

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

It is necessary to complete the Chindwin Bridge (Htamathi) and the asphalt road to Htamathi before the 2025 Naga Traditional New Year Festival: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds the special meeting on the development of the Naga Self-Administered Zone in Lehe on 16 January 2023.

LOCAL people have to produce coffee and tea as primary products of the Naga region, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the special meeting on the development of the Naga Self-Administered Zone at Malatang Gymnasium in Lahe of the zone yesterday morning.

Reports on regional facts, development measures and needs for regional development

The Sagaing Region Chief Minister reported on assistance for the Naga region in financial years to have development, the contribution of solar panels to electrify rural regions, provisions for transforming croplands into farmlands, disbursement of loans from the State economic develop-

ment fund for the development of Naga region and operation of MSMEs and Naga Self-Administered Zone Administration Body Chairman U Tun Tun Win on the issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards, undertakings of agriculture and livestock farms.

Officials of Naga Traditional Literature and Culture Committees of Lahe, Leshi and Nanyun townships reported on requirements of fulfilment on land plots

for holding Naga traditional festivals, education, sports, communications and transport sectors.

Supplementary discussions over reports

In his discussions, the Senior General pledged to build a stadium in the Naga region. He stressed the need to consider damming rivers and creeks for storing water to be used in generating electricity. It is necessary

to complete the Chindwin Bridge (Htamathi) and the asphalt road to Htamathi before the 2025 Naga Traditional New Year Festival. An earthen road linking Leshi and Lahe will be improved, and a high school where agriculture, livestock breeding and mechanical techniques will be given to the students will be opened in the Naga region and then it will be upgraded to the institute.

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Statements issued on brutal attack by KNPP, PDF terrorists with heavy weapons at opening ceremony of archway to commemorate 71st Anniversary of Kayah State Day

KNPP and PDF terrorists attacked in an inhumane way with heavy weapons from about 4,000 metres northeast of Loikaw at around 7:15 am on 15 January at the opening ceremony of the archway to commemorate 71st Anniversary of Kayah State Day with participation of local ethnic people.

The heavy weapon shells fell near the State Hall and in the residential areas. Some members of the security forces, six students, one male and one female innocent people were injured and one male innocent civilian was killed.

It was reported that of All Myanmar Theravada Buddhists Federation and Sasana Nuggaha Association for Border and Hilly Regions (Central), Myanmar Art and Sculpture Association (Central), Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, and Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) issued their statements, saying that it was unacceptable incident and that they strongly condemned it.—MNA/KZL

Statement of All Myanmar Theravada Buddhists Federation and Sasana Nuggaha Association for Border and Hilly Regions (Central)

16 January 2023

THE All Myanmar Theravada Buddhists Federation and the Sasana Nuggaha Association for Border and Hilly Regions (Central) have learnt that some security force members, six students and two civilians were wounded and one civilian died in the attack of KNPP and PDF terrorists using heavy weapons during the opening ceremony of the archway commemorating the 71st Anniversary of Kayah State Day in front of the state hall of Kayah State in Loikaw on the morning of 15 January 2023.

The All Myanmar Theravada Buddhists Federation and the Sasana Nuggaha Association for Border and Hilly Regions (Central) issue this statement strongly condemning the inhumane attack of terrorists targeting innocent civilians.

All Myanmar Theravada Buddhists Federation and the Sasana Nuggaha Association for Border and Hilly Regions (Central)

Myanmar Art and Sculpture Association (Central) Statement condemning terrorist activities

12th Waning of Pyatho 1384 ME
17 January 2023

1. During the opening ceremony of the archway in celebration of Kayah State Day at the state hall in Loikaw on 15 January (Sunday), some terrorists opened fire using heavy weapons, killing an innocent civilian. It was heartbreaking to learn that the six students who were happily participating in the event, some security personnel and two people were injured.
2. As it is clear that this action was aimed at destroying the commemorative ceremony of the local ethnic groups, as well as the intention to cause death and injury to innocent people, the Myanmar Art and Sculpture Association (Central) condemns the terrorists who carried out this terrorist act.

Myanmar Art and Sculpture Association (Central)

Statement of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

1. Terrorists opened fire with heavy weapons at the opening ceremony of the archway to commemorate the 71st Anniversary of Kayah State Day in front of the state hall of Kayah State in Loikaw on 15 January.
2. It was clear that the terrorist act of firing heavy weapons and destruction was committed with attempts to intentionally destroy the commemorative ceremony of the local ethnic people as well as the intention of killing innocent people. The Myanmar Motion Picture Organization strongly condemns any terrorist organization that carried out such an act of terror.

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

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09 454 237 515

Statement of Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

12th Waning of Pyatho 1384ME
17 January 2023

1. It was heartbreaking to know that six students, two civilians and some security force members were injured as the terrorists launched fires using heavy weapons at the opening ceremony of the archway to commemorate the Kayah State Day in the state hall of Loikaw on 15 January 2023 (Sunday).
2. It is clear that such doing was committed intentionally to kill innocent people in addition to destroying the commemorative ceremony of local ethnic people. Therefore, the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) strongly condemns this act of terrorism committed by the terrorists.

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

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.

3 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 January, total figure rises to 633,753

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,753** after **three** new cases were reported on 16 January 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,221**, including **one** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 16-1-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.— **Ministry of Health**

Quick Win can result from rice sector promotion

- As rice is the staple food, it is the most important crop for socioeconomic development of our country.
- State Administration Council is prioritizing the export promotion activities for national economic development.
- In exporting promotion programmes to further boost products that are globally marketable and suitable with the country's weather and geographical conditions, rice sector promotion is a Quick Win within a short period.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Myanmar Rice Conference-2022 on 6 October 2022)

It is necessary to complete the Chindwin Bridge (Htamathi) ...

FROM PAGE-1

Operations of MSME and requirements

Local businesspersons reported on their efforts to export domestic products, needs of electricity, manufacturing traditional products and textile works, and extension of MSME businesses. **Response to reports in relevant sectors**

Union ministers discussed plans of relevant ministries to provide necessary capital and techniques to agriculture and livestock farms, conducting feasibility studies for generating electricity, promoting education qualification in the region,

healthcare services and deployment of basic health staff in the region.

Requirements of discussions to develop the region

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the Naga region is difficult to extend sown acreage as it is a hilly region. Hence, local people are to strive for increasing per-acre yield of paddy as well as conjac. He urged all to cultivate paddy on highland farmlands for ensuring local food sufficiency. Agriculture and livestock farms need to have quality strains of crops and animals with the sufficiency of feedstuffs.

The Senior General pointed out that encouragement must be given to manufacturing the products in long run. Local people have to produce coffee and tea as primary products of the Naga region. Likewise, it is necessary to grow oranges and other crops to increase products. The government will emphasize the further improvement of road transport, he added.

Health and Education

The Senior General highlighted that manufacturing can help earn incomes which will contribute to the economic development of locals and the region. Military medical officers were

assigned duties to serve at station hospitals and dispensaries in remote areas of Sagaing Region, Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Zone. In learning education, the Naga region faces the needs of the education sector: All students must complete at least a middle school education. As arrangements will be made for the improvement of the education sector in the Naga region, all local people are to nurture their offspring to be educated persons.

Striving for electricity sufficiency in the Naga region

A plan is underway to generate hydropower in Lahe, Leshi and Nanyun regions. To under-

take development tasks, the government needs money. So, if all regions manufacture products, they will earn income for the State. As the government will provide necessary assistance for agriculture and livestock farms as well as manufacturing industries, all people are to try hard to develop these industries.

The Senior General presented gifts for departmental officials to local authorities and cordially greeted attendees.

The Senior General then inspected the situation to upgrade the sports ground in Lahe to a standardized stadium. — MNA/TTA

SAC members, Union ministers, religious leaders, people's militia leaders, peace groups meet in Kayah State



SAC members and Union ministers meet religious leaders, people's militia leaders and peace groups in Kayah State yesterday.

STATE Administration Council members, Union ministers, religious leaders, people's militia leaders and peace groups met at the meeting room of the government office of Kayah State on 15 January.

SAC members Saw Daniel, U Sai Lon Seng and U Shwe Kyein, Union Ministers

Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Chief Minister of Kayah State U Zaw Myo Tin, Commander of the Eastern Command Maj-Gen Hla Moe, deputy ministers Dr Aung Zaya and Dr Aye Tun and leaders of all religions, leaders of people's militia troops (local), peace groups, leaders of

border guard forces attended the meeting.

First, SAC member Saw Daniel said that it will be necessary to bring peace together in the state, that local development activities cannot be carried out if there is no peace, that it is necessary for the people of wards and villages to

participate in economic, social, health activities in the state to be smooth and good.

