

Saudi-backed company harnesses waste energy to mine bitcoins



In the frozen north of Canada, sleeping contractors leaving behind farms have with activity, converting excess energy into profit.

Tens of thousands of "stranded" gas wells lay unused due to logistical difficulties of transporting and injecting it from the remote wilderness to inject it into the power grid.

Chief executive of Saudi-backed Permianchain Minerals Ltd. Markus von Anstey-Eberk says that his company harnesses waste energy to help the environment, and potentially benefit local communities.

"Without being mined, sites in these remote areas can be sent back into the local commu-

nicity."

The company recently received a significant investment from Saudi Arabia's Hazer Investment Company, and has other backers in the Kingdom and Dubai.

"I believe in the Saudi market, there's a lot of potential there," von Anstey-Eberk says. "Sustainable investment within the Saudi oil market has always been interested in innovation and, from an experience, I've seen people have good risk appetite, which provides good investor sentiment in the long term."

As well as stranded gas, the company also plans to harness gas that is produced as a byproduct of oil refining.

This gas often flares due to prohibitive storage or transportation costs, contributing to carbon dioxide emissions.

Permianchain's solution is a self-generated energy, currency, which corresponds to a constant amount of energy that can be produced as a byproduct of oil refining.

These digital tokens can then be used for a wide range of purposes.

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Korea and Japan men to meet in Pacific-Asia final

Following two semi-final games, Korea will play Japan for the title of Pacific-Asia Curling champions and a spot in the LGT World Men's 2022. The gold medal game is set for 14:00 on Saturday (13 November) in Albany, Kansas.

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Protests loom in Thailand after court ruling fuels anger

Bangkok, Thailand - A key court ruling in Thailand has raised concerns that activists could face charges of treason after nearly 18 months of anti-government protests that have also called for a new constitution and royal reform.

Thailand's constitutional court ruled that the ruling is a case brought against three political activists who are being charged under anti-subversion laws.

A panel of judges ruled on Wednesday that the activists' calls for reform were more than just rhetorical blarney.

The court said their speeches aimed "to overthrow the constitutional monarchy" with Judge Wirong Sangsri saying that any attempt to overthrow the monarchy would be "a crime against the people."

The 40-year-old lawyer, Kanyachon Wacharasindhu, told his lawyers that the ruling was a dark day.

"It's not too far-fetched to say that if the death penalty could be given," Kanyachon said. "This ruling is not only related to section 112, [the lese-majeste] but they are now calling this an attempt to overthrow the regime, a treasonous offense that is punishable with life in prison or death."

The ruling follows months of demonstrations that began in July 2020, with protesters calling not only for the government to step down but for the reform of the country's political and judicial systems. The unprecedented demands have triggered public debate around the palace, sparking a significant labor dispute about equity concerning the royal institution.

The three defendants in the case include Anon Nampa and Panpang "Ma" Jaisakul who are already facing more than a century in prison if found guilty on a charge of treason.

Vietnam reconsiders methane-emitting rice amid climate crisis

Mekong Delta, Vietnam. At the United Nations COP26 summit in Scotland, Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh asked 196 countries to pledge to reduce methane emissions by 30 percent by 2030.

To meet the commitment, the country's key experts need to look at rice - one of the second biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions among food crops after beef.

The heart of Vietnam's rice production is in the Mekong Delta region, known as the "rice bowl" of the nation. More than 90 percent of the country's total rice and 95 percent of its rice exports are grown in an area roughly the size of the Netherlands.

But rice farming in the Mekong Delta is a double-edged sword. Not only is the crop a source of methane, but rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion are increasingly difficult to grow in the low-lying region.

Tran Dung Nhim grew up on the coast of the southern Mekong Delta, but his father's sea levels, and the intrusion of saltwater, have forced him to leave his paddy fields for other crops.

The family farm used to be able to produce three crops per year, but now only one is possible.

Tran Dung Nhim grew up on the coast of the southern Mekong Delta, but his father's sea levels, and the intrusion of saltwater, have forced him to leave his paddy fields for other crops.

By 2050, the government hopes to have reduced the size of the Mekong Delta by 100,000 hectares (250,000 acres), 20 percent less than the 1.3 million acres planted this year.

"Mentioning the Mekong Delta before, people would think about fish, but now, it's about rice," he said.

Distinct from other grains, rice is grown in flooded fields. As the water layer stagnates on the surface, there is no exchange of air between the soil and the atmosphere, which means methane-producing bacteria are active in the soil.

When farmers drain the fields, the gas is more than 25 times more than carbon dioxide of trapping heat in the atmosphere.

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