

76th Honouring the anniversary Independence Day

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



NATIONAL

State Administration Council issues Notification 1/2024 for offering religious titles to Buddhist monks, laypersons

THE State Administration Council Chairman released Notification No 1/2024 dated 4 January 2024 to offer the Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title to seven prominent venerable members of the Sangha, Agga Maha Pandita title to 21 prominent venerable members of the Sangha, Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita title to 27 prominent venerable members of the Sangha and nuns, Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita title to 57 prominent venerable members of the Sangha and nuns, Ganthavacaka Pandita title to 73 prominent venerable members of the Sangha and nuns, Maha Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara title to two prominent venerable members

of the Sangha, Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara title to four prominent venerable members of the Sangha, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika title to seven prominent venerable members of the Sangha, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to 50 prominent venerable members of the Sangha, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to 105 prominent venerable members of the Sangha, nuns and lay persons, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to 82 prominent venerable members of the Sangha, nuns and lay persons, Agga Maha Kammathanacariya title to eight prominent venerable members of the Sangha, Maha

Kammathanacariya title to nine prominent venerable members of the Sangha, Kammathanacariya title to 17 prominent venerable members of the Sangha, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to a lay person, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title to two lay persons, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to three lay persons, Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title to six lay persons, Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to five lay persons, Thiha Thudhamma Theingi title to four lay persons, Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to four lay persons and Thudhamma Theingi title to 14 lay persons. — MNA

Honorary titles, medals conferred on outstanding persons

THE State Administration Council Chairman conferred honorary and gallantry medals and titles on relevant outstanding persons under Notification 2/2024 on 4 January 2024.

In this regard, the SAC Chairman conferred Sithu title, Thura title of Tatmadaw, Thiri Pyanchi title, Zeya Kyaw Htin title, Wunna Kyaw Htin title, Alinka Kyaw Swa title, Theikpa Kyaw Swa title, gallantry medal of Tatmadaw, Ye Thura medal, Ye

Bala medal, Ye Thurein medal, Ye Kyaw Thu medal, Excellent Performance in Administrative Field medals (First, Second and Third classes), Excellent Performance in Social Field medals (First, Second and Third classes), Excellent Performance in Agricultural Economy medals (Second and Third classes), Excellent Performance in Industrial Economy medals (Second and Third classes), Excellent Performance in Service Economy medals (Second and

Third classes), Excellent Performance in Science Field medals (First and Second classes), Excellent Performance in Arts Field medal (First Class), Excellent Performance in Medical Field medals (Second and Third classes), Excellent Performance in Technological Field medals (First, Second and Third classes), Excellent Performance in Fine Arts Field medals (Second and Third classes) respectively. — MNA/TTA

Excellent Performance in Social Field medal (First Class) conferred on 1,021 persons

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council has conferred Excellent Performance in Social Field medals (First Class) on 1,021 National Convention delegates under Notification No 3/2024 dated 4 January 2024 for their outstanding activities in taking part in discussions to adopt detailed principles in drawing the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the National Convention. — MNA/TTA

MR to construct warehouses, distribution centres at railway stations

MYANMA Railways under the Ministry of Transport and Communications has stated that the Small Warehouses and Distribution Centres will be constructed on the railway sections.

The construction and operation of these centres related to the transport of goods by train will be launched with the principle of a five-year package system at the ten

railway stations including the Thilawa-Toeyounggale-Yangon circular train route as well as the railway sections of Yangon-Pyay, Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Mawlamyine and Thazi-Myingyan.

Myanma Railways has invited tenders for these projects and those interested can purchase tender forms at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Logistics), Myan-

ma Railways, at Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, during office hours between 1 and 15 January. The price for a set of tender forms is K500,000 and the deadline for submitting tender proposals is at 2 pm, 1 April 2024. — TWA/MKKS

The map of Myanma Railways route in Yangon.



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NATIONAL

Government to hold a systematic election and hand over State responsibilities to elected government

THE following is the message of greetings sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day 2024 today.

Esteemed national brethren,

I would like to extend warm greetings to all ethnic people residing in the country with physical and mental well-being and auspiciousness on the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

All ethnic people had resided in Myanmar under their own monarchy for thousands of years while preserving their

own culture and customs. However, due to the bad colonialism that influenced the world, Myanmar endowed with plenty of natural resources was aggressively occupied by British colonialists after three aggressive wars in 1824, 1852, and 1885 and lost its independence and sovereignty in 1886.

Ethnic people applied the Union spirit based on valuing their own monarchy, indomitable spirit against suppression, and extremely bitter towards British colonialists and fascists as the strongest power and arm in fighting in the independence struggle with relentless efforts. Consequently, Myanmar has been standing as an independent and sovereign country for 76 years from 4 January 1948.

Ethnic people sacrificed their lives, blood, and sweat for many years to regain the independence of the nation lost in a snapshot period. Although they possessed a Union with independence as an unrivaled prestige due to sacrifice and patriotic spirit of forefathers for the State, the country Myanmar faced periods of different dogmatism based on racism. Such internal conflict depended on weakness in national unity based on the instigated administrative mechanism of colonialists for many years. From then on, the country encountered different terrible dangers that posed threats to the disintegration of the Union and sovereignty.

As Myanmar Tatmadaw harmoniously joins hands with ethnic people in

safeguarding independence and sovereignty which are the lifeblood of the nation, the country is independent and sovereign. Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty which play a pivotal role in the perpetual existence of independence and sovereignty is vividly seen as an ethic all the ethnic people should follow. Hence, all ethnic people should deeply follow "Our Three Main National Causes" in shaping the Union based on genuine, disciplined democratic and federal systems to forge the strength of national unity.

SEE PAGE-4

Sports & Youth Affairs Ministry celebrates securing champion in Inter-Ministry Football Tourney

THE Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs deservedly won the championship trophy with a 4-3 win over the Ministry of Planning and Finance in the Inter-Ministry Men's Football Tournament.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing awarded the winning teams in the Inter-Ministry Men's Football Tournament in commemoration of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

From the start of the final match, both the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Planning and Finance put pressure on each other by controlling the ball with might and main. At 8 minutes, the Ministry of Planning and Finance scored an opening goal to lead the match. But, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs translated its chances as an equalizer at 11 minutes and scored two more goals at 16 minutes and 18 minutes to take a leading role with a 3-1 win. However, the Ministry of Planning and Finance took one more goal at 42 minutes.

At the end of the first half, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs still led the match with a 3-2 result.

In the second half, the Ministry of Planning and Finance scored one more equalizer at 47 minutes. So, the competitions of both teams reached the climax with a 3-3 result. As they could not break a deadlock of such a result, the match ended with a 3-3 draw at the final whistle.

In the extra time, the player of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team shot an intense kick outside the 18-yard box of the Ministry of Planning and Finance team into the net at 18 minutes. Finally, the match ended with a 4-3 result.

Sports and Youth Affairs Ministry celebrated securing champion in Inter-Ministry Football Tournament.

The Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and SAC members presented best player awards, cash awards, and individual medals to respective players.

Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, and Lt-Gen Nyo Saw also presented prizes, cash awards, and individual medals to the



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents championship trophy to first prize-winning Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs in Inter-Ministry Men's Football Tournament yesterday.

second prize-winning Ministry of Planning and Finance team, third prize-winning Ministry of Home Affairs team and fourth prize-winning Ministry of Construction team respectively.

Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo gave individual medals to players from the champion Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team.

Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing presented cash awards and a championship trophy to champion Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team and cordially greeted players. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Government to hold a systematic election and hand over State responsibilities to elected government

FROM PAGE-3

Esteemed national brethren,

The previous government did not legally solve voting frauds which happened in the 2020 election but made attempts to grasp the power of the State. Hence, Tatmadaw served the State responsibilities under the Constitution (2008) for ensuring the strengthening of the multiparty democratic system. The State Administration Council has been formed, and two political visions: strengthening a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and building a Union based on democratic and federal systems have been adopted. Likewise, two national visions: ensuring peace and prosperity of the State and food security are being implemented.

An emphasis must be placed on building a Union based on a democratic and federal system in the regionally-based system but ethnic-based federalism. In building such a Union, as all leaders, implementers, and followers need to have knowledge, technology, personal capacity, and critical thinking skills, efforts must be made for the enhancement of a comprehensive education sector that can turn human resources for the State.

As today is the age of knowledge, only when individuals have been educated will they have a guarantee for their lives. Areas of ethnic people, especially some rural areas of states, are facing weakness in the education sector due to language barriers, less encouragement for education, and other challenges. Hence, all rural people and all ethnic

people have to be literate and have to complete school education without fail. During the summer holidays in 2024, volunteer students, teachers, local educated persons, and local service personnel will implement a literacy campaign similar to the 3-Rs courses as a national activity across the nation by seeking assistance from ethnic language teachers.

Teachers need to teach students to actually be educated and encourage them to continuously read literature. Universities extend teaching on law and economic subjects for the emergence of those who are skillful in basic legal and economic knowledge and economists. Hence, it is necessary to strive for the emergence of well-versed educated people to develop the State. Only when the people have high education knowledge will they have the capacity to analyze everything. As such, it is necessary to improve the education of the entire ethnic people. The comprehensive education sector must be enhanced for the youths of the future to possess five strengths of capacity to preserve their own culture and national characters to keep abreast of others in the developing world.

Esteemed national brethren,

The majority of citizens are primarily emphasizing agriculture in Myanmar. A total of 72 per cent of people reside in rural areas, and 45 per cent of them engage in agriculture as their livelihood. Other rural people are doing businesses related to agriculture. If they combine their efforts with water supply, fertilizer/foods, quality strains of crops, and agricultural techniques in the agriculture

and livestock sectors, agriculture and livestock sectors will accomplish food security which is one of national visions.

As such, more and more universities, colleges, institutes, and schools are established to turn out intellectuals, intelligentsia, and technicians in the agriculture and livestock sectors. To make education accessible to everyone, 51 industrial, agricultural, and livestock-affiliated high schools have been established in 50 districts for the students who passed the middle school education to learn industrial, agriculture, and livestock breeding subjects. In the 2024-25 academic year, 34 more schools were opened with more plans to extend further schools. These schools teach students to become industrial, agricultural, and livestock technicians. Qualified students will have the chance to study at institutes, colleges, and universities. If the number of technicians, experts, and human resources is on the rise, all have to strive for the nation to become the exporter from the status of importer by upgrading the businesses of producing one product in each region to manufacture personal goods for meeting the local demand. "Encouraging micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) based on agriculture and livestock sectors, they have to study advanced manufacturing technologies to produce value-added products so as to enhance socioeconomic life of the nation.

Esteemed national brethren,

The ultimatum aim of the State Administration Council is to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general

election. As such, preparations are being made to have a correct eligible voter list of people at home and abroad, enable all eligible voters to cast votes, and ensure cent per cent voting across the nation. It is necessary to enumerate the national census to compile voter lists successfully and have the necessary biometric data for the development of the nation. Hence, a test census enumeration started on 1 October 2023, and a plan is underway to collect the national census in 2024. Depending on this, when firm and correct voter lists have been compiled, efforts must be made to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election under the law in all parts of the nation and create chances for voters to cast votes in all parts of the nation without vacant areas. Continuous efforts will be made to hold a systematic election and handing over the State's responsibilities to the government which would emerge from the election.

Esteemed national brethren,

The government on its part has decided to continuously strive to implement the great strategic plan, strategic plan, and tactics adopted with national solidarity and mutual respect and trust based on Union spirit.

I have sent this message to all, urging all national brethren to deeply accept five national objectives of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day 2024 and join hands among them in unison to participate in striving for the perpetuity of the Independence and Sovereignty of Myanmar with genuine patriotic spirit and Union spirit.

26 receptionists selected for 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards event

TWENTY-SIX receptionists have been chosen for the 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards event, as announced by U Aye Kyu Lay, the Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

The application period for receptionists for the Myanmar Academy Awards event 2023 ran from 1 to 15 December. The preliminary selection took place on 17 December, where 97 candidates were chosen from a pool of 300 applicants. On 24 December, 56 receptionists were selected from the second stage of the preliminary pool of 97 candidates, and the finalists were officially announced on 28 December.

"We conducted the preliminary selection, choosing 97 candidates from 300

on 17 December. On 24 December, we selected 56 receptionists from the second stage of the preliminary pool of 97 candidates, and we chose the finalists on 28 December. Among the finalists, a total of 26 were selected, comprising 13 males and 13 females," said U Aye Kyu Lay.

The judging panel for the selection included experienced senior actors and actresses such as Academy Yan Aung, Academy Ye Aung, Academy Khant Si Thu, Academy Aung Khine, Academy May Than Nu, and Academy Soe Myat Thuzar.

Notable actresses already known to the audience, such as Myo Ma Ma (Kyaw Kyaw Eindra), Eindra Moe Myint, and Cho Madi Thwin, are included among the finalists for the receptionists. — ASH/TKO



Selection event of receptionists and judges.

NATIONAL

Golden umbrella, pennant-shaped vane, bejewelled diamond orb hoisted atop ancient Naypan Lapan Pagoda with consecration in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw

A ceremony to hoist a golden umbrella, a pennant-shaped vane and a bejewelled diamond orb atop ancient Naypan Lapan Pagoda with a consecration took place in Seinsapin Village of Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning, attended by members of the Sangha led by Presiding Patron of Pali Tekkatho Mingalazeyon Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimala Buddhi.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offered an alms bowl, fruits, flowers, water and oil lights to the Buddha image in the Maha Mingala pavilion in the precinct of the pagoda and kept religious objects in the bejewelled pennant-shaped vane.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu

Hla offered a golden umbrella, a pennant-shaped vane and a bejewelled diamond orb to the Pali Sayadaw. SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and council members also donated alms to members of the Sangha.

The Senior General and party fixed the tiers of the golden umbrella, pennant-shaped vane and bejewelled diamond orb atop the pagoda and sprinkled scented water on them. Members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda.