After that, SAC members U Sai Lon Seng and U Shwe Kyein extended greeting speeches and religious leaders of various in Kayah State, People's militia troops, and peace groups who attended the meeting also presented their respective activities.

Next, SAC member Saw Daniel gave New Year com-

memorative gifts to leaders of various religions. Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung gave cash assistance to members of the state police force, people's militia troops (local), peace groups, border guard forces and internally displaced person.

Then, SAC member Saw Daniel delivered the concluding speech and friendly met attendees. — MNA/KZW



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donates offertories to Theravada Buddhist Missionary (Central) Monastery, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Nunnery in Lahe of Naga Self-Administered Zone



The Senior General offers donations to the Theravada Buddhist Missionary (Central) Monastery yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning offered alms to Theravada Buddhist Missionary (Central) Monastery and Thera-

vada Buddhist Missionary Nunnery in Lahe.

The Senior General and party paid homage to members of the Sangha led by the Abbot of the monastery Saddhamma Jo-

tikadhaja Bhaddanta Sumana at Theravada Buddhist Missionary (Central) Monastery and asked about the propagation of the Sasana and education learning of children. The Senior General

donated cash for nine prerequisites, rice, cooking oil and foodstuffs as well as K5 million for teachers of the monastic school of the monastery.

After viewing round the precinct of the monastery, the Senior General gave instructions on the maintenance of the monastery and beautifying tasks and attended to the needs.

At Theravada Buddhist Missionary Nunnery, the Senior

General paid homage to nuns led by nun Daw Paññasingi. After asking about religious affairs and learning measures, the Senior General donated cash, rice, cooking oil, foodstuff and nun robes.

The Senior General viewed round the precinct of the nunnery and the refectory and made donations, and instructed officials to carry out maintenance of the nunnery for its long-term existence. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General presents donations to the Theravada Buddhist Missionary Nunnery yesterday.

SAC members, Union ministers offer rice, cooking oil to Buddhist monasteries, Christian Cathedral in Kayah State

SAC members U Saw Denial, U Sai Lon Seng and U Shwe Kye-in, 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 provided rice and edible oil to the Buddhist monasteries and Christian churches in Kayah State, yesterday morning.

First, SAC members, Union ministers, the state chief minister, the Eastern Command com-

mander, deputy ministers and officials visited the abbot training school and paid homage to monks and received Five Precepts from Kayah State Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Venerable Sayadaw Bhaddanta panncakka and presented donations.

Afterwards, taking the sermon from the principal Sayadaw of the abbot training school, they shared merits gained.

Next, SAC members, Union ministers and officials arrived at the Christ the King Cathedral, where Saw Daniel extended

greetings.

Then, rice and oil were donated to the Cathedral by SAC members and Union ministers, and Christian religious leaders and nuns accepted offertories of rice and oil.

A total of 233 bags of rice and 466 visses of oil were donated to 41 monasteries and three nunneries and 64 bags of rice and 129 visses of oil to 45 Cathedrals, churches and nunneries in Kayah State. Amounts of today's donations totalled K20,825,000.—MNA/TS



Foodstuffs are presented to the Christian church in Kayah State yesterday.

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All Tatmadaw members need to systematically take practice shaping a capable military unit: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General meets officers, other ranks and families of the Lahe station yesterday.

The Senior General underscored that as the Tatmadaw arranges convenience for accommodation and food supplies, Tatmadaw members need to strive for the successful operation of military own and manageable scale agriculture and livestock farms. As the Tatmadaw has fulfilled basic needs for Tatmadaw members and families in individuals as much as it can, they all need to uplift their lives.

The Senior General urged all to read books and publications on general knowledge contributing to the improvement of their lives. They all should try to be good parents by encouraging the education of children and giving education legacy to them.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families through officials of relevant stations. — MNA/TTA

If all Tatmadaw members try hard to have individual improvement with proper lifestyle in a systematic manner, these military units will be capable, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at separate meetings with officers, other ranks and families of the local battalions in Lahe and Homalin stations of North-West Command yesterday afternoon.

Political progress

At the meetings, the Senior General explained political changes in successive eras in Myanmar, the political declaration of a state of emergency depending on the situation and the Tatmadaw taking on State responsibilities, crises in the Covid-19 pandemic and violent incidents triggered by instigations of those who wished to gain political profit, controlling all measures under the law, development of the nation and im-

plementation of the policies and objectives for restoring peace and stability.

The Senior General continued to say that the government strived for economic growth of the State amid crises and difficulties in various ways, encouraging domestic production. As encouragement was given to operating the manufacturing based on agriculture and livestock farms and micro, small and medium scale enterprises, the country's economy has secured improvement to some extent at present.

Efforts for building powerful and capable battalions

The Senior General noted that if all Tatmadaw members try hard to have individual improvement with proper lifestyle in a systematic manner, these military units will be capable. Hence, all Tatmadaw members need to systematically take practice shaping a capable military unit. Moreover, Tatmadaw members have to cooperate with

relevant departments and local people in carrying out the development of the region in unity. They all have to emphasize a fair administrative system for

providing entitlement and rights for Tatmadaw members so as to build unity in the military unit. **Self-control for improvement of social life**



The Senior General meets officers, other ranks and families of the Homalin station yesterday.

Central Bank Governor meets non-banking companies, money changers regarding on-site findings, AML/CFT issues

THE governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar met money changers, non-banking companies and organizations at the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to focus on on-site findings and AML/CFT issues.

The meeting was attended

by the governor, deputy governors, permanent secretary and directors-general of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the director-general of the Bureau of Special Investigation and officials from money changers and non-banking companies and organizations.

Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe said that money changer-licensed companies needed to attend training courses on the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism opened by the Central Bank of Myanmar so that they

could understand the provisions of the anti-money laundering law and counter-terrorism law. She also requested money changer licensed companies to inform authorities of the instigation that could lead to instability of the foreign exchange market.

Afterwards, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and the director-general of the Bureau of Special Investigation said that it is necessary to follow the AML/CFT law and regulations and to send in the required audit reports without fail. — MNA/MKKS

SAC Chairman's wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attends opening ceremony of 19th Annual Meeting of MAAF



SAC Chairman's wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party view the photo at the event yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the 19th annual meeting of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MMAF) was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and attended by Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister.

Also present at the event were Honorary Patrons Daw Khin Thet Htay and Daw Than Than Nwe, Chairperson of Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine, the Permanent Secretary and Direc-

tors-General, Chairperson and executive committee members of MMAF, Nay Pyi Taw Council and Region/State MMAF Chairpersons and secretaries and other relevant officials.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine talked about the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN in 2015 as per the policy of the country regarding gender equality, women's protection and em-

powerment and also appreciated MMAF for receiving ASEAN Outstanding Social Welfare and Development Award with Rural Women Development Project.

The Union Minister also highlighted the cooperation work with MMAF in Phase 1 of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPW-2013-2022), plans to draft NSPW (2023-2032) Phase 2, efforts of federation in COVID-19 related programmes and urged the federation members and non-governmental organization members in carrying out

the social welfare operations including ASEAN activities for the development of women.

Then, they all watched video clips of the Rural Women Development Project conducted by MMAF.

Afterwards, Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented first, second and third prizes for best coverage and performance to the winners from Shan State, Magway Region and Yangon Region and special awards to Chin State and Bago Region.

The other Honorary Patrons also gave best coverage awards, best performance awards and special awards to the winners respectively.

Then, Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla took commemorative photos together with Honorary Patrons and attendees and observed the photos displayed at the event.

After that, MMAF Chairperson Dr Thet Thet Zin presided over the first session of 19th annual meeting of MMAF and the attendees reported on the activities of Nay Pyi Taw/Region/State federations conducted over two years.

Vice-Chair 1 of MMAF Daw Tin Tin Latt presided over the session, and they reviewed the presentations of the federation.

