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Sunday, 15 January 2023

**Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman
Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar
Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri
Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark
71st Anniversary of Kayah State Day
15 January 2023**

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of Kayah State,

Today, 15 January is the 71st Anniversary of Kayah State Day which is auspicious for ethnic national brethren and all Kayah ethnics residing in the Kayah State.

On the new year occasion of the Kayah State Day, I would like to heartily extend my greetings and best wishes for all Kayah ethnic nationals as well as all ethnic national people born across the nation to enjoy physical and mental pleasure and well-being with success.

Under the 1947 Constitution, the Kayinni State was one of the states of the Union of Myanmar. The Kayinni State officially renamed the Kayah State on 15 January 1952 in accord with the public desire under the Constitution (First Amendment) Act 1951.

The day when it was renamed the Kayah State was designated as “the Kayah State Day”.

The Kayah State, located in the eastern hilly region of Myanmar, possesses abundant natural beauty and under and aboveground natural resources, and it is pleasant with traditional culture and favourable weather. Friendship, hospitality and honesty of local ethnic and national people are impressive characteristics of the state.

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**Five-Point Road Map of the
State Administration Council**

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Last-batch rice vessel departs for Bangladesh from Pathein Port

MYANMAR plans to export a total of 200,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh under a G-to-G agreement. A total of 30,000-tonne rice shipment was directly made by the Ayeyawady International Industrial Port (AIIP) in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region starting 2 November and the last ship MCL-7 ship left for Bangladesh on 13 January. A total of 30,000 tonnes of direct rice export from Pathein to Bangladesh is the very first for the country and the direct shipment can save the transport charges for the companies and also create business potentials and job opportunities to local rice millers.

“For 30,000 tonnes of rice export from Pathein port, the final ship left. The export will continue after another G-to-G pact. The current direct export can make



Rice bags are loaded onto the MCL-7 vessel at Pathein Port. PHOTO: KANU

profits for the businesses and earn taxes for the country. The larger the export, the better it is for the farmers,” said U Tun Tun, deputy director of the Consumer

Affairs Department of Ayeyawady Region.

Under the bilateral agreement for 200,000 tonnes of rice, it exported 30,000 tonnes from

AIIP while the remaining rice from Sule, Thilawa, Shwepyitha and Sittway ports. Like the MCL-7 ship, the MCL-11 rice ship left from Sittway port on the same

day. The last ATN Glory foreign vessel of 200,000 tonnes of foreign rice export will also leave carrying 21,000 tonnes of rice soon, according to Myanmar Port Authority

According to MoU, the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and the Directorate General of Food of Bangladesh made Sales Contract to export 200,000 tonnes of Emahta rice. The export will complete after the departure of the ATN Glory vessel from Sule jetty. Myanmar and Bangladesh inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on rice trade in September 2022. According to this MoU, Bangladesh has agreed to buy 250,000 tonnes of white rice and 50,000 tonnes of parboiled rice from Myanmar between 2022 and 2027. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Pyin Oo Lwin

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 STARMART Nay Pyi Taw -Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Year Gauk Ward, Pyinmanar, Ph- 09 685119077

Public Notice for elimination of violence

1. SO called "CRPH", "NUG" and "PDF" terrorist groups are unlawfully committing killings of monks, teachers, civil servants and general people and looting under the pretext of saying "for the people".
2. Not rendering of encouragement, support and assistance to the "CRPH", "NUG" and "PDF" terrorists that are committing intimidations, killings and destructive activities could be construed as protecting lives and property of general public.
3. Giving information secretly relating to bearing of their arms, ammunition and terrorists to authorities could be tantamount to protecting lives and property of innocent people.

No new case of COVID-19 reported on 14 January, total figure stands at 633,741

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases stands at **633,741** after **no** new case was reported on 14 January 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,219**, including **20** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 14-1-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.—MNA



General view of one section on the Minbu-An-Sittway Road. **PHOTO: ZEYAR HTET**

Minbu-An-Sittway Road upgraded with over K1,400 mln

THE Minbu-An-Sittway Road is a 103-mile-one-furlong road from Minbu to An, connecting Magway Region and Rakhine State.

Minbu (Sagu) Township Highways Department has informed that road upgrading works are being carried out with K1,405.63 million to facilitate the flow of goods and traffic.

Minbu-An-Sittway Road was constructed in 1981. Previously,

the width of the asphalt road was only 12 feet. As a result, there are long journeys due to heavy traffic.

Two miles with a 24 feet width and 27 miles with 18 feet width were completed in the widening and resurfacing of the road. The remaining section will be implemented according to the financial year, said U Tun Min Win, a staff officer from the Minbu

(Sagu) Highways Department.

Once upgrading work for the Minbu-An-Sittway Road will be completed it will facilitate the flow of goods from the Magway Region to Rakhine State. In addition to the development of social life in villages on the left and right sides of the road, traffic congestion and accidents will also be reduced. — Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/KZL

Pigeon pea price regains to above K1.8 mln per tonne

THE price of pigeon pea (tur) bounced back to above K1.8 million per tonne on 13 January after 23 days.

The price stayed below K1.8 million per tonne from 16 December 2022.

It dipped below K1.785 million per tonne on 12 January 2023. On 14 January, it climbed to K1.83 million per tonne.

The price of black gram is still lower than that of pigeon peas in Yangon markets. The black gram was priced below K1.7 million per tonne. On 13 January 2023, the price of black gram was estimated at K1,660,000 per tonne. There is a price difference of K145,000 per tonne between the pigeon peas (red gram) and black gram.

In the corresponding period of 2022, the prices stood at K1,350,000 per tonne of black gram and K1,335,000 per tonne of pigeon pea.

In mid-2022, the prices peaked at K2.1 million per tonne of black gram and K2.175 million per tonne of pigeon pea.

The price of tur fetched 7,400 rupees per quintal (0.1 tonne) this month, which jumped from 6,100 rupees. The price of pigeon peas in India in early 2023 rose by over 1,000 rupees against that of the year-ago period.



Samples of pigeon peas are seen being observed to check quality.

The price of pigeon pea was worth K1,332,500 per tonne on 13 January 2022, whereas the FOB price was US\$690/710 per tonne. On 14 January 2023, the FOB price increased to \$750-770 per tonne. Kyat weakened against the US dollar at K2,478 in early 2023, while the US dollar was exchanged at K1,787 in January last year.

The pigeon pea output by India is forecast to drop by over 400,000 tonnes compared to last year's, according to the media outlets in India.

India imported over 700,000 tonnes of pigeon peas in the 2021-2022FY. This year, the import volume is likely to edge up to 1.1 million tonnes. The major pea-importing countries to India are from Africa. They are brought into India from Myanmar either.

India notified that the free import policy of black gram (urad

and pigeon pea (tur) extended up to March 2024. Furthermore, Myanmar is given a 100,000 annual import quota of pigeon peas under the government-to-government pact until 2025-2026. Myanmar shipped 430,000 tonnes of black grams and 93,000 tonnes of pigeon peas and 380,000 tonnes of green grams to foreign countries as of 2 December 2022 in the 2022-2023FY. Some pigeon pea-producing townships in Magway Region are selling large volumes to a company, according to the widespread social media posts.

On 24 December 2022, the pigeon peas were valued at K53,600-53,800 per basket in Yenangyaung and Magway areas. The resumption of Sino-Myanmar border posts raised the price of crops that are demanded by China. The price of new pigeon peas surged to K172,000 per 60 visses on 14 January 2023. — TWA/EMM

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

VACCINATION is being carried out in full swing in various regions and states as the vaccination programmes are one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 6,615 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

Similarly, on that day healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 289 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.—MNA



Students from Madaya Township in Mandalay Region are seen lining up to get jabbed against COVID-19 on 14 January 2023.

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Taking State responsibilities under the 2008 Constitution

- The State Administration Council government is controlling the country in accord with the 2008 constitution.
- Protests and violence were handled in accord with the law.
- Meetings were held with the government officials concerned to solve the election problems. But they failed and attempted to grab State power by calling a parliament. Therefore, we had to take over State duties unavoidably.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with entrepreneurs from MSMEs in Pyay District on 4 October 2022)

Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark 71st Anniversary of Kayah State Day 15 January 2023

FROM PAGE-1

The Kayah State is primarily engaged in agriculture and livestock farming businesses. The Mawchi mine has been a primary source to produce precious natural resources such as tin and tungsten since the pre-Second World War. Up to now, the state endowed with natural resources has been producing marble stones, finest quality silver, metal mixed with Scheelite and so on as well as plentiful forest products for its situation to firmly stand for development.

