovoltaic project in Shiqian County of Tongren City, southwest China's Guizhou Province. With a combined power-generating capacity of 100,100 kilowatts, the Dingdongpo wind power-photovoltaic project has been successfully connected to the grid. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Train derailment in Kentucky forces residents to evacuate homes on Thanksgiving

ACCORDING to the Federal Railroad Administration, as of October, 742 train derailments have occurred in the United States this year. Most accidents are minor however and do not require nearby residents to evacuate.

A CSX freight train carrying chemicals derailed and caught fire in Livingston, Kentucky Wednesday night,

forcing residents to flee their homes during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear (D) issued an executive order on Thursday declaring a state of emergency.

At least 16 of the train's cars derailed, with two of them containing molten sulfur which caught fire. Two additional cars were carrying magnesium hydroxide, but are not believed to have been breached.

The remaining derailed cars were empty or carrying non-hazardous materials like plastic, according to CSX.

The train company has pledged to pay for hotel rooms, Thanksgiving meals and other expenses incurred by those forced to flee their homes. — SPUTNIK



CSX train photographed in South Shore, Kentucky. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

TOP HEADLINE

Argentina drops bid for key UNESCO post after controversy

ARGENTINA dropped out of a race for a key UNESCO post after libertarian outsider Javier Milei's election as the South American country's president created controversy, and Brazil has now jumped into the fray.

The UN's cultural agency will on Friday choose the new chairperson of its 58-nation executive board, one of the most important jobs at the Paris-based organization.

Two diplomats were in the running to head the executive board: Vera El-Khoury Lacoeyuilhe, backed by the Caribbean island nation of Saint Lucia, works for a billionaire with a money-laundering conviction while the other, Marcela Losardo, is from politically volatile Argentina.

Both candidacies have generated controversy, creating a "climate of anxiety" ahead of the vote, one diplomat told AFP on condition of anonymity. — AFP

SPORTS

Howe defends Newcastle after Premier League loan vote

EDDIE Howe has defended Newcastle's position after a move by Premier League clubs to impose a temporary ban on loans between associated clubs failed to attract sufficient support.

Eight of the 20 top-flight sides are understood to have opposed the move at a meeting on Tuesday, with 14 votes required for a vote to carry.

Saudi-owned Newcastle have been linked with a move in the January transfer window for former Wolves captain Ruben Neves from Saudi Pro League

absence of Italy international Sandro Tonali, who is serving a 10-month ban for breaching betting rules.

Howe said Newcastle, seventh in the Premier League ahead of their home match against Chelsea on Saturday, were relaxed about the outcome of the vote.

"It was a Premier League vote," he told his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"We're not the only club involved. I think the majority of clubs in the Premier League own



Newcastle United manager Eddie Howe. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

side Al-Hilal. Newcastle are 80 percent owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which also has controlling stakes in four Saudi clubs including Al-Hilal.

Neves, 26, could help boost Howe's midfield options in the

other clubs around the world so it's not solely on us I don't think.

"Newcastle as a club had a view. We voted our way in the way that we're allowed to and the vote came out on the side that it did. — AFP

Inter and Juve in top spot tussle as Mazzarri begins Napoli reign

INTER Milan and Juventus face off on Sunday in a clash between Serie A's two title favourites and historic rivals, as Walter Mazzarri begins his second reign at troubled Napoli. Two points ahead of Juve after 12 matches, leaders Inter have had a dream season so far as they look comfortably Italy's best team and have ensured passage to the Champions League knockouts with two matches to spare.

Now they begin a brutal run

of fixtures against a Juve team which has become the distillation of Massimiliano Allegri's hyper-pragmatic style of football — hard on the eyes and even harder to break down.

With Milan and champions Napoli both faltering Juve are Inter's closest challengers and have the benefit, thanks to last season's accounting controversies, of having no European football clogging up their calendar. — AFP



Arteta supports Everton amid a 10-point deduction, expressing confidence in their ability to fight relegation. PHOTO: AFP

Arteta backs Everton to survive despite points penalty

Everton's punishment for violating Premier League financial rules puts them at four points, tied with bottom-ranked Burnley in their upcoming match against Manchester United on Sunday.

MIKEL Arteta has backed his former club Everton to "fight against anything" after a 10-point deduction for financial breaches left them in the Premier League relegation zone.

The Arsenal boss said Friday he still felt "very connected" to the club where he spent six years, playing more than 200 games as a midfielder.

The punishment for

Everton for breaking Premier League profitability and sustainability rules means they go into their match against Manchester United on Sunday level on four points with bottom club Burnley.

But the nine-time English champions are just two points from safety, thanks to recent wins and the poor form of the other teams at the bottom.