The two-day annual meeting will last till 17 January. —MNA/KTZH



SAC-conferred honorary titles presented

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

Yangon region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and officials offered the Sithu title to daughter Daw Nyein Nyein Myint on behalf of member of the Council of State U Tun Myat; Sithu title to daughter Daw Myat Maw Soe on behalf of member of the Council of State U Soe Myint (retired); the Sithu title to son U Maung Maung Soe on behalf of member of the Council of State U Soe Hlaing; the Sithu title to daughter Dr Khin Myo Han on behalf of writer Saya Zawgyi; the Sithu title to daughter

Daw Marlar Aung on behalf of member of the Council of State U Tin Aung; the Thiri Pyanchi title to wife Daw San San Myint on behalf of Minister for Industry Maj-Gen Hla Myint

Swe; the Thiri Pyanchi title to daughter Daw Thi Nwe Cho on behalf of Minister for Mining Colonel Maung Cho; the Thiri Pyanchi title to wife Daw Khin Sit Aye on behalf of Minister

for Forestry U Aung Phone; the Thiri Pyanchi title to son U Saw Tun on behalf of Minister for Information U Nyo Tun (retired); the Thiri Pyanchi title to daughter Lt-Col San San

Win on behalf of Minister for Health Colonel Win Maung (Rtd), the Thiri Pyanchi title to Union Minister Dr Aung Thu; the Thiri Pyanchi title to daughter Daw Myint Myint Aung on behalf of retired minister for industry Bo Khin Maung; the Thiri Pyanchi title to daughter Daw Khin Kyi on behalf of retired minister for cooperatives and trade U Tun Win; the Thiri Pyan Chi title to daughter Daw Chaw on behalf of minister Bo Sein Hman; the Thiri Pyanchi title to wife Daw Mya Than Tin on behalf of the retired minister for home affairs Thakin Tha Khin.

Similarly, one Zaya Kyaw Htin title, nine Wunna Kyaw Htin titles, six Alinka Kyaw Swa titles and two Theikpa Kyaw Swa titles were also offered to the recipients and family members. —MNA/KZW



Former Union Minister Dr Aung Thu receives the Thiri Pyanchi title at his home.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Old Shwebo Pawsan price sees spike above K100,000 per bag

HIGH-GRADE old Pawsan rice variety from the Shwebo area rose above K100,000 per bag, according to the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

The rocketing price of old Pawsan rice from Shwebo pushed up the price of old Pawsan paddy from Shwebo to K2.7 million per 100-baskets.

The price was stable at K93,000 per bag between the last week of October and 11 November 2022. The price went up to K97,000 per bag. The figures show a significant increase of K40,000 per bag within two weeks.

On 13 January 2023, the price of old Shwebo Pawsan surged to K105,000 per bag from K99,000 per bag. The figures indicated an increase of K6,000 per bag within three days.

Similarly, the price of new Pawsan rice also increased to K80,000 from K72,000 per bag on the same day at Yangon markets,

showing an increase of K8,000 per bag within three days.

Starting from 3 August, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders and brokers engaged in Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre and Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre have been working together to offer fair prices for Shwebo Pawsan from K75,000 per bag and other rice varieties to the consumers at the Wadan Wholesale Centre.

The offer prices are K52,000-55,000 per bag of Pawsan from the Ayeyawady area, K55,000-60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, and K35,000-37,000 per bag of short-matured rice varieties (90 days) at the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

Each household is able to buy only one bag. Those traders and retailers are not entitled to buy them.



Rice is packed into bags at the warehouse.

On 16 January, the prices stood at K63,000 per bag of old Pawsan varieties produced in the Dedaye and Pyapon areas, K65,000 from Myaungmya and Pathein areas, and K67,000 from Pyapon while the prices of other Pawsan varieties are

estimated at K63,000 per bag. New Pawsan prices moved in the range between K61,100 and K67,000 per bag depending on producing areas. The Kyapyan variety is valued at K67,000-71,000 per bag, whereas the short-matured rice variety (90

days) is worth K47,000-K51,000 per bag. The prices of low-grade rice were K44,000-54,000 per bag depending on varieties (Emahta, Meedone). Rice grown under the intercropping system was priced at K43,500-48,500 per bag. — NN/EMM

Palm oil wholesale reference price dips this week ending 22 Jan

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market is down by K90 this week ending 22 January compared to that of the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price stood at K4,530 per viss in the week from 9 to 15 January. For the week ending 22 January, the price was set higher at K4,440 per viss. The figures showed a small decrease of K90 per viss.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Regardless of the reference price, the current market price is still getting high.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting



Residents line up to buy palm oil at the reference price.

unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Specific Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July in order to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They sell palm oil at K4,650 per viss to consumers directly. However,

there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EMM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 16 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	K2,257,300 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,808,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,850 to K2,870

The above prices may change from time to time.

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OPINION

ARTICLE WEATHER REPORT

Don't focus on selfishness but prioritize rehabilitation

NATURAL resources comprise water and land which play a key role in agriculture and livestock farming businesses forest, minerals and gems which are exploited for society. Efficient utilization of natural resources is very important for the development of the country.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources comprising forests, minerals and gems but it is necessary to arrange systematic control for the utilization of these items with a view to leaving these resources as precious heritages for new generations.

The utilization of natural resources is crucial for the entire people at present. However, current people need to consider the future of new generations in using these natural resources. Current people should not utilize massive natural resources for themselves only. They all should adjust the use of underground and aboveground natural resources.

On the other hand, the people including the governments at different levels need to emphasize possible environmental impacts which may happen in the utilization of natural resources. If necessary, they have to conduct environmental conservation and habitation

measures for the natural environment. If so, their acts will be in balance between society and the environment.

Furthermore, authorities need to take earning incomes from natural resources into consideration. The raw materials excavated from the ground cannot fetch good prices in the market but the value-added products and finished goods can earn great profits in earning incomes. As such, relevant authorities and departments should arrange the advanced manufacturing of finished products so as to create job opportunities for the people as well as improve human resources.

From now on, it is necessary to eradicate illegal mining for gems and minerals and restrict the techniques for utilization of natural resources not to cause environmental and social impacts. Furthermore, those miners and natural resource users must be restricted to remedy the environmental and social impacts with their

contributions through rehabilitation and reestablishment for the environment and society without fail.

Moreover, severe action must be taken against those who breach the relevant laws which protect the environment and societies to be free from improper impacts of these extractions. If so, Myanmar's natural resources will be in perpetual existence for new generations. As such, legal advisers and experts should formulate the relevant rules and regulations as well as laws and notifications for the conservation of environments and societies.

Above and underground natural resources have been existing across the nation since time immemorial. Users should not focus on selfishness in utilizing the resources but prioritize environmental and social rehabilitation for new generations.

To my beloved who is studying far away

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

HOW are you today, little sister? I hope with all my heart that you are in the pink, but surely a wave of homesickness is always sweeping over you. It too will pass, you know. I absolutely feel sympathetic towards you as a student who studied away from home for two or so years. And I am longing to meet you again like before. Here, I will tell you a little bit about your study life in school subjects.

1) Always remember to prioritize your health.

It goes without saying that health is wealth. Of course, good health is usually found to be the most important thing in a whole life because as long as you have your health, anything else does

not matter. Otherwise, you will not be able to do your daily study routines or even trivialities without it. Where there is health, there is still life and so is hope. Thus, health must be put first in whatever you do, mainly for physical, mental and emotional readiness to study. Excellent health often gets influenced by your everyday activities, mindset, facing weather conditions and healthy, balanced diet. Don't be such a fussy eater; please. Your food, drink and clothing should be geared to the current weather situations in which you are living, too.

2) Set your lifelong ambition.

Ambition mostly becomes a strong drive for one's a better life in that it can arouse intrinsic mo-

tivation so as to lead this life. In other words, you will never lose your bearings along the route to education provided that you have got only a burning ambition for life. What's more, the students that have already set their lifelong ambitions are commonly seen to study harder than those who are suffering from a lack of them. If you have not yet put your lifelong ambition, you have to do your studies at hand as best as you can. In fact, you had better have thought about your dream which should come true to you in the future.

3) May you own your self-learning styles only.

We are different, to a greater or lesser degree, from each other over our likes and dislikes. That

means we tend to fix our time for study at will and personally, I prefer studying at night lest my today's school lessons have passed tomorrow without being committed to memory. Actually, study time ought to be well free from your housework, play, rest, and sleep. Following that, your time of study needs to be with any regularity, also helping interest you in study work. Your very achievement of school subjects is apparently conditional upon regular study, memorization, conceptualization, practice, revision and repetition whichever learning style you live out or imitate. Even so, it would be better for you to keep your private style of study now that such

styles put you at your ease while studying.

4) Never forget to take continuous stamina throughout the whole academic year.

Stamina does not mean that you will be studying all the time but says that you have got to study regularly without fail until the end of an academic year. It is natural that the longer the academic year has passed, the less concentration on the study the majority of students will have. By the mid-term, even some outstanding students frequently feel as though they have been lost. Certainly, the three keys to success are nothing but taking risks, stamina, and hard work.

More importantly, make sure that you shall take your stamina to carry on a study as normal till the end of the term.

5) Please look at sample question formats or past papers if possible.