Likewise, the Lawpita hydropower plant of the Kayah State is crucial for generating electricity on a daily basis as a source for electrifying the whole nation.

Having good natural resources given by the environment, only when the Kayah State efficiently utilizes natural beauties and natural resource products and harmoniously undertakes development tasks will socioeconomic life and employment opportunities of local ethnic national people improve.

The government on its part will encourage development tasks of the state such as health, education, social, economic and transport sectors in all aspects and fulfil requirements.

Now is an important time for ethnic national people from the state to cooperate with the government in striving for the restoration of peace and stability of the Kayah State by firmly grasping the existing sound foundations.

In looking back at the history of our country, independence was regained together with the instigations of the colonialists. Consequently, the disintegration of national unity was triggered by internal insurgencies, incidents of racism and dogmatism as well as suspicion among the ethnic national people. As such, we all including those from the Kayah State practically face bad impacts triggered by long-lasting armed conflicts on the peace and stability and development of the nation till today.

Currently, the State Administration Council is controlling all State responsibilities under the Constitution by adopting the five-point Roadmap and nine political, economic and social objectives in order to restore peace and stability of the State as well as development undertakings. In so doing, strenuous efforts will be made for the enhancement of the socioeconomic life of citizens as much as possible as it is the most important in developing the whole nation.

In regard to socioeconomic development, the government is implementing two national objectives: the prosperity of the State and food sufficiency. As all global countries with more than seven billion population in total always face food requirements, agriculture and livestock farms from our country need to grasp the good opportunities for supplying foodstuffs to these global countries. If the economy booms, the country will be prosperous and stable. Hence, all regions and states need to strive for booming the economy in order to ensure the whole nation with prosperity.

Likewise, efforts are being made for the development of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises and cooperative measures so as to emerge the businesses playing a key role in the rapid development of the nation.

The lesser volume of products reflects the weak trading in Myanmar. Hence, it is necessary to manufacture products in quality and quantity. The government assists in operating MSME businesses as much as it can with encouragement to the production of raw materials, inputs, capital and human resources in order to manufacture a large volume of products.

MSME businesses aim to encourage local businesses, substitute imported goods and increase export products. As such, it is necessary to improve the manufacturing process which can transform domestic raw materials into finished goods in line with the natural conditions of the country to achieve the success of MSME industries. Efficient use of products from agriculture and livestock farms and natural resources will help ensure the economic development of our country.

Political conflicts in our country are deeply complicated due to the larger number of ethnic groups and instigations of colonialists. Everybody accepts that there remain discussions for many items in the peace process of Myanmar. I would like to notify ethnic organizations and all stakeholders of carrying out negotiation and cooperation for the interests of the State and the people over the progress of the peace process.

Every country suffering from conflicts will face difficulties and crises on their paths to a peace process. Only when all stakeholders keep anticipation to actually wish for peace, have correct ways and means, willingness to peacefully negotiate, have patience and tolerance and are steadfast in industry, will the peace process meet the goal. Moreover, although the peace process is a part of politics, it is not a political tool. Only when an emphasis is placed on nation-building tasks and mainly serving the national interests will it contribute to building the future nation.

The people residing in the areas where armed conflicts happen are facing direct consequences of the conflicts and the remaining people are encountering the indirect consequences of the armed conflicts. Armed attacks become hindrances to the development of relevant societies and regions as well as cause difficulties in education and healthcare services for children. Hence, I would like all to take care of their acts as conflicts which affect the drop of the economy and hiking the poverty rate would bring heavy heart to the future State.

Only when all State service personnel, civil society organizations and entire ethnic people are to join hands with the government and Tatmadaw in building the Union based on democracy and federalism the entire ethnic people aspire to will they all reach the target in a short time. In line with the motto: "The strength of the nation lives only within" which plays a key role in marching towards the goal, all ethnic national people are to forge unity with patriotic spirit and the Union spirit and to protect the State in all aspects.

At present, it can be seen that people in some regions wrongly embrace misinformation, causing disunity and instability because of instigations wedged by some foreign countries, acts of some organizations based on different attitudes turning a blind eye to the State and public interests, fake and fabricated news which pull the State into the plights with breaking the ethics, persuasion and terror acts of some ethnic armed organizations and NUG, CRPH and PDF terrorist groups holding incorrect attitudes. It is necessary to consider that the consequences of these conditions would not serve the interests of the State as well as would be dangerous to the State and all the people.

All need to strive for flourishing the spirit of national solidarity and the Union spirit among the ethnic national people by upholding the Our Three Main National Causes for ensuring the perpetuity of the Union. I would like to urge the ethnic people residing in the Kayah State to unitedly participate in building mutual respect, understanding and trust among the ethnic national brethren born in the Union with correct opinions and attitudes.

In conclusion, I send the message with the best wishes for all ethnic national people residing in the Kayah State to enjoy the restoration of peace and stability in the region, strive for the development of the region and improvement of socioeconomic life of local ethnic people with might and main and serve the interests of the nation and the nationals.

*Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu
Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing
Prime Minister
Chairman, State Administration Council*

SAC members, Union ministers open 400-metre synthetic running track, fitness gym to mark 71st Kayah State Day

STATE Administration Council Members Saw Daniel, U Sai Lon Seng, U Shwe Kyein, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin, Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Hla Moe, Deputy Ministers Dr Aung Zeya and Dr Aye Tun and officials opened the 400-metre synthetic running track and fitness training gymnasium at the state stadium in Loikaw yesterday to commemorate the 71st Kayah State Day which takes place on 15 January.

First, Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin delivered an opening speech on the health and fitness of local youths in Kayah State, high education and development of talents, raising the standard of athletics and bringing forth a new generation of athletes.

At the township, district, and



SAC members, Union ministers and attendees take the documentary group photo at the event.

state levels, officials are working to enable young players to compete in ASEAN competitions and international competitions, the chief minister said.

He said that the state government is fulfilling local development activities from all aspects, so the sports sector will also be developed. It will be necessary to

maintain the high-level stadium with a 400-metre synthetic runway, he added.

Then the 400-metre synthetic track was inaugurated by State

Administration Council members, Union ministers and the state chief minister by cutting the ribbon.

They took group photos with departmental officials, ethnic traditional cultural troupes and athletes and inspected the 400-metre track and the stadium.

Afterwards, flower dance and fitness dance demonstrations were performed by students. State Administration Council members and the chief minister gave awards to award-winning athletes and dance troupes.

Next, SAC Member Saw Daniel, Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint and Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin cut the ribbon to open the physical fitness training gymnasium.

They viewed demonstrations of physical fitness training equipment being used. — Kayah State IPRD/KZL

MoHT Union Minister inspects hotels in Nay Pyi Taw



UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung inspected the hotels in the National Guesthouse Zone in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Moreover, the Union Minister met the officials of Nay Pyi Taw Hoteliers Association and Tourism Entrepreneurs Association at Mingala Thiri Hotel and gave instructions regarding efforts for shaping Nay Pyi Taw into a “Green City,

Clean City, Smart City”, activities of the ministry to become Tourism Hub and cooperation work in cleaning operations to be conformed to the characteristics of the capital city.

He also focused on better hotel services as local/foreign travellers visit Nay Pyi Taw and the need to be immaculate hotel staff to become international standard hotels.

Then, officials of the de-

partments concerned reported on the greening and cleaning operations along Yaza Thingaha road and hotel areas.

Being the capital city of the country, the ministry is making concerted efforts to share a good reputation as a model city of Myanmar with international visitors and to create a tour designation for local/foreign visitors. — MNA/KTZH

MoI DM inspects information facilities in Shan State (South)

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint inspected the Department of Information and Public Relations in Taunggyi and Hopong townships of southern Shan State. At the Loilem District IPRD, he met the district head and staff yesterday.

Next, he met IPRD staff in Mongnai Township. After meeting the district head and staff in Langkho Township, the retransmission station head and staff in Maukmai Township, he

inspected the MRTV retransmission station.

