

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Yangon, Mandalay set for joint 2024 New Year countdown celebrations

2024 New Year Countdown Celebrations will be held in Yangon and Mandalay, according to the information received from officials who will hold the ceremony.

As per the information from the Yangon Region government, the celebration will be held at the People's Square starting at 6 pm on 31 December and the event will be entertained by artist, vocalists, DJs, and dance troupes.

In addition, the Yangon New Year Countdown was held on 30 December as a pre-event for the new year and on 31 December at Thuwanabumi Event Park in Yangon.

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File photo shows the view of countdown of year-2023 in Yangon.

SUNDAY EDITION

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7 YBS lines set to facilitate return trip for people during New Year Festival

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Over 4,000 individuals join collective walk in December to commemorate community sports movement

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Forty-nine container vessels slated to call in Jan



File photo shows EV chargers arrived at Yangon Thilawa Port on 6 March 2023.

Year-end review: government policy changes in Myanmar economy in 2023

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NATIONAL

Five national objectives of 76th Independence Day

1. To uphold "Our Three Main National Causes" – Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty, which are national interests and national politics
2. To ensure the promotion of a comprehensive education sector that produces human resources with perfect abilities like intelligence, skills, and talents in building a Union based on democracy and federalism
3. To make efforts to hold free and fair elections under the law and ensure the right to vote across the nation
4. To foster public cooperation for state stability and strengthen the multiparty democratic system at the end of acts of terrorism
5. To promote agriculture and livestock-based MSMEs

Yangon, Mandalay set for joint 2024 New Year countdown celebrations

FROM PAGE-1

In Mandalay Region, the Mandalay Region Government will hold a New Year's Celebration at the corner of 26th Street and 66th Street starting at 6 pm on 31 December.

At the event, Htoo L Lin, Jack Mya Thaug, Suzi, Htun

Yati, Gay Gay, and other celebrities will perform and modern music, Myanmar Traditional Music and DJs will be entertained.

"This year's celebration is expected to be crowded. Some people will go to the event as well as those who have plans for New Year's night. But all

people desire the events to celebrate happily," a 25-year-old young man said.

In addition, public recreation areas such as Inya Lake, Kandawgyi, etc. in Yangon will also be crowded with visitors, according to the collected information. — Htet Oo Maung/TKO

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YBS (7) running along the route which goes round Yangon City. PHOTO:XINHUA

7 YBS lines set to facilitate return trip for people during New Year Festival

YANGON Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) Joint Secretary U Lian Cin Mang said that seven YBS bus lines will run for the convenience of people coming to the New Year festival to be held at People's Square on 31 December.

"The New Year Festival will be held at the People's Square. It will start at 6:00 pm. YBS buses will be arranged to facilitate the people who will come there at night," U Lian Cin Mang said.

YBS-21 of Power Eleven Public Co Ltd will run from People's Square-Insein-Yangon Western University (Htantabin) while YBS-61 of Khit Thit Bayintnaung Company will run from People's Square- Technological University (Hlinethaya) and YBS-37 of YBPC Co Ltd will run from People's Square-Pyay Road-8th Mile-Htaukkyant-Mingaladon.

The YBS-115 of the YUPT Public Co Ltd will run from Peo-

ple's Square-Sule and People's Square-North Okkalapa-Htaukkyant-Laydauntkan-Sanpya Market to Dagon University. Likewise, YBS-7 will run from People's Square- Tamway-No (2) Highway (South Dagon), and YBS-8 will run from People's Square-Thakayta- Yuzana Garden (Dagon Seikkan), according to the YRTC. The same programme will be set on Independence Day on 4 January 2014. — MT/KZL

Mandalay market thrives as Chinese demand boosts peanut transactions

THE peanut demand from China became strong in the 2024 pre-season so the transaction of peanuts is in good condition in Mandalay market, according to Mandalay merchants.

The peanuts from Natogyi, Bagan, NyaungU, Myingyan, Kyaukpadaung and Chauk enter the Mandalay market by the end of 2023. Due to the strong demand in China, the red peanut is priced at K7,300 per viss and the white peanut S-1 fetches K7,100 per viss.

"The Chinese suppliers purchase the peanuts in the new year period and so the sales are good in the market. The transactions of winter crops are in good condition. But it was slack last month.

Currently, Chinese merchants buy peanuts again and so the prices are high. Moreover, large amounts of peanuts are currently entering the market. The farmers reap good profits this season. The transaction of peanut is good due to the high demand from China," said U Soe Win Myint, owner of Soe Win Myint wholesale centre in Mandalay.

The peanut is grown in Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, and Ayeyawady regions to ensure local consumption and also as a main crop for export. Of these regions, Magway is described as the oil bowl of the country. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/KTZH



Merchants checking pulses and beans at Mandalay market. PHOTO: MIN Htet AUNG

NATIONAL

The fact that we are making endeavours for peace today as a national duty is to be able to relay a legacy of a bright and stable future and a developed nation for our future generations. This if not meant for self-interest or for the good reputation of a sole person.

[An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 1/2021 of the National Unity and Peace Restoration Central Committee on 3 March 2021.]



Over 4,000 individuals join collective walk in December to commemorate community sports movement

The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, to promote the health and fitness of the entire nation and raise Myanmar's sports standards at the individual level, organized a collective walk yesterday morning at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw to commemorate the public sports movement of December 2023 (Fifth Week).

Members of the State Administration Council, including Daw Dwe Bu, Porel Aung Thein, Dr Hmu Thang, Dr Ba Shwe, Khun San Lwin, and U Shwe Kyein, as well as Union ministers, deputy ministers, and

heads of departments, attended the collective walk. In total, more than 4,000 employees and their family members participated in the celebration.

U Min Thein Zan, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman and Union Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs launched the start of the walk. Participants joyfully strolled along the designated routes at Wunna Theikdi Stadium. Following the walk, they engaged in physical fitness exercises and dance routines. Officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education distributed water bottles



Employees and departmental officials led by SAC members participate in collective walk in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

and nutritional snacks.

Afterward, the Union Minister presented gifts to the members of the State Administration Council and Union Ministers who participated in the collec-

tive walk in December 2023.

The collective walks commemorating the December 2023 public sports activities took place every Saturday in December. Members of the State

Administration Council, officials from ministries, and not only the employees but also their family members participated in the collective walks. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar Music Association holds 13th respect-paying ceremony



THE Myanmar Music Association (Central) held the 13th ceremony to pay respect to veteran musicians on 30 December at Sky Star Hotel in Tamway Township in Yangon, with attendance of Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein.

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint and Yangon Region government ministers, Chairman of Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization U Kyi Soe Tun, Chairman of Myanmar Music Association (Central) U Lwin Myint, Joint Secretary-2 of Myanmar Music Association (Central) U Thiri Maung Maung and veteran musicians were present at the ceremony.

On the occasion, the chairman of Myanmar Music Association accepted K10 million donated by the Chairman of the State Admin-

istration Council and donated cash presented by the Yangon Region Government and K3 million by the Ministry of Information by the deputy minister.

Then, well-wishers donated cash to the association through Myanmar Music Association (Central) Joint Secretary-1 U Myat Min and Joint Secretary-2 Danyawady U Kyaw Win.

Attendees led by executive Tekkatho Lei Lei, including the region chief minister and the deputy minister, paid respect to the veteran musicians.

At the 13th Ceremony, veteran musicians above 80 years were presented K250,000 each and those under 80 K200,000 each. The ceremony was attended by 160 veteran musicians. — San Kyaw Oo/TKO

NATIONAL

MoBA UM inspects human resource development activities of Khaunglanhpu

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, accompanied by Colonel Kyaw Thura, Kachin State Government Minister of Security and Border Affairs, and U Sai Tun Nyo, Director-General of the Progress of Border Area and National Races Department, arrived at the Training School for Development of Nationalities Youth from Border Areas in PutaO on the afternoon of 26 December. The Union minister met and greeted the students, provided cash award, school uniforms, and school stationery, and inspected the dormitory on the school campus, mess hall, and construction works being built to accommodate more students.

The Union minister and the party arrived at the vocational Training School for Women met with staff and trainees, and emphasized the importance of proficiency in domestic subjects and assistance in career follow-up after graduation. The Union minister also inspected the training school.

Afterwards, the Union minister and the party visited Hokho, Zeya Theikdhi Philanthropic Monastery in PutaO paying respects to the abbot Sayadaw. Meals and food items were donated to ensure the monks and students had the necessary provisions. The Union minister inspected the construction of an RC one-storey mess hall (90 by 30 feet), which was donated by the Ministry of Border Affairs on the school campus, and gave the necessary instructions.

On the morning of 27 December, the Union Minister and the party arrived at the Magweza Bridge over Kasankha River: Magwe-Khaunglanhpu Project of the western part of Maykha River and the water crossings that have been carried out to ensure no downhill erosion on the road. They inspected the temporary lodgings built for tourists and observed the surrounding scenery of the 7,700-foot-high San-



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung inspects the Nawaratkoekwe road section of Magweza-Khaunglanhpu Road.

sooche Valley. The Union minister gave instructions to officials to carry out activities to improve future tourism and ensure comfort and peace for leisure visitors.

