

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar to apply computer-assisted personal interviewing system in 2024 census enumeration

The 2024 census enumeration process will apply a computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPD) system, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

At the ceremony to launch the 25th Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) of Myanmar Computer Federation and Computer Associations, which took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing spoke words of honour for excellent performances of the federation and its associations in the development of State's information technology during the 25 years from 1998.

Speaking on the occasion, he underscored that the national database is being built to apply the e-ID system to register



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the display at the event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Senior General urged the federation to cooperate with relevant organizations and departments to raise public awareness of digital systems and knowledge and to participate in amending and releasing necessary laws while monitoring the people's IT security measures.

all citizens in each Unique ID (UID).

Moreover, the Senior General continued that the government enhances creativity and starts applying digital systems in commercial and administrative sectors with the formation of the Digital Economy Development Committee-DEDC to uplift the people's socioeconomic life.

He stressed the need to strive for the establishment of a digital social and digital economic life in order to keep abreast of other countries.

He noted that it is necessary to systematically apply social media without harming the interests of other persons, especially not encroaching on national characters, security and interests of the State.

He highlighted that the digital routine is a venue of accumulating value information and is designed as an information dump of lies and uncertainties.

The Senior General urged the federation to cooperate with relevant or-

ganizations and departments to raise public awareness of digital systems and knowledge and to participate in amending and releasing necessary laws while monitoring the people's IT security measures.

He urged all to strive to enhance digital technology in political, economic, social, education, health and other sectors in line with the theme Towards Digital Myanmar to contribute to the nation's development.

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Offering milk alms food ceremony held in Lampang, Thailand

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Yangon Zoo set to showcase new species from foreign countries

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National Objectives of 77th Union Day 2024

- To protect the perpetuity of the Union by the entire ethnic people through the Union spirit
- To join hands in harmony with the government, Tatmadaw, and the entire people to ensure the state stability and the rule of law
- To promote all-inclusive livestock breeding-based manufacturing industries and MSMEs, ensuring the socioeconomic development of the entire ethnic people
- To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food security which are the two national visions
- To strive to emerge a modern and developing country, as well as a Union based on democratic and federal systems, by all ethnic nationals

Mottos of 77th Union Day 2024

1. Unity is strength
Power of Union
2. Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float
Ethnic brethren of the land joining hand in hand
3. Marching towards with unity
Ensuring the destination of the Union
4. Let's firmly join hands among ethnic national brethren of the Union
5. Let's go forward with unity of the ethnic nationals

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as the Heads of the Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Myint Myint Khine	Rector Technological University (Pakokku) Department of Advanced Science and Technology Ministry of Science and Technology
(2) Dr Nang Soe Soe Aung	Rector University of Computer Studies (Lashio) Department of Advanced Science and Technology Ministry of Science and Technology



The photo shows the Myanmar consul-general together with officials in the offering ceremony.

Offering milk alms food ceremony held in Lampang, Thailand

MYANMAR'S consul-general U Min Kyaw Linn attended the ceremony of offering the Ghana milk alms food by the Myanmar community in Lampang city of Lampang province, Thailand, in the third week of January as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The offering ceremony was held by the Myanmar community and Lampang Rajabhat University, led by the Lampang administration. With the pagodas and temples in Myanmar that have been a part of Lampang province for a decade being rediscovered and preserved, the offering ceremony of Ghana milk alms food was held as per Myanmar traditional culture. The Myanmar consul-general attended the

Ghana milk alms food offering ceremony and the washing ceremony of Maha Muni replica Buddha Image. Afterwards, the Myanmar consul-general, together with the Lampang Province administrator and Lampang Rajabhat University rector, offered face washing, flowers, water, lighting and the Ghana milk alms food to Buddha Image and donated alms food and the structure of trust funds to Sayadaws.

In addition, the Myanmar consul-general met the Myanmar community in Lampang and clarified the issues being implemented regarding Myanmar nationals in the northern Thai provinces. — ASH/MKKS



The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

If people, administrative bodies and security officials are united, they can bring success in implementing security, peace and stability measures and the rule of law, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is also in the capacity of Chairman of the Security, Peace and Stability and Rule of Law Committee, delivered a speech at the meeting 1/2024 of the committee at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that it is necessary to take care of security measures over attempts to deteriorate the government administration mechanism in various ways and means, in addition to intimidating non-CDM staff and spreading misinformation and fake news overflow of illegal commodities for causing panic among the people. So, all have to collaborate for State security, peace and stability and the rule of law.

The Senior General recounted those conflicts that happened via political changes in 2021 and then sparked unrest and violent acts. Then, some armed organizations attempting to disintegrate the peace and stability of the State and fuel violent acts conducted terror courses to the youths wishing to stage unrest and provided arms and ammunition. In 2023, terror attacks happened in some townships.

He continued that the Tatmadaw cooperates with members of the Myanmar Police Force and people in efforts to eradicate armed violence and to ensure peace and stability. Although Tatmadaw primarily serves to prevent external danger, it participates in the local security and rule of law measures together with the Myanmar Police Force according to the nation's history. MPF members need to cooperate with local authorities from general administration departments in relevant regions to serve public security and the rule of law. The Senior General recounted that he had discussed the public security system in meeting with officials from registered political parties and urged them to implement it with public participation. A public security system is important, and



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 1/2024 of the Security, Peace and Stability and Rule of Law Committee yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

People have to implement public defence via public security system

if people, administrative bodies and security officials are united, they can bring success in implementing security, peace and stability measures and the rule of law. Mainly, informants must be kept secret. So, it is necessary to implement the public defence system via a public security system.

As such, no one can take any measures beyond the Constitution. Self-administration and autonomy need to seek approval at the Hluttaw via political dialogues, but armed struggle lines cannot demand it. Discussions are being held to exercise the PR system for the election to create equal terms of rights for all ethnicities.

He stressed that departmental staff and security officials need to dutifully serve their assigned duties correctly, and service personnel must be supervised under security for reliable ones of the people. A government needs to successfully implement its policies and objectives to serve the interests of the State in a term. Hence,

government service personnel must serve their duties for the nation's interests but not for the government.

With regard to illegal trade, the Senior General pointed out that some acts are beyond the law, and businesspersons focus on their self-interests. It needs to consider trade as well as se-

curity measures. Illegal trade can flow money to armed terrorists for harming security. So, it is necessary to expose and act against unlawful trade effectively. As armed terrorists are related to narcotic drugs for their interests, the government needs to cooperate with narcotic drug eradication bodies from neighbouring countries such as China

and Thailand. Moreover, severe action must be taken against those for online gambling and scams.

The Joint Secretary, SAC members, and Union ministers reported on relevant sectors, security, peace, stability, and rule of law measures.

In his response, the Senior General said that a country must have military, economic and political might. Of them, an emphasis must be placed on strengthening economic might. Economic weakness is based on agriculture and manufacturing without full capacity. It can be found that no one dares to interfere in the internal affairs of military and economically powerful countries.

The Senior General noted that although Myanmar is on the path of democracy, it is still weak in unity. The country cannot build politics but has regained independence for 75 years. The government adopted two political visions to strengthen the genuine, discipline-flourishing democratic system and build a Union based on democracy and federalism. The current problem is based on illegal demands for self-administration, autonomy and own states and regions. They have many requirements for exercising politics under law and

disciplines.

He affirmed that the Constitution (2008) was approved by 92.48 per cent of the eligible voters. As such, no one can take any measures beyond the Constitution. Self-administration and autonomy need to seek approval at the Hluttaw via political dialogues, but armed struggle lines cannot demand it. Discussions are being held to exercise the PR system for the election to create equal terms of rights for all ethnicities. Authority is shared with regions and states. The government is holding meetings with political parties and ethnic armed organizations so as to stabilize the nation on the political trends.

In striving to ensure the security of the nation, he pointed out that for peace and stability as well as the rule of law, all people need to know the correct situations. Officials at different levels need to supervise all functions so they are implemented in the proper way.