During the meeting, the deputy minister pointed out that almost all the southern regions of Shan State are stable and peaceful, so people are happy and able to develop their socio-economic lives. It is necessary to cooperate with relevant departments in order for students to get benefits in the forthcoming summer holidays, he urged. — MNA/KZW



SAC-conferred honorary titles presented

THE State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister conferred honorary titles on recipients individually on 1 and 2 January in marking the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and officials yesterday visited and handed over honorary titles to family members of those who were unable to attend the conferring ceremony on their own and on their behalf due to various reasons.

On behalf of deputy

minister for construction U Kyin Hlaing (deceased), son U Myint Htay received the Wunna Kyaw Htin title; on behalf of deputy minister for industry 2 U Kyaw Za (deceased), son U Ye Wint Kyaw received the Wunna Kyaw Htin title; on behalf of deputy minister for home and religious affairs U Por Thein (deceased), son U Kyaw Soe received the Wunna Kyaw Htin title; on behalf of minister for home and religious affairs Colonel Boni (deceased), son-in-law U Soe Win received the Thiri Pyanchi title; on behalf of artiste Sithu Bokalay Tint Aung (de-

ceased), daughter Daw Soe Soe Tint received the Alinka Kyawswa ti-

tle, and on behalf of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Commodore Thuang Tin

(retd) (deceased), daughter Daw Tin Kyi Tin received the Sithu title at

their homes respectively.

Similarly, Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min presented the Thiri Pyanchi title to Rakhine National Party Central Executive Member U San Kyaw Hla at the ceremony held at the Rakhine State government office yesterday and took a documentary group photo.

In addition, Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win and officials presented the Thiri Pyanchi title to grandson U Thein Oo on behalf of Thakin Lwin (aka) U Po Thin (deceased) at their home in Kantali village in Zigon Township. — MNA/TS



The honorary title is offered in Bago Region.



The documentary group photo of the honorary titles presentation ceremony in Sittway.



The honorary title is presented in Rakhine State.

Illegal jade, foodstuffs, consumer goods, electronics, communication devices and vehicles confiscated

THE on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections. Officials confiscated 10

goods including 245 small pendants (suspicious of jade) and six MI walkie-talkies worth K3 million without official documents

at the Yangon International Airport on 11 January, two goods including 2,000 kilogrammes of Polymex powder that were not

declared in the Import Declaration (ID) worth K8.4 million from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port container checkpoint and eight goods including LED bulbs and solar bulbs that were different in the Import Declaration (ID) worth K20,234,164 from a Mitsubishi Fuso car (estimated value of K40 million) on Myawady-Hpa-an-Yangon road. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Naungnon combined checkpoint in Kengtung township on 12 January. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, on 13 January, a combined team seized industrial raw materials worth K504 million without official documents at a warehouse in Dongyway village on the side of Htonebo road. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, 14 arrests (estimated value of K708,956,664) were made on three consecutive days from 11 to 13 January, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal commodities at Yangon International Airport.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

550 firefighters extinguish Grand Royal factory fire



A total of 550 firefighters including 60 fire engines, 450 fire brigade members and 100 auxiliary members extinguished a level-3 fire that broke out at Grand Royal Distillery in Hmawby Township of Yangon Region, according to Myanmar Fire Services Department.

The department released a statement that they put out the fire at 7 am on 14 January and kept extinguishing the fire residues until yesterday noon.

Three tanks with a capacity of 50,000 gallons RF 96 per cent liquor, six tanks with a

capacity of 20,000 gallons RF 50 per cent liquor and three storages were engulfed by fire. The injured people were sent to Insein General Hospital. There was a total of 20 wounded people including 14 fire brigade members, one resident and five members of the social welfare organization, said Director U Thein Tun Oo of Myanmar Fire Services Department.

The cause of the fire and losses are under investigation.

In 2022, 1,507 fires broke out resulting in 96 casualties and 139 injuries across the nation while 224 fires broke out in Yangon Region with seven deaths and 22 injuries. – TWA/KTZH

Firefighters are seen struggling to put out the fire.

MoH to appoint 200 doctors

THE Ministry of Health is calling for applications to appoint 200 doctors to work in the treatment and dental fields.

Those who wish to apply must be under 35 years of age on 27 January 2023, and hold an unexpired general medical practice licence (SAMA/THA KHA) recognized by the Myanmar Medical Council along with relevant degree certificates.

After working for the prescribed term in hospitals

where they start working for the position of a doctor, they will have to serve at other hospitals in any localities. The application process includes psycho-tests and personal interviews without written tests.

Applicants can the office of purchase applications at the Union Civil Service Board office in Yangon and government offices in states and regions. Applications can be submitted in person or by post or online.

— TWA/KZW



The fresher welcome event was held in the University of Medicine 1 Yangon on 18 May 2022.

Private banks notified of Thai Baht currency account

SOME private banks notified those businesses executing Myanmar-Thailand border trade that Thai Baht currency account can be opened, following the re-opening of the Myawady-Maesot Friendship Bridge I on 12 January 2023.

CB Bank, AYA Bank, Yoma Bank, UAB Bank and MAB Bank released notifications on their respective social media pages.

For foreign currency accounts (Thai Baht), CB Bank and AYA Bank are making a partnership with the Bangkok Bank Public Co Ltd (Yangon branch). Meanwhile, Yoma Bank and MAB Bank are joining hands with Siam Commercial Bank Myanmar Limited, while the UAB Bank is connected to Krung Thai Bank Public Com-



Thai Baht notes.

pany Limited.

Inward remittance in Thai Baht can be done. They can be directly deposited to Myanmar currency accounts as well.

This account can be opened

at the designated bank branches in Tachilek, Myawady, Myeik, Kawthoung, Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. The exchange rate is set depending on the daily market rate. – TWA/EMM

One-day pass allowed through Myawady-Mae Sot Bridge I

THE Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge I allows travellers to pass the border from 6 am to 6 pm only with a One-Day Border Pass.

Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge I reopened on 12 January and allowed people from the two countries to cross

and re-enter their respective countries before 6 pm.

Currently, travellers to Mae Sot are allowed to stay until 6 pm in Mae Sot, and visitors to Myawady are allowed only to travel in the Myawady area. Myanmar people were before allowed to stay in Mae

Sot, Thailand for seven days with temporary passports from Myawady.

In order to get a border pass, people from Myanmar will have to pay a fee of K2,000 and only registered passenger vehicles can pass through the bridge. — TWA/MKKS

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sino-Myanmar border crossing Mang Wein reopens

TRADE activity at the Muse-Mang Wein crossing, which performed the majority of trade between Myanmar and China, resumed on 14 January 2023, said Vice-Chair U Min Thein of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

It was closed down on 1 April 2020. Among the border points connected to Muse-Ky-algaung areas, only Mang Wein was reopened at 7 am Myanmar Standard Time on 14 January with the presence of the officials of the two countries.

However, only six-wheel trucks driven by Myanmar drivers are allowed to pass the Mang Wein crossing. Other trucks are still not given the green light. Passengers are not entitled to pass it as well.

Additionally, other goods except for agricultural products (watermelon, muskmelon), minerals and fisheries products are allowed to be sent to China through that border. Mean-

while, China gives the go-ahead to the imports of construction goods, electrical appliances, medical devices, industrial equipment, consumer goods, household goods and food products only through that border, U Min Thein elaborated.

The Mang Wein border allows Myanmar truck drivers to cross the border point, whereas the driver-substitution system is yet to be abolished at the Kyinsankyawt border although it was reopened on 26 November 2021.

U Min Thein called for an end to the driver-substitution system at the Kyinsankyawt border to facilitate the cross-border trade between Myanmar and China.

At present, there is no responsibility and accountability

if goods are damaged under the driver-substitution system. Therefore, Myanmar exporters choose short-haul driver services and bear high freight costs, traders engaged in the Muse border said.

Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, pulses, rubber, watermelon, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through the Kyinsankyawt border with about 100 trucks and building materials, electrical appliances, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, household goods and industrial raw materials are imported into the country with 40 trucks.

