

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion of 8th Anniversary Ceremony for Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)

The Senior General unveiled the signboard of the 8th Anniversary of NCA and guests visited the commemorative booths of the 8th Anniversary of NCA at MICC-II



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries observe photos displayed at the ceremony of 8th Anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The 8th Anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was observed at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, SAC member Union Minister Chairman of National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, ethnic leaders Saw Mutu Say Poe, General Yawd Serk and JMC representative Sai Myo Thant cut the ribbon to launch the 8th Anniversary of NCA celebration.

The Senior General unveiled the

signboard of the 8th Anniversary of NCA.

The Senior General and guests visited the commemorative booths of the 8th Anniversary of NCA at MICC-II.

In the second session of the celebration, they all saluted the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Then, a video clip on emergence of NCA, peace process and development was presented.

On the occasion, the Senior Gen-

eral delivered a speech to mark the 8th Anniversary of NCA, mentioning the emergence of NCA, armed conflicts, multiparty democracy and federalism, PR system, endeavours of the State Administration Council and the Tatmadaw for forging peace, and implementation of national and political visions of SAC in respective sectors. (The speech of the Senior General is reported on Page 4)

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SAC member MoHA UM Chairman of NSPNC receives delegation led by Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of PRC Foreign Ministry

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MoC UM receives delegation led by Thai Ambassador to Myanmar

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Cultural dance troupes at NCA 8th anniversary attend dinner hosted by PM

NATIONAL

China firmly supports peace process of Myanmar without accepting acts of disintegrating the State

THE Senior General and the Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China cordially exchanged views on firm support of China for peace process of Myanmar without accepting acts of disintegrating the State.

A delegation led by Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China who attended the 8th Anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, called on Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The government and the Tatmadaw are striving for restoration of internal peace by firmly standing on the path of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) whereas China provides necessary assistance for the peace process, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

At the meeting, the Senior General thanked the Chinese delegation for attending the 8th Anniversary of NCA celebration whereas the Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gift to Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

of Foreign Affairs of China expressed his delightedness and pride in successfully holding the 8th Anniversary of NCA on a grand

scale. They cordially exchanged views on an emphasis of Myanmar to be placed on stability of the region sharing border with

China and development measures without accepting the acts based at Myanmar border region harming the interests of neigh-

bouring countries.

The Senior General highlighted that some ethnic armed organizations cannot sign the firm and legal accords like NCA in initiating the peace process but implement agreements and pledges only. So, the government urges them to walk on the firm and legal path of NCA in order to forge the durable peace, he added.

The Senior General explained endeavours of the Tatmadaw to firmly stand for the way for multiparty democracy, plans of two countries to cooperate with each other in combatting online gambling and online scam, further promotion of cooperation between the two countries, and progress to accept expatriates in Rakhine State.

The meeting was also attended by SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council member Union Minister for Home Affairs Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, and Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe. The Chinese guest was accompanied by officials from the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

COVID-19 report, 15 October 2023

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SAC member MoHA UM Chairman of NSPNC receives delegation led by Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of PRC Foreign Ministry

State Administration Council member Union Minister for Home Affairs Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae received the delegation led by Mr Deng Xijun, the Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at the National Solidarity and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

They discussed friendly cooperation between Myanmar and China and exchanged views on the stability and peace of the border region and the implementation of Myanmar's peace process. — MNA/KZW



SAC member Union Minister for Home Affairs Chairman of NSPNC Lt-Gen Yar Pyae holds talks with Mr Deng Xijun, the Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China yesterday.

NATIONAL



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, dignitaries, ethnic leaders and diplomats pose for documentary photo at the 8th Anniversary of NCA yesterday.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion of 8th Anniversary Ceremony for Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)

FROM PAGE-1

Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Say Poe and RCSS/SSA Chair General Yawd Serk who signed the NCA, representatives from the countries which witnessed the NCA signing ceremony — Mr Deng Xijun, the Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, Mr Vikram Misri, the Deputy National Security Adviser of India, Vice Foreign Affairs Minister of Thailand Sihasak Phaungket Keow, and representative of local witnesses Union Minister (Retired) U Aung Min spoke words of honour respectively. (Their speeches are reported on Page

7,10,11, and 12)

The commemorative ceremony was also attended by the SAC Joint Secretary and council members, Union-level officials, Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, senior military officers, chairmen of political parties, leaders of EAOs and witnesses who participated in signing the NCA, officials from UPCC, UPWC, UPDJC and JMC, special envoys from neighbouring countries, foreign diplomats, representatives from international organizations and cultural troupes.

Cultural troupes of ethnic people from MRTV under the Ministry of In-

formation performed songs and dance entertainments.

The Senior General hosted a luncheon in honour of the attendees to the 8th Anniversary of NCA celebration.

On 15 October 2015, the NCA was signed by representatives from the government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw and eight ethnic armed organizations in the presence of international diplomats including the United Nations and international and local witnesses. New Mon State Party (NMSPP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) signed the NCA on 13 February 2018. The NCA was drafted through aspirations and

proposals of EAOs and several meetings of the government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw and EAOs.

The anniversary celebrations of signing NCA were held in four successive years. Due to outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the 5th anniversary of NCA could not be held in 2020 but messages of felicitations were sent to honour the NCA anniversary celebration.

Such kinds of celebrations resumed in 2021 and 2022. The 8th anniversary of NCA celebration was marked on a grand scale in accord with the guidance of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister yesterday. — MNA/TTA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with the Deputy National Security Adviser to India, Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Say Poe and RCSS/SSA Chair General Yawd Serk at the 8th Anniversary of NCA yesterday.

NATIONAL

Speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister, Chairman of the National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Ceremony to mark the Eighth Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere greetings and warm wishes to all those who participated in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) eight years ago, all ethnic leaders who contributed to the signing of the NCA agreement, local and international witnesses and all national brethren residing in the Union for your personal well-being and for the further success in your peace efforts in serving the interests of the country.

Today marks the eighth anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The call for peace by the first multi-party democratic government is to build sustainable peace based on the NCA and the outcomes of subsequent discussions with the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs). During the NCA negotiation and drafting processes, the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) were present there to discuss and negotiate their needs. The government compiled those requests and formalized into a State-level agreement and legalized it. The NCA was concluded with an aim of achieving peace that is prerequisite for our country, the NCA is also a historical milestone that embodies concessions, magnanimity, patience and desire for peace that has never been seen in Myanmar's history.

The NCA was not easily achieved. It took 1,450 days from the invitation extended for peace talks to the conclusion of the NCA. During these days, over 5,000 meetings including series of small discussions and negotiations were held. This has resulted in the grand signing of the NCA by the Government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, Political Parties and Organizations, Ethnic Representatives and the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) in the presence of international and local witnesses including the United Nations on 15 October 2015. As the NCA, ratified by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as a Union Accord, will remain in force eter-



nally and not subject to nullification, the Tatmadaw attaches great importance to the implementation of the NCA agreement.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

Myanmar has been inflicted by internal armed conflicts for over 75 years which emerged together with the independence. The causes of armed conflicts need to be analyzed. Understanding the past experiences will come to realize the weak points of the present time which will also be helpful for the future. Myanmar was annexed by the British colonialists three times starting in 1824 and trapped under British colonial rule. The British marginalized Myanmar with a divide-and-rule policy for over 100 years by enacting the Upper Myanmar Law on 29 November 1886, the Shan State Act in 1888, the Burma Village Act in September 1889, the Kachin Hill Tribe Regulations in 1895 and the Chin Hill Regulations in 1896, and by establishing the Feudal Council on 1 October 1922, which divided the ruling of the southern and northern parts of Shan State. The British colonized Myanmar by sowing seeds of disunity and mistrust amongst ethnic nationals with its century-long divide-and

-rule policy. Furthermore, in governing the Myanmar mainland, the British practiced the policy that led to as many divisions as possible. The "91 Department-Administration" system that they started practising in 1937, 132 Members of Parliament had to be elected at the Lower House to support their administration. In so doing, 13 from the cities, 78 from the rural areas, 12 from Kayin rural area, one Indian, two English mixed-races, two from the Indian Chamber of Commerce, one from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, five from the Myanmar Chamber of Commerce were included. We could notice what could have been the intention from this kind of election in Myanmar where diverse ethnic groups resided. With their century-long divide-and-rule policy, the ethnic people became total strangers towards each other and lost trust among them.