Also present at the meeting were SAC members Admiral Tin Aung San and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Daw Dwe Bu and Mahn Nyein Maung, Union ministers, the chairman of Union Civil Service Board and officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Myanmar Computer Federation and Computer Associations yesterday.

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The Senior General, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and President of Myanmar Computer Federation U Min Zeyar Hlaing cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

The Senior General and party visited booths of the computer technology.

The Senior General watched a video clip on the 25-year journey of the federation and associations.

The Myanmar Computer Science Development Council

Myanmar to apply computer-assisted personal interviewing system in 2024 census enumeration

Salient points in the speech of the Senior General at the 25th Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) of Myanmar Computer Federation and Computer Associations

- The national database is being built to apply an e-ID system to register all citizens with each Unique ID.
- The government enhances creativity and starts applying digital systems in commercial and administrative sectors with the formation of the Digital Economy Development Committee-DEDC to uplift the people's socioeconomic life.
- The digital routine is a venue for accumulating valuable information and is designed as an information dump of lies and uncertainties.

Chairman presented awards to winners in the internal and international ICT competitions.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC members, Union ministers, senior military officers, deputy ministers, officials, rectors and principals, ICT and digital businesspersons, MSME businesspersons from regions and states and students. — MNA/TTA

2023-2024 Inter-State/Region Basketball Championship launched



The 2023-2024 Inter-State and Region Basketball Championship's opening event in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE opening ceremony of the 2023-2024 Inter-State and Region Basketball Championship occurred yesterday morning at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium C in Nay Pyi Taw and was attended by State Administration Council members.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, who is also chairperson of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, opened the event by saying that the

purpose of holding the 2023-2024 Inter-State and Region Basketball Championship is to improve the level of the basketball sport and through this championship, all participants should try to become great athletes that the State will rely on.

Athletes from the competing teams, who will compete in the 2023-2024 state and regional basketball championships, recited the sports oaths.

State Administration Council members and attendees also enjoyed the opening match of the championship between the Shan State and Kachin State teams.

The 2023-2024 Inter-State and Region Basketball Championship will be held from 26 January to 1 February at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium C in Nay Pyi Taw, and a total of 369 athletes from 12 male and 11 female teams will compete in the tourney. — MNA/KZL

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www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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International Customs Day celebrated in Yangon

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein attended the ceremony to mark the International Customs Day in Yangon yesterday.

First, the Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the emergence and objectives of International Customs Day and said Myanmar became a member of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 1991, and it has been celebrating the significant day for 33 years.

The theme of 2024 International Customs Day is “Customs-Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose” which aims to overcome and grab more opportunities together with the rapidly developing trade amid the rapidly changing technologies.

He also stressed the duties of government employees



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein speaks on the marking occasion of the International Customs Day yesterday in Yangon.

to grab the trust of the public in every service of the government, to follow the Model Code of Ethics and Conduct released by the World Customs Organization to ensure the confidence of the public in total, and the vital role of modern techniques instead of traditional ways and

ongoing work plans to link with National Single Window based on Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS).

Moreover, he urged all to follow the policies set by the government, the ministry and the Customs Department “to enhance trade facilitation through

simplifying Customs Procedures and to ensure proper collection of Customs Duties and Taxes.”

He then emphasized the need to accelerate the momentum to brighten up the dignity of the department.

Then, he presented awards to outstanding football teams of

the divisions under the department, excellent staff, blood donors and outstanding students who passed the 2022-2023 academic year with distinctions.

He then inspected the customs historical museum and E-Lock Control Room with the relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH

CBM discusses rupee/kyat trade settlement mechanism

THE Central Bank of Myanmar organized a briefing on the rupee and kyat trade settlement mechanism to start rupee/kyat direct payment using the Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA) for bilateral trade between Myanmar and India in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Governor Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar talked about the activities of CBM aiming at boosting the bilateral trade with neighbouring countries, facilitating the bilateral transaction and trading, reducing the use of US dollars and exchange rate risk and promoting the use of local currency. She added that the rupee/kyat payment working committee was organized to implement the rupee/kyat trade mechanism.

The CBM held meetings with the Indian Embassy to Myanmar, the Reserve

Bank of India, the Department of Financial Services and the Ministry of Finance and approved Joint Concept Note Paper and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Moreover, the guideline for payment procedures under the Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA) has already been released, and the payment can be made starting in February. The briefing will also be organized for the merchants by cooperating with UMFCCI and the Indian Chamber of Commerce. She also mentioned the benefits of implementing rupee and kyat direct payment in various sectors.

Then, the designated banks for rupee and kyat payments, such as UAB, CB bank PCL, and Punjab National Bank, explained the rupee/kyat trade settlement mechanism. Attendees participated in the discussion, and the governor concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH



The briefing on the rupee and kyat trade settlement mechanism in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

23rd Arts & Science Research Conference continues in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Education hosted the 23rd Arts and Science Research Conference at Naypyitaw State Academy from 25 to 27 January.

Experts presented their arts and science papers, and the Academy displayed research posters and exhibitions.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint, Permanent Secretary Dr Soe Win, directors-general, rectors, teachers and students attended the paper reading sessions.

Moreover, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tin Htut and officials explored the exhibitions, and relevant officials explained the displays.

Similarly, a delegation team from the Russian Federation led by Dr Alexander Sergeevich Anokhin, advisor for science and technology at the Baykov Metallurgy and Materials Institute at the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Pro-Rector of Kurgan State University, and Dr Artyom Vladimirovich Sharov, Pro-Rector (science and technological affairs) of Kurgan State University also visited the event.

They visited Myanmar to collaborate and promote the country's science

and technology sector. The deputy minister greeted them warmly, and relevant officials explained the exhibitions.

Researchers from six ministries working on their doctoral papers at the Ministry of Education and universities read eight papers each in Myanmar literature, chemistry, physics, zoology, botany, educational psychology, curriculum and teaching techniques, law, commerce, and geography.

In the afternoon, relevant researchers presented three papers in Myanmar literature, five in English, nine in Chemistry, nine in Physics, eight in Zoology, eight in Botany, eight in educational psychology, nine in educational ideology and educational management, four in Law, four in Psychology, six in management, two in applied economy, two in Geography, and six in History.

A total of 163 papers were shared at the conference with rectors, pro-rectors, principals, faculty members and students.

Additionally, rectors and principals visited the 25th-anniversary ceremony of the Myanmar Computer Federation and computer associations at the Nay Pyi Taw International Convention Centre-2 and toured the exhibitions and lectures. — MNA/NT

NATIONAL



Don choral dance (Kayin folk dance) dancers are performing at a festival.

Ongoing efforts to include Kayin traditional collective dance on UNESCO list

ACCORDING to an official from the association, the Kayin Literature and Culture Association is working to include the traditional Kayin folk dance, also known as Don choral dance, on the UNESCO Intangible World Cultural Heritage list.

“If it is included in the heritage list, the ethnic traditional dance will be registered as a world heritage, and all the costumes, choreographies of the dance, music, and instruments will be recognized internationally. And as they are preserved

as world heritage, they may not disappear,” the official explained.

The attempt to include the Kayin traditional dance on the UNESCO Intangible World Cultural Heritage list has gained momentum. Initially, research activities were carried out in more than 20 villages where the dance is preserved to reassemble the dance choreographies of various ages. The dancers are being trained to have skills to perform all choreographies, the official said.

A group of Kayin traditional dance experts, the Kayin Literature and Culture Association, a scrutiny team and the Kayin State government have been working together for three years in their attempt to include Kayin traditional dance on UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage list. In performing the Don choral dance, 24 to 32 male and female dancers are needed to participate, and they have to be trained for months before they can entertain the audience. — TWA/TH

Arrangements for affordable sale of fertilizers, pesticides before season

THE Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee said they plan to distribute and sell fertilizers and pesticides at low prices before the season.

To solve farmers’ problems and increase agricultural crop yield, the committee organizes the distribution and sale of fertilizers and pesticides at low prices that meet the standards farmers require in their farming activities before the season.