Myanmar has opened five border trade posts with China — Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. The majority of the trade is carried out through Muse, Ministry of Commerce's data indicated. — NN/EMM



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

YGEA reference price soars to K2.262 mln per tical tracking global gold spot prices

THE reference price of gold climbed to K2.262 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the domestic market following the increase in global gold spot prices, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association stated.

At the end of last year, global gold spot prices stood at US\$1,823 per ounce and the yellow metal was set at K2,147,500 per tical by the YGEA.

As the price rallied to \$1,920 in the international market, the reference price rose to K2,262,000 per tical.

The figures indicated an increase of \$97 per ounce and over K110,000 per tical.

Despite the YGEA's refer-

ence price, the pure gold spiked at K2,850,000 per tical in the unofficial market, showing a large gap of K580,000 per tical.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, while the US dollar is exchanged at K2,880 in the unofficial forex market.

Meanwhile, Myanma Gems Enterprise (MGE) sold the gold at K2.5 million per tical despite the large gap.

On 4 January, as a celebration of the 75th Anniversary Independence Day (Diamond Jubilee), new designs of 1 tical and 0.5 tical gold coins have been on sale

at the respective shops in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay of the MGE from 5 January 2023, along with other old coins.

Pure gold is offered at K2.5 million per tical. The gold coin amounted to K2.58 million per tical, including making charges of K80,000. The final price of gold is K1.292 million per 0.5 tical with making charges of K42,000. For 0.25 tical, the market value is K647,000 including making charges of K22,000. The price of gold in the domestic market is positively related to the global gold spot prices and dollar exchange rate.

The soaring dollar exchange at over K4,500 pushed up the pure gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022. For the gold price to decline, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw under the auction system.

With an aim at reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EMM



Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 14 January 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,135
Octane 95	K2,195
Diesel	K2,410
Premium Diesel	K2,490

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,262,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,847,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,860 to K2,880

The above prices may change from time to time.

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OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Soonest remove hindrances on the way to perpetual peace

THE Kayah State possesses abundant natural beauty and under and aboveground natural resources, with traditional culture and favourable weather. Friendship, hospitality and honesty of local ethnic national people are impressive characteristics of the Kayah State.

Now is an important time for ethnic national people from the Kayah State to cooperate with the government in striving for the restoration of peace and stability in the Kayah State by firmly grasping the existing sound foundations.

As all global countries accommodating more than seven billion population in total are facing food requirements, it is a great chance for Myanmar to meet the food demand of these global countries. If the State economy booms, the country will be prosperous and stable. Hence, all regions and states need to strive for booming the State economy for enabling the whole nation to enjoy prosperity.

Every country suffering from conflicts will face difficulties and crises on their paths to peace processes. Only when all stakeholders

of Myanmar keep anticipation to actually seek peace, correct ways and means, willingness to peacefully negotiate, patience and tolerance and steadfast industry will the peace process meet the goal. Moreover, although the peace process is a part of politics, it is not a political tool. Only when an emphasis is placed on nation-building tasks and mainly serving the national interests will it contribute to building the future nation.

Armed attacks become hindrances to the development of relevant societies and regions as well as cause difficulties in education and healthcare services for children. Hence, ethnic national people are to take care of their acts as conflicts which affect the drop of the economy and hiking the poverty rate will bring a heavy heart to the future State.

The entire people need to strive for forging the spirit of national solidarity and the Union spirit by upholding the Our Three Main National Causes

for ensuring the perpetuity of the Union. The ethnic people residing in the Kayah State should unitedly participate in building mutual respect, understanding and trust among the ethnic national brethren born in the Union with correct opinions and attitudes.

Now, all states and regions of Myanmar are on the path of the peace process. They all see the goal. So, they need to clear all hindrances on the way to the goal to restore perpetual peace in all regions and states. Only when hindrances on the way are soonest cleared will all entire ethnic people have to enjoy the fruits of perpetual peace earlier.

Japan mulls lifting anti-COVID recommendation to wear masks indoors

THE Japanese government is considering no longer asking the public to wear masks indoors in principle unless they have symptoms, a government source said Saturday, possibly changing the public's daily anti-coronavirus practice drastically.

The policy change has been floated as the government discusses downgrading COVID-19's legal status to the same level as

seasonal influenza and as Sunday marks three years since Japan detected its first coronavirus infection.

In its anti-coronavirus measures revised last May, the government said that in principle, masks need not be worn outdoors as long as people are not conversing. But it said people were still advised to wear masks when indoors, except in cases where social distancing of two metres

or more is secured and where there is virtually no conversation.

According to the source, the government is considering to relax rules on indoor face coverings as it believes that when COVID-19 is downgraded to a Class 5 disease under infectious disease legislation from the current Class 2, anti-infection measures should also be on par with those taken for Class 5 pathogens, such as the seasonal influenza.

Class 2 diseases are subject to extensive measures, including limiting movements by infected individuals and their close contacts.

The policy change on mask-wearing rules may come as early as this spring in tandem with the downgrading of the classification, the source said.

In the United States, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention decides on mask

wearing by taking into factors such as the number of hospitalized patients.

While the requirement to wear masks was removed in all 50 states at one time, residents in some parts of the United States have again been asked to put on masks due to a "triple-demic" where the coronavirus, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus are circulating simultaneously. —Kyodo



A customer at a Copin sports club in Gifu works out while wearing a protective mask on 13 July 2022. PHOTO: KYODO



Book Title	-	"Myet Hmauk Gaba Naing Ngan Yay Ahkhin Ahkyin Atway Ahmyin Saroak Myar Laylar Chet"
Writer	-	Myint Naung Moe
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	December 2019 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K3,300

Myet Hmauk Gaba Naing Ngan Yay Ahkhin Ahkyin Atway Ahmyin Saroak Myar Laylar Chet

ANOTHER writer who lost his life during the Covid 19 waves is Saya Myint Naung Moe, who also does the translation. Saya Mying Naung Moe specialized in international affairs as well as political affairs. He has written books on political philosophy. Seikku Cho Cho published this book, collecting Saya's articles written not long before his death. As this book includes the world's politics and political philosophies, the collection is named "Myet Hmauk Gaba Naing Ngan Yay Ahkhin Ahkyin Atway Ahmyin Saroak Myar Laylar Chet".

The political ideologies and philosophies of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle were handed down to the political philosophers of modern days. Politics is concerned with the affairs

of the people, said the aforementioned Greek philosophers. The same idea is being held by the contemporary schools of political thought, wrote Saya Myint Naung Moe.

This book includes such concepts as man, the state and war, the attitude towards political survival, the mindset of the leaders, the history of discrimination between the rich and the poor countries, the rises and the twists and turns of the nations, the age of outrage, and the world stricken by conflicts and the shadow wars between and among Russia, China and the United States.

The book also includes an analysis of the failed states, an analysis of democratic failures, the lessons learned from the past history of human beings

and the steps to be taken in preparation for the future, the trap of internal conflict and the peace process, the common democratic practices in Russia, Europe and the United States of America, the leftist capitalists as defined by the China Communist Party, the vicious circle of the civil wars and freedom from the poverty trap, for the nations to overcome or to be overcome by the challenges, Adam Smith, Deng Xiaoping and the path to a prosperous country, the role of leadership in the crisis period and the ideology for brighter future etc. There are 34 articles in toto.

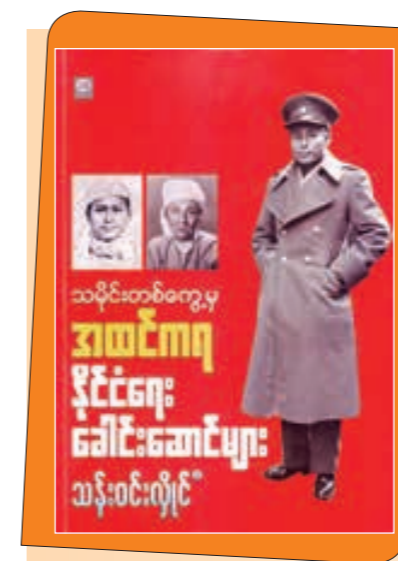
The writer referred to Kenneth N. Waltz's book titled, "Man, the State and War" in one of his articles in which he said the wars started to break

out at the beginning of history, that the outbreak of the wars could be attributed to such leaders as Napoleon or Saddam Hussein and that there are, however, those who are of the opinion that the wars are caused by the arbitrary international relations system.