"It's a very difficult moment," said Arteta. "Obviously it puts the club in a difficult position but they have been in many other difficult positions and they always find a way to get out. "If there is a quality that I think describes that club, it is the courage and determination and the fight and they will fight against anything and I wish them the best." — AFP

Smith fights back tears after missing cut at Australian PGA Championship

CAMERON Smith choked back tears after missing the cut by nine shots at the Australian PGA Championship on Friday, describing it as his worst day as a professional golfer.

On a blustery day in which Curtis Luck lived up to his name by firing a hole-in-one, defending champion and former world number two Smith slumped to a horror 78. It left him nine-over-par and 21 shots behind halfway leader Min Woo Lee in front of his home crowd at Royal Queensland Golf Club in Brisbane. — AFP



Adam Scott (L) and Cameron Smith had contrasting fortunes at the Australian PGA Championship. PHOTO: AFP

Japan's 330-metre tallest
skyscraper Azabudai Hills
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WORLD



Visitors are seen at the booth of NIO during the Smart China Expo 2023 in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, 4 September 2023. **PHOTO: CHU JIAYIN/XINHUA**

China rejects EU's allegations of EV overcapacity export: ambassador

The overcapacity arguments emerged in the bloc as it was preparing for a bilateral summit with China, reportedly scheduled for next month.

CHINESE Ambassador to the European Union (EU) Fu Cong on Thursday dismissed a recent claim that China is exporting its overcapacity of electric vehicles (EV) to the European market. “I want to emphasize the fact that the Chinese companies are selling cars in Europe does not by itself signify an overcapacity,” the ambassador said during the Europe-China Forum held here by Friends of Europe, a Brus-

sels-based non-profit think tank for EU policy.

Some 300 participants, including policymakers, businessmen and researchers, attended the event.

The overcapacity arguments emerged in the bloc as it was preparing for a bilateral summit with China, reportedly scheduled for next month.

Last week, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen asserted, “There is clear overcapacity in China, and this overcapacity will be exported,” claiming this is the reason behind the EU launching the anti-subsidy investigation on Chinese EVs.

Rejecting such claims, Fu posed a question: “If finding an overseas market can be interpreted as overcapacity automatically, then what are the European companies doing in the Chinese market?”

He raised concerns about the fairness of the investigation’s launch and its procedures, expressing the hope that “common sense can prevail” during discussions on the issue.

Fu reassured the business sector that China is committed to reform and opening up, and promotes high-quality development.

“This means more opportunities for European companies.”

Noting China’s robust economic rebound with one of the highest growth rates among major economies, Fu mentioned China continues to be the largest contributor to global growth, contributing one-third in 2023.

He cited the fact that the International Monetary Fund recently revised upward its forecast of China’s growth in 2023 by 0.4 percentage points. — Xinhua

Hamas-Israel truce takes effect

THE first temporary humanitarian truce between Hamas and Israel entered into force in the Gaza Strip on Friday.

The agreement entered into force at 7:00 am local time (0500 GMT), and it was reported that there were no Israeli aircraft flying over the Gaza Strip.

This is scheduled to be followed by the release of 13 Israeli detainees in the Gaza Strip at 4:00 pm local time (1400 GMT). The agreement is the first truce between the two sides since 7 October after weeks of mediation by Qatar and Egypt. — Xinhua

Venice to launch tourist tickets in 2024

VENICE announced on Thursday that it would introduce a fee for day tourists to enter the city’s overcrowded historic centre on 29 days next year as it seeks to come to grips with overtourism.

Day visitors will need to pay five euros (\$5.45) to enter the city centre between 8:30 am to 4:00 pm during the peak tourist season from 25 April to 5 May.

The fee will also apply for the rest of the weekends in May and June, as well as the first two weekends of July.

Authorities have debated for years — without taking concrete action — over how best to regulate the millions of visitors to the famous watery city, who come

anxious to see sights including St Mark’s Square, the Rialto Bridge and its countless picturesque canals. The ticketing plan had been repeatedly postponed over concerns it will seriously dent tourist revenue and compromise freedom of movement.

But city authorities finally decided earlier this year to push forward with the experiment after UNESCO warned it could list the city as an at-risk world heritage site. “Venice is the first city in the world to introduce such a system, which could serve as a model for other fragile and delicate cities that must be protected,” Mayor Luigi Brugnaro said in a statement. — AFP

Day visitors will now face a five euro charge for entry into Venice’s historic centre during the peak tourist season.



Venice, known for its romantic canals and rich history, offers a variety of tourist attractions. **PHOTO: ANDREA PATTARO/AFP**