Weaknesses include companies signing contracts when international prices are high, not being able to buy as much as they need when prices are

low, and companies wanting to import inputs. The relevant departments have to screen for many import licenses and lack competition.

U Hla Moe, chairman of the committee and Union Minister of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development spoke at the coordination meeting of the steering committee for the purchase and distribution of urea fertilizer held on 24 January. For the financial year 2024-2025, officials encouraged farmers to send seasonal and monthly demand lists, as they will set the import plan and supervise the timely availability of

inputs, quality and low prices.

The Department of Agriculture inspects quality assurance under the law. Still, officials of the steering committee need to carry out spot checks in Yangon docks and distribution areas to ensure that the weight is met and the quality is correct, following the committee’s duties.

From 1 to 31 December 2023, about 150,000 tonnes of fertilizer valued at US\$52.093 million were imported from maritime trade, and more than 100 tonnes of fertilizer worth US\$0.066 million were imported from the border trade route. — TWA/KZL

Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre property prices soar amid bearish market

THE sales price and rent of the apartments in the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre are rocketing this month, although the market has cooled down, traders involved in the centre said.

The rent for a 20-foot by 60-foot apartment on Yetama Street in Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre jumped to K1.2 million in January 2024 from K1 million in the previous years, U Tin, an apartment owner, told the GNLN.

The rent on Yetama lane between Ingyin Street and Gangaw Road, where there is a bustling trade activity, rose to the highest of K2 million per apartment, while the rent in other lanes is approximately K1 million, a depot owner shared the information.

The Bayintnaung Centre

appears to be an industrial park, and the 25-year lease of grant land has expired. It has yet to be extendable, so the market is sluggish.

The 20 feet by 60 feet house is valued at K350 million, Ma Mon, a realtor, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). The 40-foot by 60-foot two-storey house is worth K630 million, according to the social media sales post on 31 December 2023. Before 2020, the 20-foot by 60-foot apartment was sold at K200 million.

The real estate market in Bayintnaung Centre is slow-moving at present. Yangon’s real estate market is bracing for a soaring price, Ko La Pyae from Lanmadaw Township told the GNLN. — TWA/KK

Monsoon long-staple cotton plantations exceed target acres in Sagaing Region



The photo shows a long-staple cotton plantation of grower U Hla Maung in Myothit village in ChaungU township in July 2023.

ACCORDING to figures from the Sagaing District Agriculture Department, 36,011 acres were designated for cultivating long-staple cotton monsoon crops. However, the actual plantation area was 36,472 acres, exceeding the target acres by 101 per cent.

According to the types of long-staple cotton, cotton varieties such as Shwetaung-8 Shwetaung-10, Ngwechi-9, Ngwechi-10 and Hybrid (Raka) are planted in pre and late monsoon. The target yield of cotton is 700 visses per acre out of the ten major crops of the Agriculture Department. The estimated cost per acre in 2023-2024 for Sagaing district is over K900,000, and the average yield is about 500 visses per acre. The long-staple cotton cost K3,000 per viss in September

and K2,700 per viss in October and November. There are 13 cotton ginning factories in the Sagaing district. A each cotton ginning factory can turn 10,000 visses of raw cotton in a 12-hour workday into 330 visses of cotton goods and 62 visses of cotton seeds while just five per cent of the cotton is wasted. The regions of Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway are purchasing raw cotton, and the cotton goods are being sold to China and Mandalay (cotton ginning factory). One viss of cotton valued at K7,000–K7,500 and one viss of cotton seeds valued at K1,100–K1,200 was exported to Mandalay in December 2023.

As cotton is cost-effective for farmers, cotton mills only work for nine months, from August to April. — TWA/MKKS

RUBBER prices continued to rise to over K1,700 per pound in Mon State's rubber market.

The prices peaked at K1,745 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3 and K1,730 for sun-dried rubber on 26 January.

The prices hit K1,610 per pound for sun-dried rubber and K1,630 for RSS Local 3 in early January.

The figures reflected an increase of K115-125 per pound over the past three weeks.

that the rubber price in Mon State, a significant rubber production state in Myanmar, is closely tied to those factors as well.

Myanmar's annual rubber production is estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

The association aims to



Rubber prices on upward trend

The prices hit a high of K1,770 per pound of sun-dried rubber and K1,790 for RSS Local 3.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the Southeast Asian nations and the market supply is positively related to Myanmar's rubber prices.

The traders elaborated

achieve rubber exports of 300,000 tonnes in the 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April.

Myanmar shipped 114,855 tonnes of rubber with an estimated US\$144.046 million as of 29 December in the current financial year 2023-2024 FY beginning 1 April.

The rubber production in

Myanmar generated more than \$449.102 million in revenue in rubber exports in the 2020-2021 FY.

the last FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes, and more than 200,000 tonnes of rubber were shipped to foreign trade partners.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states

and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yango regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres,

followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

Myanmar generated more than \$449.102 million in revenue in rubber exports in the 2020-2021 FY. — NN/EM

Petrol prices indicate sharp rise on 26 Jan

THE petrol prices showed a significant one-day increase of K120 per litre in the domestic fuel market.

The prices stood at K2,585 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,720 for Octane 95 on 25 January 2024 and rose to K2,705 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,845 for Octane 95 on 26 January. Similarly, the diesel prices increased slightly to K2,450 for diesel and K2,515 for premium diesel on 26 January, whereas the diesel prices were registered at K2,430 for diesel and K2,495 for premium diesel on 25 January.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, is closely tied to the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

In August 2022, the oil prices hit the highest of K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel and K3,245 for diesel.

The prevailing prices of Octane hit a fresh peak this year.

The committee has been, therefore, steering the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively so as not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market. It has been issuing daily reference prices to ensure price stability

for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging.

The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate. As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices.

The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

Black gram price hits new high within one day

THE price of black grams rallied to a new record high of K3.165 million per tonne on 26 January 2024, indicating a sharp rise of over K107,500 per tonne within one day.

The price stood at only K3.0575 million per tonne on 25 January.

The global market shift with high demand elevated the domestic black gram price. The price jumped after the kyat depreciated against the US dollar and loaded a high volume of black grams onto the ships. A surge in Myanmar's black gram price is attributed to the strong demand by India. India also imports the urad from Brazil and other countries. Yet, they prefer Myanmar's black gram because of better quality and an ample supply. India extended the free import policy of black gram (urad) and pigeon pea (tur) until March 2025.

Next, India's pulse output dropped more than expected due to erratic weather in India, prompting them to import a large quantity from abroad. India was reportedly to bring in 400,000 tonnes of pigeon pea (tur) and 1 million tonnes of black gram (urad) from Myanmar in two months (Jan-Feb) 2024, citing reports by foreign agencies.

India's growing demand and low stocks in the domestic market are contributing factors to the price rise of black grams and pigeon peas. Nonetheless, the

prices are expected to decline during the harvest season (February-April). The traders forecast the black gram price is likely to stay strong at approximately K90,000 per basket. Myanmar conveyed over 1.15 million tonnes of various pulses worth US\$978 million in the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota. Black gram, which India primarily purchases, is commonly found only in Myanmar; whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM

OPINION

Go on eradication of narcotic drugs as national duty

IN RECENT developments, Myanmar has successfully intercepted billions of kyats worth of narcotic drugs, including Ice and stimulant tablets, in its territorial seas, notably in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay, and Yangon. This concerted effort is aimed at mitigating the pervasive dangers posed by narcotic drugs, not only to the youth but also to their families and society at large.

The scourge of narcotic drug production and trafficking is a pressing issue faced by Myanmar, akin to challenges experienced by other nations. The Myanmar government, recognizing the severity of the problem, has consistently seized large volumes of narcotic drugs in fulfillment of its national duty across successive eras.

The roots of the drug problem in Myanmar can be traced back to the colonial era when the British colonialists permitted poppy cultivation and opium use among residents. Despite the government's immediate post-independence commitment to eradicating narcotic drugs, the issue became entangled with internal armed insurgency, persisting to this day.