In his article about the shadow war between and among Russia, China and the United States of America, he quoted Jin Scitutto, the chief reporter of CNN, who also writes an analysis of the characteristics of the national security of the United States. The original article is titled, "Inside Russia's and China's Secret Operations to Defeat America."

The readers can also read the extracts from the book titled, "Breaking the Conflict Trap: Civil War and Development Policy." With reference to this book, Saya Myint Naung Moe said that the political and economic situations of the nations stricken by civil wars are deteriorating. And he pointed out how a nation trapped in internal conflicts can struggle out of the trap and effectuate its national development.

This book is believed to enlighten the readers in terms of the political outlook towards the events taking place around the world.



Book Title	-	"Thamaing Dagway Hma Ah-htinkaya Naing Ngan Yay Gaung Hsaung Myar"
Writer	-	Than Win Hlaing
Publishing House	-	La Yeik Mon
Publication Date	-	December 2019
Price	-	K7,500

Thamaing Dagway Hma Ah-htinkaya Naing Ngan Yay Gaung Hsaung Myar

I would like to introduce a good book this week to those readers who are interested in historical facts and biographies. This book is titled, "Thamaing Dagway Hma Ah-htinkaya Naing Ngan Yay Gaung Hsaung Myar" written by Than Win Hlaing.

Saya Than Win Hlaing is well known among those who are widely read. Nevertheless, I would like to introduce him to those who do not know him. A prolific writer, he has already written nearly 70 books most of which are concerned with the political, historical and biographical literature except his first book titled, "Kyauck Myet Yadana Letswe" and Lu Daing Ahtwet Thuta Baidin, Athoncha Yupa Shattaya Pynnya, Lunge Gonyee Myint Tet sai Bo, Ahnet Phaw Pya Ya Khet Thaw Nezin Thon Myanmar Wawhaya Myar and Yazawun The Ga La

Yathi. He has constantly been writing the political background histories of the events which cannot be revealed in the days of strict press scrutiny. No sooner had former president U Thein Sein relaxed the press scrutiny rules than he started to disclose the backgrounds of the historical events. As the readers can have a chance to know the in-depth stories of the hidden facts, his books sell well. One thing worth mentioning here is that he was given a seven-year imprisonment for writing a book titled, "Yote Tu Hma Pyaw Thaw Myanma Thamaing Wun Puggo Htoo Myar".

Regarding the book under review, the writer has made known the unforgotten political leaders who have participated in the independence struggle for young generations. Though there are other writers who also have made

such leaders reminded to the people of nowadays, he has chosen those great people who the researchers on history have missed to write about. Additionally, the writer has also written books on history and individuals to present certain facts which are different from the previous findings stated by the writer in his foreword to this book under review.

This book includes the biographies of such famous political leaders as Bagyi Ba Phay, Wunthanu leader U Tun Shein, GCBA leader U Su, Arzani peasant leader Galon Saya San, Chancellor Dr Ba Maw, Sayagyi Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing, Sayagyi Thakhin Ba Thaug, General Aung San, Pantanaw U Khant, Bo Khin Maung Galay, Lethipon Thakhin Tin, Thein Pe Myint, Bhamo Tin Aung, Hanthawady U Win Tin, Thakhin Kyaw Sein, Thakhin Hla Kun,

Thakhin Wa Tin, Thakhin Htaw Gyi, Thakhin Soe, Thakhin Tin Mya and Thakhin Pe Htay, totalling 77. His biographies are written from a new perspective.

The most appealing biography is about Saya San. He has recalled the process of execution of Saya San, quoting a retired prison officer in the name of U Sein from Thayawady Prison. U Sein was quoted as saying, "It was about a quarter to six in the morning. Saya San was escorted by the two warders to the place of execution. He walked up a hillock where the execution was carried out. He said, "I am faced with this execution for the cause of race and religion. I regard this punishment as a good thing. Leave me alone. I'll go up myself." So saying, he pushed aside the two warders and climbed up. Arriving at the place of execution, he bade farewell to the guests nearby. "I'm leaving," he said. And then, he prayed for being reborn as a human being who can defeat the British in the existences to come throughout the rounds of rebirth.

Like the biography of Saya San, readers will also be interested in reading things unknown to them previously. This nearly 400-page book of magazine size also comprises pictures of political leaders. The writer of this book died in the Second Wave of Covid-19, exactly on 14 December 2020. What a great loss!!!

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Arctic Sweden in race for Europe's satellite launches



Rocket technicians of the SSC (Swedish Space Corporation) assemble the student rocket 'Rexus 11' at the ESRANGE Space Centre near Kiruna on 15 November 2012. ESRANGE Space Centre (short form ESRANGE) is a rocket range and research centre located about 40 kilometres east of the town of Kiruna in northern Sweden. **PHOTO: JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/AFP/FILE**

AS the mercury drops to minus 20 Celsius, a research rocket lifts off from one of the world's northernmost space centres, its burner aglow in the twilight of Sweden's snowy Arctic forests.

Hopes are high that a rocket like this could carry a satellite this year, in what could be the first satellite launch from a spaceport in continental Europe.

At the launch pad, about an

hour from the mining town of Kiruna, there's not a person in sight, only the occasional reindeer herd in the summer.

The vast deserted forests are the reason the Swedish space centre is located here, at the foot of "Radar Hill", some 200 kilometres (124 miles) above the Arctic Circle. "In this area we have 5,200 square kilometres (2,007 square miles) where no one lives, so we can easily launch a rocket that flies into this area and falls down without anyone getting harmed," Mattias Abrahamsson, head of business development at the Swedish Space Corporation (SSC), tells AFP. Founded by the European Space Agency (ESA) in 1966 to study the atmosphere and Northern Lights phenomenon, the ESRANGE space centre has invested heavily in its facilities to be able to send satellites into space.—AFP

California downpours won't fix decades of drought: scientists

NEAR-RECORD rainfall has battered California for weeks, sparking floods and landslides as the state struggles to cope with so much water. But scientists say even this much precipitation won't reverse the western US state's decades-long drought.

A parade of atmospheric riv-

ers -- massive flows of moisture dragged through the skies from the oceans -- has unleashed staggering volumes of rain and snow since December. San Francisco got more rain in the last two weeks than it has done in any similar period for 150 years, while the Sierra Nevada mountains have

been buried in as much as 33 feet (10.5 metres) of snow.

Peter Gleick, co-founder of the Pacific Institute in Oakland, a research organization that specializes in water issues, says it's difficult to quantify exactly how much water has fallen from the sky.—AFP



Parts of the town of Merced in northern California were flooded by heavy rains. **PHOTO: AFP**

China continues to tackle noise pollution in 2021-2025

CHINA will continue to tackle noise pollution and improve the country's acoustic environment during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), according to environmental authorities.

By 2025, China aims to keep the nighttime environmental noise level at 85 per cent of the acoustic environment function zones up to standard, said an action plan jointly issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and 15 other departments.

With remarkable progress being made in pollution control, public expectations on the ecological environment are

growing, and noise pollution is now among the hottest issues in environmental complaints, said the ministry.

In 2021, of the over 450,000 complaints received by China's national platform for environment-related complaints from the public, 45 per cent were about noise disturbance, ranking second among all types of pollution, according to the ministry.

The plan pledged to enhance control of the sources of noise, as well as noises from industrial firms, construction sites, transport, and social activities.—Xinhua



Transport is also the major source of noise in cities. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

US government examining over 500 'UFO' reports

The US government is examining 510 UFO reports, over triple the number in its 2021 file.

The 2022 report by the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) said that 247 "unidentified anomalous phenomena" or UAP reports have been filed with it since June 2021, when it revealed that it had records of 144 sightings of suspicious aerial objects under examination. In addition, the report said, another 119 reports that had been buried in old records from the past 17 years had been unearthed, leaving it with 510 in total.

Most of the new reports come from US Navy and Air Force pilots, it said.—AFP

ExxonMobil dismissed own global warming forecast: study

ExxonMobil publicly downplayed climate change even though scientists for the oil giant had accurately predicted global warming from fossil fuels as far back as the late 1970s, according to a study published on Thursday.—AFP

Travelling makes you feel healthier than staying home



The frequency and variety of places visited are important factors, with those who travel more than 15 miles away from home more likely to report overall good health. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP**

THE frequency and variety of places visited are important factors, with those who travel more than 15 miles away from home more likely to report overall good health. Those who travel to more places are more likely to see friends and family. This increase in social participation is then linked to better health.