Truth be told, to do well in exams does not require studying a subject from A to Z at all, and yet you will need to study enough. As such, sample question formats and past papers may probably tell you which section or how many chapters you should have studied to pass all exams with ease. In those sheets are normally question items regarding the nature of subjects: true-false items, blank items, multiple-choice items, matching items, short-answer items, and essay items. Great care is needed

when reading a piece of question paper so that you can find out a few question clues over there or will be able to guess the answers to some questions sometimes, not bluffing.

6) Just develop positive attitudes towards exams.

These days education almost always goes hand in hand with exams or tests. An exam not only turns out to be an essential tool for the present education but also can most likely decide the future of each and every student. However, any exam would not be the end of the world, even if you had failed it like a bull in a china shop. In practice, life looks like a much more difficult exam than we thought. After you have sat an exam, you must be capable of seeing your own strengths, weaknesses and limited abilities on the subject matter as well as learning from your mistakes which were carelessly or forgetfully done in the exam. Most

importantly, don't make the same mistake again in exams.

7) Establish a friendly relationship with peers and teachers.

It is said that there is no place like home, for a home is a place full of family members' love and care. Nevertheless, when you go away from home, the nearest person to you will be the most important one of yours indeed. Did you know that man is a social animal? It is virtually impossible for people to live alone. Hence, you should make friends with your classmates and even your teachers. You may find it easily flexible and adaptable to improve a friendly relationship with your peers and teachers as well.

My letter will give you a fistful of study tips, I think. Above all, what I would like to say is 'Take good care of your health'. I wish you to fly high in the future. Have a nice day!

XBB.1.5 strain of Omicron spreading fast in US

OMICRON new subvariant XBB.1.5 is spreading quickly in the United States during the third COVID-19 winter; straining US hospital systems and causing staffing shortages, reported Xinhua.

XBB.1.5 is estimated to account for 43 per cent of COVID-19 cases in the United States for the week ending 14 January according to data released Friday by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

XBB.1.5 is currently the most transmissible variant in the country. It made up 30.4 per cent of the total cases in the week ending 7 January, rising from 20.1 per cent from a week before and 11.8 per cent from two weeks prior, according to the CDC.

The World Health Organization said earlier this week XBB.1.5 may spur more COVID-19 cases based on genetic characteristics and early growth rate estimates.

The spread of XBB.1.5

Public health officials are closely monitoring the spread of XBB.1.5, the most transmissible form of the coronavirus yet seen. The mutations XBB.1.5 has

acquired have made it more contagious. A more transmissible strain has the evolutionary advantage that it will spread faster than others, and therefore could displace other strains, according to health experts.

However, this new strain does not appear to cause more severe disease. Like other Omicron descendants, it probably causes milder illness compared with the Delta variants that predated Omicron.

There are some studies that suggest XBB.1.5 is more immune-evasive compared with previously dominant Omicron strains. Further research is underway to identify the degree of immune protection afforded by existing vaccines.

The rise in the new variant correlated with an uptick in COVID-19 cases in United States over the last six weeks.

Winter has traditionally been crunchtime for hospitals because of influenza and another seasonal pathogen, respiratory syncytial virus. Now SARS-CoV-2 has joined them to form an unholy trinity of pathogens that surge in the cold months.

Respiratory viruses

With respiratory viruses



People queue to be tested for Covid-19 at a street-side testing booth in New York on 17 December 2021. PHOTO: ED JONES /AFP

across the country, hospitals nationwide are facing severe shortages of beds and staff to provide adequate care for patients.

White House COVID-19 response coordinator Ashish Jha said the American health-care system may not be able to

withstand the continued viral onslaught, which strains the system's ability to care for other serious illnesses.

As the United States enters the third full COVID-19 winter, officials are warning the permanence of the coronavirus in the disease landscape could mean

brutal and long-lasting seasonal surges of cold-weather illnesses for years to come, said a report of The Washington Post.

"I am worried that we are going to have, for years, our health system being pretty dysfunctional, not being able to take care of heart attack patients,

not being able to take care of cancer patients, not being able to take care of the kid who's got appendicitis because we're going to be so overwhelmed with respiratory viruses for ... three or four months a year," Jha told the newspaper.

Source: Xinhua



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 16 January 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 17 January 2023: Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair in the whole country.

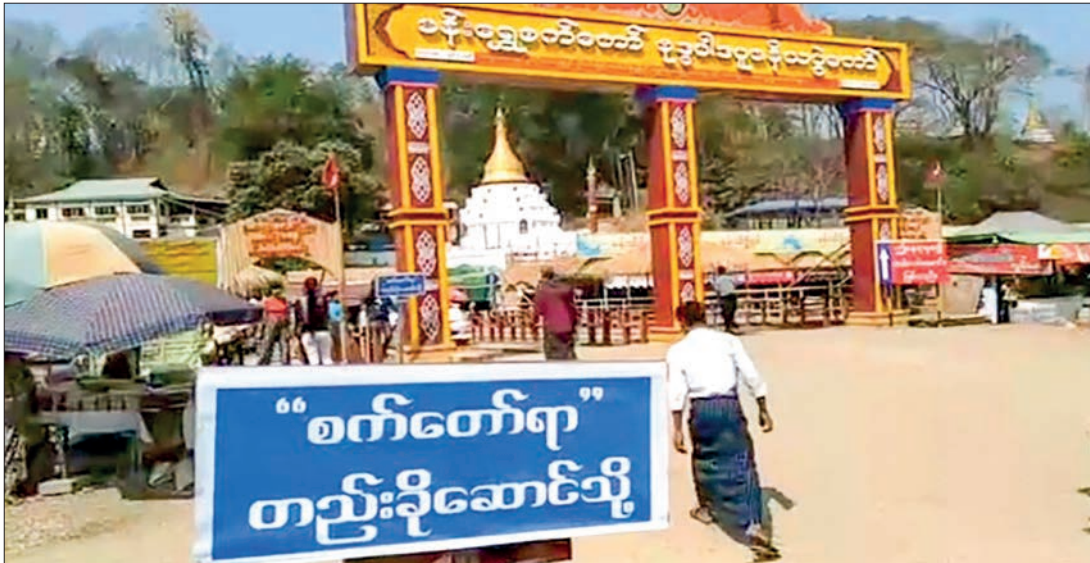
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 January 2023: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 January 2023: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 January 2023: Generally fair weather.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS



Settawya guesthouse signboard was seen during the 2020 Mann Shwesettaw pagoda festival.

Mann Shwesettaw to receive overnight stays for pilgrims

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival organizing committee of Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, welcomes pilgrims for overnight stays.

This is one of the longest and largest pagoda festivals in Myanmar. It will kick off on 25 January and end until the first day of the new year (Myanmar calendar) in mid-April. Preparations for accommodation facilities and shops are being undertaken at present in order to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable stay.

"The construction of shops near Mann Creek is nearly finished. The car parking, restroom and festival stalls have been constructed," said a businessperson from Minbu city.

"There are about 1,000 bamboo lodging houses and over 500 stalls designated for the upcoming festival. Over 400

houses and 200 stalls have been built. The shops are already put up for sale," the pagoda festival organizing committee stated.

Mann Creek flows steadily around the Upper Settawya (the footprint of the Buddha on the hill) and the Lower Settawya (another footprint of the Buddha at the foot of the hill). Mann Creek has a new Bailey bridge this year for the smooth transportation of passenger buses while driving uphill and downhill.

The guesthouse cost is around K30,000-50,000 per head depending on the place. However, the committee set the cost at K20,000 for an ordinary guesthouse and K30,000 for the waterfront one. It stated actions will be strictly taken for overcharging.

Furthermore, under the guidance of the Minbu District Private Vehicle Supervision Committee, Aungman's fleet of

small vehicles will run a total of 30 cars (Starex and Vongo types), including 20 for uphill and downhill driving and 10 for Minbu-Shwesettaw trip.

Moreover, they will add more vehicles to the fleet to ensure safe and sound transport. The fare is set at K12,000 for round trip, K1,000 for uphill and K500 for downhill.

The Minbu District Private Vehicle Supervision Committee will monitor the vehicle's body stiffness and strength, peaceful pilgrimage and discipline of the drivers and assistants.

The pilgrimage operators have been selling tickets for two-night stays, Mann Shwesettaw trip plans and other pilgrimage tours in Minbu, Magway. For a four-day trip (two-night stays), the full package costs K90,000 per head with the meal and accommodation provided. — TWA/EMM

Real estate transactions low for value-added apartments in Yangon

IT is known that there are fewer transactions due to the fact that the prices of apartments in Yangon are higher than before, according to buyers.