The adverse impact of colonialism, particularly under British rule, has left a legacy of armed conflicts, opium abuse, and poppy cultivation. The Opium Act of 1909, enacted by the British colonialists in Myanmar, exacerbated the situation. The Act did not apply uniformly across regions, leading to unequal regulations in states like Kachin, Chin, and Shan. In Shan State, lax regulations allowed individuals to possess up to 292 grammes of opium at maximum, contributing to an increasing number of drug addicts.

The post-independence period witnessed the escalating challenge of drug-related issues, prompting the implementation of effective drug control and prevention measures. Notably, between 1976 and 1988, extensive drug eradication operations were conducted, resulting in significant casualties among Tatmadaw and police members. Concurrently, rehabilitation camps for drug addicts were established to facilitate their recovery and reintegration into families and society.

Myanmar, recognizing the global nature of the drug problem, signed the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1991 and the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances in 1994. Presently, Myanmar collaborates with neighbouring countries, signing agreements and action plans as part of a collective drug control and eradication effort.

As the government acknowledges the gravity of the situation, it continues to work tirelessly to fulfil its national duty to eradicate narcotic drugs. The commitment extends beyond borders, reflecting Myanmar's dedication to addressing the global concern of narcotics and securing a drug-free future for its citizens.

THE voices and concerns of developing countries in the UN, collectively referred to as the "Global South", prioritize peace, security, and development. These objectives require an integrated framework for international cooperation, with the Global South participating on an equal basis in its decision-making.

The collective identity of the Global South began to emerge at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in December 1963, when developing countries initiated two significant amendments to the UN Charter of June 1945 for greater representation in the organs of the UN. These amendments expanded the number of elected members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) from 6 to 10 and the number of elected members of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from 18 to 27. In 1971, the Charter was amended again to increase the ECOSOC membership to 54, representing all geographical regions of the world.

In June 1964, the Global South created its platform in the UN, called the group of 77 develop-

ing countries (G-77). The G-77 sought structural reforms in the UN to support its priorities for socioeconomic development. The UNGA responded by establishing the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in 1965. Today, the UNDP is active in 170 countries, most of which are in the Global South. It is the "face of the UN" on the ground, supporting a range of national socio-economic activities carried out in coordination with specialized agencies of the UN, impacting all aspects of human endeavour.

In October 1967, the Charter of Algiers was adopted by the first ministerial meeting of the G-77. It advocated the creation of a New International Economic Order to accelerate the development of the Global South. In response, several developed countries expressed concern about the impact of rapid development on the environment. At the First UN Conference on the Human Environment in June 1972, Global South countries like India rejected these attempts to restrict development because of environmental protection, saying that "poverty is the biggest

Voices and Concerns of the Global South

Ambassador (Retd.) Asoke Mukerji

polluter".

The UNGA recognized the "right to development" as an "inalienable human right" in 1986 through a voted resolution opposed by some developed countries. In 1987, the UN's Brundtland Commission tabled its report on "Sustainable Development", converging the Global South's demand for accelerated socio-economic development with the globally accepted goal of protecting the environment. Almost three decades later, in September 2015, the UNGA unanimously adopted Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Agenda 2030 represents the

consolidation of the Global South's priorities. Two important "means of implementation" commitments to achieve the SDGs are an integral part of Agenda 2030. These are for the flow of financial resources from multilateral financial institutions and transfers of appropriate technologies to the Global South.

The concerns of the Global South today are reflected in the assessment by world leaders meeting at the UN's SDG Summit in September 2023, which stated that "the achievement of the SDGs is in peril" due to "numerous crises" facing the world. At the top of the list of crises is the impact of the unprecedented COVID-19

pandemic and a sharp escalation in violent conflicts, both of which have impacted adversely on huge numbers of people, particularly in the Global South.

When Agenda 2030 was adopted in 2015, 60 million people worldwide were affected by violent conflicts on the UNSC's agenda. That figure ballooned to 314 million people in 2022, mainly in the Global South. In October 2022, the World Bank reported that the Covid pandemic had pushed an additional 90 million people, mainly in Global South countries, into the ranks of the 670 million people worldwide living below the poverty line of \$2.15 a day.

Ongoing conflicts across Af-

rica, Asia, and Europe, of which images of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza are visible on international media, have jeopardized Agenda 2030. These conflicts are attributable to an increasingly ineffective UNSC. Its five permanent members (P5) seek to maintain their dominant status given by their veto power; despite the fact that the P5 were party to the UNGA's unanimous mandate of September 2005 for early reforms of the UNSC, including on the question of the veto.

An ineffective UNSC has created space for the emergence of aggressive protectionism and militarism in developed countries, as unilateralism seeks to replace

multilateralism. Despite strong opposition from entrenched protectionist interests in developed countries, over 100 Global South countries supported a Vaccine Waiver Initiative at the World Trade Organization in June 2022 to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. In December 2023, 131 Global South countries voted to adopt a UNGA resolution condemning "the continued unilateral application and enforcement by certain Powers of unilateral coercive measures", and rejected those measures "with all their extra-territorial effects".

India has coordinated the Global South's response to these ongoing challenges by convening two virtual Voice of the Global South Summits in January and November 2023 during its Presidency of the G-20. One hundred twenty-five countries, including 47 from Africa, 31 from Asia, 29 from Latin America, 11 from Oceania, and seven from Europe, participated to express their concerns and seek solutions through reforming multilateral structures.

At the New Delhi G-20 Summit on 9 September 2023, India an-

nounced the inclusion of the 55-nation African Union in the G-20 as its 21st member, dramatically expanding the composition and focus of the grouping in favour of the Global South.

The leaders of the Global South have sought to reform multilateral institutions to respond effectively to the challenges facing the world today. Their current focus is on the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024 in New York. The Global South's objective will be for this Summit to mandate the convening of a UN General Conference in 2025. The outcomes of such a Conference, based on dialogue and diplomacy, can revitalize the United Nations, restoring the integrity of an integrated international framework for achieving the priorities of the Global South.

(Ambassador (Retd.) Asoke Mukerji, former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York.)

(The perspectives and opinions presented in this article solely reflect those of the author. - Ed.)

IN OCTOBER 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the idea of One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) for the first time at the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). During COP26 in November 2021, the Green Grids Initiative (GGI) was launched by the United Kingdom (UK) as a key enabler of net zero in India's and the UK's shared vision of 2030. The two countries aim to establish a collaborative framework for global cooperation in maximizing the utilization of renewable resources, ensuring that clean and efficient energy becomes a dependable alternative for meeting the energy needs of all nations by 2030.

GGI and the OSOWOG initiative were unveiled jointly by India and the UK as part of their bilateral collaboration in conjunction with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the World Bank Group (WB). These initiatives, focusing on the global transition to renewable energy, were subsequently merged into a unified effort named GGI-OSOWOG, emphasizing a collective commitment to a common goal. This first-ever international network of interconnected solar grids seeks to connect 140 coun-

tries to continuous solar power and has been endorsed by 80 ISA Member Countries.

The vision behind the OSOWOG initiative is the mantra that "the sun never sets". The idea is to harness solar energy from different parts of the world, where the sun is shining at any given moment, and efficiently transmit that power to areas where it is needed. By creating a connected global grid, regions that experience daylight can contribute excess solar power to other regions that may be in darkness, balancing energy production and consumption on a global scale.

Making an Impact through Global Interconnections

The OSOWOG initiative is to be carried out in 3 phases:

In the first phase, the Indian grid would be connected to the grids of the Middle East, South Asia and South-East Asia to develop a common grid. This grid would then be used to share solar energy as needed, in addition to other renewable energy sources.

The second phase would connect the functional first phase to the pool of renewable resources in Africa.



ONE SUN, ONE WORLD, ONE GRID: EMPOWERING SUSTAINABILITY

The third phase would look at achieving true global interconnection with the aim of 2,600 GW of interconnection by 2050. The goal is to integrate as many countries as possible to create a single power grid of renewable energy.