As per a study conducted by UCL researchers, people who travel outside of their localities feel healthier than those who stay nearer to their homes.

According to the researchers, the findings demonstrate the importance of investing in medium and long-distance transportation options such as better-served roads and access to trains and buses.

Specifically, they looked at the links between perceived constraints to travel outside of the local area, such as a lack of suitable public transport, and self-rated health, considering trip frequency, the number of different places visited, distance travelled, car use and

public transport use.

Lead author Paulo Anciaes (UCL Bartlett School of Environment, Energy & Resources) said, “We expected to find that restrictions on travel through a lack of access to suitable public transport or to a private car would be linked to residents’ perception of their health because of the lack of social participation.”

“We explored the links between constraints to travel more than 15 miles from home, demographics and location and social participation in how residents perceived their own health, finding that the key variable is the number of different places people visit outside their local area. This links to more social participation and better health.”

The researchers conducted an online survey of 3,014 nationally representative residents in the north of England. Constraints to travel have previously been identified as contributing to economic disadvantage and a lower sense of well-being in the region, but the impact on health hadn’t been analysed before. —ANI

UN to convene water conference in March to mobilize actions

THE United Nations will convene a water conference in March to unite the international community to take actions and address broad challenges surrounding water, a senior UN official said on Friday.

The UN 2023 Water Conference, co-hosted by Tajikistan and the Netherlands, is scheduled to take place at UN headquarters in New York for 22 to 24 March, Li Junhua, UN under-secretary-general for economic and social affairs, told a press briefing. The conference is expected to bring together heads of state and government,

ministers and other high-level representatives, as well as a wide range of stakeholders from different sectors, said Li, who acts as the secretary-general of the upcoming event. The conference will include opening and closing sessions, six plenary meetings and five interactive dialogues, addressing water issues in areas such as health, sustainable development and climate change.

Preparations for the conference are well underway, including on the concept papers that will inform the interactive dialogues, Li said.—Xinhua



A large area of a beach along the Yangtze River is seen from above in Wuhan, Central China’s Hubei Province on 15 August 2022. On that day, the water level in many parts of the Yangtze River was the lowest for the period since hydrological records began in 1865. **PHOTO: VCG/GLOBAL TIMES**

US health agencies see possible link between Pfizer’s updated COVID-19 shot, strokes

THE US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced on Friday that their surveillance system flagged a possible link between the new Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 vaccine and strokes in people aged 65 and older.

Following the availability and use of the updated vaccine, CDC’s Vaccine Safety Datalink, a near real-time surveillance system, met the statistical criteria to prompt additional investigation into “whether there was a safety concern” for ischemic stroke in people aged 65 and older who received the updated vaccine, according to a statement on the CDC website.

The investigation “raised a question of whether” stroke risk

was elevated in the 21-day period post-vaccination versus 22 to 44 days post-vaccination, according to the CDC.

A preliminary study using the US Veterans Affairs database did not indicate an increased risk of ischemic stroke following the

updated vaccine, according to the CDC.

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System managed by CDC and FDA has not seen an increase in reporting of ischemic strokes following the vaccine. —Xinhua



A preliminary study using the US Veterans Affairs database did not indicate an increased risk of ischemic stroke following the updated vaccine, according to the CDC. **PHOTO: AFP**

India strives towards providing high-quality, cost-effective healthcare: Union Health Minister

UNION Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday said that India believes in value-based healthcare and is continuously striving to provide high-quality and cost-effective healthcare to everyone.

“India believes in value-based healthcare and is continuously striving to provide high quality and cost-effective healthcare to everyone,” Mandaviya said during the health ministers’ virtual session of Voice of Global South Summit, 2023 titled ‘Cooperation to build resilient healthcare systems’.

“Aligning with India’s philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutum-

bhakam, India has offered Co-WIN as a digital public health good to the world,” the health minister said while addressing the virtual session.

Mandaviya said it is the need of the hour to focus on long-term measures to build stronger, more resilient health systems.

“It is the need of the hour to focus on long-term measures to build stronger, more resilient health systems that can prevent, prepare for, and respond to future health-related challenges while maintaining essential health services,” he said.—ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Europe's largest rare earths deposit discovered in Sweden

EUROPE'S largest known deposit of rare earth elements, essential for the manufacturing of electric vehicles, has been discovered in Sweden's far north, boosting Europe's hopes of cutting its dependence on China.

Swedish mining group LKAB said Thursday the newly-explored deposit, found right next to its iron ore mine, contained more than one million tonnes of rare earth oxides.

"This is the largest known deposit of rare earth elements

in our part of the world, and it could become a significant building block for producing the critical raw materials that are absolutely crucial to enable the green transition," LKAB's chief executive Jan Mostrom said in a statement.

"We face a supply problem. Without mines, there can be no electric vehicles," Mostrom added.

While the find is believed to be the biggest in Europe, it remains small on a global scale, representing less than one per



The LKAB facility in Kiruna, Sweden. The company said on 12 January that it found Europe's biggest known deposit of rare earth elements there. **PHOTO: JONAS EKSTROMER / AFP**

cent of the 120 million tonnes estimated worldwide by the US Geological Survey.

In 2021, the European Commission said that 98 per cent of the rare earths used in the EU were imported from China, prompting Brussels to urge member states to develop their own extraction capacities.

LKAB's find was presented as a delegation from the European Commission visited Sweden, which took over the rotating EU presidency at the start of the year.—AFP

At Davos, war, climate and 'de-globalization' take centre stage



Hundreds of political leaders, CEOs and investors will swarm the Swiss village of Davos next week for the World Economic Forum. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE world's political and business elites will gather for the annual Davos summit next week to promote "cooperation in a fragmented world", with war in Ukraine, the climate crisis and global trade tensions high on the agenda.

For half a century, the World

Economic Forum in the Swiss Alps has brought together executives and policymakers to sing the praises of globalization, but that process is seen as unwinding as new fault lines harden around the world. The Covid-19 pandemic, growing US-China hostility and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have

led some politicians and experts to even speculate about "an end to the era of globalization", which began in earnest in the decade after the first Davos meeting in 1971. The agenda for this year's meeting in the snow-deficient Alps, starting next Monday, reflects this gloomy reality.—AFP

German economy holds up in 2022 despite Ukraine war fallout

THE German economy grew a better-than-expected 1.9 per cent last year, official data showed Friday, as government relief measures cushioned Europe's export giant from an energy crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine.

The expansion was slower than the 2.6 per cent growth in 2021, with GDP "stagnating" in the fourth quarter as inflation surged following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, statistics authority Destatis said.

But 2022 growth surpassed the 1.8 per cent forecast

by analysts, as government interventions and a mild winter helped Germany weather sky-high energy costs seen after Moscow slashed crucial gas supplies to Europe.

It was also higher than the 1.4 per cent expansion forecast by the government last October. Analysts and the government have been predicting that Europe's largest economy will fall into recession this year, but the GDP figures -- and a string of recent indicators -- suggest it may dodge a severe downturn.—AFP



The surge in energy prices that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine has pushed Germany to the brink of a recession. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

Irish PM cautious about deal to restore N Ireland govt

IRISH premier Leo Varadkar on Thursday played down hopes of a swift end to wrangling over post-Brexit trading rules in Northern Ireland that has caused lengthy political paralysis in Belfast.

On a visit to the British province, he said he was optimistic about ironing out disagreements about the Northern Ireland Protocol that prompted pro-UK parties to walk out of the assembly last year.

Varadkar said he was "hopeful" of an agreement that would lead to the resumption of the power-sharing executive, after meeting political leaders for closed-door talks at a hotel in Belfast.

But he warned that agreement on the protocol, which keeps Northern Ireland in the European single market and customs union, still may not be enough for the assembly to get back up and running.

"It's not a given that one follows the other," he told reporters, also downplaying talk that a deal was near in the long-running saga, which has strained ties between the UK and the EU.—AFP

Tickets sale starts for high-speed rail connecting Hong Kong, mainland

TICKETS for the high-speed rail connecting the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the mainland has been available for sale as the services are set to resume on Sunday.