According to the estimation of experts from the Department of Archaeology and the National Museum of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, four ancient Naypan Lapan pagodas were built more than 300 years ago in the Nyaungyan era. In 2005, the father and uncle of the current abbot Bhaddanta Aloka of Thukha Yadana Monastery founded the pagoda. These four ancient pagodas were renovated



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer bejewelled diamond orb to Pali Sayadaw at golden umbrella hoisting ceremony of Naypan Lapan Pagoda in Zeyathiri Township yesterday.

by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers led by SAC Chairman Prime Min-

ister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla with the aim of ensuring the per-

petuity of Buddhism, propagation of Sasana and preserving ancient cultural heritage. — MNA/TTA

Congratulatory messages from foreign heads of states on 76th Anniversary Independence Day

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, sends congratulatory message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON the auspicious occasion of the 76th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia join me in extending our warmest felicitations to Your Excellency and all the citizens of your country.

The close and long-standing Cambodia-Myanmar relations are based on shared cultural and religious affinities, mutual respect, and understanding. I am confident that in the future we can further strengthen the friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

I wish Your Excellency good health and serenity, as well as peace and well-being to all the citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

With the assurances of my highest consideration,

Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

PLEASE accept my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar - Independence Day.

Russian-Myanmar relations are traditionally friendly. I am confident that by joint efforts we will ensure further increase of constructive bilateral cooperation in various areas for the benefit of our peoples and in the interests of strengthening stability and security in the Asia-Pacific Region.

I would also like to congratulate You on the New Year 2024. I wish You health, happiness, and success, as well as peace and prosperity for all Myanmar citizens.

NATIONAL

Congratulatory messages from foreign heads of states on 76th Anniversary ...

From Page-5

Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency warm congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The long-standing friendly ties between Sri Lanka and Myanmar underpinned by Theravada Buddhism and shared cultural values have continued to thrive for centuries. I am certain that the existing relations will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead for the mutual benefit of our people.

Please accept, Excellency, my sincere best wishes for peace, happiness, and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Mr Mikhail Mishustin, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation and on my own behalf, please accept congratulations on the occasion of the national day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar - the Independence Day.

Russia and Myanmar have friendly and partnership relations. I am convinced that the active joint work of our governments will contribute to the development of trade, economic, scientific, technical, and humanitarian cooperation, as well as the implementation of mutually beneficial projects in all areas.

I wish You, Excellency, good health, prosperity, and new success in your responsible activities, as well as happiness and prosperity to the friendly people of Myanmar.

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, sends congratulatory message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to you, the government, and the people of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 76th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am pleased to witness that the traditional friendly relations between Cambodia and Myanmar that we have built over the years have grown from strength to strength. I believe that the existing ties and cooperation between our two countries will continue to be further forged for mutually beneficial cooperation under bilateral and multilateral frameworks for peace, stability, sustainable development, and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration and best wishes for your good health, happiness, and continued success.

Mr Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, and personally, I congratulate you on the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Belarus and Myanmar have established good relations based on mutual understanding and shared views on current global and regional issues, as well as on the sovereign right of each country to pursue its own path of development.

Belarus is interested in expanding its contacts with Nay Pyi Daw and intends to gradually increase the mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation, primarily in the trade and economic sector.

We believe that the intensification of business contacts and implementation of joint economic projects will contribute to the successful development of our countries and the improvement of the well-being of the citizens of Belarus and Myanmar.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my wishes for good health and success in your responsible state activities, as well as the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr Nadhir Larbaoui, Prime Minister of the Algeria Democratic Republic, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON the occasion of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's celebration of its National Day, I am pleased to extend to you, on behalf of the Algerian Government and on my own behalf, my warmest congratulations, accompanied by my most sincere wishes for success and fulfillment in your duties.

On this happy occasion, I cannot fail to express to you our aspirations to strengthen cooperation relations between Algeria and Myanmar, and to establish bilateral consultation on issues of common interest.

Please accept, Excellency, the highest expressions of respect and consideration.

NATIONAL

Congratulatory messages from foreign leaders of states on 76th Anniversary Independence Day

Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

PLEASE accept sincere congratulations on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar - Independence Day.

We highly appreciate relations with Myanmar which are characterized by traditional friendship and mutual trust. We aim to consistently promote trust-based political dialogue, contacts between foreign ministries of both countries and coordination of efforts at international and regional platforms. We believe that the comprehensive strengthening of multifaceted cooperation meets the interests of the peoples of our states and contributes to ensuring peace, security, and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

I wish You and all Your colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar good health and success.

Mr Sok Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, sends Congratulatory message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Union of Myanmar

ON the commemoration of the 76th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to you and the friendly people of Myanmar.

I am pleased to note that the long-standing cordial relationship and close cooperation in various fields between Cambodia and Myanmar stands as a testament to our robust and fruitful relations. It is my sincere hope that the ties of friendship between our two countries will continue to flourish in the years ahead. I stand closely to work with you under bilateral and multilateral frameworks to further strengthen our relations for the peace, stability, and prosperity of our two countries and our region.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration and best wishes for the success of all your endeavours and great prosperity for the people of Myanmar.

Mr Sergei Aleinik, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

PLEASE accept my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I fondly remember our meeting in Minsk last September. I note with pleasure the atmosphere of constructive dialogue and open exchange of views on a wide range of bilateral issues that we had at the meeting.

I am convinced that such events contribute to the strengthening of mutual trust and understanding and open up new opportunities for further cooperation between our countries.

I reaffirm Belarus' commitment to developing cooperation with Myanmar, also through political consultations between the foreign ministries of our states.

I appreciate the productive work of the Consulate-General of Myanmar in Minsk, particularly in the trade sector.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my wishes for good health and continued professional success, as well as the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr MUM Ali Sabry, PC, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT is with immense pleasure that I extend warm felicitations to Your Excellency on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am happy to witness the bonds of friendship based on religious and cultural affinities between our two countries continue to thrive. I look forward to consolidating our long-standing friendly relations across many fields of common interest for the benefit of our two nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of Myanmar and its people.

Ms Choe Son Hui, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sends Congratulatory message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I extend my congratulations to you on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the independence of Myanmar and wish you successes in your responsible work.

OPINION

Beware of neo-colonialism: Safeguarding Myanmar's independence and unity

THE annals of Myanmar's history are replete with tales of immense struggle during the fight for independence. The populace valiantly sacrificed lives and limbs to reclaim Myanmar's sovereignty, enabling the nation to proudly assert its place among global peers.

Upholding the cherished traditions of Myanmar, it is imperative for all citizens to collectively strive towards the national goal of building a democratic and federal Union founded on principles of liberty, equality, and justice for every national brethren. In the aftermath of the tribulations endured during the struggle for independence, it is the responsibility of all citizens to contribute to the construction of a peaceful and prosperous nation.

In this pursuit, it becomes crucial for the people to guard against disunity, recognizing that unscrupulous individuals lurk, eagerly awaiting opportunities to fragment the nation. Neo-colonial forces are poised to exploit any divisions, manipulating the fragments for their own agenda. Vigilance against the machinations of neo-colonialists is paramount, necessitating a collective understanding among the populace to steer clear of their traps.

A comprehensive understanding of Myanmar's current conditions is imperative, considering that development endeavours have yet to reach every corner of the nation. Building mutual trust among all national brethren is the initial step, fostering mutual understanding and respect through compassion, consideration, forgiveness, and patience. This approach is pivotal in shaping a cohesive nation while preserving the distinct cultures and customs of various ethnicities.