India's role at OSOWOG

India's goal to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil-based electricity generation capacities by 2030

aligns with its efforts to be Net Zero by 2070. The nation has been transformed from power-deficient to power-sufficient. In 2023-24, out of the total generation capacity of 9,943 MW added, 8,269 are from non-fossil fuel sources.

As per Renewable Energy Statistics 2023 released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), India has the 4th largest installed capacity of

renewable energy.

It is imperative for India not only to find alternatives to coal-based fuels but also to secure its energy demands in a sustainable manner. GGI-OSOWOG is the ambitious plan to attain this goal. India urgently needs to shift to solar power due to three impending issues. Firstly, India is likely to account for 25 per cent of global energy demand growth over the

next two decades, necessitating a move towards solar for enhanced energy security and self-sufficiency while mitigating environmental impacts. Failure to do so may increase dependence on coal and oil, leading to economic and environmental costs. Secondly, rampant air pollution emphasizes the need for cleaner energy sources like solar to combat pollution caused by fossil fuels. Lastly, declining

groundwater levels and decreasing annual rainfall underscore the importance of diversifying energy sources. Solar power, unlike coal, doesn't strain groundwater supplies. The extensive use of solar power plants is a crucial step towards cleaner, cheaper, and sustainable energy, offering benefits at both utility and individual levels.

Challenges and Way Forward

Building consensus among 140 nations and addressing geopolitical challenges, logistical issues related to land availability, potential problems arising from weather changes, wire breakage, securing finances, etc., makes the realization of this ambitious project all the more difficult.

Achieving energy access within the available short timeframe requires targeted interventions addressing key factors. These factors include:

- Establish supportive policy frameworks for organized progress
- Secure affordable long-term finance and use innovative financial instruments, crucial for projects in heavily affected regions and at-

tracting private sector investments

- Implement capacity building and training in access-deficit countries, focusing on affected areas

- Create an enabling environment through updated data access and quality standards for mini-grids and distributed renewable energy

The move towards One Sun, One World, and One Grid signifies a pivotal future for renewable energy systems. This project plays a crucial role in fostering international collaboration, enabling the balanced and shared use of renewable energy sources globally. Successfully completing this project not only reinforces India's leadership in the International Solar Alliance (ISA) but also provides substantial support to the Indian economy. The broader impact includes promoting global sustainability and enhancing societal resilience against climate change.

(Source: The Indian Embassy)

NATIONAL



Pilgrims and devotees seen at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

Kyaiktiyo draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims since December, locals report

HUNDREDS of thousands of pilgrims have visited the Kyaiktiyo pagoda since last December, and more are still coming, according to interviews with hill-ascent bus terminal officials and locals. "Things have changed. Pilgrimages were restricted during COVID-19, and the pagoda is now as crowded as usual. It is so crowded that more and more pilgrims are flocking to the pagoda since 24 December. As we are based at the bus terminal and are vendors on the mountain, we know that there are hundreds of thousands of pilgrims. People are still coming," said an official at the Kyaiktiyo bus terminal.

The period from November to April was the busiest pilgrimage time at Kya-

ktiyo Pagoda.

"In the normal period before COVID-19, there were many visitors in Thadingyut and Tazaungdine until December. Many holidaymakers came during the 10-day school holidays. After that, it became less crowded, and it was busy again during the summer school holidays until Thingyan and the full moon day of Kason," said a local. Many pilgrims visit Kyaiktiyo pagoda by car or cable car, and a few pilgrims climb the hill of pagoda, taking the jungle route. "Among many pilgrims, only a few climb on foot. Many ascend by car. There are larger number of pilgrims this year than last year. Only 10 out of 100 climb on foot," he said. —Thit Taw/ZN

ACCORDING to interviews with hotel and tourism entrepreneurs most of the current vacationers are company staff.

With the resurgence of Myanmar's domestic traveller

numbers, company employees in close groups tend to travel after engaging with tour services.

"To describe the present situation of local and foreign



Employees of Myanmar companies lead in holiday travel

tourism, many company employees are travelling both inbound and outbound trips. Locally, they go to Taunggyi, Inlay, Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung and Bagan right now," said an official from a travel agency.

As the State tries in post-COVID-19 times to revive the tourism industry, which has been suspended since the COVID-19 pandemic, the number

of local visitors has increased.

"There are more travellers than before and more foreign tourists are also coming. There is a hope for the tourism industry. Although there were fewer local travellers in Tazaungdine, the number increased in Thadingyut. So, we can say that things are improving and there are more prospects," said a tourism official. — Thit Taw/ZN

YRTC rewards outstanding YBS drivers for 2023

IN Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC)'s awarding ceremony for 2023 YBS outstanding drivers, the role model driver award was given to 44, and the responsible driver award to 54.

The ceremony was held at 10 am on 25 January at YRTC head office in Yangon.

"We selected award-winners based on these facts – those who have no record of traffic accidents and no record of violating traffic rules, and responsible driver award-winners should be those who returned property that passengers forgot on the bus. Role model driver means a person who provides good services to passengers and has no record of violating traffic rules," said YRTC

joint secretary U Lyan Cin Mang.

The selection depended on the number of buses that different companies run.

"Depending on the number of buses run by different companies, we chose six drivers if there are more than 500 buses, five if there are more than 400, four if there are 300, three if there are more than 200, two if there are more than 100 and one if the number of buses is below 100," he said.

Moreover, YBS companies that served the public transport service and departmental officials and experts who assisted the passenger transport sector in 2023 were also presented certificates of honour. — MT/ZS



The awarding ceremony of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee in progress on 25 January 2024.

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NATIONAL

52nd Myanmar Health Research Congress concludes

THE final day of the 52nd Myanmar Health Research Congress was convened at the Department of Medical Research, No 5, Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

At the congress, researchers exchanged views on various topics as per the theme “Enhancing Research Integrity and Research Ethics”. The congress also presented first, second and third prizes for the best Basic Research, Applied Research, Health Systems Research papers and Poster. — MNA/KTZH



The best paper and poster awarding ceremony in progress yesterday.

75th Republic Day of India celebrated in Yangon



The 75th Republic Day of India reception event being held yesterday.

THE reception ceremony commemorating the 75th Anniversary Republic Day of the Republic of India was held at the residence of the Indian Ambassador on Diplomatic Road in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday evening.

Yangon Region’s Chief Minister U Soe Thein and his wife, Lt-Gen Thet Pon from Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and his wife, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and his wife, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo and his wife, military officers, ambassadors from embassies in Yangon, chargé d’affaires, defence attachés, representatives of UN, officials and invitees

attended the ceremony.

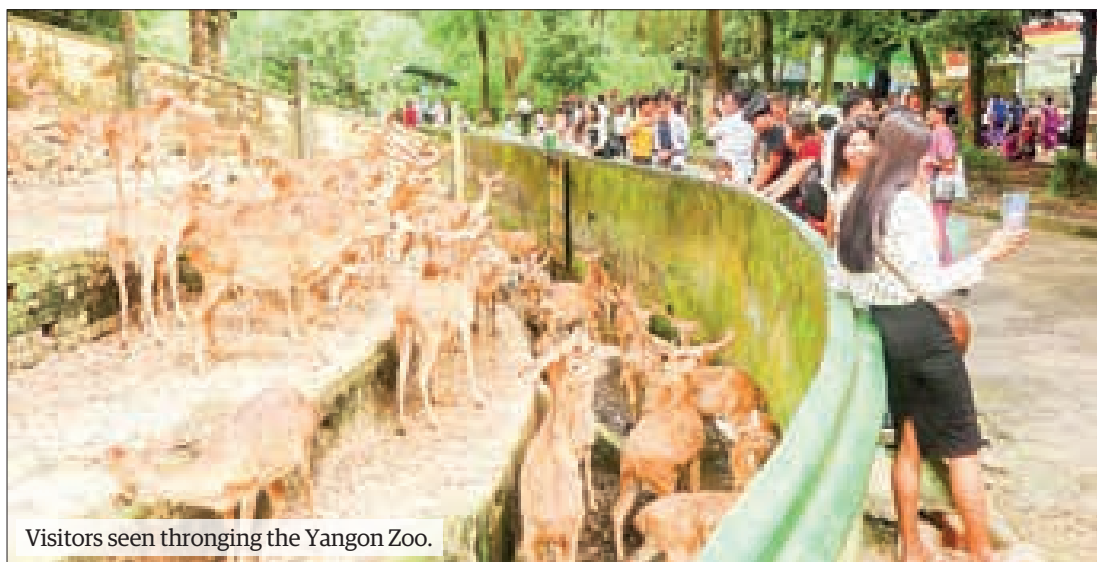
Ambassador of the Republic of India to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar, the defence attaché and officials welcomed the guests who attended the ceremony.

The ceremony commenced with the playing of the anthems of both the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of India, followed by a welcome speech from the Indian Ambassador. Indian cultural troupes also performed traditional dances at the event.

The ambassador and his wife and the defence attaché hosted an honorary dinner for those who attended the ceremony. — MNA/KZW

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Yangon Zoo set to showcase new species from foreign countries



Visitors seen thronging the Yangon Zoo.

ACCORDING to warden U Than Myint Tun, the Yangon Zoo has 1,065 animals of 135 species, and now it plans to display the new species from foreign countries.

U Than Myint Tun mentioned that 25 January was the 118th anniversary of Yangon Zoo, the longest-running establishment in Southeast Asia. The duration of the 118th anniversary festival lasts from 25 to 28 January. The current situation of the

zoo is the animal exchange, and it is working with other foreign countries for foreign animal species.

There are reportedly projects to ensure the citizens who visit the zoo are safe and peaceful. On the public holidays of Saturday and Sunday, about 2,500 people visit the zoo, and there are 1,000 visitors on weekdays. The Yangon Zoo is located on 57 acres of land and hosts 1,400 animals of 350 species. — ASH/ TRKM

Chinese citizens living illegally in Namsang detained

THE Union government pays attention to national stability and law and order, including border areas. When it is known that some foreign nationals are illegally entering and living in Myanmar through border areas, the administrative organizations conduct the necessary checks and hand them back to the relevant countries to act under the law.

According to reports of illegal Chinese presence in Namsang township, Shan State (South), a joint team of security forces conducted surprise checks and arrests on 23 January.

It seized 1,002 Chinese male nationals and 36 Chinese female nationals (a total of 1,038) living illegally in Namsang and three sur-

rounding areas.

Inspections are underway under laws and procedures. Those who are not satisfied with the arrest of Chinese citizens living illegally in the area of Namsang are spreading information to malicious media outlets and circulating propaganda and false information on social networks to mislead the people about the Union government and the military. The government and relevant law enforcement agencies are investigating and taking action to ensure no online scams and illegal activities with unlawful operators.

The news was released to inform the public that officials are actively cooperating with neighbouring countries. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation: security forces allegedly arrested over 80 locals in Waw Township, burning bridge



SECURITY forces arrested over 80 residents from Anyasu Village and Upper Wynepatt Village in Waw Township in Bago Region on 24 January. Misinformation claiming they burned down the wooden bridge connecting the villages is being spread on social networks by malicious news media.

According to a local report, terrorists entered villages of Waw Township on 24 January, recruiting new members and extorting money from residents. Consequently, security forces responded by securing the area. Subsequently, terrorists burned a bridge in the village before fleeing. Misinformation, acting as malicious news media, has been reported to fabricate and spread false information deliberately on social networking sites. This misinformation aims to mislead locals and discredit the security forces. — MNA/KZW

Screenshot validates misinformation.

Misinformation spread: false claims of drone-triggered fires in Loikaw

MISINFORMATION has been spreading on social media about a fire at the two-storey market due to incendiary bombs dropped by security forces using drones in Loikaw, Kayah State, yesterday morning.



Regarding the news, according to a security official from Loikaw, no fire was reported at the two-storey market in Zaypine ward. The market was attacked by terrorists using handmade heavy weapons on 24 January. The detonation of handmade explosive devices reportedly caused the fire.

Malicious news media outlets conceal the actions of terrorists, misleading the public about the actions of security forces. They fabricated and distributed false claims on social media, solely aiming to disrupt the peace and stability of the area. — MNA/KZW

Screenshot validates misinformation.

Illegal timbers, industrial materials, consumer goods, foodstuffs, fuel oil, animals and vehicles confiscated



Officials inspect seized illegal timbers.

A combined team captured a total of 0.5446 tonne of illegal timbers worth K53,754 in Natmouk township, 40 gallons of illegal fuel oil worth K440,000 in Ngaphe township, a Mitsubishi Canter (estimated value of K35 million) carrying 15 oxen valued at K7.3 million without official documents in Aunglan township. These actions were conducted under the Forest Law, the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law and the Essential Supplies and Services Law.

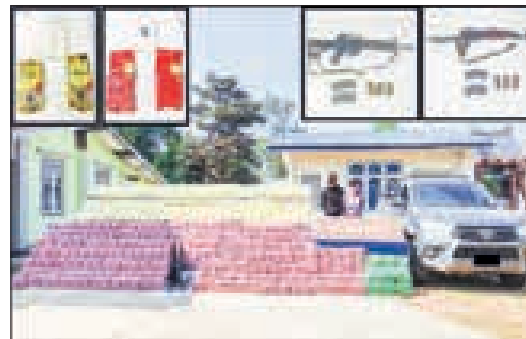
DURING inspections on 22 January, the combined teams managed by the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized three Hino Ranger trucks, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck, and a Toyota Wish (estimated value of K143 million), heading to Mandalay from Muse, carrying 27 kinds of goods worth K67,412,440 including 12,016 kilograms of Insulating glass and 1,720 kilograms of aluminium door frames without official documents on a detour of Lashio. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 26 January, the on-duty teams impounded a total of 13.211 tonnes of illegal teak and 5.940 tonnes of illegal hardwood worth K11,689,756 in Toungoo district and 1.504 tonnes of illegal teak worth K672,144 in Thayawady district. This action was conducted under the Forest Law.

As reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, 19 arrests were made on 22, 25 and 26 January, with an estimated value of K265,568,094. — MNA/MKKS

On 25 January, the com-

Ammunition, over K15.1 bln worth of drugs seized in Kengtung



Offenders seen with seized drugs and ammunition.

in Kengtung Township of Shan State (East), as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.

Following a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, searched a Toyota Hilux REVO vehicle near Nakaw 3 village on Kengtung-Monghsat road in Kengtung township at 12 pm on 22 January. Police Force seized 500 blocks of heroin (175 kilograms), 1,502 kilograms of Ice (methamphetamine), 55 kilograms of ketamine valued at over K15.1 billion and arms and ammunition that Ah Saw and Ah Kaw carried.

AMMUNITION and 175 kilograms of heroin, 1,502 kilograms of Ice and 55 kilograms of ketamine valued at over K15.1 billion were seized

Legal action has been taken against the offenders, and an investigation is underway to identify others involved in the criminal chain. — MNA/MKKS

K2.925 bln worth of stimulant tablets seized in Thazi

A total of 1.95 million stimulant tablets, valued at K2.925 billion, were seized in Thazi township of the Mandalay region, as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.

woven bags near a cornfield in Supokkan village, Kywaltatson village-tract, and 975,000 stimulant tablets in five PV woven bags in a forest approximately four miles from Yinmabin village at 4 pm on 19 January.

Following a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, searched a motorbike driven by Ye Zaw Oo (aka Kala) near Phayangasu village in Thazi township at noon on 18 January. The police captured 390,000 stimulant tablets.