A total of 10,000 tickets for short-distance travel will be available each day at the initial stage of service resumption, said Lam Sai-hung, secretary for transport and logistics of the HKSAR government, adding that the number of tickets will be increased after the authorities review passenger demand and operation of the train station.

Passengers can purchase tickets online through train ticket book-



After nearly three years of service suspension, the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link will restart operation on 15 January. PHOTO: XINHUA

ing platform “12306”, via travel agencies, or in person at the Hong Kong West Kowloon Station. They will not be required to register for a border-crossing quo-

ta in advance if they have bought a ticket.

After nearly three years of service suspension, the Hong Kong section of the Guang-

zhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link will restart operation on 15 January, the HKSAR government said Wednesday. —Xinhua

Auctioneers eye new record for Tintin artwork at sale



Several covers of the comic series “Tintin” are seen translated in different languages in Brussels, Belgium, on 24 January 2014. PHOTO: GEORGES GOBET/AFP/FILE

KNOWN around the world for his blond quiff and daring adventures, Belgian

comic book hero Tintin is setting the art world astir with an original illustra-

tion that could set a new record at auction.

The 1942 black-and-white ink drawing by creator Hergé for the cover of the third volume in the series, “Tintin in America”, is set to go on sale in Paris next month.

The illustration, which shows a Native American chief pointing an accusatory finger at the tied-up Tintin, has been given an estimate of between 2.2 million to 3.2 million euros (\$2.4-3.5 million) by auction firm Artcurial.

That top figure would see it match an original illustration for the 1936 cover of the Tintin adventure “Blue Lotus” — which became the most expensive comic book art when it sold in 2021.

But there are hopes that the upcoming sale for the cover of one of the most popular Tintin books could go higher and beat that record. “We are talking about drawings that belong to the history of art,” said Vinciane de Traux, Artcurial’s director for Belgium. —AFP

South Africa’s energy regulator grants Eskom’s 18.65% tariff increase

THE National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) has granted the country’s power utility Eskom an 18.65-per-cent increase in tariffs starting 1 April.

“The energy regulator has attempted to strike a balance between Eskom’s financial sus-

tainability issues and the impact on South Africa’s economy and the affordability of electricity services to customers,” NERSA chairperson Thembani Bukula said Thursday.

Eskom had requested a tariff hike of 32 per cent for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

“NERSA had considered the weak economic growth, fiscal deficit, rising government’s debt, declining household income and declining public sector investment, effects of COVID-19 and load shedding before making a final decision,” Bukula said.

Eskom sought tariff increases as the cost of maintaining electricity continued to rise. In 2022 alone, it spent 15 billion rands (about 891 million US dollars) on diesel, the company said, adding that it would spend almost 15 billion rands on diesel this year. —Xinhua

Volkswagen Group sales down 7% in 2022 due to supply bottlenecks

DUE to supply bottlenecks and temporary production stops, the Volkswagen Group’s deliveries in 2022 were down seven per cent year-on-year to 8.26 million vehicles worldwide, Germany’s largest carmaker said on Thursday.

By the end of the year, however, business had stabilized again as Volkswagen increased global sales in December by 18.1 per cent.

In 2022, the number of vehicles sold by the company in the United States dropped by 6.1 per cent year-on-year to 631,100 units, and sales in Europe were down by 10.4 per cent to 3.15 million vehicles.

The Asia-Pacific region “saw the smallest decline among the major regions” at 2.7 per cent, the company said. Chi-

na, Volkswagen’s largest single market, “showed a similar performance” as deliveries only fell by 3.6 per cent to 3.18 million vehicles.

“Our brands have shown a decent performance regarding deliveries in a very challenging environment,” Hildegard Wortmann, member of the Extended Executive Committee for Sales at Volkswagen, said in a statement.

The German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA) said last week that the lack of intermediate products, high energy and raw material prices and the uncertainties due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict “dampened the market and production considerably” last year. —Xinhua



An employee checks the surface of an “ID 3” electric car of German carmaker Volkswagen, at the “Glassy Manufaktur” (Glaeserne Manufaktur) production site in Dresden, Germany, 8 June 2021. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V B TRADER VOY.NO. (251W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V B TRADER VOY.NO. (251W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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
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2022 in Retrospect:

eventful, yet hopeful with evolving trends

A lingering COVID-19 pandemic, incessant climate disasters, rising geopolitical tensions, a sluggish economic recovery, soaring energy prices – a wild tangle of woes and challenges in 2022 has pushed the world to another crossroads, whose future remains within the command of each and every one of us.



A resident walks near damaged buildings in Mariupol on 18 April 2022. PHOTO: VICTOR/XINHUA

DISTURBED GLOBAL SECURITY

In 2022, the Ukraine crisis was hitting up after incitement from the United States and its allies by further orchestrating NATO's eastward expansion. The escalation of the Ukraine crisis, in turn, has given rise to a changing landscape of regional and global security.

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, one of the largest nuclear power plants in Europe, has been attacked by shelling, with Russia and Ukraine pointing the fingers at each other. A truck exploded while travelling on the road part of the Crimean Bridge, leading to the partial collapse of two spans of the road bridge. Leaks were discovered in two natural gas pipelines, Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2, which carry gas from Russia to Europe.

NATO has formally invited Sweden and Finland to join the military alliance. As the two Nordic countries edge towards NATO, the list of "neutral" or nonaligned countries in Europe appears poised to shrink.

After the escalation of the Ukraine crisis, the United States and its allies imposed rounds of sanctions on Russia in hope of choking the country's energy and grain export channels and destroying its economy. However, those sanctions have backfired and hurt US allies, and have triggered a worldwide energy and food crisis. The European Union (EU) member states have to cap natural gas prices in the bloc at 180 euros (about 191 US dollars) per megawatt-hour to ensure the security of energy supply. Besides, the five highest levels of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Food Price Index have all been recorded this year.

A price cap on Russian seaborne crude agreed by the EU, the Group of Seven nations and Australia increases the risks of Russia reducing its oil production, thus pushing prices of crude oil higher, creating instability in the markets, and further exacerbating Europe's pain.

Adding to those troubles is an ailing Mother Nature. The World Scientists' Warning of a Climate Emergency 2022 found that 16 of the 35 variables it tracks are at record extremes based on the time series data.

CHALLENGED INTERNATIONAL ORDER

The year of 2022 is filled with economic breakdowns as well as political and social disorders.

The international community has witnessed a series of political shocking moments that bespoke a world in turmoil. Rishi Sunak has become Britain's third prime minister within 50 days, after Liz Truss and Boris Johnson were forced to resign. Two coups took place this year in Burkina Faso. Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe died after being fatally shot by a gunman during a speech in the western Japanese city of Nara.

Meanwhile, amid partisan wrangling and other systemic flaws, the United States continues to introduce destructive policies that weigh on the world economy by driving up global prices, disturbing financial markets and undermining the global economic and trade order.

To bring down inflation, the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates seven times this year with a total increase of 425 basis points, and signaled that it will continue to raise rates in early 2023, and will not begin to cut them until 2024 — a move broadly perceived as a political calculation to take advantage of the dollar's dominance in the international monetary and trade system to pass domestic risks to the outside world and leave the United States unscathed.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasted that global economic growth will slow from 3.2 per cent this year to 2.7 per cent in 2023. Inflation in the eurozone and Japan is reaching new high. The UN Conference on Trade and Development noted around 90 developing countries have seen their currencies weaken against

the dollar this year, over one-third of them by more than 10 per cent. The IMF said over 60 per cent of low-income developing countries are already at high risk of or in debt distress.

There is also a growing threat of a trade war between the EU and the United States over the US Inflation Reduction Act, a sweeping tax, health and climate bill approved by US lawmakers in August.

The world's population has reached eight billion in mid-November, "but as our human family grows, it is also increasingly divided," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres wrote in an article published in the French daily newspaper Le Monde.

EVOLVING INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE

In 2022, the shadow of hegemonism, power politics, Cold War mentality and neo-interventionism manifested themselves in many crises. But overwhelming is the momentum for the international pattern to move towards a multipolar one.