The power struggle among political parties intensified following the independence on 4 January 1948. The internal conflict began on 28 March 1948 when the Communist Party of Burma (CPB) opted to take arms in settling political differences instead of peaceful means. In order to restore stability of the State, the Tatmadaw had to combat multi-coloured insurgent

groups which disproportionately outnumbered the Tatmadaw. However, due to the joint counter-attacks of the people and the Tatmadaw against the communist rebels in Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, the rebels finally absconded to Kachin, Shan and Kayin States. The innocent ethnic nationals from these regions were conscripted by the communists who politically instigated them with "anti-government" and "ethnic liberation" campaigns. As a result of the long-term influence of the divide-and-rule policy of British colonialists and the flames of political instigation known as "ethnic liberation" ignited by the CPB, the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) sprouted out in Myanmar. Until now, there is no Ethnic Armed Organization (EAO) formed as a result of having grudges against the Tatmadaw. The internal armed conflicts were caused not by using political means but by taking arms in settling the political differences. The current circumstances in our country correspond to the armed conflicts in the aftermath of independence. The self-claimed supporters of democracy themselves committed voting fraud and opted for terrorist path by taking arms without settling legally and democratically. Certain countries which are said to be practising and protecting democracy have been directly or indirectly supporting and inciting committed armed terrorist acts which are totally contrary to democracy. These actions delay the multi-party democratic system aspired by the Myanmar people and support the dictatorship which is democracy in name only. Everyone should be aware of that. Our government will definitely continue to strive for the genuine disciplined multi-party democratic system aspired by the people. In this regard, we are making necessary preparations for the holding of free and fair multi-party general elections. I would like to stress that we will definitely hold the free and fair multi-party general elections that truly reflect will of the voters.

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Speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister, Chairman of the National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee, ...

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Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

It is necessary to review our country's historical background since independence. Myanmar has gone through the parliamentary democratic system from 1948 to 1962, the Revolutionary Council Government from 1962 to 1974 which laid foundation for socialism, socialist system from 1974 to 1988, and the foundation-laying period towards multi-party democracy from 1988 to 31 March 2011, and since 2011, it is still on its path towards democracy. The Tatmadaw has offered an olive branch for peace throughout successive eras. During the tenure of the Tatmadaw Government when the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) were invited to the peace process, peace was achieved with some EAOs and there were also cases where EAOs totally exchanged arms for peace. Peace was then achieved almost throughout the nation and all ethnic nationals enjoyed the fruits of peace practically. It was due to the common desire of the Tatmadaw and the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) for ceasefire and with belief of "the country to be peaceful and tranquil" without having any political texture. No formal accord as strong and legitimate as the NCA was concluded when peace efforts were undertaken during that period. There were only general agreements and pledges which are still pursued by certain organizations to date. These organizations are earnestly called upon to take the NCA trajectory that is firm, solemn and legitimate and to build lasting peace.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

The government cannot change the system of a country, which can only be changed by the will of the people. Our country practised the parliamentary democratic system from 1948 to 1962. Afterwards, a national referendum was held for the State Constitution 1974 on 3 January 1974 to change the country's path towards socialism. With the support and mandate of the 90.19 per cent of the voters, Myanmar's socialist political system was introduced. In 1988, in order to embark on the path towards the multi-party democratic system from one-party system as per the public demand, representatives of ethnic groups, intellectuals and scholars drafted the State Constitution 2008 and a national referendum was held on 29 May 2008. With the support and mandate of the 92.48 per cent of voters, the State Constitution 2008, which is practised today, emerged.

At this point, we need to be acutely aware of the way the NCA and the State

Constitution were brought about. The NCA is a pledge and agreement between the government and the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs). The State Constitution is a commitment and a guaranteed law between the government and the entire ethnic nationals of the country. The commitment between the two organizations should not supersede the commitment and guarantee for all citizens of different ethnic nationalities. While the NCA is the case, the provisions of the State Constitution are to be adhered to when measures are taken to amend the Constitution through the NCA. Thus, discussions are being held to seek common desires out of opinions, assumptions and demands of the Ethnic Armed Organiza-

The Tatmadaw has offered an olive branch for peace throughout successive eras. During the tenure of the Tatmadaw Government when the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) were invited to the peace process, peace was achieved with some EAOs and there were also cases where EAOs totally exchanged arms for peace.

tions (EAOs). When there are the calls and common desires for constitutional amendments, it will be discussed at the upcoming Hluttaws.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

Regarding the State Constitutions, our country has had three State Constitutions since independence to date. The first Constitution was the State Constitution 1947. It is a law designed for the independence which was hastily drafted with controversies and adopted only at the Constituent Assembly. The colonialists governed Myanmar with a divide-and-rule policy by various laws and administrative systems. In addition, they divided the country into hilly regions and the mainland in giving independence. In the history of the independence struggle, the political goal was set as "Independence is the first, independence is the second, and independence is the third" during (1941-1943) BIA, BDA era. In the pre-independence (1943-1945) BNA, PBF era, the political goal was set as "Independence is the first, Democracy is the second and

the Socialism is the third". It should be aware that Myanmar had the goal of establishing a socialist system since before independence.

However, there were no provisions related to socialism in the State Constitution 1947. While looking back to the historical evidence, the constitution was enacted based on the Aung San - Atlee Agreement which was signed on 27 January 1947 in London. At that time, various organizations held a belief that struggling to regain independence as soon as possible was the most important task. Only if the Burma Independence Bill was submitted in the British Parliament Session held in October 1947, it would have the chance to be approved by the said session and

after independence could be harmful for the Union as there were provisions for self-promulgation and separation and, therefore, should be cautious of. Against this backdrop, the future of the Union has become worrisome. Due to these uncertain events in the country, leaders who were involved in the independence struggle started to lay the foundation of socialism in the Revolutionary Council era.

Today, our firm political aim is to establish a Union based on democracy and federalism. The essence of democratic governance and federalism is co-existence, harmony, sharing and share of power. In democratic governance, the will of majority is to be implemented while minority's will must be valued and respected in line with the practices of democracy. A prerequisite for establishing democracy and sustaining it will be the formation of a disciplined and law-abiding Myanmar society endowed with democratic spirit. This has to be carried out by the ethnic nationals and entire people of Myanmar.

In building federalism aspired by the entire ethnic nationals, it is necessary to seek a suitable federal system which would serve the long-term interests of the entire people and the Union. Our country is a nation built in the form of a Union since the era of ancient Kings. Since the Bagan Dynasty, also called the first dynasty in Myanmar's history, the country was founded by the ethnic people. When Myanmar was colonized by the British, it was taken over as the Union known as Burma and then regained independence as a Union. The fact that the entire ethnic people recognized the current boundaries of the country in concluding boundary treaties with neighbouring countries firmly testifies that our country has stood up as a Union throughout successive epochs.

The founding of a Union that has stood throughout history, it is imperative to establish federal system that is fit and suitable for the country. For our country where diverse ethnic nationals reside, it is important to introduce federalism based on regions rather than ethnicity. Only then will we be able to avoid confederation which favours diversity and differences and could also lead to disintegration of the Union. The current State Constitution 2008 delegates executive power to regions, states, and self-administered areas. Chapter (1) Basic Principles of the Union and Chapter (8) Citizen, Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizens of the State Constitution stipulate that rights and guarantees for the people of the Union are granted equally. There is no reason to disagree on issues of politics, ethnics and religions. Practising the provisions

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Speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister, Chairman of the National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee, ...



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers speech at 8th Anniversary of NCA in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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and amending them in accordance with the law as deemed necessary can be considered as establishing federalism in a pragmatic manner.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

There are various types of democratic system. Today, our country is practising multi-party democracy. General elections are the essence and integral part of democracy. The people have experienced general elections throughout history. Since the parliamentary democratic system of Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) era to the multi-party democratic system of the previous general elections performed "first-past-the-post" system which culminated the absence of balance of power and it could be observed that ethnic parties hardly had the chance to participate in politics. There are eight main national races and more than 130 ethnic groups in our country. Thus, we have to build a strong federal Union with all the ethnic nationalities. Simply put, federalism stands for "coexistence and sharing". When it comes to sharing, the "Proportional Representation System" (PR system) must be practised for the all-inclusive participation of ethnic groups, instead of "first-past-the-post" system that was practised in the previous elections. This is not the will of the State Administration Council alone. This is also the common will enshrined in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) out of the proposals by the Ethnic

Armed Organizations (EAOs). The basic principles set out in Chapter (1) of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) include to "establish a Union based on the principles of democracy and federalism in accordance with the outcomes of political dialogue" and "guarantee equal rights to all citizens". I would say that the Proportional Representation system (PR system) is the most suitable one for our country.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

During the term of the first democratic government that started in 2011, our country made progress on its path to democracy and achieved development to a certain extent. By the time the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was reached and fruitful results for peace were achieved, some traitors and foreign countries instigated the Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) not to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). However, eight ethnic organizations that are truly patriotic to the country and people and desirous of peace, stability and development signed the NCA agreement successfully. In addition, the signing of two more ethnic organizations to the agreement has made the total number of Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) to ten to date. The remaining NCA non-signatory EAOs are invited to sign the NCA and to build peace. As soon as the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was brought about, the Tatmadaw outlined a 6-point policy for peace talks. The Tat-

madaw's 6-point peace policy coincides with the essence of the NCA agreement, and that policy is also the "conscience" gained from peace efforts throughout different eras in history as well as the "realities" that must be done to firmly build peace today. The Tatmadaw has declared a unilateral ceasefire with effect from 21 December 2018 to 31 December 2023, end of this year.

The State Administration Council has laid down a Road-Map and Objectives since the assumption of state responsibilities. At present, a Five-Point Road-Map and nine Objectives have been outlined. One point in the Five-Point Road-Map is "to endeavour the peace process in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible". Likewise, it can be seen that one out of the nine objectives is "to give special consideration to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to implement lasting peace in the whole country". On 17 February 2021, the State Administration Council established the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) consisting of three committees: the steering committee, work committee, and coordination committee to ensure effective and successful realization of national solidarity and peacemaking processes.

These different tiers of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committees, offering unconditional dialogues depending on their acceptability of multi-party democratic system and democracy and federal system, invited

all parties to peace negotiations on 22 April 2022. Peace negotiations and implementation as well as rehabilitation and development tasks have been carried out by meeting with the representatives of seven NCA signatory EAOs and three NCA non-signatory EAOs. Matters relating to the development of education, health and infrastructure sectors as well as the provision of humanitarian assistance for people in areas where Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) are located have been implemented in coordination with respective ministries and region/state governments.

On 22 April 2022, I announced in my speech to the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and our fellow citizens that "the year 2022 as the Year of Peace". Afterwards, the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) were invited to make peace negotiations and peace dialogues were held with ten EAOs. Three rounds of peace dialogues were convened with ten EAOs from May 2022 to February 2023. These peace talks resulted in the following four common agreements:

1. Cooperating in consolidation of the multi-party democratic political system;
2. Building a Union based on democracy and federalism, aspired by the entire ethnic people;
3. Cooperating in the realization of peace and development of the Union; and
4. Cooperating in the areas of prevalence of rule of law and stability and contesting in a free and fair multi-party democratic general election.

Moreover, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, which is a dialogue mechanism for peace, held several informal meetings and formal negotiations including video conferencing with the relevant stakeholders. A total of 121 peace talks were held from February 2021 to September 2023, which included 73 peace talks with NCA signatories, 25 with NCA non-signatories, 16 with political parties and seven with peace facilitator groups.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

The State Administration Council is endeavouring to achieve peace and prosperity for the present and future of the country and people. We will strive for prosperity and food security as the national visions for the benefit of our country and people. As for political vision, we will endeavour for the consolidation of genuine, disciplined and multi-party democracy system and will build a Union based on democracy and federalism. These two visions are our grand strategy. We have

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Speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister, Chairman of the National Unity and Peacemaking Central Committee, ...

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to sustain these visions as our immediate and long-term visions. In doing so, the Five-Point Road-Map of the State Administration Council was adopted and being implemented, which serve as our strategy. For the purpose of achieving the said strategy and grand strategy, we are currently undertaking the nine objectives. These are our tactics.

In fulfilling the vision and objectives of the nation, it will bear fruit under the leadership of the government coupled by the participation of the entire people. As our country is an under-developed one, there are weakness in basic education high school system as well as in higher education system in this Knowledge Era. Thus, we are encountering numerous challenges in our efforts to build a modern and developed nation. In democratic system, education and wisdom of the people are of vital importance. There was less

progress in the education sector in the rural areas where most of our people reside. As education is weak, logical thinking was rather poor. We behave based on what we have experienced, learnt and known. That is why, peace and stability in the country is easily disrupted by external instigations and incitements based on distorted and fabricated information. Therefore, we need to reform and promote our knowledge and logical thinking on par with this modern era. That is the future of our nation. Therefore, I want to call on all the local and foreign organisations, all the countries and the entire ethnic nationals of Myanmar especially the NCA signatory EAOs residing in the ethnic areas who wish to see development and safeguard the interests of the country to render their cooperation and support in its health, education, knowledge and all-round development.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

I would also like to urge all the stakeholders to look into the best interest of the state and work together in fulfilling the long awaited desires of the people which are to attain peace and prosperity of the state, ensure food security, enable peaceful conduct of their livelihoods and pursue education and stand tall amongst nations. Today the signing of NCA has reached its eight-year history. As we inherited the "independence" from our ancestors, it is our duty to pass this invaluable legacy to our future generations. This legacy is the "genuine and sustainable peace". Thus, once again, I wish to sincerely urge all of you to pass this invaluable legacy to our future generations.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

I wish to conclude by calling

- the entire people to work together and to make relentless efforts, with the spirit of "Keep moving forward to achieve our goal", as stated in the Five-Point Road-Map and the Nine Objectives as well as the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) for peace and stability of the nation;
 - the NCA signatories to adhere to the NCA commitments with transparency, responsibility and accountability in the implementation of the NCA in order to build perpetual peace; and
 - the NCA non-signatories to come forward to the political negotiation table for the development of the nation and for the uplifting of the socio-economic lives of the people, so that the NCA non-signatories will be able to dedicatedly participate in building a Union based on democracy and federalism.
- I thank you all.

NCA first important step of a long journey towards establishment of a democratic federal union

THE following is the speech delivered by a Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Say Poe at the ceremony to mark the 8th anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 October 2023.

Distinguished officials, leaders of political parties and ethnic armed organizations and ambassadors attending the 8th anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), first of all, I would like to wish you the best of luck and auspiciousness.

I would like to say that I am very proud and grateful for allowing me to deliver a speech on behalf of the ethnic armed organizations attending this glorious ceremony in a historic day.

In order to end the armed

conflicts that has been going on for many years since our country's post-independence period, representatives of the government and representatives of ethnic armed organizations spent almost two years of discussion to reach the agreement for the NCA.

Based on the aspiration of finding a solution through meetings and dialogues between the two parties, the NCA was achieved, and a new chapter of history has emerged.

The emergence of NCA is the result of the spirit of compromise, the desire to solve difficulties together, the commitment of wanting to solve political problems by political means, the ability of maintaining harmony and trust between the representatives who participated in each side of the discussion. In the current period, I would like to encourage

all of you to make more efforts with the same spirit and will.

The signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is not an accomplishment of inking an ordinary ceasefire agreement, but the first important step of a long journey towards the establishment of a democratic federal Union, and many challenges also await.

Therefore, in the past, the implementation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-(NCA) was not as successful as it should have been, and due to the political crisis, the implementation of the NCA was also halted. I would like to request all parties concerned to find a solution based on mutual respect and national reconciliation, rather than putting forward their own aspirations.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight the fact that



our country is a multi-ethnic country, although each ethnic group is different from others, we need to look ahead to be able to live together in peace. In order to put an end to the armed conflict that we have experienced bitterly throughout our lifetime, and to leave a legacy of "peace" for the fu-

ture generations of the nation, I would like to encourage all of you to overcome the current political crisis to be able to establish a federal democratic union by means of engaging in dialogues between the parties based on justice, dignity, accountability and transparency.

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OPINION

Erase global hunger: A shared responsibility

Food is the cornerstone of life for all living beings. Agriculture and livestock play pivotal roles in meeting the dietary needs of people across the globe. The dedicated efforts of farmers in these sectors are instrumental in producing essential food items derived from crops and livestock.

Recognizing the critical importance of food security, the United Nations established the Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945. The FAO's mission is to manage food supplies and provide necessary aid to those in dire need. Collaborating closely with the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the FAO is committed to alleviating global hunger.

World Food Day, instituted by FAO's Member Countries during the Organization's 20th General Conference in November 1979, is a yearly event observed in over 150 countries. Its primary goal is

to raise awareness about the underlying issues of poverty and hunger, bringing global attention to the urgent need for action.

Meanwhile, Myanmar is making significant strides in agricultural production and livestock farming to meet the needs of its population and generate income through surplus exports. The government is actively promoting crop cultivation, including single and triple cropping, while simultaneously providing essential resources such as irrigation facilities and agricultural and breeding techniques to support successful agricultural and livestock endeavours.

Myanmar's unique advantage lies in its vast expanses of unutilized, fertile land. In 2019, a census revealed that 45 per cent of the country's population was engaged in cultivation and livestock tasks, cultivating 5.73 million acres of monsoon paddy, 7.47 million acres of various crops, and 1.8 million acres of summer paddy.

Many people, particularly in rural areas, are actively involved in the livestock sector. As of 2021, more than 10 million head of cattle are being raised, as per statistics from Cattle Stock Myanmar. While the country does not primarily rear cattle for meat consumption, the meat production is sufficient to meet local demands.

While global people continue to grapple with famine, the people of Myanmar enjoy food security without apprehension. Myanmar has a history of providing aid to countries in need, demonstrating compassion during times of food crises. This spirit of benevolence underscores the fundamental human value of extending a helping hand to eradicate starvation. It is a testament to humanity's potential for compassion and solidarity, and together, everybody can strive to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry. Food is not just sustenance but a key to a better, more equitable for all.

Coffee is believed to have originated from Ethiopia. It made its way North, across the Red Sea into Yemen in the 15th century.

It then started to grow here in the Yemen district of Arabic, and by the 16th century, it was already known in Persia, Egypt, Syria and Turkiye as immensely popular for its quality to help improve alertness and wakefulness, allowing people to devote more time to spiritual matters and praying.

The world's first coffee house was opened in Constantinople in 1475 now known as Istanbul. Coffee was drunk at home as part of the daily routine as well as to show hospitality to guests. Outside of the home, people visited coffee houses to not only drink coffee but to engage in conversation, listen to music, watch performances, play chess, gossip and catch up on daily news. Without modern technologies, coffee houses would not have been so quickly becoming the epic centre for exchanging and gaining daily information. They have been often referred to "School of the Wise", and with thousands of pilgrims visiting Mecca each year from all over the world, this knowledge of

"Wine of Arab" quickly became to spread widely.

The course of coffee history began to change, this exotic information service certainly caused a stir for European travellers who were filled with intrigue and fascination. So, by the 17th century, coffee had made its way to Europe

and became increasingly popular across the continent. European coffee history began in Italy, where it was imported from the Ottoman Empire, in particular, Venetian merchants contributed to the widespread popularity. of coffee in European regions and in 1645, the first-ever European coffee house was opened in Venice, drinking coffee became a great commodity, especially for wealthy people.

Through the Dutch East India Company and the British East India Company, coffee also became very popular in England. The first coffee house in England was opened in Oxford in 1651 and many others quickly popped up, particularly London. Coffee houses were strictly for men only, where they could discuss business and news as well as socialize, it is said that many important business ventures and ideas started in London coffee houses. Coffee was then introduced to Paris, France, in 1669 by Suleyman Aga, the ambassador in the court of King Louis XIV of France. He was armed with bags of coffee described as a "magical beverage". Only two years later in 1671, an Armenian who went by the name Pascall opened a coffee-drinking booth at the fair of St Carmain. Visitors very quickly learned to look for the "peter noir" a name that still exists now. This marked the beginning of the Parisian coffee house which of course inspired coffee houses to open across France.

Over the next 30 years, coffee became cultural staples in

Austria, Germany, Spain, and the rest of Europe. However, growing coffee in Europe was a struggle, due to its naturally cold climate. Europe traders would later start

to grow coffee elsewhere.

The founder of the colony of Virginia, Captain John Smith introduced coffee to other settlers at Jamestown in 1607. However,

it wasn't well received at first and tea was more preferred. In 1670, Dorothy Jones became the first person to receive a licence to sell coffee in Boston. By the mid-1700s

many taverns were also dubbed as coffee houses, but tea was still the drink of choice. It was only when a rebellion against Great Britain caused all the tea to be

Coffee

By U Win Sein



Coffee is one of the most popular beverages worldwide, and it's prepared and enjoyed in various ways across different cultures. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

thrown into the sea and it was considered unpatriotic to drink it any longer, that coffee then became increasingly popular.

The New World's hot, tropical weather was seen as a new idea for the cultivation of coffee, and coffee plantations quickly spread throughout Central America, with their first harvest occurring in 1726.

Latin American countries also have ideal coffee growing conditions, such as a good balance of sunshine and rain, high humid temperatures and rich soil. By the mid-18th century, Latin American countries evolved into being some of the top coffee producers, able to clear big tropical forests, ready for plantations, and today Brazil is the world's greatest coffee producer.

NESCAFE, as one of the most consumed beverage enterprises in the world, has a wealth of interesting coffee facts and figures.

Here is a collection of coffee-producing countries as shown below:

Rank	Country	Coffee Production (MT)
1	Brazilian	2,6,810
2	Viet Nam	15,420
3	Colombia	7,540
4	Indonesia	6,690

Myanmar has annually produced 9,000 tonnes of coffee, including 7,000 tonnes of Arabica and 2,000 tonnes of Robusta. The export market amounted to US\$88.3 billion in 2023, the above-said market is expected to grow annually at 4.61 per cent. Mandalay and

Shan States produce the majority of coffee in Myanmar. Recently, other regions, Chin and Kachin come in to produce coffee as well.

Coffee was introduced to Burma by British colonizers, but the crop went largely uncultivated. So, the Catholic missionaries brought coffee to Shan State in 1930, where most of Myanmar's coffee is today grown in the township of Ywangan.

Myanmar exported coffee beans to over 10 foreign countries including Britain, the United States, Japan, China, Thailand and Australia. Myanmar always striving to expand the coffee market by connecting with international coffee organizations and importers, to organize exhibitions.

Have often invited coffee traders to festivals and coffee forums in Myanmar. Coffee was introduced by the British, but the crop went largely uncultivated. The Catholic missionaries brought coffee to Shan State in 1930. Most of Myanmar's coffee is grown in Ywangan, and 90 of the 125 villages are involved in coffee plantations.

Ywangan, a township located within Taunggyi district in Shan State, Myanmar, has cultivated coffee since 1885. However, during that period exporting Myanmar coffee to foreign countries was infrequent. Initially, the production was limited. After acquiring modern technologies from other nations, Myanmar coffee was mainly sold to neighbouring countries. In 2015, the export market of Myanmar has expanded widely as well. ■

\$9.5 bn of key metals in overlooked electronic waste: UN

Consumers annually discard or retain disused electronic goods, containing essential raw materials for the green energy transition and valued at nearly \$10 billion.

Consumers discard or possess disused electronic goods containing raw materials critical for the green energy transition and worth almost \$10 billion every year, the United Nations said on Thursday.

Toys, cables, electronic cigarettes, tools, electric toothbrushes, shavers, headphones and other domestic gadgets contain metals like lithium, gold, silver and copper.

Demand is expected to soar

for these materials due to their crucial role in rapidly growing green industries such as electric vehicle battery production.

In Europe alone, copper demand is predicted to multiply by six by 2030 to meet rising needs in key sectors like renewable energy, communications, aerospace and defence. But the materials are squandered because this "invisible" waste is thrown away rather than recycled or gathers dust in homes, the United Nations Insti-

tute for Training and Research (UNITAR) said in a report released on Thursday.

The "invisible" e-waste amounts to nine billion kilograms every year worldwide, with the related raw materials worth \$9.5 billion, around one-sixth of the estimated 2019 total of \$57 billion for all e-waste, UNITAR said.

"Invisible e-waste often falls under the recycling radar of those disposing of them because they are not seen as e-waste," said

Magdalena Charytanowicz of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Forum, an international association of non-profit organisations that commissioned the report. "We need to change that and raising awareness is a large part of the answer."

More than one-third of the "invisible" waste came from toys such as race cars, talking dolls, robots and drones, with 7.3 billion items thrown away annually.

The weight of the estimated

844 million vaping devices discarded each year is equivalent to six Eiffel Towers, the report said.

The study also found that 950 million kilograms of cables with recyclable copper were thrown away last year, enough to circle Earth 107 times.

In Europe, 55 per cent of electric and electronic waste is recycled, but the global average drops to a little over 17 per cent.

The recycling rate tumbles to almost zero in parts of South America, Asia and Africa, usually due to a lack of collection points, Charytanowicz said.

SOURCE: AFP



Toys, cables, electronic cigarettes, tools, electric toothbrushes, shavers, headphones and other domestic gadgets contain critical metals. ILLUSTRATION: FREPIK

NATIONAL

It is time to seek national reconciliation by any means

THE following is a speech delivered by General Yawd Serk, Chairman of RCSS, at the Ceremony to mark the Eighth Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2023, Nay Pyi Taw.

First of all, I would like to wish all the distinguished guests to the 8th Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), happiness, healthiness and auspiciousness.

Today marks the 8th Anniversary of the signing of NCA. I am glad to have the opportunity to speak on behalf of all the signatories of NCA-signed Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs). We are thankful to State Administration Council for organizing the ceremony of 8th Anniversary of the NCA bringing together all the representatives.

Celebrating the anniversary is to honour those who deserve and to take lessons by recalling the challenges faced. On behalf of all EAOs, I would like to give great honour to all responsible officials from the Government led by Former



President U Thein Sein and to all those from EAOs side, NCCT, SD and all responsible individuals.

NCA is an agreement signed by the Government, Hluttaw, Tatmadaw and EAOs and witnessed by representatives of UN, EU, China, India, Thailand and Japan. Despite the efforts for administrative reforms through engagement and consultations, NCA did not reach far due to lack of compromises. It is regrettable that NCA has yet to be

implemented over eight year of its signing.

Especially, political deadlock over 2020 general elections and no political solution in sight over ongoing political issues, NCA implementation is also stalled. Lots of times were lost for our politics and peace.

However, we, the signatories of NCA uphold the principles and essence of the NCA, such as “seeking political solution on political issues”, “holding mean-

ingful and inclusive dialogues with the participation of all stakeholders” and “protection of all civilians” etc. and we are committed to seek solution for the current political deadlock. And, we also wish to inform all those concerned that we are continuing our efforts in that direction.

Since the Independence, our Union faced instability and conflicts. At present as well, our people are facing many socio-economic difficulties in addition to the political deadlocks. Today, as we have yet to resolve the political tension through peaceful means, the country has been facing armed conflicts and its consequences and difficulties in every aspect. I would like to urge that it is time to find solution not to let worsen the difficulties in multiple fronts.

It is the time to seek national reconciliation by any means. Therefore, we need to build trust among the stakeholders. We cannot overcome the current political deadlock by upholding diverging views and principles. The only way out for the Union is the dialogues with-

out any precondition. I would also like to propose and encourage international community to support our efforts to seek solutions through meaningful and inclusive dialogues.

It is time for our country seek reform aiming for eternal Peace and Federal Democratic Union. The Constitution, which is part of the country’s political issue, need to be reformed and the Constitution should also be the one acceptable to all.

In conclusion, I would like to state that only through a Genuine Federal democratic Union, mutual recognition and respect to the diversity of Multi-ethnic Union can be created and then, the diversity can be turned into strength of the Union. For a country with a 70-years history of differences and tensions, there can be many challenges. In this respect, I would like to highlight the importance of political will. I would like to conclude by expressing that EAOs, along with all stakeholders, wish to exert unwavering efforts to build Federal Democratic Union by overcoming current political deadlock through dialogues.

China supports Myanmar’s efforts to safeguard national integrity, and legitimate rights and interests in international arenas

THE following is a speech delivered by Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China at the Ceremony to mark the Eighth Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw.

I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations for successfully convening of the ceremony to commemorate the 8th Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

We have a proverb in Chinese “Peace is Precious”. Peace is prerequisite for the national development of Myanmar and prosperity of all national races residing in the country. Peace is

not only very much in line with the aspirations of the people but also the common interests of the entire people of Myanmar.

China has all along consistently supported the peace process of Myanmar. We wish to actively support Myanmar by playing a constructive role in calling for peace dialogues on the basis of full respect for the sovereignty and needs of Myanmar.

We view the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as a momentous milestone in the peace process of Myanmar. We also believe that all stakeholders of the Myanmar peace process based on openness, inclusivity, flexibility and practicality will be able to steadfastly embark on the path to dialogue by holding peace dialogues that lead to

achieve lasting peace in the end through building mutual trust in the country.

As you all are well aware, China and Myanmar are linked by rivers and mountains and have been enjoying the unique Pauk-phaw relations. China has always highly valued the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries and upheld a policy of cordial relations with the entire people of Myanmar. China will continue to promote the mutual friendship by working side by side with Myanmar as reliable cooperative partner. Moreover, we believe that by accelerating the “Belt and Road Initiatives – BRI” projects, both countries will be able to fully achieve the essence of “China-Myanmar – A community of



shared future”. China supports Myanmar’s efforts to safeguard the national integrity, and the legitimate rights and interests in the international arenas and to choose its own development path that suits Myanmar. China also sincerely hope that the international community will fully respect the sovereignty of Myanmar and constructively supports in its democratic transition, peace and national reconciliation

processes.

We believe that both countries will continue to enjoy a cordial relation and also remain as good neighbours. China will also continue to stand not only as a reliable good neighbour but also as a good friend and partner of Myanmar. We wish to extend our warm wishes for peace and the continued progress and prosperity of Myanmar. Long live Myanmar.

NATIONAL

NCA framework can provide a platform for political reforms that reflect aspirations of Myanmar people

THE following is a speech delivered by Mr Vikram Misri, the Deputy National Security Adviser to India on 8th anniversary of signing of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA on 15 October 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Hon'ble Chairman of the State Administration Council Senior General Min Aung Hlaing,

Distinguished Guests from Government of Myanmar,

Distinguished Representatives from Ethnic Armed Organizations,

Distinguished Representatives from the international community,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we are gathered to commemorate a significant milestone in the history of Myanmar — the 8th anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). As India, a witness country to the agreement, we reflect on the

journey that our neighbouring nation has undertaken towards achieving peace and unity.

Eight years ago, on this very day, representatives from eight ethnic armed organizations and the government of Myanmar came together to sign the NCA. It was a moment filled with hope and a testament to the commitment of all parties involved to resolve conflicts through dialogue and cooperation.

The NCA, a product of rigorous negotiations and courageous decisions, marked a pivotal moment in Myanmar's history. It signified the collective desire of Myanmar's diverse ethnic groups to put aside their differences, lay down their arms, and embark on a path towards a more peaceful future. The NCA represents not just an agreement on paper but the aspirations of the Myanmar people for a nation where all citizens can co-exist harmoniously, free from

violence and conflict. It envisions a Myanmar where the rich tapestry of ethnic voices and cultures is not just respected but celebrated, where every individual has the opportunity to flourish.

It is this spirit of NCA which needs to be further nurtured and strengthened to resolve ethnic conflicts and differences amicably and peacefully for realization of the aspirations of the people of Myanmar. India, as a federal democratic country, supports this path for Myanmar and has always lent a helping hand whenever needed through its initiatives like promoting dialogue on constitutionalism and federalism.

However, we must acknowledge that the journey towards peace has been fraught with challenges. There have been setbacks along the way, and the path forward remains challenging in view of the evolving political landscape in



Myanmar. The nation is in the midst of a political transition and the role of the NCA in this process can be useful, if all parties abide by their respective commitments; then the NCA framework can provide a platform for political reforms that reflect the aspirations of the Myanmar people for a democratic and federal republic. It can then become a cornerstone of the nation's journey towards a more inclusive society.

The NCA is a symbol of

hope and can illuminate the path towards peace amid the shadows of conflict. We call upon all stakeholders to strengthen this framework, abide by their commitments and initiate a serious dialogue to resolve the conflict politically to move towards the goal of a federal democratic republic where all its people live in peace, stability and prosperity. Thank you, and may peace and unity flourish in Myanmar and the entire region.

Thailand very pleased to have rendered its full support from the start of NCA

THE following is remarks by Mr Sihasak Phuanketkeow, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand at the 8th Anniversary Ceremony of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement on 15 October 2023 at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,**

It is a great privilege for me to represent the Royal Thai Government at the Eighth Anniversary Ceremony of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement or NCA today here in Nay Pyi Taw.

On this day eight years ago, Thailand was honoured to have witnessed the landmark signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in Myanmar. It was an important milestone in



the peace process of Myanmar. And Thailand was very pleased to have rendered its full support from the start.

The aim of the NCA was to "secure an enduring peace based on the principles of dignity and justice, through an inclusive po-

litical dialogue process involving all relevant stakeholders".

Thailand fully supported this vision eight years ago. To this day, our support remains strong and consistent.

Thailand believes that the path toward peace in any country

must be determined by its own people. The peace process in Myanmar must be Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned, based on dialogue and reconciliation.

Peace, stability and prosperity of Myanmar and Thailand are closely linked and intertwined. As the next-door neighbour, Thailand remains steadfast in our commitment to forge a true partnership of mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual benefit with Myanmar.

A peaceful, stable, and prosperous Myanmar is in Thailand's interest and the interest of the region and ASEAN as a whole.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,**

As we witness the events unfolding around the world, we are reminded that it is imperative to safeguard our peace and security. The path toward peace is

never easy, with many challenges. It requires resolve, courage, and leadership. Peace can only succeed through engagement, dialogue, and reconciliation.

Thailand would like to urge all parties in Myanmar to stay the course on this path. We urge all parties to persevere and overcome the challenges that lie ahead, in order to find a way forward for the benefit of the people of Myanmar.

You can rest assured that Thailand remains as committed today as eight years ago to the goals and vision of NCA.

To conclude, I would like to extend my best wishes for Myanmar on her path toward successful peace process and national development through engagement of all stakeholders, so as to fulfill the aspirations of the entire nation and people of Myanmar. Thank you.

NATIONAL

Implementing the NCA plays an important role in making democratic transition of Myanmar a success

THE following is a speech delivered by U Aung Min, local witness at the Ceremony to mark the Eighth Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw.

I would like to express my greetings (Mingalarbar) to the Chairman of the State Administration Council (SAC) and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, members of the State Administration Council, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Lieutenant General Yar Pyae, Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and members of NSPNC, Saw Mutu Say Poe, eminent Kayin Ethnic Person and ethnic representatives, signatories of the NCA, representatives from political parties, representatives from all walks of life as well as honorable guests attending the Eighth Anniversary of the signing of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

First of all, I would like to thank the Prime Minister and the responsible officials for giving me this opportunity to deliver a speech at the anniversary of the NCA.

I would like to briefly present the background of the NCA. In 2011, U Thein Sein (former President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar) became the first President of Myanmar elected by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Government led by President U Thein Sein committed to strive for achieving ever lasting peace as the armed conflicts in Myanmar had lasted for 70 years and regardless of efforts made by successive



governments while there were success and failures due to various reasons.

At the beginning of peace process, the then government paid emphasis on ceasefire. It was initially considered that since the country has been transforming into a democratic system, peace will be achieved eventually if all parties concerned can reach an agreement for ceasefire and participate in the democratic system.

However, many challenges have been encountered when working towards ceasefire.

The first challenge is that many Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) have disagreement over the State Constitution 2008.

The second challenge is instability that used to arise during democratic transitions.

The reform made in Myanmar in 2011 was mainly emphasized on the peace process as the center. Hence, it can be said that the NCA lays the foundation not only for ceasefire but also for the

way to implement peace process.

Later on, it is observed that there were many new approaches which differ widely from our Government. After 2015 election, it became time to implement the NCA agreement. The newly elected NLD Government also made efforts to continue the implementation of the NCA.

However, the approach taken by the NLD government was different from the previous one. The previous approach: democratic transition based on peace process has changed to the new approach: political transition based on election results. Accordingly, peace process was no longer considered as a priority.

I vividly remember the speech delivered by former President U Thein Sein at the signing day of NCA. President U Thein Sein stated that the essence of the NCA depends on how all parties involved are going to implement this agreement. He also mentioned that, in implementing the NCA, the es-

sence of the agreement will also depend upon how seriously accepted the elements contained in the NCA was by signatories to the NCA.

The NCA is the backbone of peace process which agreed on how political dialogues will be made, peace agreement will be achieved; how ceasefire will be strengthened and how civilians in ceasefire areas will be protected.

The peace process has been ongoing. We have not completed the agreed process. There are ups and downs like in other peace processes. It does not necessarily mean that the peace process ends. The process is still ongoing.

The NCA includes the very important point that the signatories to the NCA agreed to establish the Union, based on democracy and federal system.

We have already agreed how we would build the future system of our country. This is vital political agreement in the history of Myanmar. As long as we keep holding this agreement, the peace process would be flourishing.

There are judgments that the NCA is not working. In my view, the implementation of the NCA would be affected as long as political solutions are being opposed.

There are also claims that the NCA is no longer active. This is not correct since today's event serves as a testimony.

During the visit of the Prime Minister to Lashio, Northern Shan State, he met with the public on 10 September 2023. During the meeting, he explained explicitly on the background of the armed conflicts in Myanmar since 1948 until

present. He further stated that we are taking the path of the multi-party democratic system, and that efforts have been made for the parliamentary democracy to be back on track peacefully. There should not be any further conflicts based on politics, ethnicity or religions. He noted that the NCA was signed between the Government, Parliament, Tatmadaw and respective Ethnic Armed Organizations on 15 October 2015. The Observers from Myanmar as well as from the international community including the United Nations were present at the event. He also stated that the NCA, a historical agreement approved as the Union Accord by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, would never be invalidated. He reiterated that the Tatmadaw would firmly stand on the NCA in implementing the peace process. In the Five-point Road-Map of the State Administration Council, it is stated that emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement as much as possible. Furthermore, building a union based on democracy and federalism is one of the political objectives of the SAC.

In conclusion, implementing the NCA plays an important role in making the democratic transition of Myanmar a success. Accordingly, political issues could be addressed by political means as per the NCA.

I would like to urge all to contribute all-out efforts to achieving the democratic federal Union for our future generations, that is, the ultimate goal of the NCA.

I thank you.

MoC UM receives delegation led by Thai Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn received a delegation led by Mr Mongkol Visitstump, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

They discussed the potentials for en-

hancing friendship between the two countries and prospects for cooperation to facilitate and streamline trade activities and cooperation in promotion of trade. — MNA/KZW



Forbes names Joy Alukkas as India's Richest Jeweller

JOY Alukkas, Chairman and Managing Director of Joyalukkas Group has become the richest Jeweller in India according to the latest 'Forbes List of India's 100 Richest 2023'.

He climbed 19 notches to improve his ranking from 69th in the previous year to 50th in the latest list.

Joyalukkas has report-

ed a turnover of Rs 14,513 crore in FY2023, with a net profit of Rs 899 crore in India. The company is aiming a turnover of Rs 17,500 crore for FY2024 and a net profit of Rs 1,100 crore.

The company has 160 showrooms world over of which 100 are in India. It has plans to take the total India showroom count to

130 and is in the process of expanding its North India footprint. The company also plans to invest approximately Rs 2,400 crore spread over the next two financial years to open 30 new showrooms in India and 10 outlets abroad.

Joyalukkas owns the world's largest gold jewellery retail outlet in Chen-

nai. The jewellery retail chain has played a transformative role in the Indian jewellery sector by introducing concepts such as multiple store retail, organized retailing operations, and large format stores which have transformed the business landscape of the once fragmented Indian jewellery sector. — ANI



Joy Alukkas, Chairman and Managing Director, Joyalukkas Group. PHOTO: ANI

China-Laos Railway trains carry 81,000 cross-border passengers

MORE than 81,000 cross-border passengers have used the international train service on the China-Laos Railway over the past six months, border control authorities in southwest China's Yunnan Province said.

Among them, more than 15,000 were foreigners from more than 60 countries and regions, according to the exit-entry frontier inspection station of Mohan on the China-Laos border, which had handled 370 passenger trains at the Mohan railway

port as of Friday. Friday marked the six-month anniversary of the international passenger train service of the China-Laos Railway.

Since the launch of cross-border passenger service on the railway in April this year, it has quickly become the preferred option for a growing number of international travelers due to its affordability, convenience and comfort.

Starting from late July, the travel time from Kunming to Vientiane has been shortened by an hour

to around nine and a half hours, thanks to streamlined customs clearance procedures.

Wang Tian, a Chinese passenger engaged in cross-border trade who often travels between Kunming and Vientiane by train, lauded the railway service.

"The convenient customs clearance, the beautiful views along the railway route and the comfortable environment on the train have made the train trip delightful," she said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC ANDALAS VOY.NO. (340S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC ANDALAS VOY.NO. (340S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-10-2023** 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
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

HINTHA BUSINESS LIMITED (the "Company")

Notice under Section 147, 152 (a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules
(Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

As per special resolutions duly passed in writing on 13.10.2023 by all of the members of the company:

1. The process of members' voluntary winding up will proceed and take effect from 13.10.2023.
2. U Aung Nay Myo (Advocate.17955) shall be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such members' voluntary winding up and is authorized to carry out the Company's affairs in respect of such winding up; and
3. All of the creditors (if any) of the Company are required to contact the liquidator before 30.11.2023 with detailed particulars of their claim attached with complete supporting documents. The Company shall not take any responsibility for or settle any debts that are claimed and submitted after such date.

U Aung Nay Myo

LL.B, D.B.L, D.I.L, D.I.P.L, DIM, Advocate (No.17955), Liquidator

Level 16, Unit 1605, Sule Square 221, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
Tel: 09-952211180

INCEPTION TECHNOLOGY MYANMAR LIMITED (the "Company")

Notice under Section 147, 152 (a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules
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U Aung Nay Myo

LL.B, D.B.L, D.I.L, D.I.P.L, DIM, Advocate (No.17955), Liquidator

Level 16, Unit 1605, Sule Square 221, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
Tel: 09-952211180

MYANMAR THAHARA LIMITED (the "Company")

Notice under Section 147, 152 (a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules
(Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

As per special resolutions duly passed in writing on 13.10.2023 by all of the members of the company:

1. The process of members' voluntary winding up will proceed and take effect from 13.10.2023.
2. U Aung Nay Myo (Advocate.17955) shall be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such members' voluntary winding up and is authorized to carry out the Company's affairs in respect of such winding up; and
3. All of the creditors (if any) of the Company are required to contact the liquidator before 30.11.2023 with detailed particulars of their claim attached with complete supporting documents. The Company shall not take any responsibility for or settle any debts that are claimed and submitted after such date.

U Aung Nay Myo

LL.B, D.B.L, D.I.L, D.I.P.L, DIM, Advocate (No.17955), Liquidator

Level 16, Unit 1605, Sule Square 221, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
Tel: 09-952211180

REVO TECH MYANMAR LIMITED (the "Company")

Notice under Section 147, 152 (a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules
(Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

As per special resolutions duly passed in writing on 13.10.2023 by all of the members of the company:

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NATIONAL



Cultural dance troupes at NCA 8th anniversary attend dinner hosted by PM

CULTURAL dance troupes from various ethnic nationalities, who performed traditional cultural dances in celebration of the 8th anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. They also attended a dinner hosted in their honour by the Prime Minister.

The dance troupes initially visited the Maravijaya Buddha Image, the tallest sitting marble Buddha image glob-

Pyi Taw Junction Centre.

In the evening, the dance troupes were guests at a dinner hosted by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at Hotel Max, as an acknowledgment of their performances at the 8th anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). They dined together with Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Jeng Phang Naw Taung,



Cultural dance troupes from various ethnic nationalities visit the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **(TOP PHOTO)** Cultural dance troupes from various ethnic nationalities join the dinner hosted in their honour by the Prime Minister. **(ABOVE PHOTO)**

ally, which is situated in Nay Pyi Taw's Dekkhinathiri Thiri Township. They explored 24 buildings around square, each showcasing different works of art. Following this, they visited the Agga Dhipadi Sasana Beikman and religious treatises on marble slabs in Pali script and Romanized language, utilizing modern equipment.

Additionally, they toured stone plaque chamber pagodas with inscriptions, Musalinda Lake, and Dragon Pagoda, concluding their visit at the Nay

Deputy Ministers, and other officials.

The dance troupes participating in the 8th anniversary event of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) included dancers from the MRTV of the Ministry of Information, traditional cultural dance troupes from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and the Fine Arts Department. Ethnic traditional culture dance troupes from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan states also took part. — MNA/KZL

Workshop on 8th Anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement discusses peace processes



A workshop commemorating the 8th anniversary of the NCA in progress at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A workshop commemorating the 8th anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

State Administration Council Member and Union Minister for Home Affairs Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, members of NSPNC, the leaders of the seven ethnic armed Organizations that have signed the NCA, senior military officers who made efforts for the emergence of the NCA, civilian representatives of the Joint Monitoring Committee-JMC, representatives from 37 political parties that have been

allowed to register, intellectuals and experts participating in the peace process were present at the workshop, and university students also attended as observers.

The workshop participants discussed the topic of 'Continued Peace Processes under the NCA' and exchanged views on suggestions, challenges, advantages, and weaknesses regarding the tasks to be done in the peace process.

As per the discussion, all workshop participants expressed their desire for the ethnic armed organizations that have not yet participated in the peace roundtable to join and resolve political issues through peaceful means. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar delegation led by MoC UM to attend Third World Construction Championship in Russian Federation

AT the invitation of the Ministry of Construction and Housing, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant left for the Russian Federation to participate in the 'Third World Construction Championship' to be held in St Petersburg from 17 to 20 October.

Director-General of the Department of Highways U Hla Tun Oo and officials saw the delegation off at the Yangon International Airport.

Construction ministers from other countries have been invited to the 'Third



Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant to attend the 'Third World Construction Championship' to be held in St Petersburg is seen off by officials at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

World Construction Championship' in St Petersburg, Russia, and professionals responsible for implementing construction projects, representatives and officials will attend the event. — MNA/KZW

Quarterfinals of Myanmar Lethwei Championship held

THE quarterfinal bouts of the Myanmar Lethwei championship, named ANS fights and supervised by the Myanmar Lethwei Federation, were held yesterday afternoon at the Hlaingthaya Shwelinban Industrial Zone Gymnasium in Yangon.

In the 63.5-67 kg event, Sein Lone Chaw (Aung Naing Thu) defeated Gabarshar (Zarni Maung) via split decision. Next, Thway Thit Maung (Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit) beat Kyar Pauk (Sat Yone) with an unanimous decision.

In the same event, Elmwee (Top Lethwei Academy) knocked out Ye Thway Ni. Similarly, Thet Win Aung (360 Sports) knocked out Zwe Rahman (Yoeyar Dan).

Next, the bouts between Aung Thway Lay (White Blood) and Jala (Python



Thway Thit Maung (left) lands the punch on Kyar Pauk, who is using his long kicks over the rival during the Quarterfinal bouts of Myanmar Lethwei championship. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

MMA), as well as Aung Ko Latt (Ray and Ye Lin Naing (Smart Fight), ended in

a draw. The winners of the quarterfinals be held on 19 November 2023. — Bala advanced to the semifinals, which will Soe/KZL

Reigning champ Kim shares PGA Vegas lead with Hadwin, Griffin

DEFENDING champion Tom Kim closed with a 25-foot birdie putt to fire a nine-under par 62 and share the lead after Saturday's third round of the PGA's Shriners Children's Open.

The 21-year-old from South Korea birdied four of the last six holes to stand alongside Canada's Adam Hadwin and American Lanto Griffin on 15-under 198 after 54 holes at TPC Summerlin in Las Vegas. Kim, a runner-up in this year's British Open at Royal Liverpool, made nine birdies in all plus an eagle against two bogeys after starting the day six strokes adrift.

"It was great. It's not bogey-free but it's still nine-under par," Kim said. "I played great today. I got into that place where I was comfortable and I was very calm. I didn't feel like I was rushing into anything. I was just really in my place."

"I had a lot of good shots. I had a lot of good looks. I left myself in some tough situations but recovered really well."

Hadwin, who began the day five off the pace, fired a bogey-free 63, his eight birdies including a tap-in at the par-5 16th after driving the green in two and another at the par-3 17th after landing his tee shot within three feet of the hole. — AFP

Defending champion Tom Kim of South Korea fired a nine-under par 62 to grab a share of the lead after the third round of the PGA Tour Shriners Children's Open. **PHOTO: AFP**

Alimkhanuly stops Gualtieri to unify IBF, WBO middleweight titles

KAZAKH southpaw Janibek Alimkhanuly stopped Germany's Vincenzo Gualtieri in the sixth round on Saturday to unify two middleweight world boxing titles in a showdown of unbeaten champions.

Alimkhanuly kept the World Boxing Organization title and took the International Boxing Federation crown from Gualtieri when referee David Fields stopped the fight in suburban Houston after one minute and 25 seconds of the sixth round.

"He was waiting because he was thinking I was going to get tired," Alimkhanuly said through a translator. "But I did not get tired."

Alimkhanuly improved to 15-0 with his 10th victory inside the distance while Gualtieri, fighting outside Germany for the first time, fell to 21-1 with one drawn.

Alimkhanuly was defending his WBO throne for the third time and took the IBF title Gualtieri was defending for the first time after winning it from Brazil's Esquiva Falcao in July.



Janibek Alimkhanuly of Kazakhstan, shown at a 2021 bout, unified the WBO and IBF middleweight titles by stopping Germany's Vincenzo Gualtieri in the sixth round in a battle of unbeaten fighters. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We would like to add another two belts to this collection," Alimkhanuly said, staking his case for a chance at an undisputed crown.

The other world champions in the 160-pound division are Americans Jermall Charlo for the World Boxing Council and Erislandy Lara for the World Boxing Associa-

tion. The 30-year-old fighters measured each other in the early rounds before Alimkhanuly began pressing the attack, his stinging jabs and power punches keeping Gualtieri at bay.

Alimkhanuly landed a stunning left uppercut to the chin in a dominant fifth round. — AFP

Quarterfinals of
Myanma Lethwei
Championship held

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Several thousand people demonstrated in a pro-Palestinian rally in Geneva on Saturday as Israel readied troops for an expected invasion of the Gaza Strip. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iran warns Israel that escalation in Gaza conflict threatens regional war — Reports

Iran has expressed its concern over the Hamas-Israel conflict and the potential for regional escalation, signaling a willingness to intervene if Israel's military operation in Gaza persists.

IRAN expressed its desire to avoid exacerbating the situation in the Hamas-Israel war but made it clear that it may need to intervene if Israel's military operation in Gaza continues, reports US media quoting diplomatic sources.

The situation is of significant international concern as the conflict between Hamas and Israel holds the potential to escalate into a regional war if Iran becomes directly or indirectly involved.

The warning sent by Iran to Israel through the UN coincides with the

US' efforts to deter Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah or others from entering the conflict, claims US media.

The US has deployed an aircraft carrier group and fighter jets to the region to reinforce its stance.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held a meeting with UN envoy to the Middle East, Tor Wennesland, in Beirut, reports US media quoting diplomatic sources.

During this meeting, Wennesland implored Amir-Abdollahian to help pre-

vent the conflict from spilling over into the broader Middle East region.

In response, the Iranian foreign minister conveyed Iran's reluctance to see the situation evolve into a regional war. He also expressed Iran's willingness to aid in the release of civilians held hostage by Hamas in Gaza. However, he emphasized that Iran has "red lines" and would respond if Israel continues its military operation, particularly if it proceeds with a ground offensive in Gaza. — SPUTNIK

SPECTACULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE

Skygazers watch 'Ring of Fire' eclipse over Western Hemisphere

SKYGAZERS across the Americas turned their faces upwards Saturday for a rare celestial event: an annular solar eclipse.

A crowd of people wearing protective eyewear gathered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, one of many across the western United States watching as the Moon passed between the Sun and Earth at its furthest point from our planet.

Since it is so distant, it did not cover the Sun completely, creating a "ring of fire" effect that brought cheers from the crowd in Albuquerque.

"It's majestic. We're in awe," said one viewer, Shannon Cozad.

In the course of just a few hours the most striking "path of the annularity" was crossing a handful of major cities, including Eugene, Oregon and San Antonio, Texas, with partial eclipse phases lasting an hour or two before and after.

"It's kind of like a black hole," said Mubaraq Sokunbi, an excited eight-year-old who was at a hot air balloon festival in Albuquerque with his family. "The moon covers the sun and then there's a ring around it."

At any given location, the eclipse was visible from between 30 seconds and five minutes — but people were urged to take safety precautions and use solar viewing glasses, and never regular sunglasses, to preserve their vision. — AFP

Poland votes in 'most important' election since communism

The PiS party might get the most votes but struggle to work with others, giving a chance for Donald Tusk's opposition.

POLES voted on Sunday in parliamentary elections that will determine the country's future ties with the European Union and neighbouring Ukraine, as the ruling populists bid for a third consecutive term in power.

Opinion polls indicate the nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party will get the most votes but may struggle to build a governing coalition, giving a chance to the opposition led by former EU chief Donald Tusk.

Polling stations across the EU and NATO

member opened at 0500 GMT and will close at 1900 GMT, with exit polls expected immediately after and final results on Monday.

Some 29 million people are eligible to vote, including half a million registered abroad in a large diaspora.

A PiS victory could exacerbate tensions with the EU and Ukraine and will dismay campaigners concerned about the future of media freedoms, women's and migrants' rights.

— AFP



Some 29 million people are eligible to vote, including half a million registered abroad. **PHOTO: AFP**