Real Estate Agent Daw Wai Lwin told the GNLM that the 625 square-foot wide topmost floors of the apartments (7th and 8th floors) were sold for around K35 million per room in early 2022. Apartment owners from townships with easy transportation raised their price for apartments to K39 million after mid-2022. However, the buyers did not buy at that price due to the additional costs such as the preparation costs for old buildings. No deals are made for apartments since buyers are not in a hurry, said an apartment broker.

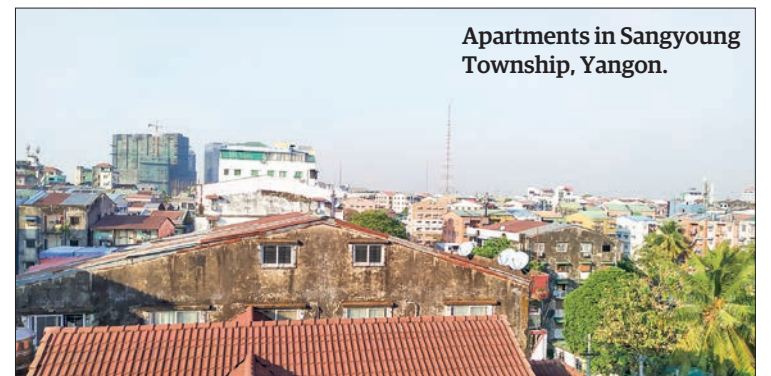
U Moe, a real estate agent, told GNLM that while the prices of gold and cars are rising this year, the prices of apartments are also rising.

Prices of apartments are rising this year, just as the prices of gold and motorcars, U Moe, a real estate agent said. These

days, information about the value and rents of real estates in Yangon has been revealed on social networks. It is known that if the transaction was made, the seller have to pay two per cent to the agent and the landlord separately.

Although movable assets such as gold and cars are sold the most in the current period, immovable real estate is less in sales. Apartment rentals are only rented as dormitories in most cases. Some two-storey buildings and ground-floored apartments can be seen closed for years in the downtown streets, because they have not been rented yet. It is reported that some of the two-storey buildings on the roadside have reduced the rent this year.

Broker Daw Hla Tint told the GNLM that although some apartments have been interested for purchasing, the transaction was not able to be made because the apartment owners tend to raise the value of the apartment. — TWA/CT



Apartments in Sangyoung Township, Yangon.

Appointment tokens given to over 10,000 Myanmar nationals in Thailand within 2 weeks

THE Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, said that it has issued appointment tokens to 10,337 Myanmar nationals in Thailand within two weeks to renew their passports.

The appointments (tokens) were given to Myanmar nationals at the embassy every Saturday starting from 7 January. It is reported that 6,142 people received their tokens on 7 January and 4,195 people on 14 January.

On 7 January, those who came to take out the appointment (tokens) encountered difficulties, and so the Myanmar



People are seen waiting in line to get an appointment (token) at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok.

Embassy in Bangkok made preparations so that such a thing did not happen again.

Therefore, the appointment process went smoothly on 14 January due to the prior preparations of officials from the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, the cooperation of applicants and the assistance of Thai officials.

Therefore, the appointment (tokens) will be issued every Saturday to everyone who comes in person, and the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok has requested all those concerned to cooperate. — TWA/CT

'Six Friends' offers each unique way of art at Water Lily Art Space

SIX art masters have collectively held a show under the title "Six Friends" at the Water Lily Art Space in downtown Yangon, showcasing their unique styles from 19 to 23 January, 2023.

The exhibition brings together about 60 works of art from different perspectives by six contemporary artists aged over 60.

Ko Mg Win Hla

Ko Mg Win Hla completed the Mandalay State School of Fine Arts in 1970s, and since then, he has created art works with different medium. He has mastered portrait and figurative art with different medium. The art master is showcasing about 10 stunning art works in this exhibition.

Soe Aung

Those who read mysticism magazines such as Thurizza and Vedas are familiar with art works of Soe Aung for his art of mysticism in Buddhism and traditional Myanmar culture in the magazines. He brings together the Myanmar traditional culture, with mystery and aesthetics as a subject in his works on canvas with oil and acrylic, offering a mystical pleasure to visitors.

Ni Po U

In Myanmar, it is Artist Ni Po U who interprets both Myanmar traditional dance and music in his work on canvas. In his paintings, he makes the face of Myanmar dancers black to highlight My-



Soe Aung

anmar character of dance and music through his creation. "I transform the music and movements into my artwork. Golden strokes represent music which supports the dance," said Ni Po U. His early works are realism. His contemporary works has shown that the artist, in his 60s, combined the realism with new idea of his own creation.

Pyi Kyaw Han

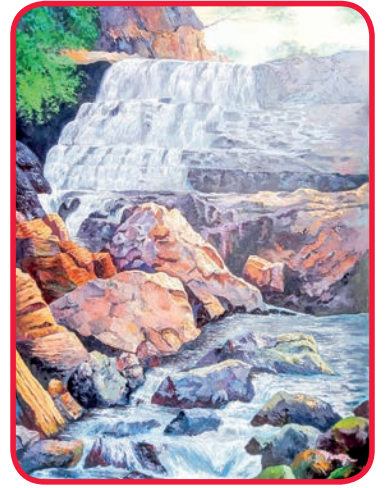
With thick brush strokes of his own style, Artist Pyi Kyaw Han captures the Myanmar's



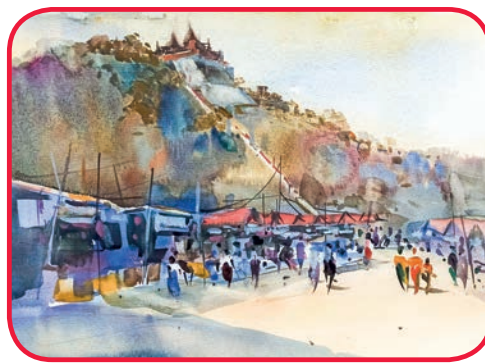
Pyi Kyaw Han



Ni Po U



Thet Oo



Ko Mg Kyaw Than

scenes, character and fragrance on canvas. Viewers can enjoy ten paintings of his oil and acrylic works. In his early days of artist career, he used to create background paintings for Myanmar traditional open-theatres and posters for gate shows with body colour. In this exhibition, the 60-year old artist show off about 10 paintings reflecting rural life of Myanmar people in plain area to ethnic people from hilly areas.

Ko Mg Kyaw Than

After his retirement from the



Ko Mg Win Hla

Yangon's State School of Fine Arts as an instructor seven years ago, Veteran Artist Ko Mg Kyaw Than has tasted freedom and toured the country and captured scenes from different areas on drawing paper. He has spent most of his time creating outdoor paintings, capturing scenes in the country. The veteran artist's latest offering of water colour paintings would light up the gallery from 19 to 23 January.

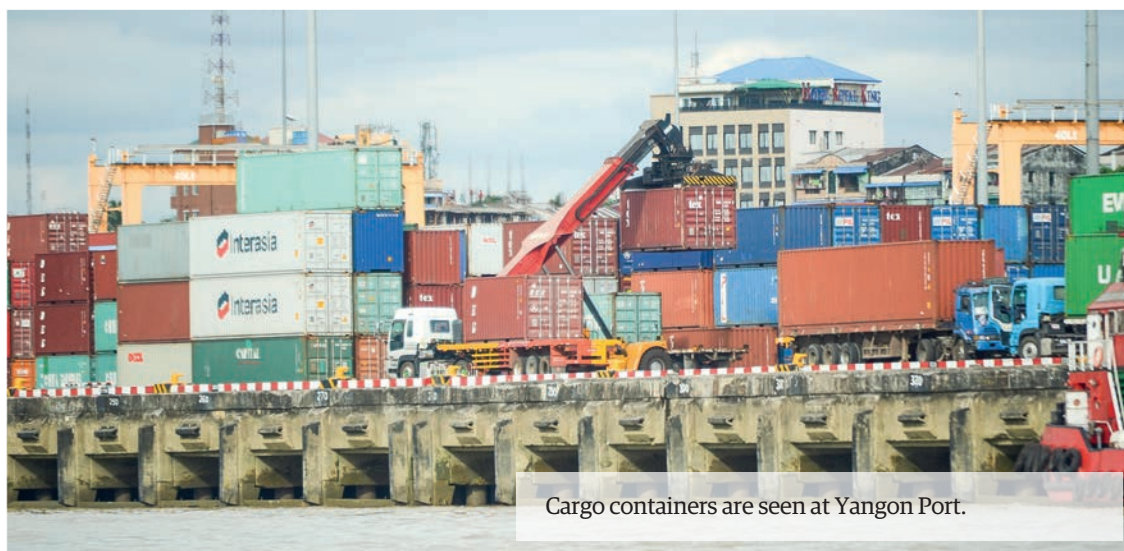
Thet Oo

With vinyl printing replac-

ing cinema art posters, the commercial artists have turned to painting fine artworks. Thet Oo is one of the poster artists who said goodbye to cinema posters and found his another career in creating portraits and landscapes. For decades, the artist painted posters for cinema. In this exhibition, Thet Oo featured his unique pathway, in terms of strokes and colour.