The 14th BRICS Summit, the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, the 2022 China International Fair for Trade in Services, the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the fifth China International Import Expo, the China-Arab States Summit and the China-Gulf Cooperation Council Summit have not only produced powerful political declarations, joint statements, cooperation outcomes and trade intentions, but also set a good example of adhering to multilateralism — the only guarantee for common security and win-win development. From the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics to world leaders' visits to China and the highlight moments at the G20 Summit and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, the international community has focused on China's opportunities, actively engaged in exchanges and interactions with China.

The in-person meeting between Xi and his US counterpart, Joe Biden, came at a special time and was of great significance. While starting the process of "building bridges" between China and the United States, the meeting has had a profound influence on the evolution of the international landscape.

SOURCE: XINHUA



A ship is loaded with electric cars produced by US automaker Tesla's Shanghai Gigafactory, before leaving for Slovenia from a port in east China's Shanghai, 11 May 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

Japan PM tells Biden that new era requires more military muscle



The Japan Air Self-Defence Force conducts a drill to deploy Patriot Advanced Capability-3 surface-to-air missile interceptors on an artificial island in Osaka, western Japan, on 19 May 2022, in the wake of North Korea's repeated missile launches. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged Friday alongside US President Joe Biden to modernize his country's military, warning that Russia's invasion of Ukraine had opened a dangerous new era and could embolden China.

Welcoming Kishida at the White House, Biden hailed the Japanese government's an-

nouncement last month that it will double defence spending over the next five years and develop new capabilities.

"Let me be crystal clear: the United States is fully, thoroughly, completely committed to the alliance and more importantly to Japan's defence," Biden said.

Japan has been officially pacifist since its defeat in World

War II but has been shedding past sensitivities as China rapidly expands its military and North Korea relentlessly tests missiles.

In a speech after his White House meeting, Kishida cast his defence strategy as a historic turning point in the US-Japan alliance in the same league as the mutual defence treaty of 1960.—AFP

Brazil's Bolsonaro to be investigated in 8 January riot probe

BRAZILIAN far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro will be included in an investigation into the origins of the 8 January sacking of government build-

ings in Brasilia, a Supreme Court judge announced Friday.

The probe of the former leader comes at the request of the office of the prosecutor gen-

eral (PGR), which cited a video Bolsonaro had posted "questioning the regularity of the 2022 presidential elections".

By doing so, "Bolsonaro would have publicly incited the commission of a crime", the PGR said in a statement.

Thousands of so-called "bolsonaristas" invaded the seats of government in Brasilia Sunday, breaking windows and furniture, destroying priceless works of art, and leaving graffiti messages calling for a military coup in their wake.

The Bolsonaro video was posted online two days after the violent storming of the presidency, Congress and Supreme Court and later deleted.—AFP



Supporters of Brazilian former President Jair Bolsonaro invade the National Congress in Brasilia on 8 January. **PHOTO: SERGIO LIMA/AFP**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Iran executes accused British spy by hanging; judiciary

IRAN on Saturday executed former top defence official and dual British national Alireza Akbari, who was accused of spying for UK intelligence, the judiciary reported.

Akbari was executed after being sentenced to death for "corruption on earth and harming the country's internal and external security by passing on intelligence", the judicial news agency Mizan Online reported.

"The actions of the British spy service in this case have shown the value of the convict, the importance of his access and the enemy's trust in him," it added.

Britain has demanded that Tehran halt what foreign minister James Cleverly has called a "politically motivated" execution.

On Thursday, state media had reported that 61-year-old Akbari had held high positions in the country's defence establishment.

His posts included "deputy minister of defence for foreign affairs" and a position in the "secretariat of the Supreme National Security Council."—AFP

Architect of Mexico's war on drugs on trial in US for trafficking



Mexican soldiers stand guard behind communication radios seized from alleged drug cartel members in Veracruz, Mexico, 23 November 2011. **PHOTO: LUCAS CASTRO/AFP/FILE**

A once-powerful Mexican government minister who oversaw his country's war on drug trafficking goes on trial in New York on Tuesday, himself charged with facilitating the smuggling of narcotics.

Genaro Garcia Luna is accused of taking huge bribes to allow the notorious Sinaloa cartel to smuggle cocaine when he was public security minister during Felipe Calderon's 2006-2012 presidency.

The 54-year-old is the highest-ranking Mexican official to be charged in New York federal prosecutors' extensive pursuit of alleged drug traffickers from Central and South America and their ministerial accomplices.

Ex-Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who headed Sinaloa, is currently serving a life sentence in the United States after being convicted by a jury in Brooklyn in 2019.

Notorious Colombian drug lord Dairo Antonio Usuga, known as "Otoniel," is awaiting trial in the same district, while former Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernandez has denied drug trafficking charges filed by prosecutors in Manhattan. Garcia Luna was detained in Texas in December 2019. He has pleaded not guilty to five counts that carry possible sentences of between 10 years and life in prison.—AFP



Arsenal primed for test of title mettle at Spurs



Tottenham's Harry Kane scored twice in a crucial win against Arsenal last season. **PHOTO: AFP**

MIKEL Arteta has urged Arsenal to prove they have learned the lessons of last season's disastrous defeat at Tottenham when the Premier League leaders visit their north London rivals on Sunday.

Although Arsenal powered

to a 3-1 victory in the derby in October — making it three wins in the last four meetings — it is the painful memory of their most recent trip to Tottenham that remains etched in the minds of Arteta's players. With just three games remaining last season,

Arsenal would have been guaranteed to qualify for the Champions League if they won at fellow top four contenders Tottenham in May.

Instead, they crumbled to a woeful 3-0 defeat, then lost the next match at Newcastle to allow Tottenham to pip them to fourth place in a collapse that sparked furious criticism of Arteta from frustrated fans. It was a debacle that could have proved fatal to Arteta's Arsenal project, but the Spaniard has impressively made amends with his astute leadership during a campaign that has exceeded all expectations.

Arteta believes the bitter taste from last season's surrender at Tottenham has played a significant role in fuelling Arsenal's title push. "That was the result and the performance. There was a lot of things to learn and take from it," Arteta said. "We are in a different place now and we have to show we can play the way we want."—AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Aung La N Sang makes quick finish over Brazilian Galvao in ONE's fight

AUNG LA N SANG secured a first-round TKO (technical knockout) after smashing Brazilian strong fighter Gilberto Galvao in the 215-pound catchweight MMA challenge of ONE Championship event named ONE FIGHT NIGHT 6 held at Impact Arena in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. Galvao tried to take Aung La down early in the match and tried to win with a choke but his tactic was ineffective. With massive Jujitsu skills, Galvao tried to pin Aung La down three times, but he was hurt by Aung La's strikes and punches instead.

In Galvao's last attempt, he was able to take Aung La close to the ring-fence, but lost his momentum and fell, whereupon Aung La landed the win with a series of heavy punches. With the victory and overall winning record of 29-13, ONE Championship CEO Chatri Sityodtong presented USD 50,000 bonus to Aung La N Sang for his dominant fights. Aung La N Sang's match was considered one of the most popular fight cards of the ONE FIGHT NIGHT 6 by ONE Championship presenters and announcers. Before the start of the fight, Aung La N Sang entered the MMA ring accompanied by the Myanmar song named "Amel Lite Aka" (dance for hunting) by the singer Lay Phyu. Myanmar fans in Thailand came to support Aung La N Sang and cheered loudly upon his victory. — KZL



Towering over the fallen Galvao, Aung La N Sang delivers a series of powerful punches to his face during the catchweight MMA challenge of ONE FIGHT NIGHT 6 held at Impact Arena in Bangkok, Thailand on 14 January 2023. **PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Real Madrid still hungry for success: Ancelotti

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said his team are still hungry for success ahead of their Spanish Super Cup final showdown against rivals Barcelona on Sunday.

The Catalans failed to win a trophy last season and are looking for their first since coach Xavi arrived in November 2021, while Real Madrid won a Champions League and La Liga double. The sides meet in a Clasico at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Ancelotti thinks his players will be equally motivated, despite their success.

"We are talking about players that started winning in 2013, have kept winning and have never filled their stomachs and they never will fill them," Ancelotti told reporters Saturday.—AFP