Aligned with the objectives of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day, individuals must uphold the Three National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. These causes represent the nation's interests and political aspirations. The focus should also be on advancing the education sector to produce adept human resources capable of contributing to the democratic and federal Union. Efforts should be directed towards holding free and fair elections, ensuring voting rights across the nation, fostering public cooperation for state stability, and fortifying the multiparty democratic system against acts of terrorism. Additionally, promoting agriculture and livestock-based Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is vital for economic growth.

Myanmar's diverse ethnic groups, standing resilient on their own strengths, must learn from past experiences. The citizenry should remain vigilant against instigations and pressures that may compromise the interests of the State. United in their commitment to preserving the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity, and the perpetuation of sovereignty, citizens must exhibit a mature nationalistic spirit and unwavering loyalty to their country, nationality, and religion.

Myanmar's diverse ethnic groups, standing resilient on their own strengths, must learn from past experiences. The citizenry should remain vigilant against instigations and pressures that may compromise the interests of the State. United in their commitment to preserving the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity, and the perpetuation of sovereignty, citizens must exhibit a mature nationalistic spirit and unwavering loyalty to their country, nationality, and religion.

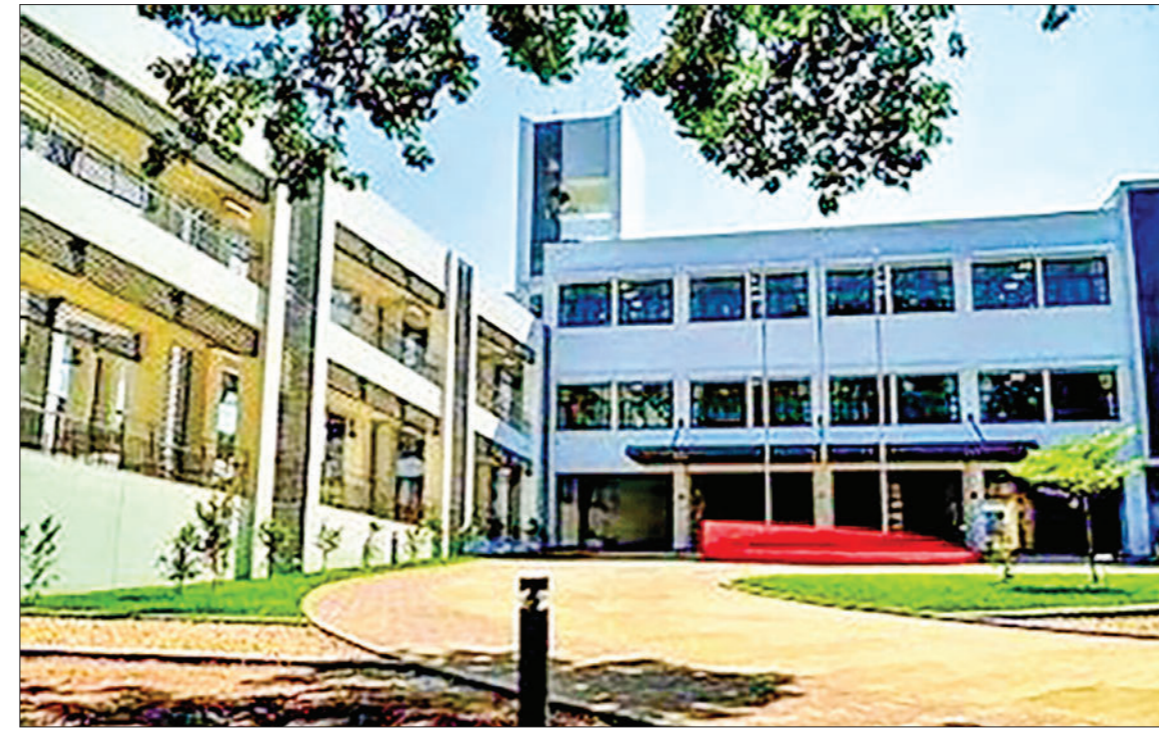
THE design to promote the provision of healthcare services at public hospitals involves considering various factors to ensure the highest level of patient care, safety, and overall functionality. The following key points need to be considered;

- ▶ **Patient-centred Care:** Emphasis on patient comfort, dignity, and respect. Clear communication with patients and their families and personalized care plans that take into account individual needs and preferences.
- ▶ **Skilled and Compassionate Staff:** Well-trained and experienced medical professionals, continuous education and training programs for staff, and a culture of empathy, compassion, and patient advocacy.
- ▶ **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** Modern and well-equipped diagnostic and treatment facilities, advanced medical technology to support accurate diagnosis and treatment, and comfortable and well-designed patient rooms.
- ▶ **Efficient Workflows:** Streamlined processes to

Let's promote the provision of healthcare services at Public Hospitals

By Dr. Than Lwin Tun

- ▶ **Infection Control Measures:** Strict adherence to hygiene and sanitation standards and robust infection control protocols to prevent the spread of diseases within the hospital.
- ▶ **Collaborative Approach:** Interdisciplinary collaboration among healthcare professionals and Continuous coordination between different departments and specialties.
- ▶ **Patient Safety Initiatives:** Robust systems for identifying and preventing medical errors and Continuous monitoring and improvement of



Magway General Hospital

patient safety measures.

- ▶ **Community Engagement:** Community outreach programs to promote health and wellness and educational initiatives to raise awareness about preventive healthcare.
- ▶ **Environmental Sustainability:** Green building practices to reduce the hospital's environmental impact and Implementation of eco-friendly technologies and practices.
- ▶ **Ethical Practices:** Adherence to ethical standards in patient care, research, and business practices and Transparent and honest communication with patients and stakeholders.
- ▶ **Financial Transparency:** Transparent billing practices and clear communication



Operation Theatre of Patheingyi General Hospital

- ▶ **Research and Innovation:** Support for medical research and innovation and Integration of the latest medical discoveries and treatments into patient care.
 - ▶ **Emergency Preparedness:** Comprehensive plans for disaster response and emergencies and Regular drills and training for staff to ensure readiness.
 - ▶ **Accessible and Inclusive Design:** Facilities that are accessible to individuals with disabilities and Inclusive design to accommodate diverse patient populations.
- In addition, promoting the provision of healthcare services at public hospitals involves a holistic approach that takes into account the diverse needs of patients, staff, and the community as well as flexibility and adaptability are also crucial for healthcare development in the future.

Scientists find new method of boosting chemical reactions using electricity

Chemists found a way to use electricity to boost a type of chemical reaction often used in synthesizing new candidates for pharmaceutical drugs. The research is an advance in the field of electrochemistry and shows a path forward to designing and controlling reactions – and making them more sustainable.

A STUDY conducted by chemists at the University of Chicago discovered a technique to use electricity to enhance a sort of chemical reaction commonly used in the synthesis of novel pharmaceutical medication candidates. The finding, which was published in Nature Catalysis, represents an advancement in the field of electrochemistry and indicates a road ahead to creating and directing reactions—and making them more sustainable.

Electrode interface

“What we want to do is understand what's happening at the fundamental level at the electrode interface, and use that to predict and design more efficient chemical reactions,” said Anna Wuttig, UChi-

cago Neubauer Family Assistant Professor and the senior author on the paper. “This is a step towards that eventual goal.” In certain chemical reactions, electricity can boost the output—and because you can get the needed electricity from renewable sources, it could be part of making the worldwide chemical industry greener. But electrochemistry, as the field is known, is especially complex. There is much scientists don't know about molecular interactions, especially because you have to insert a conductive solid (an electrode) into the mix to provide electricity, which means the molecules interact with that electrode as well as with each other. To a scientist trying to untangle the roles each molecule is playing and in what order, this

makes an already complicated process even more complicated.

Electrochemistry

“What if you think about it as electrochemistry providing us with a unique design lever that's not possible in any other system?” she said. In this case, she and her team focused on the surface of the electrode that provides the electricity to the reaction. “There were hints that the surface itself is catalytic, that it plays a role,” Wuttig said, “but we don't know how to systematically control those interactions at the molecular level.” They tinkered with a type of reaction that is commonly used in manufacturing chemicals for medicine, to form a bond between two carbon atoms. According to theoretical

predictions, when this reaction is performed using electricity, the yield from the reaction should be 100 per cent, that is, all the molecules that went in are made into a single new substance. But when you run the reaction in the lab, the yield is lower.

A key ingredient

The team thought the presence of the electrode was tempting some of the molecules away from where they were needed during the reaction. They found that adding a key ingredient could help, a chemical known as a Lewis acid added to the liquid solution redirected those molecules. “You get a near-clean reaction,” Wuttig said. Moreover, the team was able to use special imaging techniques to watch

the reactions unfold at the molecular level. “You can see that the presence of the modulator has a profound effect on the interfacial structure,” she said. “This allows us to visualize and understand what's happening, rather than regard it as a black box.” This is a crucial step, Wuttig said, because it shows a path forward towards being able to not only use the electrode in chemistry but also to predict and control its effects. Another benefit is that the electrode can be re-used for more reactions. “This is a step towards sustainable synthesis,” she said. “Moving forward, my group is very excited to use these types of concepts and strategies to map out and address other synthetic challenges.”

SOURCE: ANI



The complexity arises from gaps in understanding molecular interactions, compounded by the necessity to introduce a conductive solid (an electrode) into the reaction mix, causing molecules to interact both with the electrode and each other. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

NATIONAL

Inter-Ministry Volley tourney honouring 76th Anniversary of Independence Day concludes

THE final matches of the Inter-Ministry Volley tournament to mark the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day were held at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium-A in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Among the spectators, SAC members, and officials of the Myanmar Volleyball Federation watched the volleyball events.

In the final match of the women's volleyball event, the Ministry of Home Affairs team beat the Ministry of Defence team 3-1.

Next, the final match of the men's volleyball event was held and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs team won over the

Ministry of Home Affairs team 3-1.

Next officials presented trophies and medals to the winning teams and outstanding players during the awarding ceremony.

A total of five women's volleyball teams (U-25), 15 men's football teams (U-25), 16 men's volleyball teams, 25 men's Sepak Takraw teams, 18 men's futsal teams, 23 Myanmar traditional sport teams, 24 men's tug of war team and 19 women's tug of war team participated in the Inter-Ministry Volley tournament to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the Independence Day. — MNA/KZL



SAC Member Dr Ba Shwe presents the championship trophy to champion Ministry of Home Affairs team in the Inter-Ministry Volley Tournament at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium-A in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoBA's English Proficiency Course 1/2023 successfully winds up



The graduation ceremony for English Proficiency Course 1/2023 of Ministry of Border Affairs in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



during the course in their respective roles. Emphasizing the importance of contributing to the ministry's objectives, he urged them to pass on the gift of education and strive to become exemplary civil servants for the country's development.

U Than Swe, instructor of the English Proficiency Course, presented the progress and improvement of trainees in English skills. He presented certificates to outstanding trainees, recognizing their dedication and achievements throughout the 10-week systematic course. Weekly evaluations conducted by officials and instructor ensured a consistent assessment of the participants' English language proficiency. — MNA/TS

THE Ministry of Border Affairs (MoBA) hosted the graduation ceremony for the English Proficiency Course 1/2023 yesterday morning at the ministry's assembly hall. The course aimed to enhance

the efficiency of staff in the minister's office and various departments.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Deputy Min-

ister Maj-Gen Phyo Thant, the permanent secretary, directors-general, the deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general, assistant secretaries/directors, personnel, facilitators, and trainees.

During a round table discussion, the Union Minister and attendees observed English proficiency of the trainees. Following this, the Union Minister encouraged the graduates to apply the knowledge gained



The view of the former office of the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities in Kyimyindine Township.

Office of Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities moved to Mayangon

THE office of the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities has been relocated to Mayangon Township and opened, according to the federation.

The former office was located at the School for the Blind, Panningyi Street, Kyimyindine

Township but now it was moved to the Ground Floor of the Rehabilitation camp for drug addicts of the office of the Social Welfare Department of Yangon Region No.64, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon Region on 1 January 2024. The Federation office are

opened in Yangon and other regions and states to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities, registration of persons with disabilities, vocational training, and support provided by the state. — TWA/KZL

Kyat-US dollar exchange rate stable at around K3,450

KYAT value against the green-back has remained unchanged at approximately K3,450 at the Over-the-Counter market since early December 2023.

Meanwhile, the reference exchange rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar is K2,100.

On 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.

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

The dollar gained to around K4,000 on 19 August 2023.

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 traveller's

cheques. Those holding foreign currencies without valid licences and permits will face legal actions under the law, according to the CBM's notification released on 21 August 2023.

According to the notification (7/2014) dated 30 September 2014 issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar, affirming that under clause 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 exchanged in local currency at the market price through authorized dealers or deposited into bank accounts.

Those illegally holding foreign currencies are to face legal actions under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the CBM warned again. — NN/EM



File photo shows US dollar and Myanmar currency notes.



Bags of rice are being loaded aboard the cargo vessel at Yangon port.

Myanmar's rice exports cross US\$462M this FY

THE value of Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports totalled US\$462 million from 955,502 tonnes in the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, comprising 883,244 tonnes by seaborne trade and 72,258 tonnes at the border, as per Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The export volumes were registered at 87,648 tonnes worth \$36 million in April, 110,706 tonnes worth \$48 million in May, 62,725 tonnes worth \$28 million in June, 58,334 tonnes worth \$26 million in July, 59,971 tonnes worth \$28 million in August, 84,773 tonnes worth \$42 million in September, 119,526

tonnes worth \$63 million in October, 175,990 tonnes worth \$90 million in November and 195,829 tonnes worth \$99 million in December respectively.

This being so, the rice export volume recorded the highest in December, followed by November and October. The figures showed a drop in June, July and August.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the current FY, expecting to bag \$1 billion.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million.

Last FY, China was the main buyer of Myanmar's rice and broken rice with over 775,000 tonnes, followed by Belgium with 323,000 tonnes, Bangladesh with over 239,000 tonnes, and the Philippines with over 202,000 tonnes.

Myanmar has been endeavouring to attain a 10 per cent growth in rice export. To increase foreign income, it has been prioritizing the exportation of high-grade rice and bolstering export volume, MRF stated.

Myanmar earned over \$809.135 million from approximately 2.164 million tonnes of rice export in the 2021-2022 FY (April-March). — NN/EM

350 gem trading licences set to expire in Feb

A total of 357 gem trading licences are due to expire in February, Myanmar Gems Enterprise notified.

Under the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, those holding available licences (gems and jewellery trading licences, manufacturing licences for finished gems and carvings and rough gemstone and finished products trading licences) issued by the Myan-

ma Gems Enterprise need to proceed to the renewal process three months before the expiry date. They must renew them at least one month before the expiry. Additionally, they can notify Myanmar Gems Enterprise of winding down a business with one-month notice before ceasing the operation.

Licence renewal applications can be processed at Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Nay Pyi Taw), Gems and Jewellery



File photo shows that gem merchants examine the jade stones at the Myanmar Gems Emporium in 2022.

Museum in Yangon and Mandalay office, mining departments in Mogok, Lonekin/Phakant, Monghsu and Myitkyina areas, in line with the rules and regulations. Those businesspersons holding expired licences in 2020 and 2021 were urged to reinstate them by the end of December with the relevant departments on 22 September 2023. The licences would get revoked unless it is renewed, Myanmar Gems Enterprise notified. — NN/EM

NATIONAL

Historic Konbaung era's Kwaychaung fort needs base camp for visitors



A base camp at the historic Kwaychaung fort of the Konbaung era is necessary for tourist recreation and business opportunities, U Kyaw Myo Win, director at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture (Bagan Branch) suggested.

Kwaychaung fort was built in 1860. It took three years to build it and it was a historic site as the British naval vessels had to overcome it

difficultly due to its strategic location.

Built a year earlier than near-by Minhla fort, Kwaychaung fort was systematically constructed with a specific location for fighting elephants.

"It is a big Konbaung era fort with a very good architect. It needs a base camp for visitors to rest at a distance from the fort without disturbing the view. From this camp,

business opportunities for locals such as gift shops, cold drinks, a rest hall or toilets can be arranged. This will reduce the need for public to eat and relieve oneself inside the fort," he said.

A fort like Kwaychaung, if it were in Europe, could seek world heritage status and there are many forts that have been designated as world heritage sites. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation: People killed, wounded due to Tatmadaw firing on Kawlin, Kyauktaw

THE Tatmadaw battalion based in Wuntho, fired at Kawlin, Sagaing Region six times with heavy weapons at around 8:00 am on 2 January and exploded near the crowded East Market in downtown Kawlin, killing six residents and injuring seven, according to malicious media Myanmar Now.

Tatmadaw did not fire heavy weapons into the town of Kawlin on 2 January, and on the morning of that day, terrorist groups fired heavy weapons at the military column that was on security duty, and some of the shells exploded in the town, where the public live, according to an official.

Similarly, malicious news



A screen-shot photo on misinformation.

media such as Khit Thit and Mizzima spread false information on social networking sites, saying that two civilians, including one 3-year-old child, were killed and five were wounded

due to two drone bombings by the military on Myauktaung Village on 2 January.

Regarding the news, according to a security official from the relevant area, Myauktaung Village was not bombed by a military drone or fired with heavy weapons. AA armed insurgents attacked the villages with heavy weapons and drones to destroy the administration and create a lack of peace and stability in Rakhine State.

Malicious news media are defending the actions of terrorists blaming their actions on Tatmadaw, and deliberately fabricating and spreading false information to discredit the military. — MNA/KZL

Tatmadaw denies airlifting leaders of online money fraud group reports



A screen-shot misinformation of malicious Khit Thit media.

KHIT Thit Media is spreading fake news and crafting propaganda, claiming that the leaders of the group involved in online scam in Laukkai are being airlifted by helicopter.

As part of national efforts to combat online scam, laws have been enacted to prevent gambling. We are actively investigating and identifying individuals engaged in online cheating. Effective actions are being taken against those involved in gambling, including arrests, and against individuals conducting online fraud

operations from foreign countries. Repatriation is being conducted following the procedures of the relevant countries, and these measures are being reported promptly.

Nevertheless, malicious news media and certain ethnic armed groups exploit the state for online fraud. Such fake news is circulated to mislead the public and the international community regarding the State and the military, as if not taking legal action against gambling. — MNA/KZW

Malicious media spreads false claims of security forces burning Monywa village

MISINFORMATION circulating on 2 January claims that security forces burned down Doewaingchaung village. It has been identified that the malicious news media, Khit Thit Media, is spreading this misinformation on social networking sites.

Regarding the news, as reported by security officials in the relevant areas on 2 January in Monywa Township, including Thanpinhla Village and Kalay Township, security forces visited the neighbouring villages of Doewaingchaung. It is confirmed that there is no security threat in the area.

Misinformation is being spread to mislead the local people regarding the efforts of security



Malicious media posts a picture of outbreak of fire in Monywa.

forces working to maintain peace and security in the area. This misinformation is reported to be circulated by media supporting terrorists. — MNA/KZW

False News: Houses, and shops burned in Minbya, Yanbye, allegedly due to Tatmadaw attack

A malicious news media, Western News has been spreading fake news on social media that houses and shops in Minbya and Yanbye, Rakhine State, have been burnt down due to Tatmadaw's heavy weapon fire.

Tatmadaw and AA insurgents exchanged fires in Minbya township at around 4 am on 2 January, and the insurgents were injured and they retreated, an of-

ficial said. According to a security official in the relevant area, there was no attack by the Tatmadaw using heavy weapons and aircraft on Minbya and Yanbye.

Therefore, as a malicious news media, it is only a purposeful propaganda attack to harm the stability and peace of the national government and cause fear and panic among the local ethnic people. — MNA/KZL

Tesla's Shanghai plant delivers 947,000 vehicles in 2023

TESLA'S Shanghai plant, the US carmaker's first gigafactory outside the United States, delivered 947,000 vehicles in 2023, the company said on Wednesday in its production and deliveries report for 2023. The company said the figure was a 33 per cent increase from the previous year. It added that more than half of the over 1.8 million electric vehicles Tesla globally delivered last year came from the Shanghai plant. Capable of producing a car in less than 40 seconds, Tesla's localization rate of car components used in the Shanghai factory has exceeded 95 per cent. In 2023, Tesla Gigafactory Shanghai delivered more than 600,000 electric vehicles to the Chinese market. — Xinhua

China's tourism consumption boosted by bustling New Year travel

CHINA'S tourism consumption has seen a surge thanks to a bustling New Year holiday travel spree to cultural events, sightseeing as well as ice and snow amusement spots across the country.

On the eve of the New Year, about 140 foreign tourists from countries including Singapore and Malaysia arrived in Shanghai to become the city's first foreign tourist group for New Year travel.

Li Liangyi, organizer of the group and president of China Express Travel(s) PTE Ltd., said the tour members registered for the group travel trip soon after the Shanghai municipal culture and tourism administration

staged a cultural tourism promotion in Singapore in October 2023.

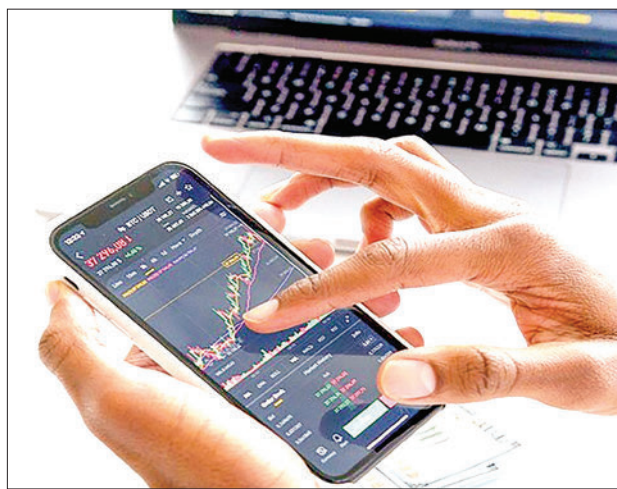
The tourists boarded China's first domestically-built large cruise ship, Adora Magic City, which departed from the Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal on Monday, joining the ship's maiden commercial voyage after participating in the city's New Year countdown events, including light shows and intangible cultural heritage activities such as egg-shell carving.

The ship's maiden voyage is taking passengers to Northeast Asian tourist destinations, including Japan and the Republic of Korea. — Xinhua

China experienced a surge in tourism consumption during the New Year holiday, driven by a lively travel spree to cultural events, sightseeing, and ice and snow amusement spots across the country.



This aerial photo shows tourists visiting the Harbin Ice-Snow World in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 31 December 2023. PHOTO: ZHANG TAO/XINHUA



Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) became net buyers in India's stock market in 2023. PHOTO: ANI

Indian stocks extend losses on profit booking

Indian stock indices continued their downward trend on Wednesday, marking the third consecutive session of losses in 2024, driven by profit booking after a strong performance in 2023 and concerns over high valuations.

INDIAN stock indices continued to trade in the red on Wednesday, extending losses for the third session of 2024, primarily attributable to dragged profit booking after a stellar cumula-

tive performance in 2023. High valuations, too, are a concern.

Benchmark indices — Sensex and Nifty — were 0.4-0.5 per cent lower from the previous session, at the time of fil-

ing this report.

Cumulatively, the past 12 months have been stellar for investors who parked their money in Indian stocks. Though there has been some turbulence, first during

the Adani-Hindenburg episode and lately during the initial days of the Israel-Hamas war, the calendar year 2023 gave handsome monetary dividends to stock market investors. — ANI

The Global New Light of Myanmar
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC YANMING VOY.NO. (2322S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YANMING VOY.NO. (2322S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-1-2024** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV5IE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV5IE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-1-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

UN chief sees assassination of Hamas leader in Beirut as worrying development

Guterres is deeply concerned about the senior Hamas leader's assassination in a suspected Israeli strike, highlighting the potential dangers of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict's spillover in the wider region.



People gather outside an apartment belonging to the Hamas movement destroyed by an Israeli attack on the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on 2 January 2024. **PHOTO: BILAL JAWICH/XINHUA**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sees the assassination of a senior Hamas leader in a suspected Israeli strike in Beirut as a worrying development, said a UN spokesperson

on Tuesday.

“Obviously, the developments are extremely worrying. And I think this just really highlights what the secretary-general had just

said about the dangers of the spillover of this (Israeli-Palestinian) conflict in the wider region,” said Florencia Soto Nino, associate spokesperson for Guterres.

“The secretary-general urges all parties to exercise maximum restraint and take urgent steps to de-escalate tensions in the region,” she said.

Guterres has mentioned that this continued fighting has the risk of a great miscalculation by multiple actors, she said. “And I think this is what we’ve been seeing in different parts of the region, sadly. So we again appeal to all members of the international community to do everything in their power to prevent an escalation to the situation there.” — Xinhua

Japan looks into Tokyo airport crash, over 300 flights cancelled



This photo taken on 3 January 2024 shows the wreckage of JAL Flight 516 after an aircraft collision at the Haneda Airport in Tokyo, Japan. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

JAPAN'S transport authorities on Wednesday started probing the cause of a collision between a Japan Coast Guard aircraft and a Japan Airlines (JAL) passenger plane at Tokyo's Hane-

da Airport on Tuesday evening, which led to over 300 flight cancellations.

The Japan Transport Safety Board, the government-affiliated agency in charge of prob-

ing serious accidents involving airplanes, trains and ships, examined the aircraft wreckage during the day while police also inspected the accident site.

The safety board reported that it had retrieved the flight and voice recorders of the Coast Guard aircraft and was still searching for those of the JAL plane, which had flown from New Chitose Airport in Hokkaido Prefecture, according to local media outlets.

A Haneda air traffic controller had permitted the passenger plane to land on a runway before the crash took place, and had ordered the coast guard aircraft to “hold short of the runway”, national broadcaster NHK reported, citing sources with Japan's transport ministry. — Xinhua

Trump appeals removal from 2024 Maine primary ballot

The decision, specific to Maine, was paused to allow Trump to appeal before the 5 March 2024, presidential primary election.

FORMER US President Donald Trump has requested a Maine court to overturn the Secretary of State's decision to remove him from the 2024 primary ballot there due to his role in the US Capitol insurrection that occurred on 6 January 2021, CNN reported.

Trump's request to the court came after Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, a Democrat, announced her decision last week. Bellows stated

that she had a legal obligation to remove Trump from the ballot under a Civil War-era provision of the Constitution that stops those who “engaged in insurrection” from holding office.

She paused her decision, which is only applicable in Maine, so that the former US President could file an appeal in court before the presidential primary election there on 5 March 2024, according to CNN report. — ANI



Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, citing a Civil War-era provision barring those who participated in insurrection, announced the decision last week. **PHOTO: ANI/FILE**

Investigation launched as man dies in aircraft engine at Salt Lake City Airport

POLICE in Utah are carrying out an investigation into the death of a man who crawled into the engine of a Delta Air Lines jet on the ground at Salt Lake City International Airport late Monday (local time), CNN reported.

According to the airport, the man got onto the secure ramp area of the airport through a terminal emergency exit, “ran to the south end of the airport's west runway where deicing operations were underway and crawled into an

aircraft engine that was not running”.

The airport said emergency responders found the 30-year-old man “unconscious and were not able to revive him”. It further said, “It is unclear at this time what injuries caused the man's death.”

The man has been identified as Kyler Efinger, a resident of Lake's Park City, according to the Salt Lake City Police Department. The department said Efinger had a boarding pass for a flight to Denver. — ANI

SPORTS

Rooney hit hard by 'setback' after Birmingham City sacking

The 38-year-old, a former Manchester United and England star, was appointed in October but managed only two wins in 15 matches.

WAYNE Rooney said it would "take some time to get over this setback" after he was sacked as manager of Championship side Birmingham City on Tuesday following a disastrous spell in charge.

The 38-year-old former Manchester United and England star was appointed in October but oversaw just two wins in 15 matches with Monday's 3-0 thumping by Leeds, their ninth defeat under him, proving the final straw.

Birmingham — who have NFL legend Tom Brady as a minority shareholder — are embroiled in a battle against relegation, slumping to 20th from sixth

since Rooney took over.

"Despite their best efforts, results have not met the expectations that were made clear at the outset," read a statement from the club.

"Therefore, the board feels that a change in management is in the best interests of the football club."

Rooney replaced John Eustace, who was sacked just after he had guided Birmingham to two successive wins which propelled them into the play-off places.

"Football is a results business — and I recognize they have not been at the level I wanted them to be," said Rooney. — AFP



Wayne Rooney says it is a huge blow being sacked as Birmingham City manager. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



Although the club did not specify the duration of his absence, such injuries typically require a minimum of five weeks for recovery. PHOTO: JAVIER SORIANO / AFP/FILE

Napoli goalkeeper Meret sidelined for several weeks

Napoli, the current Serie A champions, will miss their Italian goalkeeper Alex Meret for at least a month due to a torn hamstring muscle.

REIGNING Serie A champions Napoli will be without Italian international goalkeeper Alex Meret for at least a month after he tore a hamstring muscle, the club said on Wednesday.

The 26-year-old suffered the injury in the goalless draw with Monza on Friday, with scans revealing a tear in his left hamstring, Napoli said.

Although the club did not say how long he would be out, such an injury normally requires at least five weeks of

recovery.

Napoli will have to rely on second-choice keeper Pierluigi Gollini for the next few matches, including the Italian Super Cup tie against Fiorentina on 18 January.

They must already cope without Nigerian forward Victor Osimhen — whose goals last season played a major role in landing their first Serie A title for 33 years — as he is heading to the Africa Cup of Nations in the Ivory Coast,

which kicks off on 13 January.

Napoli face an uphill battle to retain their title as they sit eighth in the Italian championship, 17 points behind leaders Inter Milan.

They will hope Meret can return in time for the home leg of their last 16 Champions League tie against Barcelona on 21 February, with the second leg in Spain on 12 March. — AFP

Maria Sakkari dominates Leylah Fernandez, securing a quarterfinal spot for Greece in the United Cup

WORLD No 8 Maria Sakkari clinched Greece's spot in the United Cup quarterfinals after scripting a fine comeback from 3-1 down in the second to defeat Leylah Fernandez 7-6(2), 6-3 in Sydney on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, Stefanos Tsitsipas began his 2024 singles season with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Steven Diez, giving Greece a 1-0 lead over Canada.

Greece needed to defeat Canada 3-0, or 2-1 if the sets result was not 4-4, to advance to the quarterfinals. Tsitsipas and Sakkari's straight-set victories imply that Canada can no longer win four sets in the rubber.

In the Sydney quarterfinals, Greece will lock horns with Germany while France will face Norway. — ANI

Questions over LIV linger as PGA Tour opens 2024 campaign

UNCERTAINTY and controversy over a potential merger with LIV Golf's Saudi backers loom over the US PGA Tour as its 2024 season tees off Thursday in Hawaii.

The PGA's tournament of champions, now dubbed The Sentry, again will be played at Kapalua, this time in support of wildfire-devastated host Maui following last August's tragedy.

A field of 59 will compete in the \$20 million opener with

four-time major winner Rory McIlroy the only qualified player skipping the event to begin his 2024 campaign later.

Even as the PGA Tour returns to a calendar-year format, the impact of last June's shock announcement of a framework merger deal with the Saudi Public Investment Fund (PIF) and DP World Tour lingers over the series. — AFP



Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, the 2021 Masters champion, practices ahead of Thursday opening round of the PGA Tour's season opening event, The Sentry, in Hawaii. PHOTO: AFP



Russia may establish BRICS Secretariat – Iranian Foreign Ministry

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Mahdi Safari, has suggested creating a BRICS secretariat, leveraging Russia's experience in international organizations, to centralize information and streamline activities within the bloc, expressing confidence in Russia's role in fostering unity among new member nations.

BRICS was founded in 2009 by Russia, China, India, Brazil, and South Africa as a bloc uniting the world's largest growing economies. In January 2023, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia became new official members of the organization.

Russia may establish a BRICS secretariat, Mahdi Safari, Iran's deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy, told Sputnik, citing Moscow's experience in managing international organizations.

"Russia — a country with vast experience in international and regional organizations — in my opinion could establish a new body in BRICS which will eventually evolve into secretariat," Mahdi Safari says.

According to the Iranian diplomat, currently each country holding the presidency of BRICS collects and stores information about the bloc's activities, but does not transfer this data to the succeeding nation. Safari stressed that Iran wants "this secretariat to be established as soon as possible".

The deputy foreign minister also congratulated Russia on assuming the BRICS presidency in 2024 and thanked it for helping Iran to join the bloc, expressing confidence that Russia will help Tehran and other new BRICS members to achieve unity. — SPUTNIK



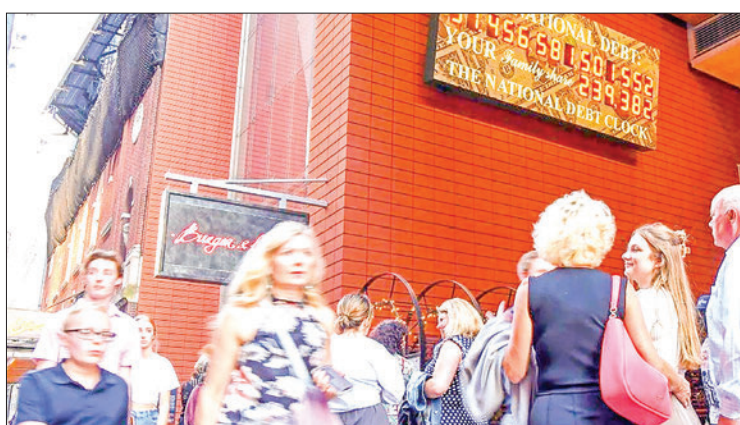
The 2023 BRICS summit was the fifteenth annual BRICS summit, an international relations conference attended by the heads of state or heads of government of the five member states: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa also invited the leaders of 67 countries to the summit. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

US national debt rises above \$34 trillion in historic first-ever

US national debt has surged over \$34 trillion for the first time in history, according to fiscal data published by the Department of the Treasury.

As of 29 December, 2023, the US national debt reached \$34,001,493,655,565.48 for the first time in the history of the United States, the data showed on Tuesday. On 28 December, the US national debt stood at \$33,911,227,723,170 and the Biden administration took just one day to increase the national debt by almost \$100 billion, according to the data.

However, earlier findings by



The US national debt has exceeded \$34 trillion for the first time in history. Pedestrians walk past the National Debt Clock in New York, the United States, on 1 June 2023. **PHOTO: LI RUI/XINHUA/FILE**

the Congressional Budget Office would nearly double in scale over the next 30 years. — SPUTNIK

TOP-SELLING ELECTRIC CAR IN ISRAEL

Chinese brand tops Israel's EV sales in 2023

ATTO 3, an electric subcompact crossover model manufactured by China's BYD Auto, was the best-selling electric car in Israel in 2023, according to the Israel Vehicle Importers Association on Tuesday.

The crossover model, which entered the Israeli market in late 2022, sold 14,244 units in 2023, the association said.

The Geometry C compact crossover, another Chinese electric car model made by the Geely Auto Group, ranked second in Israel's electric car sales last year by selling 7,129 units.

The third most popular model was Tesla Model Y, followed by Tesla Model 3.

The data also showed that Chinese brands accounted for 60.98 percent of Israel's electric car sales in 2023, with 29,402 units sold, more than double the number of 13,294 in 2022.

In the category of gasoline-powered vehicles, Chery Automobile, a Chinese automaker that entered the Israeli market in late 2022, clinched the sixth spot with 11,162 cars sold in 2023. — Xinhua