The Water Lily Art Space is located at No. 170, First Floor, Room No. 40, Sule Tower-2, Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon. —KZL

Myanmar's exports up by 14% over past nine months



Cargo containers are seen at Yangon Port.

MYANMAR'S exports grew by 14 per cent over the past nine months from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics.

The value of exports signifi-

cantly surged to US\$12.75 billion between 1 April and 6 January in the current financial year 2022-2023 from \$11.15 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the last 2021-2022 mini-budget period.

The figures reflected a sharp increase of over \$1.59 billion compared with a year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The negative pandemic con-

sequences dealt a severe blow to the agriculture, livestock and mineral sectors during the past mini-budget period. As China eases some virus rules and regulations, export sees a slight increase in the agriculture sector this FY. Some border points such as Mang Wein and Kyinsankyawt were reopened after a nearly three-year suspension.

Also, the export values in forest products and livestock groups slightly climbed. At present, the CMP garment sector raises its head again after the vaccination programme for factory workers as well.

Of the seven export groups, fisheries, minerals and other exports showed a decrease compared to the year-ago period.

The values of export were

registered at \$2.77 million for agri-products, \$18 million for livestock, \$559.7 million for fishery products, \$228 million for minerals, \$119.9 million for forest products, over \$8.68 billion for manufactured goods, and \$364 million for other goods.

Myanmar targets to achieve exports worth \$15.5 billion and imports worth \$14 billion in the 2022-2023 FY (April-March), the National Planning Law stated.

Myanmar's top export countries are China, Thailand, Japan and India. The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing the trade deficit, export promotion, import substitution and market diversification. —KK

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ECONOMY WORLD

Most Asian markets rise on optimism over China, rates

MARKETS mostly rose in Asia on Monday, following another rally on Wall Street fuelled by optimism over the world economy as inflation slows and China reopens to the world.

After last year's battering, caused by surging prices and central bank interest rate hikes, the new year has seen a calmer mood on trading floors, with recession fears receding and bargain-buying providing support to equities.

While China is expected this week to report its worst annual growth since 1976 — excluding pandemic-ravaged 2020 — its emergence from zero-Covid and pledges to boost key sectors are raising hopes for a strong rebound in 2023.

Signs that the government was taking a lighter touch on the tech sector after a long-run-



This photo taken on 13 January 2023 shows an aerial view of cranes and shipping containers at Lianyungang port in China's eastern Jiangsu province. **PHOTO: STR / AFP**

ning crackdown were also lifting confidence and giving a boost to market majors, including Aliba-

ba and Tencent.

And HSBC's Frederic Neumann said China's emergence

from almost three years of strict virus containment measures would likely boost the global

economy. "As the second-largest economy in the world, accelerating Chinese household and investment spending will help put a floor under global trade at a time when demand in the West is faltering," he said.

The brighter outlook helped Asian markets on Monday.

Shanghai, Sydney, Seoul, Taipei, Manila, Bangkok, Wellington and Jakarta all rose, while Hong Kong was flat.

Tokyo, however, dropped as a stronger yen weighed on exporters. Singapore and Mumbai also dipped.

The Japanese unit has surged in recent weeks thanks to an expected slowdown in Federal Reserve rate hikes and after the Bank of Japan signalled a shift away from years of ultra-loose monetary policy.—AFP

Economic slowdown will force workers into worse jobs: UN

A global economic slowdown will force more workers into accepting lower quality, poorly paid jobs in 2023, while inflation gobbles up real term wages, the United Nations warned Monday.

As prices rise faster than incomes, the cost-of-living crisis risks pushing more people into poverty, the UN's International Labour Organization said, while unemployment around the world is set to rise.

The ILO said deficits in decent work had been worsened by multiple, overlapping crises, including Russia's war in Ukraine, emerging geopolitical tensions, an uneven recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and continuing supply chain bottlenecks.

"Together, these have created the conditions for stagflation — simultaneously high inflation and low growth — for the first time since the 1970s," the agency said in its annual World Employment and Social Outlook report.

ILO director general Gilbert Houngbo said the

recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic was particularly patchy in low- and middle-income countries, and was further hampered by climate change and humanitarian challenges.

"Projections of a slowdown in economic and employment growth in 2023 imply that most countries will fall short of a full recovery to pre-pandemic levels in the foreseeable future," the former prime minister of Togo said in the report.

"Worse still, progress in labour markets is likely to be far too slow to reduce the enormous decent work deficits that existed prior to, and were exacerbated by, the pandemic."

Global employment grew by 2.3 per cent last year, but is expected to expand by just one per cent this year, to nearly 3.4 billion people with work.

The projected rise is down on the 1.5 per cent the ILO had previously predicted, adding to the gloomy outlook.—AFP

Japan to test new freight routes amid global supply chain instability

THE Japanese government plans to work with domestic firms to test new international supply routes as soon as March, as it aims to diversify freight options in response to recent supply chain instability highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

With international events causing delays and a rise in transport costs, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism intends to ensure a reliable freight system by preparing alternative shipping and train links to reach the United States and Europe.

Delays in international freight can lead to shortages in raw materials and goods, and rising costs of transporting the items can also push up prices on many commonly-used products. Among the areas the transport ministry will be investigating under the scheme are cost, time and customs clearance issues.

Until the end of February, the ministry is recruiting Japanese companies including cargo firms and logistics businesses to participate in testing deliveries with government backing of 1 million yen (\$7,800) per consignment. A report on its activities

is intended to be made around the fall.

Although disruption to the international freight system is easing, the transport ministry maintains it is "important to secure complementary replacement routes in case of emergencies."

Among the alternative routes planned are the use of ports in Canada, Mexico and the east coast of the United States instead of the US west coast, where ships were left unable to offload their cargo during the coronavirus pandemic due to truck driver shortages.

The invasion of Ukraine has also limited supply line options

via Russia, with flights having to divert around its airspace and its Trans-Siberian Railway seeing less use.

Strikes for more pay by dockworkers in Europe have also caused issues at seaports, and Indian Ocean and Suez Canal supply lines are at risk of blockage from conflicts and ships running aground.

As a result, for goods being moved from Japan to Europe, the ministry is considering routes leaving regional ports on the Sea of Japan side of the country that would then take sea and railway routes via China, Central Asia, the Caspian Sea, Türkiye and elsewhere.—Kyodo



Freight ships wait in waters off Singapore on 15 January 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Viet Nam's economy to face difficult year amid lagging global growth in 2023

DESPITE continued difficulties and challenges for Viet Nam's economy in 2023, there were still silver linings to pin hope on if flexible policies were adopted, local media reported on Monday citing local experts.

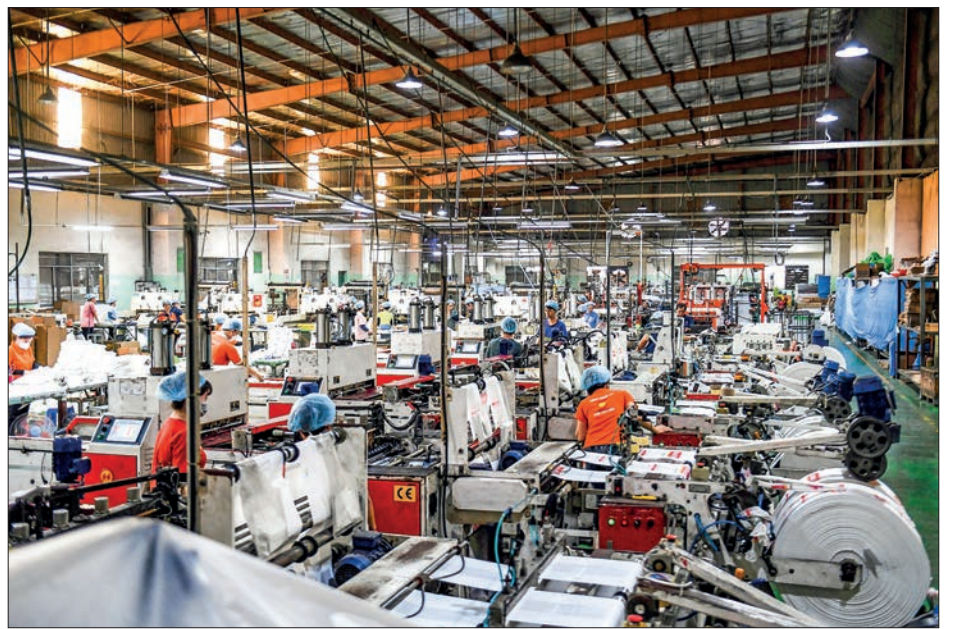
Unpredictable factors would have a significant impact on the southeast Asian country's

socio-economic development, local newspaper Viet Nam News quoted Nguyen Duc Hien, deputy head of the Central Economic Commission, as saying.