Additionally, the police apprehended Soe Nang, an accomplice in the case, with a motorbike in Shanywa village in Thazi township at 7 am on 23 January. Legal action has been initiated against the offenders, and an investigation is currently underway to identify other individuals involved in this criminal chain. — MNA/MKKS

Subsequent interrogation led to the discovery of 585,000 stimulant tablets concealed in three PV

Nokia sees 'challenging' 2024 after profits plunge

The Finnish telecommunications equipment maker, along with rival Ericsson, has implemented cost-cutting measures in response to reduced customer spending amid a slowing global economy.



Nokia and its Swedish rival Ericsson have launched cost-cutting programmes as their customers have reduced spending amid a slowing global economy. **PHOTO: LEHTIKUVA/AFP/FILE**

FINNISH telecommunications equipment maker Nokia warned Thursday that it expects another tough economic environment in the first half of this year after its net profit sank in 2023. Nokia and its Swedish rival Ericsson have launched cost-cutting programmes as their

customers have reduced spending amid a slowing global economy.

The Finnish firm reported a profit of 679 million euros (\$739 million) for last year, down 84 per cent from 2022.

"In 2023 we saw a meaningful shift in customer behaviour impacting our industry driven by the macro-economic environment and high interest rates along with customer inventory digestion," Nokia chief executive Pekka Lundmark said in an earnings statement. — AFP

Tesla sees slower 2024 volume growth as earnings miss estimates

Tesla acknowledged being between growth waves but promised a "next-generation" vehicle that will succeed its existing fleet and maintain its global standing.

TESLA reported lower fourth-quarter operating profits despite higher revenues Wednesday, following a series of auto price cuts as Elon Musk's electric vehicle giant warned of slower volume growth in 2024.

Shares of Tesla fell after the company's earnings per share and revenues both missed analysts expectations in the fourth quarter, and it offered a sobering outlook for 2024 auto volumes.

"Our company is currently between two major growth waves," said Tesla. It promised that an upcoming "next-generation"

vehicle will serve as a worthy successor to the existing fleet that has built the company into a global titan.

"In 2024, our vehicle volume growth rate may

be notably lower than the growth rate achieved in 2023, as our teams work on the launch of the next-generation vehicle at Gigafactory Texas," the company said. — AFP



Newly manufactured Tesla Cybertrucks at the company's Giga Texas factory in December 2023 weeks after it commenced deliveries of the futuristic vehicle. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



This photo taken on 10 January 2024 shows empty platforms at Berlin Central Train Station in Berlin, Germany. **PHOTO: STEFAN ZEITZ/XINHUA**

German train drivers embark on record 6-day strike after failed negotiations

GERMAN train drivers started a six-day strike on Wednesday. The walk-out, over pay and working hours, is the most significant in years at Deutsche Bahn, the national train

operator, which warned of a massive reduction in service.

The emergency timetable for passenger transport "started in the morning as planned", Deutsche

Bahn said in a statement. The company expects disruption to all long-distance and regional services. The German Locomotive Drivers' Union (GDL), which includes train drivers and

other rail workers, is calling for a reduction in employees' working week from 38 to 35 hours with no drop in pay. The changes are to be implemented gradually by 2028. — Xinhua

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

09 454 237 515

01 860 4530

09 974 424 848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.108N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.108N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-1-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (401W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (401W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-1-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



French contingent marches in India's 75th Republic Day Parade. **PHOTO: ANI**

75th Republic Day key highlights: India to showcase its growing Nari Shakti, military might

The parade, attended by French President Emmanuel Macron, highlights India's diverse culture, self-reliant military capabilities, and the role of women. Notably, an all-women Tri-Service contingent marches for the first time, emphasizing Nari Shakti, while women pilots showcase their skills during the Indian Air Force's fly-past.

INDIA gears up for a momentous platinum celebrations of the country's Republic Day on Friday with an enthralling showcase of its military prowess and rich cultural heritage at the majestic 'Kartavya Path' in the national capital.

President Droupadi Murmu will lead the country in the grand celebrations in its journey of Amrit Kaal that began

post the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate 75 years of the country's independence.

Viksit Bharat's rich cultural diversity the 'Aatmanirbhar' military prowess and the growing Nari Shakti are the dominating themes of the 90-minute parade that will be graced by French President Emmanuel Macron as Chief Guest.

For the first time ever, an all-women Tri-Service contingent marching down the Kartavya Path. Women pilots will also enthrall the audience during the Indian Air Force's fly-past, representing Nari Shakti (women power).

The contingents of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will also consist of only women personnel. — ANI

Italy's Meloni targets energy, migration with Africa plan

ENERGY deals in return for stopping migration. Italy's hard-right Giorgia Meloni reveals her long-trailed development plan for Africa this weekend, a "non-predatory" approach which critics warn favours European priorities and pockets.

Prime Minister Meloni, who came to power in 2022 on an anti-migrant ticket, hopes to posit Italy as a key bridge between Africa and Europe, funnelling energy north while exchanging investment in the south for deals aimed at preventing migration.

Heads of numerous African



Meloni hopes to posit Italy as a key bridge between Africa and Europe. **PHOTO: TIZIANA FABI / AFP/FILE**

countries are expected in the Italian capital for a summit on Sunday and Monday, along with European Commission Presi-

dent Ursula von der Leyen and representatives of United Nations agencies and the World Bank. — AFP

S Korean president labels attack on MP act of 'terrorism'

The 40-year-old lawmaker was assaulted with a rock in Seoul's Gangnam district, resulting in a non-life-threatening scalp injury.

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has called an attack by a minor against a ruling party lawmaker this week an act of "terrorism", his office said Friday.

Lawmaker Bae Hyun-jin, 40, was attacked on Thursday by a minor who repeatedly struck her on the back of the head with a rock in Seoul's upscale Gangnam district. She has since been hospitalized and is recovering, after medical staff used a stapler to perform two sutures to treat a non-life-threatening, one-centimetre scalp injury, according to doctors who treated her.

Police have identified the

assailant as a 15-year-old minor, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency, which reported he was ordered hospitalized for observation Friday morning.

The attack came just weeks after opposition party leader Lee Jae-myung was stabbed in the neck while talking to reporters in the port city of Busan.

"The terrorism against politicians, who are representatives of the people, is no different from terrorism against the people," Yoon said of the attack on Bae, according to senior presidential secretary for political affairs Han O-sub. — AFP



A man watches a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of South Korean ruling People Power Party's lawmaker Bae Hyun-jin, at a railway station in Seoul on 25 January 2024. **PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE / AFP**

Britain's King Charles III admitted to hospital for prostate surgery

KING Charles III was on Friday admitted to a London hospital for scheduled surgery, Buckingham Palace said, a week after revealing the British monarch would be treated for an enlarged prostate.

"The king was this morning admitted to a London hospital for scheduled treatment," the palace added in a statement.

"His Majesty would like to

thank all those who have sent their good wishes over the past week and is delighted to learn that his diagnosis is having a positive impact on public health awareness." Royal officials took the unusual step last week of issuing a bulletin on the 75-year-old monarch's health, disclosing that he had an enlarged prostate but the condition was benign. — AFP

SPORTS

West Ham sign Man City's Phillips on loan

Manchester City midfielder Calvin Phillips has joined West Ham on loan for the remainder of the season, seeking more playing time to enhance his chances of participating in Euro 2024.

MANCHESTER City midfielder Calvin Phillips joined West Ham on loan on Friday for the rest of the season as the England international aims to boost his chances of featuring at Euro 2024.

Phillips has rarely featured for the English champions since joining from Leeds in a £45 million (\$57 million) move in July 2022.

However, England boss Gareth Southgate has continued to select the 28-year-old at international level and regular first-team football gives Phillips the chance to push his case for a starting spot in Germany later this year.

West Ham will reportedly have an option to make the move permanent at the end of the season.

"There's always been a lot of speculation about me moving to West Ham, so I'm really excited to get going now," said Phillips. "There's so much to look forward to in the second half of the season for the club and I can't wait to be part of it.

"There's an unbelievable group here and if I can come in and add the quality that I know I'm capable of, I'm sure we can give the West Ham fans plenty



Kalvin Phillips has joined West Ham on loan from Manchester City. PHOTO: AFP

to be excited about between now and the end of the season".

The Hammers have their sights set on qualifying for the Champions League for the first time, either through the Premier

League or winning the Europa League.

David Moyes' team sit sixth in the table with fifth potentially good enough to qualify for the Champions League this season

if English sides perform strongly in European competitions.

Last season's Europa Conference League winners have also progressed to the last 16 of the Europa League. — AFP

Team Myanmar to meet with Afghanistan in Futsal friendly match



THE Myanmar National Futsal Team and the Afghanistan National Futsal Team, which have qualified for the final stage of the 2024 Asian Cup Futsal Tournament, will play two friendly matches in Yangon.

The friendly matches will be played at the MFF Futsal Stadium in Yangon on 30 and 31 March. The MFF Futsal Stadium, where the friendly will be played, is a newly built world-class stadium in Yangon.

The Myanmar national futsal and Afghanistan national futsal teams met in the third-place match of the Continental Futsal Championship 2023 Invitational held in Thailand in 2023, and the Afghanistan team won by five goals to one.

Team Myanmar is placed in Group A of the 2024 Asian Cup Futsal Tournament with Thailand, Viet Nam, China, and Afghanistan, while Group D sees Iran, Kuwait and Bahrain.

The Myanmar squad has started preparing for the final stage of the Asia Cup futsal tournament. They will travel to Indonesia from 5 to 11 February to play three friendly matches against Indonesian clubs. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar futsal players (red jerseys) were competing against Afghanistan players during the previous Continental Futsal Championship 2023 in Thailand. PHOTO: MFF

Tough Las Palmas visit offers Madrid chance to take Liga lead

REAL Madrid can take the reins at the top of La Liga at Las Palmas on Saturday, but the hardy hosts have proven one of the season's surprise packages.

Girona's stunning charge to pole position has overshadowed the Canary Island club's own impressive campaign, but Las Palmas could do their fellow overachievers a favour against Madrid.

Carlo Ancelotti's Los Blancos are second, a point behind Girona having played one fewer match. While the trip to Gran Canaria is an opportunity to provisionally overtake the Catalan minnows, it will likely be a difficult afternoon.

Led by former Barcelona reserve coach Francisco Garcia Pimenta, who will also be looking to help out his former club, Las Palmas are eighth and in contention to qualify for Europe next season. The islanders are the strongest defensively in the division behind only Madrid, conceding 17 goals in 21 matches. — AFP

Sinner thwarts Djokovic's bid for 11th Australian Open title

FOURTH seed Jannik Sinner stormed into his first Grand Slam final after ending world No 1 Novak Djokovic's long-time dominance at the Australian Open here on Friday.

The 22-year-old Italian was irresistible to inflict 10-time champion Djokovic's first loss at Melbourne since 2018 with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-7 (6), 6-3 semifinal victory in three hours and 22 minutes. Djokovic, a 24-time Grand Slam winner, had an uncharacteristically sloppy

performance with 54 unforced errors to lose for the first time at Melbourne Park once he had reached the semifinals. Sinner next faces former US Open champion Daniil Medvedev or sixth seed Alexander Zverev, who stunned world No 2 Carlos Alcaraz in the quarterfinals. "It was a very tough match. I felt for two sets he didn't feel good on court and I kept pushing," said Sinner, who served strongly. — Xinhua



India, France agree to adopt defence production roadmap: Foreign Secretary Kwatra



France's President Emmanuel Macron arrives at Jaipur International Airport on 25 January 2024. PHOTO: LUDOVIC MARIN/AFP

INDIA and France agreed to adopt the Defence Industrial Roadmap and explore opportunities for partnership in the defence industrial sector and prioritize co-designing, co-development and co-production, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

In a press briefing regarding French President Emmanuel Macron's ongoing state visit to India, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said that both countries agreed upon the production and manufacturing to harness the compatibilities and competencies to further strengthen defence cooperation.

"The two countries have agreed to adopt a defence production roadmap. Now, the name itself is very clear that

India and France have agreed to adopt a Defence Industrial Roadmap, focusing on co-designing, co-development, and co-production in the defence industrial sector, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

the focus and the priority of defence cooperation through this roadmap is to actually identify opportunities for part-

nership in the defence industrial sector that prioritize co-designing, co-development, coproduction with the whole, and also building the defence supply chains between the two countries," he said.

He added, "In terms of the range of domains, including the technology space that the industrial roadmap will aim to achieve, it would include both air and space technologies, maritime technology, including the underwater domain awareness. It's a new space which is coming up naturally, the equipment and the systems related to the land warfare, and also robotics and artificial intelligence as also autonomous vehicles and platforms, and cyber defence."

— ANI

A NEW YEAR GIFT

China, Singapore sign mutual visa exemption agreement

CHINA and Singapore signed a mutual visa exemption agreement in Beijing on Thursday, which will come into effect from 9 February, according to the Chinese foreign ministry.

Chinese and Singaporean citizens holding ordinary passports will be allowed to enter and stay in each other's countries visa-free for up to 30 days, said Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin at a daily press briefing.

Wang said that the agreement, to take effect on the eve of the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dragon, is undoubtedly a New Year gift for the people of the two countries. It will further boost people-to-people exchanges and advance China-Singapore relations and cooperation in various fields, he added.

— Xinhua

CARRYING CONTRABAND

Record cocaine haul seized in Bangladesh's main airport

A total of 8.3 kilogrammes cocaine was seized in Bangladesh's main airport in capital Dhaka on Wednesday night by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) in the South Asian country's biggest drug bust. Tanvir Momtaz, the DNC's director, told journalists on Thursday that a Malawian woman has been arrested in connection with the seizure.

He said the contraband was being carried by the woman who entered Bangladesh from the African country of Ethiopia. — Xinhua

Yemeni rebels repeatedly attack merchant ships, Suez Canal traffic drops by more than 40%

THE traffic volume of the Suez Canal dropped by more than 40 per cent as Yemen rebels repeatedly attacked merchant ships.

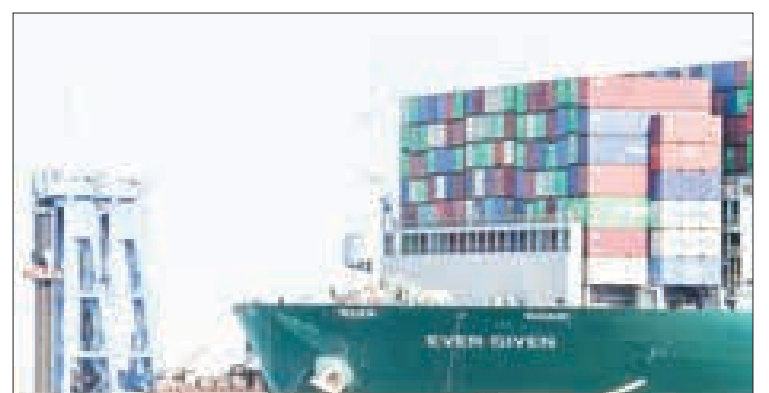
According to United Nations data, the Yemen rebels' Commercial traffic through the Suez Canal has dropped by more than 40 per cent in the past two months since the Houthi attack, sparking United Nations con-

cerns about global trade.

Jan Hoffman, president of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), told reporters today, "We are very concerned that attacks on shipping in the Red Sea will exacerbate global trade tensions and add to existing trade disruptions caused by geopolitics and climate change.

More serious."

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said that in the past two months, ships were diverted from the Red Sea to South Africa's Cape of Good Hope, resulting in a 42 per cent drop in traffic through the Suez Canal. Egypt's Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean and Red Sea. — ANI



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said that in the past two months, ships were diverted from the Red Sea to South Africa's Cape of Good Hope, resulting in a 42 per cent drop in traffic through the Suez Canal. PHOTO: AFP/FILE