Furthermore, the Union minister and the party inspected the completed reconstruction of the bridges damaged by the rainy season's natural disaster and viewed Khaunglanhpu region Commemorative Rawang and Lisu statues, and maintenance of the condition of the Redam suspension bridge.

On the morning of 28 December, the Union minister and the party visited Khaunglanhpu and inspected the building of a two-storey guest house, the paving of concrete roads, the high school, the expansion of the new city residence, the continuation of the city ring road as a smooth gravel road, operation of Rawang National Park, and the football ground. He inspected the sales in the market stalls in the Myoma market and gave instructions to the officials to continue implementing what was necessary for the

development of the city.

The Union minister and the party then inspected the building of the earthen road connecting Khaunglanhpu to Saranpha, the road between Khaunglanhpu and Ridam, the land designated for bus and truck terminal areas in Khaunglanhpu, the place where the scenery will be observed blowing up rocky hill to widen the road, clearance of landslides, and the state of paving of the gravel road into Thalathaw village.

Next, the Union minister and the party arrived at the construction site of the 600-foot Ridam Bridge over the Maykha River, and the engineer in charge explained the progress of the bridge construction. The Union minister clarified the matters to be coordinated and implemented by the two ministries. The Union minister and the party arrived at the Magweza-Khaunglanhpu Road project office and inspected the engineers working on the road, awarding cash to road workers and battlefield engineer troops. — MNA/TS

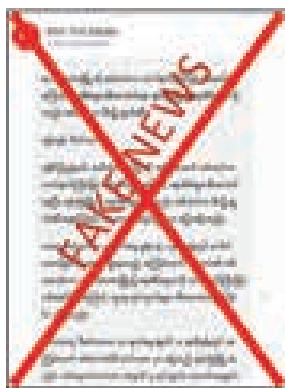
Counter-argument to false information

Fake news: Tatmadaw attacks with heavy weapons and sets fire to houses in Yanbye, Pauktaw townships

THE illegal media outlet Khit Thit Media is spreading misinformation, falsely reporting that Tatmadaw attacked with heavy weapons and burned houses in Yanbye and Pauktaw townships.

Regarding this news, according to authorized officials in the relevant area, Tatmadaw did not attack houses with heavy weapons, nor did they burn them. The damage to the houses were reportedly caused

by the AA insurgents, not the Tatmadaw. It is alleged that the malicious Khit Thit Media aims to spread false information about the Tatmadaw, diverting attention from the acts of terrorism committed by AA terrorists. They intend to attempt misunderstandings between citizens and Tatmadaw and tarnish the image of Tatmadaw within the international news industry. — MNA/TRKM



Screenshot validates false claims

Fake News: Security forces burns Laythunkhan, Sapyal villages of Launglon in Taninthayi Region

MISLEADING media outlet, are falsely reporting that security forces burned and destroyed local houses and forcibly robbed gold, money, and motorcycles on 28 December at Laythunkhan village and Sapyal village in Launglon township, Taninthayi Region.

In response to this news, a security official from the relevant area stated that security forces are dedicated to ensuring the safety of local citizens and maintaining peace and stability in the area, countering the attacks at terrorists. Terrorists engage security forces through ambush shootings from citizens' houses, mine attacks, using citizens as human shields, and burning houses during their retreat. However, the malicious media continues to spread false news to conceal the terrorists' reprehensible actions. — MNA/TRKM

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Year-end review: government policy changes in Myanmar economy in 2023

BY NYEIN NYEIN EI

FROM PAGE-1

THE year 2023 is a year with dynamic effects of government policy changes in Myanmar's economy.

Myanmar pursues market liberalization towards an open market economy. Myanmar executes international trade with its foreign trade partners, in which policy changes in export/import and financial policy play a key role in shaping the development of Myanmar's economy.

This year-end review will highlight the policies and interventions of the Central Bank of Myanmar in the forex market and export/import policies.



The Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch).

Electric vehicle policies and incentives to promote the EV sector

First and foremost, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) also released an announcement that electric vehicles (EV) and related businesses shall be promoted as the priority sector, as per its announcement dated 15 February.

In the exercise of the power conferred by Section 43 and Section 100 (B) of Myanmar Investment Law, the MIC issued this statement with the approval of the Union government.

Enterprises executing installation, manufacturing and restoration services of the EVs, renewable electricity generation, EVs charging service businesses, electric vehicle battery production, EV battery and related service business, electric bus operation services, electric taxi and transportation service businesses and scientific research development business are included in those priority sectors.

During the establishment and ideation phase for incorporation and operations, those businesses can seek permit from the MIC to enjoy tariff relief or zero-customs tariff status and exemption for other taxes levied

in the country under Section 77 (A) of Myanmar Investment Law and income tax exemption in line with the Section 75 (C) of the Myanmar Investment Law for the importations of machinery, essential equipment and accessories, spare parts and construction raw materials that cannot be found in domestic markets.

Customs duty exemption on Electric Vehicles (EVs) and their components was also extended until the end of March 2024, the Ministry of Planning and Finance's Notification on 27 April 2023 stated.

To encourage the number of EV users and improve the related business, tariffs of Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) imported under Completely Built Up (CBU), Completely Knocked Down (CKD) and Semi-Knocked Down (SKD) in Customs Tariff of Myanmar 2022 were reduced to zero per cent, under the decision of the Union Government.

Importation, manufacturing and trading of the EVs and their components are exempted from commercial tax, according to Notification No 4/2023 released on 8 May 2023 by the Union Government in the exercise of the power

conferred by Section 37 of the Union Tax Law 2022, under the approval of the State Administration Council. This notification has been effective from 1 January 2023.

Additionally, to bolster the growth of the EV industry and promote environmental conservation activities, import permits for electric vehicles or electric motorcycles are granted for inward remittance of foreign salary or other wages of Myanmar citizens as a special programme.

The Ministry of Commerce reduced income inward remittance of seafarers to US\$50,000 from over \$200,000 per year to grant import permits for Electric Vehicles (EVs), according to a Notification released on 26 October.

As per the statement, they were entitled to import one electric vehicle or one electric motorcycle which value is equivalent to five per cent of the inward remittance per year.

Central Bank of Myanmar's intervention in Forex market

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate at K2,100 against the greenback in 2023. Nonethe-

less, the CBM notified that the exchange rate transacted on an online trading platform (inter-bank transaction) is the actual currency value. Subsequently, the rate in shady dealings posted on social media platforms is just a grey market rate, the CBM warned.

Exporters and importers will get their licences revoked unless they make transactions at the exchange rate determined on an official online trading platform by the CBM.

Nevertheless, 5 December, the CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate forex exchanges freely as per the market rate determined by the market force of the supply and demand.

Moreover, the CBM notified that outward remittance must comply with the rules and regulations of the Foreign Exchange Management Committee.

The CBM issued a new K20,000 note on 31 July 2023, resulting in volatile commodity prices (rice and edible oil) and spikes in fuel oil, gold and forex markets.

To steer Kyat's depreciation against the US dollar in the forex

market, the Central Bank of Myanmar beefed up a crackdown on illegal forex transactions without a valid licence under the existing law.

Under Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, only those entities holding foreign exchange dealer licences are allowed to deal in foreign currency and travellers' cheques. Failing to do so will face legal action under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the CBM warned.

Additionally, as per the Section 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, domestic residents are allowed to keep US\$10,000 in maximum or equivalent amount of foreign currencies for six months. If those foreign currencies that have been unused for over six months have to be repatriated at the market price through authorized dealers or deposited into bank accounts.

The CBM revoked the money changer licences of 166 companies in the past seven months.

Export/import policies

The CBM notified currency repatriation for export earnings, as per the CBM's exchange rate (K2,100) that was set on 5 August 2022.

According to the CBM's notification dated 5 August 2022, the exporters had to convert 65 per cent of the foreign currency they earned into local currency according to the CBM's reference exchange rate. The CBM eased the foreign currency rules to 50 per cent for exporters, according to Notification 15/2023 released on 13 July 2023. Relaxed compulsory foreign currency conversion rule for Myanmar Kyat to 35 per cent again, according to its Notification No 26/2023 dated 6 December 2023.

With the CBM setting the reference exchange rate at K2,100, the exporters called for forex liberalization as the US dollar value is gaining at the over-the-counter market.

Translated by EM

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NATIONAL



Myanmar Motion Pictures Awards Presentation Ceremony for 2019, 2020 and 2022

THE Myanmar Motion Picture Awards Presentation Ceremony for the years 2019, 2020, and 2022 held at the open theatre in the precinct of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall on 6 May 2023 was put on the list of significant events of 2023.

The awards for the years 2019, 2020, and 2022 were presented at the 62nd Myanmar Motion Pictures Awards Presentation Ceremony. The Academy Awards have been presented since 1952. State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addressed the 62nd Myanmar Motion Pictures Awards Presentation Ceremony, and Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn also announced the awards and presented them to the recipients. In 2019, a total of 97 movies were screened at cinemas, and 29 movies were nominated for Academy Awards. In 2020, there were 21 new movies while 20 in 2022, they were reviewed for academy awards.

The Best Cinematography Award (2019) was won by Arkar Toe for the film "Legend of the Rain" and the Best Cinematography Award (2020) was won by Phyo Kyaw for the film "Music Performed by Padauk." There was no Best Cinematography Award for 2022.

The Best Film Music Award (2019) was won by Kyaw Kyaw Tun for the film "The Milk Ogre" and the Best Film Music Award (2020) was won by Aung Ko Latt for the film "Gandhabba." There was also no Best Film Music Award for 2022.

The Best Film Sound Award (2019) was won by U Kyi Min Thein for the film "1014" and there were no Best Film Sound Awards for 2020 and 2022.

The Best Film Editing Award (2019) was won by G-3 and Kyaw Khine for the film "1014" and the Best Film Editing

Significant events in information arena in 2023

BY AUNG SIE HEIN

Award (2022) was won by Kyi Thar for the film "The Butterfly Trap." There was also no Best Film Editing Award for 2020.

The Best Screenplay Award (2019) was won by Maung Myat Swe for the film "Responsible Citizen." There were also no Best Screenplay Awards for the years of 2020 and 2022.

Academy Yan Aung won the Best Myanmar Academy Fashion Award for veteran actors, while the Best Myanmar Academy Fashion Award for veteran actresses went to Academy Soe Myat Thu Zar, the Best Myanmar Academy Fashion Award for actors to Aung Ye Lin and he Best Myanmar Academy Fashion Award for actresses to Moe Hay Ko. These awards were presented starting from this year. Music Performed by Padauk won The Best Film Award (2020) and Waymanaychinbu (Don't Want To Be Away From You) won the Best Film Award (2022). The special award for Best Dress Award (2020) was won by designer Htay Htay Tin and team for the film "Kammaphala (Fruits of the Actions)." The Best Film Director Award (2020) was won by Director Mee Pwar for the film "Music Performed by Padauk." There were no Best Film Director Awards for 2019 and 2022.

The Best Supporting Actress Award (2019) was won by Khin Wint Wah for the film "Hletyway Lwinthaw" and the Best Supporting Actress Award (2020) was won by May Thinzar Oo for the film "Golden Princess" while the Best Supporting Actor Award (2019) was won by Shwe Htoo for the film "Legend of the Rain" and the Best Supporting Actor Award (2020) was won by Ohn Thee for "Thaung Tike

Ka Kyar Say Thar". There were no Best Supporting Actress Award for 2022 and Best Supporting Actor Award for 2022.

The Best Actress Award (2019) was won by Eaindra Kyaw Zin for the film "Hit Taing", the Best Actress Award (2020) was won by Soe Pyae Thain for the film "Golden Princess" and the Best Actress Award (2022) was won by Shwe Hmon Yati for the film "Don't Want To Be Away From You."

Myint Myat won the Best Actor Award (2019) for the film "Tears Shed on Yoma", Sai Sai Kham Leng won the Best Actor Award (2020) for the film "Music Performed by Padauk" and Pyay Ti Oo won the Best Actor Award (2022) for the film "The Butterfly Trap."

The Golden Academy brooches were also given to the senior academy award winners at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy Awards Event.

Documentary film on Thingyan festival for 2023 across the nation

As part of the preparation for enlisting the Maha Thingyan festival of Myanmar for 2023 on the World Heritage Sites, a documentary film was screened over holding Thingyan festivities across the nation.

Setting records on images of the Maha Thingyan festival of Myanmar in regions and states in 2023 aims to preserve national-level intangible cultural heritages of the nation.

International tourists flock to Mrauk-U ancient cultural heritage zone in Rakhine State

A flock of 16 Thai tourists visited MraukU's ancient cultural heritage zone

in Rakhine State from 30 April to 6 May 2023 for the first time after 2020.

Prominent artistes who passed away in 2023

Prominent artistes who passed away in 2023 were inserted into the significant events in 2023.

Doyen literati writer Seint (Education)

Doyen literati Seint (Education) who was one of the veteran literati receiving respect in the literary arena passed away at the house in Dagon Myothit (North) Township of Yangon Region at 3 am on 18 April. The woman writer who was famous for her masterpiece historical background novels died at 93. She wrote novels such as Daing Khin Khin, Bagan Memories 1 and 2, Padamya Ngamauk, Raza Datu Kalya, Prince Kanaung and Princess Hlaing Hteik Khaung Tin.

Writer, poet, film script writer Academy Myint Oo Oo Myint

Writer, poet, and film scriptwriter Academy Myint Oo Oo Myint passed away from kidney disease at 00.30 am on 12 August at his house in Dagon Myothit (North) Township of Yangon Region.

He died at 67. The poet joined the film industry as a film scriptwriter together with U Aye Kyu Lay around in 2000 and won the Academy Award in film script genre for the movie "Gyogyar Taungpan Khatthan" cast by director Zin Yaw Maung Maung in 2009.

Veteran Anyeint artiste Shwe Leikpyar Ma Aye Kyi

A prominent Anyeint artiste Shwe Leikpyar Ma Aye Kyi passed away at the Yangon General Hospital on the evening of 11 October. She who died at 97 was a patron of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) as well as a veteran theatrical performer receiving respect of those in theatrical arena.

SEE PAGE-11

Forty-nine container vessels slated to call in Jan



Containers being loaded aboard container vessel at international port of Yangon. PHOTO: KANU

A total of 49 container vessels are scheduled to dock at the Yangon Port in January 2024, according to the Myanmar Port Authority.

In January, seven container vessels each run by Samudera Shipping Line and Sealand Maersk Asia, six by COSCO Shipping Line, five by SITC Line, four each by MSC Line, CMA CGM Line and Ti2 Container Line, three each by ONE Line and RCL Line, two each by Evergreen Line and BLPL Shipping Line, one each by BAY Line and IAI Shipping Line are slated to enter the Yangon Port.

This year, 52 container vessels each in January and February, 55 in March, 50 in April, 56 in May, 57 in June, 53 in

July, 54 in August, 53 in September, 49 in October, 50 in November, and 49 in December arrived at Yangon Port, totalling 629 container vessels.

Yangon Port handled a total of 620 container vessels last year. Following the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanmar Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River was found, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel (185.99-metre length overall-LOA, 35.25-metre Beam, 29,232 Gross Register Ton-

nage-GRT and 2,698 twenty-foot equivalent unit-TEU) Hong-Kong based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

From May 2021, the arrival of the ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfill the seaborne trade requirements, three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run in 2021. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft was extended up to 10 metres, so the larger ocean liners could enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/EM

MOC warns importers of facing legal action for non-compliance

THE Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce notified on 29 December the importers of liability for non-compliance when they are found to bring in the goods before seeking an import licence.

The Trade Department released Notification 50/2020 stating that all import items except goods stored in customs warehouses that need import licences were not allowed to arrive at the Port before being permitted to comply with the customs regulation.

Additionally, importers were notified of facing legal actions in line with the Export and Import Law if early arrival of the goods without import licence or permit of the departments concerned was found, as per Notification 6/2022.

Nonetheless, before applying for an import licence, customs warehousing will be allowed for 14 import items, according to the bulletin 16/2023 of the Department of Trade.

To expedite the import and storage of goods required for domestic production, the Trade Department notified that the following commodities can be stored in a customs warehouse before applying for import licences, as per customs procedures starting from the issuing date of this bulletin. They are pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical aids, agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer and pesticides), veterinary medicine, lubricants and other industrial oils, packaging materials, electric vehicles, accessories and spare parts of electric vehicle batteries as per paragraph 1 (I) of Notification 31/2023 issued by the Ministry of Planning and Finance, raw materials for livestock, raw materials of pharmaceutical and raw materials of traditional medicine, industrial raw materials, raw chemicals, raw food materials (raw materials imported from external market as domestic production of raw materials is not sufficient for food production businesses), raw materials used in the enterprises on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis, machine and machinery needed for domestic industrial production. — NN/EM

Myanmar businesspersons invited to join IndusFood 2024 of India

A three-day Food and Beverage trade show "IndusFood 2024" that will take place in Greater Noida, India from 8 to 10 January 2024 welcomes the participation of Myanmar businesspersons, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

International companies involved in the Food and beverage industry are invited to join the trade show. This will be a marketplace attracting F&B

suppliers, distributors, and importers in India, supermarket chains, hotel and restaurant chains.

Moreover, it will bring about opportunities to exchange technology, discuss investment potentials, set up joint ventures and direct import/export measures, and also connect India's companies to Myanmar's businesses with common interests.

One square metre of the booth will

cost US\$275, plus 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax-GST. Yet, those participants from Myanmar can enjoy a special discount of \$250, the invitation letter mentioned.

Those enthusiasts are notified to contact the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through phone number: 067 3408622 and email: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com during office hours. — NN/EM

OPINION

Carefully overcome challenges in upcoming matriculation examination

IT is imperative for not only students but also parents and teachers to grasp the profound significance of the matriculation examination, marking a pivotal juncture in the lives of student youths. This examination, whether resulting in success or setback, heralds an unforeseen transformation for its participants.

Triumphant candidates of the matriculation examination find themselves at a crossroads, presented with myriad options for advanced education to become enlightened individuals. Simultaneously, they encounter diverse vocational paths to secure incomes for both themselves and their families. Conversely, those who face disappointment must exercise restraint against despondency, nurturing their morale with the determination not to abandon the pursuit of knowledge.

As the matriculation year approaches, students must approach the examinations of relevant subjects with precision, recognizing this phase as a transition from basic to higher education. Meticulous preparations are essential to minimize errors in their responses. As such, they have to review themselves whether they have any weak points in learning and how to make preparations for uplifting their learning process to be ready to sit for the examination.

With approximately 70 days remaining until the matriculation examination, students find themselves at a critical juncture. This period demands meticulous revision of lessons, repeatedly reviewing material from inception to the present, and ensuring readiness to confront the challenges of the impending examination. Undoubtedly, the matriculation examination serves as a tangible testament to a student's qualifications, contributing to the state's production of competent human resources. Success in this examination serves as a significant milestone in one's life.

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Consequently, students preparing for the matriculation examination must ardently strive towards their goals through hard work. In demonstrating gratitude to parents and teachers, these students should progress towards higher education, becoming educated citizens upon whom the state and society can depend. The forthcoming examination is not merely a test of academic knowledge but a transformative experience that shapes the trajectory of individual lives and, by extension, contributes to the broader development of society.

WE so often think of intelligence in terms of being smart, doing well at school academically, or acing an IQ test. But what if the most important form of intelligence isn't our ability to acquire and apply knowledge but in the way that we are aware of and in control of our emotions?

Emotional intelligence (EI) isn't something we're actively taught at school, and yet it can greatly impact our journey through life and our interpersonal relationships. In a 2018 article, A New Layered Model on Emotional Intelligence, states that emotional intelligence focuses on the character and aspects of self-control, such as the ability to delay pleasures, the tolerance to frustrations, and the regulation of impulses.

It's an area of increasing interest to researchers, with numerous studies looking to unlock the secrets of our emotional intelligence and its importance to our well-being. It is not, by any means, a new concept. Aristotle wrote

Does EQ Matter More Than IQ?

By Min Zan

about the ability to master our emotional capacity almost 2,000 years ago with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, and in the right way.

Some experts in this area would argue that emotional intelligence, or our Emotional Quotient (EQ), is more important than IQ (Intelligence Quotient) when it comes to success in life. One of the best-known writers on the subject is Daniel Goleman, whose 1995 book Emotional Intelligence: Why It Matters More Than IQ is often considered one of the most com-

prehensive insights into emotional intelligence. "We have gone too far in emphasizing the value import of the purely rational measures in human life," he writes. "For better or worse, intelligence can come to nothing when the emotions hold sway."

So, emotional intelligence matters a great deal. Being able to control your emotions and express them, as well as understand the emotions of others and respond to them, can work to your advantage in personal, social, and work environments. But don't worry if

you don't possess all of these skills; emotional intelligence can be improved and developed.

Signs and benefits of being emotionally intelligent

How do you know whether you are emotionally intelligent or not? There are various tests available online, though many of these free tests are to be taken lightly. Psychologists have more in-depth testing processes that can determine a person's emotional intelligence. It is also not uncommon these days for hiring managers to use some form of emotional intel-

COMPONENTS OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

There are five elements to emotional intelligence, according to psychologist Daniel Goleman. These are a mix of personal and interpersonal skills that together determine how good we are at expressing, controlling and identifying emotions.

SELF-AWARENESS

This is about understanding your emotions and feelings, and why you are feeling a particular way. It's also about knowing your strengths and weaknesses.

SELF-REGULATION

This is the control element, being able to manage your emotions effectively and to admit to any mistakes you might make.

MOTIVATION

This element refers to your ability to drive yourself to meet your goals in different areas of life, setting a standard for yourself and working towards it. When things don't go to plan, it's about finding a positive outcome, learning resilience and reframing your goals.

EMPATHY

This is about being able to identify how other people might be feeling and responding to that. This means being able to put yourself into someone else's shoes and communicate with them effectively.

SOCIAL SKILLS

This refers to the way in which you interact with other people, both at work and in social settings. It's about being able to work in a team, communicate effectively, listen to others and speak confidently.

Figure 1

All photos are credited to the magazine viz. "Understanding Your Emotions".

ligence testing to consider candidates for a role, identifying those who will contribute meaningfully to the team environment and cope well under pressure.

There are some identifiable signs of emotional intelligence. Daniel Goleman's theory suggests that there are five components of emotional intelligence: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills. You might notice elements of these within yourself. Some of the signs can include:

- A good level of self-awareness, including knowing your strengths and weaknesses
- Being able to own up to and accept responsibility for your mistakes
- Not dwelling on past mistakes and letting things go
- Being able to explain and describe what others around you are feeling
- A high level of empathy for others
- Being able to control and manage your emotions, even

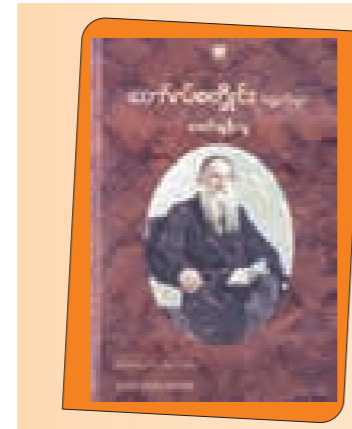
in difficult situations

- Confidence in yourself and acceptance of who you are
- Curiosity about other people and the world around you
- The ability to accept change in your life

You may identify with some, none, or all of these, which can give an indication of your level of emotional intelligence. Looking at Goleman's five components (see Figure 1), you might feel that you are strong in some areas and less so in others, which in itself takes a degree of self-awareness to be able to understand this about yourself.

There are benefits to having a high EQ. For example, it might mean that you're better equipped to handle difficult or stressful situations. You may be more able to remain calm yourself and help others in the same situation. It might also mean that you're less likely to turn to external and unhealthy coping mechanisms, instead being able to manage the emotions you are experiencing.

SEE PAGE-11



Book Title	- Tolstoy Ei Wuthtutomyar
Writer	- Leo Tolstoy
Translator	- Mg Tun Thu
Publishing House	- Unity
Publication Date	- 2022 March [1 st Edition]
Price	- K10,000

Tolstoy Ei Wuthtutomyar [Twenty-three Tales by Leo Tolstoy]

THE Twenty-three Tales is a masterful collection of children's tales, fairy tales and the short stories from one of the world's greatest and most influential writers.

The collection includes God Sees the Truth but Waits; A Prisoner in the Caucasus; the Bear-Hunt; and What Men Live by. Leo Tolstoy is not strange to Myanmar readers. War and Peace is the most popular novel among the Myanmar readers. Anna Karenina is also famous in Myanmar literary field.

The translator of this book under review is Maung Tun Thu, who is also noted for his great translation works. His translated version was first published

in 1995, and this is the seventh impression. This book reveals the world outlook and ethincal opinion of Leo Tolstoy.

In addition to the afore mentioned four chapters, there are 19 more chapters; A Spark Neglected Burns the House; Two Old Men; Where Love is, God is; The Story of Ivan the Fool; Evil Allures, But Good Endures; Little Girls Wiser than Men; Ilyas; The Three Hermits; The Imp and the Crust; How Much Land Does a Man Need?; A Grain as Big as a Hen's Egg; The Godson; The Repentant Sinner; The Empty Drum; The Coffee-House of Surrat; Too Dear!; Easerhaddon, King of Assyria; Work, Death and

Sickness; and Three Questions. Out of 23 tales, nine are in fact short novels based on his own experiences. Concerning the Three Questions, the story is as follows: it once occurred to a certain king that if he always knew the right time to begin everything; if he knew who were the right people to listen to, and whom to avoid; and, above all, if he always knew what was the most important thing to do, he would never fail in anything he might undertake.

And this thought having occurred to him, he had it proclaimed throughout his kingdom that he would give a great reward to any one who would teach him what was the right time for every action, and who were the most necessary people, and how he might know what was the most important thing to do.

And the learned men came to the king, but they all answered his questions differently. All the answers being different, the king agreed with none of them, and gave the reward to none. So, he consulted with a hermit in the guise of an ordinary person. He asked the hermit the three questions to which the hermit did not respond but continued digging the ground. The king made the hermit take a rest as the latter seemed to be very tired, and he did the digging for the hermit. Yet the king did not get any reply till the dusk. Then, an incident took place, during which the king might have been killed had he not acted rightly. And when the king demanded reply to his questions, the hermit said the questions had already been answered. The hermit said that 'now' is the most important time because it is the only time when we have any power; that the most necessary man is the one with whom you are, for no man knows whether he will ever have dealings with any one else and that the most important affair is to do him good because for that purpose alone was man sent to his life. This book is strongly recommended to the readers as it is concerned the world outlook, ethical behaviour and philosophy.



Book Title	- Anton Chekhov Ei Wuthtutomyar
Writer	- Anton Chekhov
Translator	- Myint Than
Publishing House	- The Eras
Publication Date	- 2023 December [7 th Edition]
Price	- K10,000

Anton Chekhov Ei Wuthtutomyar [Short Stories of Anton Chekhov]

BEFORE providing my book review, I would first like to mention some facts about the writer of this book. Anton Pavlovich Chekhov was a Russian playwright and short-story writer who is considered to be one of the greatest writers of all time.

His career as a playwright produced four classics, and his best short stories are held in high esteem by writers and critics. He was born on 29 January 1860 and died on 15 July 1904.

His writings were influenced by Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Nikolai Gogol, Alexander

Pushkin, Ivan Turgenev, Guy de Maupassant, Alexander Ostrovsky, Hnerik Ibsen etc. Interestingly, Anton Chekhov also worked as a physician.

His job as a doctor did not pay very well, so Chekhov did a lot of different things for money including writing.

The translator of this book is Saya Myint Than, who pursued his primary and secondary school studies at St John's Boys' School until 1964 before he went to the University of Yangon where he finished his bachelor's degree, majoring in philosophy. For pur-

suit of post graduate studies, he went to the University of Sydney.

He has studied the art of writing systematically in addition to learning of foreign languages. As he was so eager to write that he tried his pen whenever he could find time. He has also produced research papers on freedom, philosophy and the style of writing of the foreigners who have lived and worked in Myanmar. He is said to have exerted effort to translate the modern poems.

Anton Chekhov wrote 14 plays but the following four are

his most critically acclaimed: The Seagull. In this play, which is one of the Anton Chekhov's most famous, a struggling writer loves an actress who does not return his feeling; Uncle Vanya; Three Sisters; and the Cherry Orchard. These four plays are performed regularly across the world. And they have also inspired many film adaptations.

Anton Chekhov is known for his realism writing style. He often incorporated a literary technique known as stream-of-consciousness, which focused on the narrator's inner thoughts and feelings. Chekhov also popularized a foreshadowing technique, which is later known as Chekhov's gun.

Along with Henrik Ibsen and August Strindberg, Chekhov is often referred to as one of the three seminal figures in the birth of early modernism in the theatre.

Through stories such as "The Steppe" and "The Lady with the Dog", and the plays such as The Seagull and Uncle Vanya, Anton Chekhov emphasized the depths of human nature, the hidden significance of everyday events and the fine line between comedy and tragedy.

The readers are strongly recommended to read this book under review.

NATIONAL Entertainment



May Thinzar Oo

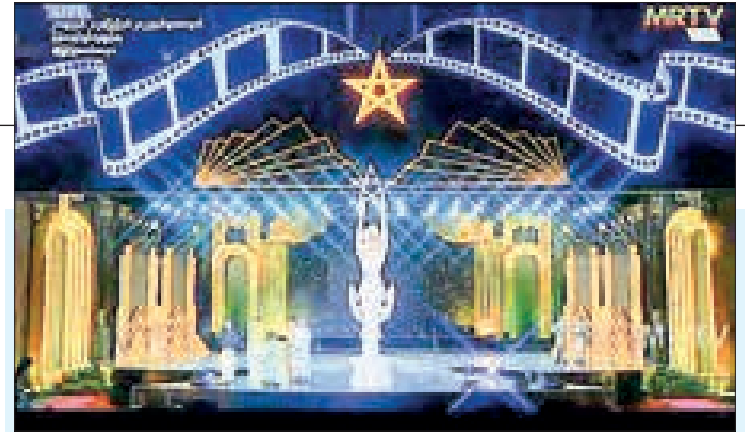
THE eldest son of academy May Thinzar Oo, Min Than Kyaw passed away on the way to Yangon General Hospital after a car accident on 25 December. Academy Yan Aung remarked, "She (May Thinzar Oo) is very calm and peaceful regarding the demise of her son."

Nan Su Yati Soe

NAN SU YATI SOE made "Nauk Htet Pyaw Ohn Lay" (Say again) MV in Bagan like her "Yue Aung Chit Ya Thu" song. The MV was released on 30 December. She said that she loves Bagan most in Myanmar.

She also imagines to celebrate her wedding in Bagan. She is also a Brand Ambassador of Neta Auto Myanmar.

Celebrity Brief



The photo shows the Academy Award gold statue at the 2022 Myanmar Academy Awards event.

Winners to secure 12 Academy awards in 35 nominated films for 2023

THE first analyzing processes of 35 nominated movies for 2023 Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy awards are being made, and there will be 12 genres of film academy awards for 2023, said Director Academy Zaw Myint Oo, a member of Myanmar Motion Pictures Award selecting board that comprises of 25 scholars.

"Currently, we watch and analyze 35 nominated movies for the first time. The Zarrakta (morale) movie is screened for two weeks and Jalebi (gypsy) is on the list for the coming year. We have already watched these 35 movies. We will review it in the last week of December for

the second time. Although the number of movies is low this year, they are standard ones," he added.

"Some categories are far more competitive this year. There were 11 awards in previous years, but there will be 12 awards for 2023 including special awards. We cannot say exactly. The event is scheduled for February. The people will be interested. They will know whether the movies they like win awards or not after the announcement," he continued. For the 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards event, 56 receptionists have been chosen. — ASH/KTZH



U Aung Maw (Editor of Moe Wai)

FOR editor of Moe Wai Magazine Ko Than Naing (aka) U Aung Maw, son of author Min Swe (Dah), passed away on 2 December at his residence in Dawbon Township. Moe Wai Magazine conquered the literary field and also debuted great authors such as Dagon Tar Yar, Bhamo Tin Aung, Mya Than Tint, Paragu, and also young poets, writers, and artists.

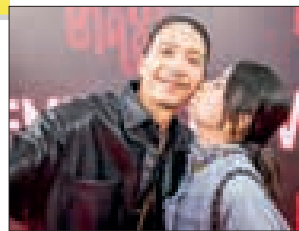
Wah Wah Win Shwe

ACTRESS Wah Wah Win Shwe left for Thailand to receive medical checkups. She told her fans to make wishes for her health via media. Moreover, Ngar Doh Sar Pay published "Chit Thaw Wah Wah Sar Oak" which features interviews of academy Wah Wah Win Shwe made by U Win Nyein.



Nay Win

SINGER and actor Nay Win took the bad boy character "Myo Kyaw" in the movie "Zarrakta". He receives applause from audiences and artistes for his outstanding acting skills. Academy Cho Pyone also said she misses her friend actor "Kyaw Hein" after watching the acting of Nay Win. The movie is still being screened for the second week until 4 January.



Ko Thar Gi (Aroma Aung Myat Thu)

A well-known makeup artiste Ko Thar Gi (aka) Aroma Aung Myat Thu donated three pyis of rice bags each to 500 people at his Studio & Wedding Service Centre in South Okkalapa Township marking his birthday on 29 December. — Htun Htun/KTZH

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Does EQ Matter More Than IQ?

FROM PAGE-9

Those with a high EQ are also good with other people. That can mean dealing with people who are upset or angry in a tactful and respectful way. At work, this can mean that you're able to assess how the people you're working with are feeling and help steer conversations in the right direction. It also means you're able to listen to and take on board other people's points of view. You might also be better at negotiations and influencing the outcome of presentations by being able to adapt your behaviour to suit the people you are speaking to.

As you're more likely to be able to own up to mistakes and take responsibility for them, you may be considered honest and trustworthy. You're also more likely to be a good listener and confidant, which can enhance your personal relationships. It can also mean that you're more positive and able to find the good, even in bad situations. This can improve your mental health and well-being. You are also more likely to be highly motivated, meaning that you can achieve success in different areas of your life and not give up when things are hard.

The other side of emotional intelligence

This all sounds very positive and highlights the importance of a high EQ. However, there are drawbacks to having a very high level of emotional intelligence, too.

For example, according to the article 'The Downsides of Being Very Emotionally Intelligent', one of the problems is that those with a high EQ might

lack creativity and innovative thinking. The reasoning is that it can be hard to challenge a status quo or convention that keeps people happy rather than trying something new that may cause a little disruption. Also, while people with a high EQ are great at building team relations, they're less likely to be able to deliver negative feedback or upset people by disagreeing with them, as they are so aware of how this might make people feel and sensitive to that. Those with high EQ might also be risk-averse, which can limit innovation.

Another downside is that by being so empathetic, a person who is quite emotionally intelligent can end up taking on a lot of worry and stress on behalf of other people. They may also spend a lot of time trying to help those around them and be at risk of burning out. So, while our EQ is incredibly important, we also need to use some of that self-awareness to know when to step back from situations and allow for some self-care. There is also a lot to be said for allowing spontaneity and risk to play a part in all our lives.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are those who have a low level of emotional intelligence, which can bring about a different set of problems. Those with a low EQ might find that they are often misunderstood or find it hard to assert themselves in conversations. They may struggle to read other people's feelings and emotions or be unsure of how to react when someone is angry or upset. They might even behave in a way that comes across as insensitive, uncaring, or unsympathetic - not intentionally, but



because of this difficulty in understanding the emotions of others and not knowing how to express their own emotions.

Another issue is that a lack of emotional awareness can lead to becoming overwhelmed by emotion and getting upset, or lashing out, easily; or it might mean that we don't express emotions at all and repress a lot of our feelings rather than deal with them. Those with a lower EQ might blame others for mistakes rather than take ownership of them and have poorer coping skills, including walking away from situations instead of con-

fronting them.

How to improve your EQ

It's important to note that a low EQ and difficulty in controlling emotion can sometimes be a symptom of a mental health problem, such as depression or anxiety. If you feel like your ability to control and identify your emotions has changed, and you have other symptoms of a mental health issue, it's important to talk to a medical professional.

Other things can also impact our EQ, such as how we were treated in childhood by caregivers. Not all children are encouraged to name and express the

emotions that they are feeling, so they don't develop the skills needed to be emotionally intelligent as adults. Some of us are also more naturally emotionally intelligent than others.

Whatever level you feel your EQ is at this moment, there are things you can do to improve it. Some studies show that emotional intelligence is a skill that can be built and developed with practice. It involves spending time with yourself and thinking about your emotions and how you react in different situations. Also, spend time considering comments that others might have said about you or to you. Has it been mentioned that you don't always pick up when someone is upset, for example, or that you don't listen? Acknowledging these comments can help you to highlight the areas to start improving. A journal can be a useful tool to help you notice areas for improvement in this period of self-reflection.

You can also improve your emotional intelligence by spending time with others. Make an effort to really listen to what people are saying, and ask questions that show you are paying attention. Watch people's body language and see what you can learn from this about the way they are feeling. Try to empathize with others' situations, even if their lives and experiences are far removed from your own life.

In sum, with practice and patience, you can build and improve your emotional intelligence and reap the benefits of success, happiness, and self-awareness.

Reference: *Understanding Your Emotions 1st Edition 2023*

Myanmar Motion Pictures Awards Presentation Ceremony for 2019, 2020 and 2022

FROM PAGE-6

Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement winner writer Ma Kywe Kywe

Doyen literati Ma Kywe Kywe, who has won the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement and a doyen literati receiving respects from Myanmar Writers' Association, passed away at the house in Dagon Myothit (East) Township in Yangon at 6.15 pm on 19 November.

She joined the literary realm with a short story in Linyon magazine published in March 1951. Till her sunset days, he wrote fiction and non-fiction books including Kyunmadoh Meinmathar, Khayee Phyatthan Kabyar Lan, and Thayegaungdoh Seikdat.

Experienced video and film director Maung Maung Myint Lwin (Photo)

Experienced video & and film director Maung Maung Myint Lwin (Photo)

passed away on 3 December while receiving medical treatment at the Free Hospital in Kyauktada Township of Yangon Region.

He died at 56 and he shot many numbers of film and video during some 30-year experiences in the artistic realm.

Vocalist-cum-theatrical performer Nan Khin Aye

Vocalist-cum-theatrical performer Nan Khin Aye passed away at her house in Yankinaung Ward of Patheingyi Town-

ship in Mandalay Region at 8 pm on 6 December.

She died at 71. She was the granddaughter of Myanmar musician Alinka Kyawswa Nandawshay Saya Tin and the daughter of theatrical performer Alinka Kyawswa Shwe Nan Tin and Daw Khin San Tin. She was the eldest sister of theatrical performers Nan Win and Nan Khin Hmwe. In her career, she won many gold medals. — Translated/TTA / KTZH

NATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Approval granted for 5 investments

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee, in a meeting held at its office in Yankin Township, Yangon Region on the morning of 27 December, approved five foreign and local investments. The total capital for these investment activities amounted to K8,950.238 million and 7.020 million US dollars, promising to create local employment opportunities for 1,719 people.

Myanmar's avocados eye China export via G-to-G cooperation

IN October, Myanmar avocados were showcased at China's Nanning Expo, providing opportunities to engage with the market. Now, efforts are underway to officially export Myanmar avocados to China through government-to-government (G-to-G) cooperation, as reported by the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

e-Pension cardholders easy access to drawing pension

SINCE the implementation of the centralized e-pension system in September 2023, e-pension cardholders now have access to drawing pension at 48 bank branches across Nay Pyi Taw Council area, including Pyinmana, Lewe, Tatkon, and Pobbathiri. These branches are part of the centralized system and are located in various regions, including Man (1/2/3), NyaungU, Meiktila, PyinOoLwin, Myingyan, Kyaukse, Yamethin in Mandalay Region, Toungoo, Thayawady and Pyay in Bago Region, and branches (1/2/3/4/5/6) savings bank (1/3/4), Thanlyin, Kyimyindine, Kamayut, Thingangyun, Tamway, North Okkalapa, and Insein in Yangon Region. Additionally, drawing pension can be made at branches in the Ayeyawady Region, Shan State, Sagaing Region, and certain townships in Kayin State.

Over 40,000 tonnes of corn exported

DURING November, over 44,000 tonnes of Myanmar corn were exported to foreign countries through sea and border routes, including 31,170 tonnes to the Philippines, 29 tonnes to Singapore, and 190 tonnes to Chinese Taipei, making a total export and sale of 31,389 tonnes, as reported by the Ministry of Commerce.

Non-registered online businesses face action, warns authorities

THE exemption for registration fees and the registration period for businesses selling products and services on the Internet and online social networks will end on 31 December. Starting from 1 January 2024, registration fees will be applicable according to the sector, and action will be taken against those who fail to register.

Firecracker ban imposed in certain Yangon townships on New Year's Day

IN certain townships in the Yangon region, local orders have been issued to prohibit the shooting of firecrackers on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The statement specifies that individuals engaged in the production, sale, distribution, and use of fireworks will be dealt with punishments under existing laws. — Htun Htun/KZW



A farmer is using the pesticide for his paddy field.

Pesticides with low prescribed standards not to be allowed for registration

DEPUTY Minister Dr Tin Htut, the chairman of the Pesticide Registration Board, has announced that pesticides failing to meet specified standards will not be permitted for registration. Additionally, he emphasized the potential environmental hazards and health risks associated with the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Such misuse can lead to the death of fish, mammals, non-pest insects, and beneficial birds, disrupt the biological chain, and contribute to air and water pollution, ultimately affecting soil health.

Furthermore, the Deputy Minister highlighted the risk of pests developing resistance through repeated pesticide use, making suppression efforts challenging. Consequently, he underscored that only pesticides meeting

specified standards would be eligible for registration.

The announcement also outlined the compilation and presentation of essential information, reviews, recommendations, and quality control assessments of pesticides' efficacy against pests, with a focus on human and animal safety. This information will be submitted to a technical committee comprising experts to secure necessary support for the pesticide registration group's operations.

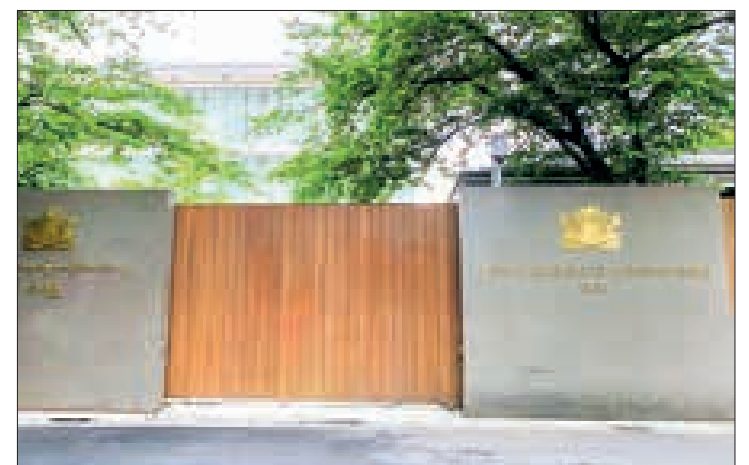
The Deputy Minister concluded by stating that non-compliance with the provisions of the Pesticide Law would result in appropriate actions, following the rules and regulations outlined in the legislation. — TWA/TRKM

Japanese companies recruit over 1,000 Myanmar workers

THE Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo declared on 29 December that 1,171 Myanmar workers would be hired to work in Japan.

The embassy validated 295 demand letters between 16 December and 29 December, assessed the legal standing of recruiting companies, and subsequently reported its findings to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in turn, forwarded the information to the Ministry of Labour.

In November, the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo



Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Tokyo.

released a list indicating the recruitment of over 1,000 Myanmar workers for employ-

ment in Japanese factories. — TWA/MKKS

Across China: Chinese pickles sail to Japan through RCEP

A factory in Fuling District, Chongqing, China, continues the tradition of pickle-making that dates back over 150 years, with their preserved mustard tubers recognized as a state-level intangible cultural heritage.

IN a factory in Fuling District, southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, a batch of uniformly sized, emerald-green pickled mustard tubers roll off the production line. Soon, they will be packaged and shipped to Japan's Yokohama.

The history of pickle-making in Fuling, a major pickle production base in China, dates back more than 150 years. The district's traditional method of producing preserved mustard tubers was listed as a state-level intangible cultural her-

itage in 2008.

In recent years, the region's unique pickled mustard tubers have been exported to various overseas markets, with Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) being two major destinations.

"These mustard tubers are selected precisely in terms of size, quality and colour," said Zhou Linxiang, general manager of Lvling, a local pickle-making company. "We always emphasize product quality, and our exports to Japan and ROK have increased in recent years."

China and Japan forged bilateral free trade relations for the first time following the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, which took effect on 1 January 2022. The agreement has played a positive role in promoting bilateral trade in goods and services. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 16 October 2023 shows a production line at an intelligent production workshop of Chongqing Fuling Zhacai Group Co., Ltd. PHOTO: XINHUA

Infra developments boost housing demand across Mumbai suburbs

Mumbai is experiencing significant infrastructure development, enhancing connectivity and driving demand for properties near these projects.

MUMBAI is rapidly upgrading given the ongoing infrastructure development projects underway. This has given a boost to connectivity across Mumbai resulting in rising demand for property that fall in close proximity to such infra projects.

For instance, the Mumbai Metro Line network is one such public transport system that has improved East - West and the connectivity within the western suburbs as well; thereby seeing a huge demand for housing in these areas that lie in its route. Presently, there are three Mumbai Metro Lines that are operational. These



Western & Central Suburbs accounted for 75 per cent of property registrations in November 2023. PHOTO: ANI

include Mumbai Metro Line 1, Line 7 and Line 2A which has brought immense relief to commuters making it more convenient to travel and reach their destination without much of a hassle. In addition to the Metro, the Western Express Highway also offers seamless connectivity for commuters. — Xinhua

Italy Stock Exchange sees record growth in 2023

A total of 39 companies listed their shares on the Italian Stock Exchange this year, helping to expand the exchange's total market capitalization to nearly 40 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, Ansa News Agency reported on Friday.

The Milan-based exchange had a market capitalization of 761 billion euros (843 billion US dollars) by the close of trading on Friday, the last trading day of the year, marking an increase of 21.6 per cent compared to the market capitalization of 626 billion euros

recorded a year earlier.

It was an exceptionally strong year for the Milan bourse, with its main index achieving its peak for 2023 earlier this month at 30,427 points — the highest level in absolute terms since 2008, Ansa reported. — Xinhua

Stock markets diverge to end record-breaking year

STOCK markets diverged on Friday on the final trading day of a year during which major indices hit record highs as inflation cooled.

Wall Street retreated near midday, a day after the Dow Jones Industrial Average reached a fresh high and the broad-based S&P 500 almost hit a new record. The Dow was nevertheless over 13 per cent

up for the year and the S&P 500 was nearly 24 per cent higher.

US equities had trended higher since late October as the market has embraced moderating inflation and a strong labour market in the belief the US economy can avoid recession. Investors expect the US Federal Reserve to start cutting interest rates next year after a

series of hikes aimed at taming consumer prices.

"Many signs point to an economy that can weather rate hikes as air continues to deflate from the inflation balloon," analysts at Charles Schwab investment firm said in a note. In Asia, Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei index finished lower on Friday but surged more than 28 per cent overall in 2023,

its best performance for a decade.

European stock markets finished the year on a high note, with London, Paris and Frankfurt all closing in the green ahead of the extended New Year holiday weekend.

Frankfurt registered a yearly gain of 20.3 per cent and Paris 16.5 per cent, having recently hit record heights. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (212N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (212N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-12-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

TOP NEWS STORIES

US foreign policy depletes wealth of its citizens: American scholar

THE foreign policy of the United States is not concerned with the well-being of its citizens and is an immense waste of wealth, an article of the Pearls and Irritations, a journal platform in Australia, has argued.

Noting that US foreign policy has been "hacked by big money", Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University in the United States, wrote in the article titled "US foreign policy is a scam built on corruption" that "the American people are losing big."

"The failed wars since 2000 have cost them around 5 trillion US dollars in direct outlays, or around 40,000 dollars per household," Sachs said, adding that the costs continue to mount. — Xinhua

Prices rise for over 30,000 food items in Japan in 2023: survey

PRICE increases hit a total of 32,396 items of 195 major food and beverage makers in Japan in 2023, a credit research company said Friday.

The total of food price hikes exceeding 30,000 items is unprecedented in the 30 years since the collapse of Japan's bubble economy in the 1990s, according to a survey by Teikoku Databank Ltd. In 2022, prices for 25,768 food items went up.

In 2023, companies continued to pass on their soaring raw materials and utility costs as well as higher packaging and logistics costs to customers, it said.

"Prices for all food categories were raised at once," a Teikoku Databank official said.— Xinhua

Israel begins operations in southern Gaza where Hamas launched 7 Oct attack

Many tunnel shafts have been found, along with a large amount of weapons such as AK-47s, rifles, grenades, mines, launchers, and mortars, according to the statement.

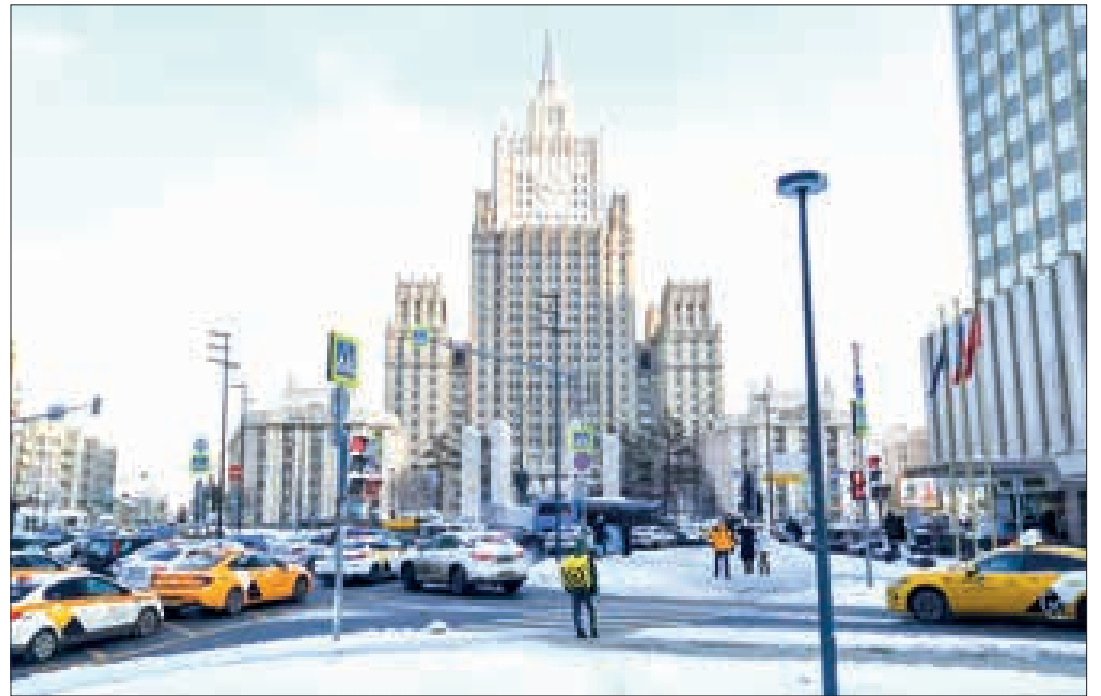
THE Israel Defence Forces (IDF) stated on Friday that it has started military operations in southern Gaza's Khirbat Ikhza'a region, from where, as part of its surprise attack on Israel on 7 October, Hamas infiltrated and raided Kibbutz Nir Oz community, resulting in casualties and the abduction of civilians to Gaza.

The Israeli soldiers are working to gain operational control of the Khirbat Ikhza'a area, the IDF said in a statement, adding the soldiers in the area "have eliminated terrorists and struck many significant targets, including tunnel shafts, a tunnel route, and anti-tank missile launch posts". — Xinhua



This photo released by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on 3 December 2023 shows Israeli troops conducting military operations in the Gaza Strip. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Russia open to dialogue with West on exchange of frozen assets - Foreign Ministry



The United States and European allies reportedly consider pursuing \$300 billion in frozen Russian assets to aid Ukraine, prompting concerns of a tit-for-tat economic response from Russia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

MOSCOW will act symmetrically if the West confiscates the Russian assets it has frozen, the director of the Department of Economic Cooperation at the Russian Foreign Ministry, Dmitry Birihevsky, told Sputnik, adding that the amount of Western funds frozen in Russia that could be affected by retaliatory

measures is significant.

On 21 December the New York Times reported that the United States and its European allies renewed discussions to go after \$300 billion in frozen Russian assets and use them to aid Ukraine.

"Of course, we admit that we will be forced to act symmetrically if Russian assets

or a part of them are still confiscated. I will not talk about specific amounts — this is the jurisdiction of the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Russia, but the amount of funds that may be subject to our retaliatory special economic measures is substantial," Birihevsky said. — SPUTNIK

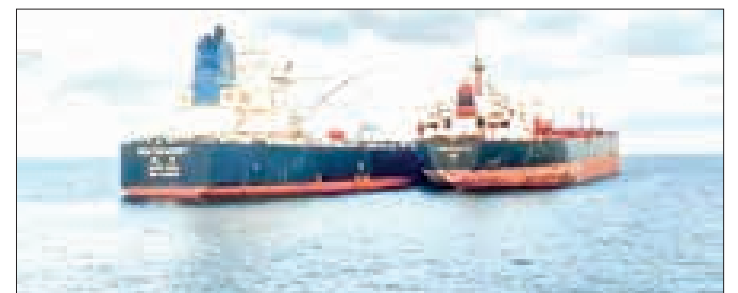
Arab Strategy Forum to commence from 3 January in Dubai

The event aims to gather global leaders and experts to explore the complex political and economic landscape of the Arab region, analyzing shifts, discussing the current state of Arab nations, and examining their role in global changes.

UNDER the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, the Arab Strategic Forum will commence its activities in Dubai on 3 January 2024.

Titled "The Political and Economic State of the Arab World in 2024", the thought-provoking event will bring together prominent global leaders, strategic experts, and leading figures in the realms of politics and economics.

The 2024 forum intends



The Arab economy is largely influenced by the production and export of crude oil, serving as a key driver of economic activity and government revenues for many Arab nations. Fluctuations in global crude oil prices significantly impact the economic stability and growth prospects of these countries. **PHOTO: ANI**

to delve deeply into the intricate political and economic landscape of the Arab region. — ANI

SPORTS



6th MFF Congress 2023 held for football development

THE 6th Myanmar Football Federation-MFF Congress 2023 was held yesterday by Video Conferencing, and Myanmar Football Federation and Asian Football

Confederation officials attended it. Asian Football Confederation President Shaikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and

Asian Football Confederation Vice President U Zaw Zaw who is also a President of the Myanmar Football Federation delivered speeches at the event.

Next, Vice President of the Myanmar Football Federation Dr Sai Seng Htun explained the financial situation of the Myanmar Football Federation in line

with the support of FIFA. According to the financial statement of 2023, the total operating expenditure of the Myanmar Football Federation was US\$6,183,734, so there was a deficit of US\$666,255.

Next, U Wan Tin, Managing Partner of JF Group (Audit Firm) explained the 2022 financial year report of the external audit team regarding the financial statements of the Myanmar Football Federation. Furthermore, U Zaw Min Sein, Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee, gave a further explanation regarding the Statutes of the Myanmar Football Federation (Edition – 2023).

In the briefing of the Chairman of the Legislative Affairs Committee, it was announced that the Myanmar Football Federation executive election will be held on 30 March 2024.

The conference continued with congressional programmes such as the presentation of the 2024 budget forecast and the counting of votes and ratifications. Then, the conference was concluded with the final speech of the MFF President U Zaw Zaw. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar National Badminton Championships 2023 held



The final match of the men's single event between Bhone Pyae Naing (Zawana) vs Hein Htut (MBF) takes place at the National Badminton Court in Lanmadaw Township of Yangon on 30 December. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

UNDER the supervision of the Myanmar Badminton Federation, the final matches of the Myanmar National Badminton Championships 2023 took place at the National Badminton Court in Yangon yesterday.

In the final match of the men's single event, Bhone Pyae

Naing (Zawana) beat Hein Htut (MBF) by 14-21 and 21-19-21-13 points.

Next, officials presented first, second and third prizes to the winners of the Men's and Women's Individual Event, Men's and Women's Double Event, Men's Senior Double

Event, Men's and Women's Mixed Amateur Event, and Women's Senior Single and Double events. The tourney held between 27 and 30 December 2023, featuring 304 matches involving 250 players, was conducted from 27 to 30 December. — Bala Soe/KZL

Sabalenka says room for improvement ahead of Australian Open defence

ARYNA Sabalenka admitted Saturday she was feeling the pressure after a breakthrough 2023 saw her claim a maiden Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, but a new mindset was helping her deal with it.

The 25-year-old Belarusian also finished runner-up at the US Open and made the semi-finals of Wimbledon and Roland Garros on her way to becoming world number one.

Currently ranked second in the world behind Poland's Iga Swiatek, Sabalenka is top seed at the season-opening Brisbane International, which begins on Sunday.

She said she had been working hard during the off-season in a bid to become the first woman to win consecutive Australian Opens since countrywoman



World number two Aryna Sabalenka says she can get better. **PHOTO: AFP**

Victoria Azarenka in 2012 and 2013. But she conceded to feeling added pressure as defending champion at Melbourne Park.

"Last year I did an amazing job, it wasn't easy to do," Sabalenka said — AFP



Tourists view the model of a beacon tower at the Silk Road and Great Wall Culture Museum in Yuli County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 29 December 2023. PHOTO: ZHAO GE/ XINHUA

Xinjiang opens its first museum on Great Wall culture

Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Friday opened its first Great Wall museum and it serves to shed light on the region's many Great Wall ruins.

Located in Yuli County, the Silk Road and Great Wall Culture Museum features more than 600 items or sets of items and an exhibition area of 2,520 square metres.

There are 212 Great Wall relics in Xinjiang, proof of the governance of this area by ancient Chinese dynasties, said Li Qiang, a director with Xinjiang's depart-

ment of culture and tourism.

The relic sites, including beacon towers and garrison forts, span a period running from the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD) to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), according to the museum.

Yuli County has abundant Great Wall relics, including the ruins of the Kiyakuduk beacon tower, dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Archaeologists believe the tower was once used to transmit military signals by smoke and fire and defend the ancient Silk Road. — Xinhua

Smartwatches can detect abnormal heart rhythms in children

A recent study from the Stanford School of Medicine suggests that smartwatches can assist medical professionals in identifying and diagnosing abnormal heart rhythms in children.

The results are based on an analysis of electronic health data for children with heart conditions who are being treated at Stanford Medicine Children's Health. The study was published in Communications Medicine.

In the course of four years, 145 times, "Apple Watch" was cited in patient medical records. Of the patients whose medical records referenced the smartwatch, 41 had irregular cardiac rhythms that were verified using conventional diagnostic techniques; 29 of these kids received a diagnosis for the first time for their arrhythmias.

"I was surprised by how often our standard monitoring didn't pick up arrhythmias and the watch did," said senior study author Scott Ceresnak, MD, professor of pediatrics. Ceresnak is a pediatric cardiologist who treats patients at Stanford Medicine. "It's awesome to see that newer technology can really make a difference in how we're able to care for patients". — ANI



ideal for kids, and even modern event monitors, though more comfortable, may still cause problems like falling off or skin irritation. PHOTO: ANI



Wine matures in barrels at the Vinkara winery in Kalecik. PHOTO: ADEM ALTAN / AFP

Turkish sparkling wines win fans

Turkish sparkling wine, such as Vinkara's award-winning "Yasasin," made from a nearly extinct local grape variety, is gaining popularity and selling out rapidly, challenging preconceptions about bubbly beverages dominated by French champagne, Spanish cava, and Italian prosecco.

Drinkers are getting into something of a fizz over Turkish sparkling wine.

"We are selling out very quickly. We cannot meet the growing demand especially as the New Year (celebrations) near," said Candas Misir of the Vinkara winery an hour from Ankara. When it comes to celebrating a big occasion, few might think of reaching for a bottle of Turkish bubbly in a market dominated by French

champagne, Spanish cava and Italian prosecco.

But Vinkara's wine — made from a local Turkish grape variety that almost died out in the 1980s — won the gold medal for the Best Sparkling Wine in the World at a competition in France in 2020. His fruity "Yasasin" — which means "Hooray!" in Turkish — has a floral aroma reminiscent of fine cremants from Alsace in eastern France.

And he is the first to admit

that the connoisseurs were initially a bit sceptical about the idea of Turkish bubbly rivaling champagne.

"We received a very cautious welcome at the start," Misir told AFP. "People were saying, 'What do you mean, a Turkish sparkling wine?'"

"However one taste is enough to make these prejudices fade away," he added.

Vinkara was the first Turkish winery to start producing sparkling wine in 2009 using the traditional champagne method from its vines around the small town of Kalecik.

Others have since followed with production rocketing. Despite swingeing taxes from Türkiye's Islamo-conservative government to discourage drinking, Turks are making more and more dry white wines, with production tripling over the last 15 years, and five times more sparkling wine being made. — AFP