Viet Nam's major importers and exporters, including the United States, South Korea and Japan, were forecast to be affected by the loom-

ing economic recession, which would affect some industries of Viet Nam, he said.

It was necessary for Viet Nam to develop different scenarios to find both short- and long-term solutions to maintain macroeconomic stability and ensure major balances of the economy, the official said.—Xinhua



This picture taken on 2 December 2022 shows employees working inside a packaging factory of Nam Thai Son Group in Ho Chi Minh City. PHOTO: AFP

Toyota to produce 10.6 million cars globally in 2023, biggest output

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Monday it aims to produce as many as 10.6 million vehicles in 2023, which could be its highest output.

The Japanese auto giant added, however, that the final figure could be as much as 10 per cent lower due to potential disruptions in the supply of parts.

Toyota set the target to make it easier for its suppliers and other stakeholders to make plans regarding the required manpower and equipment capacity.

It said it set the "downward risk fluctuation range of approximately 10 per cent" as the impact of potential shortages in parts such as semiconductors "remains unclear."

In 2019, Toyota pro-

duced over 9.1 million units, its biggest annual output.

In 2022, it manufactured nearly 8.3 million cars in the January-November period and announced its plan to manufacture 750,000 units in December.

Parts shortages are causing prolonged production constraints, forcing consumers to wait for new cars.

To deal with the issue, Toyota Chief Communication Officer Jun Nagata said during an online interview, "We will shorten the delivery time (for parts), prioritizing the domestic market," and pledged to work closely with the automaker's suppliers to minimize the impact of parts shortages.—Kyodo

Air cargo exports of New Zealand's products severely impacted by shortage of liquid CO2

AIR cargo exports of New Zealand products are being severely impacted by the critical shortage of liquid CO2 and dry ice, said an industry body representing freight forwarders on Monday.

According to the World Bank, exports ac-

count for about a quarter of New Zealand's gross domestic product (GDP).

The Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Federation of New Zealand (CBAFF) is calling on the government to investigate options to increase do-

mestic production of food grade CO2, including the possibility of reopening the Marsden Point refinery, which produced CO2 as a by-product of its refining operation.

Liquid CO2 is used to create dry ice, with many thousands of kilograms

used weekly to fly high quality perishable goods, including meat, fish, dairy and pharmaceutical products, internationally. New Zealand's food sector accounts for 46 per cent of all goods exported by New Zealand.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RICH SEAWAY VOY.NO. (043N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RICH SEAWAY VOY.NO. (043N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BO SHI 58 VOY.NO. (2215)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BO SHI 58 VOY.NO. (2215)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-1** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD



Toyota Motor Corp unveils a pair of concept cars based on its classic AE86 — a Corolla Levin electric vehicle (front) and a hydrogen engine-equipped Sprinter Trueno — at the Tokyo Auto Salon motor show in Chiba, near Tokyo, on 13 January 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from Marlarmyaing Public Co., Ltd to RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type and No
1.	Farmozine 80 WP	Atrazine 80% WP	Provisional 2017-3947
2.	Fenfen 240 EC	Oxyfluorfen 240g/l EC	Provisional 2020-2490

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Kremlin says British tanks in Ukraine will 'burn'



Rescuers carry a woman evacuated from the rubble of a residential building destroyed after a missile strike, in Dnipro on 15 January 2023, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Kremlin said on Monday that British tanks promised to Ukraine will "burn" on the bat-

tlefield.

"The special military operation will continue. These tanks

are burning and will burn," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, using Moscow's term for the Ukraine offensive.

He added that plans by some Western countries — like the UK and Poland — to send tanks to Ukraine will "not change the situation on the ground. It will only prolong this story."

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak promised last week to provide British Challenger 2 tanks to Kyiv.

Earlier this month France also pledged to send tanks — the French-build AMX-10 RC — to Ukraine.

Warsaw has signalled it is willing to send Leopard tanks to its neighbour. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

German defence minister quits as pressure grows for Ukraine aid

GERMAN Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht resigned on Monday after coming under months of heavy criticism over Berlin's stuttering response to the war in Ukraine.

Her decision came just days ahead of a crucial meeting of defence ministers from Ukraine's allies, and as Berlin was once again under intense pressure to provide battle tanks to Kyiv.

But government sources told AFP that no decision was expected on Monday on her successor.

Lambrecht, 57, said in a statement she had asked Chancellor Olaf Scholz to relieve her of her duties. —AFP

6.2-magnitude quake hits off Indonesia's Sumatra: USGS

A 6.2-magnitude earthquake hit off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island early Monday, the US Geological Survey reported.

The epicentre of the quake was 48 kilometres (30 miles) south-southeast of the city of Singkil in Aceh province, at a depth of 37 kilometres, USGS said. —AFP

Indonesia stadium disaster negligence trial begins

FIVE Indonesian men charged with negligence leading to one of the worst stadium disasters in football history appeared in court by video link on Monday as their trial began.

The stampede in October in the East Java city of Malang — which killed 135 people, including more than 40 children — came after police fired tear gas into packed stands when supporters invaded the pitch at the end of a match between rivals Arema FC and Persebaya Surabaya.

Hundreds of people fled for narrow exits, resulting in a

crush that left many trampled or suffocated to death.

Three local police officials, a match organiser and a security official were all charged with negligence for their role in the disaster.

The suspects face a maximum sentence of five years in prison if found guilty.

A sixth suspect — a former director of the company that runs Indonesia's premier league — remains under police investigation.

On Monday, authorities deployed hundreds of security personnel around the court and

the trial was held virtually for security reasons.

Outside the courthouse, Rink Hanifah held up pictures of her son Agus Riansyah, one of the victims who went to watch the football match and never returned.

Authorities told Arema FC supporters not to travel to Surabaya for the trial, for fear of clashes with police or rival fans.

Police described the October 1 pitch invasion as a riot and said two officers were killed, but survivors accused the police of using excessive force. —AFP



Judges take up their places in the Surabaya courthouse during the first trial of the Kajuruhan stadium stampede in Surabaya on 16 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU parliament chief to unveil reforms amid graft scandal

THE president of the European Parliament will seek Monday to get ahead of a graft scandal that has rocked the legislature, by officially unveiling a series of reforms to clean up the multinational assembly.

But many MEPs and observers believe the changes to be presented by Roberta Metsola don't go far enough to be able to restore credibility in the institution.

The parliament has been the focus of intense scrutiny since the scandal broke open a month

ago with the arrest of one of Metsola's 14 vice-presidents after Belgian police raided homes and offices of several MEPs, former MEPs, parliamentary aides and heads of NGOs that dealt with lawmakers.

Belgian prosecutors are investigating alleged graft in the European Parliament benefiting Qatar and Morocco. The police raids turned up 1.5 million euros (\$1.6 million) in cash.

Qatar has denied having any role in any wrongdoing in the case. Morocco says it is the tar-

get of unjustified "media attacks" over the allegations.

Metsola's arrested vice-president Eva Kaili, a Greek MEP who has since lost that high parliamentary position, also has said through her lawyer that she knew nothing about cash found at her home.

Kaili remains in custody with three other suspects: Kaili's boyfriend Francesco Giorgi, who was a parliamentary aide; former MEP Pier Antonio Panzeri; and Niccolo Figa-Talamanca, head of an NGO suspected of

making payments to MEPs.

The three male suspects are all Italian. According to a Belgian media report, Giorgi has made a confession.

All four are charged in Belgium with "criminal organization, corruption and money laundering". Greece and Italy have launched their own investigations.

Metsola has vowed to act swiftly to "strengthen integrity, independence and accountability" in the parliament. She has also said the graft scandal

showed "European democracy is under attack".

On Monday, Metsola will kick off the parliament's first plenary session of 2023 in Strasbourg, eastern France, by formally announcing measures which have already been trailed.

These include restricting parliamentary access for former MEPs; registering outside individuals who lobby, meet or speak at the parliament; a public MEPs' registry of gifts and travel received; and punishment for breaches. —AFP

Righting shoddy nuclear waste storage site to cost Japan 36 bln yen

THE Japan Atomic Energy Agency estimates that it will cost taxpayers 36.1 billion yen (\$280 million) to rectify the shoddy storage of radioactive waste in a storage pool at the Tokai Reprocessing Plant, the nation's first facility for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel, an official said Sunday.

Around 800 containers of transuranic radioactive waste, or "TRU waste," were dropped into the pool from 1977 to 1991

using a wire in the now-disused plant in Tokai, a village in Ibaraki Prefecture northeast of Tokyo. They emit high levels of radiation.

The waste includes pieces of metal cladding tubes that contained spent nuclear fuel, generated during the reprocessing process. The containers are ultimately supposed to be buried more than 300 metres below surface.

The agency has estimated

that 19.1 billion yen will be needed to build a new storage facility for the containers, and 17 billion yen for a building that will cover the storage pool and the crane equipment to grab containers. The 794 containers each are about 80 centimetres in diameter, 90 cm tall and weigh about one tonne, with many lying on their sides or overturned in the pool. Some have had their shape altered by the impact of being dropped.—Kyodo



File photo taken in October 2021 shows the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's Tokai Reprocessing Plant in Tokai, Ibaraki Prefecture, eastern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan, India start first joint fighter jet drill



This picture taken on 10 January 2023 shows an Indian Air Force fighter aircraft Sukhoi Su-30 arriving at the Japan's Air Self-Defence Force Hyakuri Air Base in Omitama, Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAPAN and India began their first joint fighter jet exercise on Monday near Tokyo as the countries upgrade defence and secu-

rity ties with an eye on China's growing military might.

The 11-day joint exercise will involve eight Japanese fight-

er jets, with India sending four fighters, two transport aircraft and an aerial refuelling tanker, Japan's defence ministry said.

Around 150 Indian Air Force personnel are taking part in the exercise at the Hyakuri Air Base in Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.

The drill was agreed by the two countries during talks between Japanese and Indian defence and foreign ministers in 2019, but was delayed by the pandemic.

Japan and India — along with Australia and the United States — are part of the "Quad" alliance, a grouping of regional powers that is increasingly concerned about China's military and economic influence.—AFP

Cambodia's clean-up of landmine-contaminated land benefits over 9 mln people

CAMBODIA has cleared roughly 2,554 square kilometres of landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) contaminated land in the last 30 years, benefiting more than nine million people, a senior official said on Monday.

Ly Thuch, first vice president of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), made the remarks during a meeting with mine clearance operators and donors here in Siem Reap province.

"With this clearance effort from 1992 to 2022, over

1.15 million anti-personnel mines, more than 26,135 anti-tank mines, and three million explosive remnants of war were found and destroyed," he said.

"These lands have been returned to communities for productive purposes such as agriculture, resettlement, roads, schools and other social infrastructure," he added.

Thuch said the Southeast Asian country currently needs to clear the remaining more than 700 square kilometres of land contaminated by mines and ERW by 2025.—Xinhua

Hopes of survivors in Nepal plane crash 'nil'

NEPALI rescue workers scoured a debris-strewn ravine Monday for four missing bodies from the mangled wreckage of a plane that crashed with 72 people on board, with hopes of any survivors now "nil", according to authorities.

The Yeti Airlines ATR 72 plummeted into the steep gorge, smashed into pieces and burst into flames as it approached the central city of Pokhara on Sunday morning, in Nepal's worst aviation disaster since 1992.

The cause of the crash was not yet known but a video on social media — verified by AFP partner ESN — showed the twin-propeller aircraft banking suddenly and sharply to the left as it approached Pokhara air-

port. A loud explosion followed. Nepal, which has a poor record on air safety, observed a day of mourning on Monday for the victims.

Soldiers used ropes and stretchers to retrieve bodies from the 300-metre (1,000-foot) deep ravine late into the night, with recovery efforts resuming on Monday.

"We have collected 68 bodies so far. We are searching for four more bodies. We should continue until we get the bodies," senior local official Tek Bahadur KC told AFP.

"We pray for a miracle. But, the hope of finding anyone alive is nil," he said.

Debris from the airliner was strewn across the crash site, in-



Rescuers pull the body of a victim who died in a Yeti Airlines plane crash in Pokhara on 16 January 2023. Nepal observed a day of mourning on 16 January for the victims of the nation's deadliest aviation disaster in three decades, with 67 people confirmed killed in the plane crash. **PHOTO: AFP**

cluding the mangled remains of passenger seats and the plane's white-coloured fuselage.

'In pain'

Raj Dhungana, the uncle of one of the 68 passengers, 23-year-

old Sangita Shahi, told AFP outside a hospital in Pokhara that his whole family "is in pain".

He described a "very talented" young woman who was a student in Kathmandu, and also ran a makeup studio and worked on an online business platform on the side.

"God has taken away such a nice person," he said.

The passenger manifest included five Indians, four Russians, two South Koreans, and one person each from Argentina, Australia, France and Ireland. The rest were Nepalis.

"Incredibly sad news," Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese tweeted. Indian premier Narendra Modi also expressed his condolences.—AFP

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SPORT

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.

Yangon United sign Sekou Sylla for one year



Guinean striker Sekou Sylla (right) holds the insignia of the Yangon United FC after signing contract with the team for one year. PHOTO: YUFC

YANGON United Football Club have recently confirmed the signing of Guinean striker Sekou Sylla on a one-year contract.

“In his first spell for Yangon United, he won the 2018 Charity Cup, the 2018 Myanmar National League trophy, and two consecutive Champions of General Aung San Shield before leaving for another international experience. Moreover, he showcased his performance to bring the team to the semi-final of the AFC Cup 2018,” team officials stated.

“I am happy to be back home and join Yangon United. It’s been three years ago, and I miss my fans. Thanks for the warmest welcome from the fans, and I’ll do my best to be a top scorer,” the Guinean forward player said. — KZL

Barca’s young stars hoping Super Cup trophy is first of ‘new era’



(From L) Barcelona’s French forward Ousmane Dembele, Barcelona’s Polish forward Robert Lewandowski and Barcelona’s Spanish midfielder Gavi pose for pictures with the trophy after winning the Spanish Super Cup final football match between Real Madrid CF and FC Barcelona at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 15 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

BARCELONA’S young players, leading by teenage sensation Gavi, were at the heart of the club’s first trophy for nearly two years as they thumped rivals Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup.

Gavi, 18, scored and fashioned two more in their 3-1 victory on Sunday, including one for 20-year-old Pedri, while defender Ronald Araujo shackled Vinicius Junior and Alejandro Balde excelled on

the other flank.

“A new era has started,” yelled an ecstatic Araujo as he ran back to the dressing room with his medal, after wild celebrations on the pitch in Saudi Arabia.

The ushering in of a new start for Barcelona is the club’s fervent hope, after they lifted their first trophy in the 21st century without Lionel Messi being part of the squad.—AFP

Nadal victorious but Kyrgios suffers Australian Open heartbreak

RAFAEL Nadal launched his Australian Open title defence with a four-set victory over Britain’s Jack Draper on Monday, as home hope Nick Kyrgios quit through injury without hitting a ball.

In the women’s draw, top seed Iga Swiatek survived a tough examination while Jessica Pegula and teenage prodigy Coco Gauff were both emphatic winners on the first day of action.

Spanish great Nadal, 36, had been in poor form by his sky-high standards, losing six of his last seven matches stretching back to defeat in the last 16 at the US Open. In fast-rising Draper, 21, the 22-time Grand Slam champion faced a stern test to start his campaign at a sweltering Melbourne Park.

Top seed Nadal recovered from a second-set wobble — and a bizarre incident when a ball boy accidentally took his racquet — to defeat the 38th-ranked Briton 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 at Rod Laver Arena.

Nadal, who recently be-

came a father, faces American Mackenzie McDonald in round two. “Very exciting, new beginning, just super-happy to be back at Rod Laver with a victory I needed,” he said after grinding down Draper.

“Last couple of months have not been easy for me.”

Nadal was on court when Australia’s talented but temperamental Kyrgios called a hastily

arranged press conference and announced that he was out of the tournament with a knee injury. “I’m devastated, obviously,” said the Wimbledon finalist, who was considered an outside bet to win a maiden Grand Slam crown. “I’ve had some great tournaments here, winning the doubles last year and playing the tennis of my life probably going into this event. —AFP



Spain’s Rafael Nadal hits a return against Britain’s Jack Draper during their men’s singles match on day one of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 16 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP