

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## SUNDAY EDITION

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Myanmar Pavilion featured at Expo 2023 Doha, Qatar

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Corn price gradually dips on bearish market sentiment

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Chinese New Year celebration and cultural exhibition to be held in February in Yangon



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets the attendees at the dinner yesterday.

## SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla join awarding of 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference, honorary dinner

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended the awarding in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference of the Ministry of Education in conjunction with an honorary dinner at Naypyitaw State Academy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

At the awarding ceremony, the Senior General presented prizes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science to Dr Htet Htet Than Sein, Dr Zaw Zaw Thein, Dr Ei Ei Phyto, Dr Wint Wah Wah Tun, Dr Nang Yin Yin Moe, Dr Cho Mar Lwin, Dr

Khin Moh Moh and Dr Hein Latt, whereas the wife of the Senior General handed best research paper awards in Myanmar and English to Dr Mya Mya Win, Dr Aye Su Nyein, U Khin Aye and Daw Kay Khine Nyein.

Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San, Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Porel Aung Thein, Mahn Nyein Maung, Dr Hmu Thang, Dr Ba Shwe and U Yan Kyaw, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Zwe Win Myint, Union ministers U Ko Ko Hlaing, Admiral Moe Aung and Dr Nyunt Pe presented first, second and third prizes

in addition to honorary awards to relevant resource persons in respective subjects.

The Senior General and his wife had the honorary dinner together with those present. Also present at the ceremony were the Joint Secretary and his wife, council members and their wives, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair, senior military officers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, rectors and professors, the president of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science and members, resource persons and guests. — MNA/TTA

Authentic taste of tea, enjoy

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UNION-LEVEL AWARD Best Practices Award



# NATIONAL

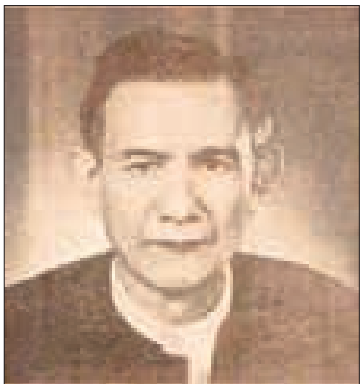
## National Objectives of 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2024

- 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 77<sup>th</sup> 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

## Lawkanat Art Gallery celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of esteemed cartoonist Pe Thein



Cartoonist U Pe Thein and his works seen being displayed at the gallery.



THE Lawkanat Art Gallery in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, will host a cartoon exhibition from 27 to 31 January to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of an esteemed cartoonist. Organized by Win Aung and others, the exhibition showcases a collection of cartoons, magazine cover paintings, and memorabilia belonging to Cartoonist Pe Thein.

Win Aung explained, "31 January marks cartoon Sayagyi Pe Thein's birthday. To honour his centenary, his disciple cartoonists, in consultation with his family, have arranged this special event. Visitors can enjoy Pe Thein's cartoons, paintings, and mo-

mentos throughout the exhibition period."

Born to Shwe Pyi Taw U Ba Tin and Daw Kyawt Sein in Pantanaw on 31 January 1924, U Pe Thein was the second of six sibling. He enrolled at Yangon University in 1946 and became involved in cartooning, initially contributing to the "Oway" magazine in 1947 under the mentorship of U Ba Gyan. U Pe Thein's career spanned decades; he passed away in June 2009 at 86.

Renowned for his artistic talent, U Pe Thein also served as vice-chairman of the Myanmar Artists Council in 1963 and earned the title of Mawgun (second class). — ASH/TKO

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee

Statement  
27 January 2024

1. Regarding an incident in which illegal arms and ammunition were seized from those wearing uniforms of Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) at Sanphu Village of Hopong Township in Shan State (South) on 21 January 2024, the acts of carrying arms and ammunition by PNLO were different from agreements in NCA and it may harm regional peace and stability. With the aim of focusing on durable peace, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, on 23 January 2024, informed PNLO of emphasizing supervision over acts of its subordinates in order to deeply follow the agreements mentioned in the NCA and not to cause similar incidents.
2. At present, as PNLO issued an announcement dated 26 January 2024 on social media networks, it was scrutinized that such a statement mentioned attitudes of PNLO leading to conflicts turning a blind eye to the basic principles of NCA in order to peacefully solve the armed disputes through political means, and descriptions supporting the anti-government activities.
3. The NSPNC sincerely urged PNLO to continuously join hands with the government to implement the NCA-based peace process and regional development, contributing to the peace process by holding talks on political aspirations through practical assessments for the people's interests.
4. The government invited all ethnic armed organizations to seek a solution through the ways of dialogue and reached common agreements on good results, peace and development measures from peace talks with ten ethnic armed organizations and still opens the way for holding talks with all ethnic armed organizations.
5. The statement mentioned that the negotiation on their attitudes and aspirations at the peace talks is the best way to evade the confrontation.

*National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee*



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# NATIONAL

## SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing offers congratulatory message to 16<sup>th</sup> recipient Sayadaw of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title

A ceremony to offer a congratulatory message of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to 16<sup>th</sup> recipient Sayadaw of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title in 76<sup>th</sup> Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examination was held at Mingun Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery in Yangon yesterday.

First, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Aye Tun and regional ministers inaugurated the event by reciting Namo Tassa three times. Then, the Yangon Region chief minister read the congratulatory message of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe



On behalf of SAC Chair PM Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing, the Yangon Region chief minister seen conferring the congratulatory message.

Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing. In his message, the Sen-

ior General expressed his aspiration to emerge as Tipitakadhara and Tipitakakovida

title recipient monks in the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida examination. Now, he is

pleased for the emergence of a monk who has completed the 76<sup>th</sup> examination as the 16<sup>th</sup> Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient Sayadaw after answering Tri Pitaka treatises comprising five Vinaya treatises, three Suttanta treatises and seven Abhidhamma treatises in the set period.

Then, the chief minister offered the congratulatory message to Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasiri Lankara.

Next, the chief minister and party donated offertories and alms to the Sayadaw.

The Sayadaw recited Sabbiti Yawvi Vizzannu Gatha and concluded the event with a three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu. — MNA/KTZH

## SAC member supports fire victims of Sanphu village

STATE Administration Council Member Khun San Lwin, Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye of Shan State, state ministers, the chairperson of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, the secretary of state government, and other officials visited the Sanphu Monastery in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in Hopong Township yesterday. They paid their respects to Sayadaw U Indaka of the monastery, and offered alms.

Subsequently, SAC Member Khun San Lwin addressed the fire victims, offering K100 million in financial assistance, which the village administrator and the village elder accepted. Additionally, Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye of Shan State and ministers provided K30 million in financial aid to two representatives from the village.

Furthermore, SAC Member Khun San Lwin and party inspected the progress of house reconstruction for the villagers. — MNA/TRKM



SAC Member Khun San Lwin views the house reconstruction site in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone yesterday.

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 27 January, 2024)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 28 January 2024:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and southern Shan and Rakhine states. Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kayin State, fairly widespread in Mon State, scattered in Yangon Region and Kachin State and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Kayin and Mon states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 January 2024:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 January 2024:** Isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 January 2024:** Partly cloudy.

# NATIONAL

## Residents welcome security forces in Kanbalu Township

ARMED insurgents and PDF terrorists are setting fire to towns/villages and state-owned buildings in certain regions and states. They are also abducting and killing local people who do not support them, accusing them of being criminals (called informants), engaging in extortion, and destroying roads and bridges through explosions.

Military personnel, members of the Myanmar Police Force, and security forces have sacrificed their lives in the fight against armed insurgents and PDF terrorists, aiming to maintain national stability and ensure the people's ability to live in peace.

On 27 January, the security forces safeguarding the lives and socioeconomic well-be-



Members of the security forces seen being welcomed warmly.

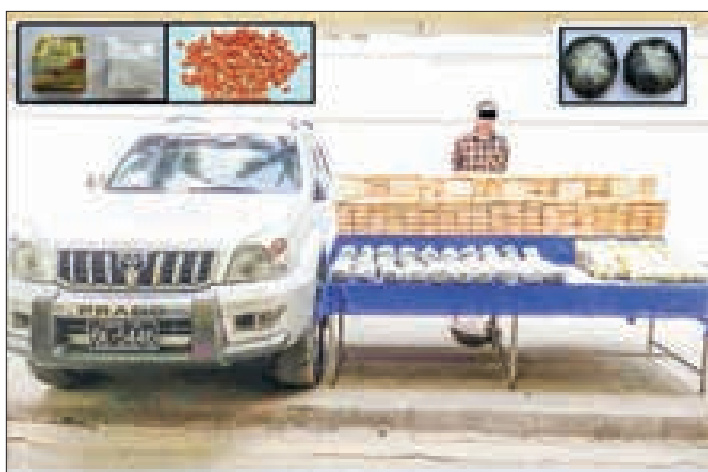
ing of the people in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region, received a warm welcome and encouragement from locals, departmental staff, and monks in Kanbalu. They were greeted with thousands of flowers and drums. The secu-

rity forces continue to execute Counter-Terrorism Operations in line with the Law of Armed Conflict provisions, based on the Geneva Convention's four articles and following the Rules of Engagement (ROE). — MNA/TKO

## Narcotic drugs worth over K1 bln seized in Tachilek

IN Tachilek, Shan State (East), drugs valued at over K1 billion were confiscated. A combined team of anti-narcotics police searched the home of Sai Swe Seng in Sekham Ward, Tachilek, Shan State (East) on 23 January. They discovered and seized 2 million pills worth K1.04 billion in the home, along with 23 kilogrammes of Ice (methamphetamine), 75 kilogrammes of raw opium, and a Toyota Land Cruiser Prado car.

According to the investigation, the confiscated stimulant pills and Ice (methamphetamine) were transported from Kunhing Township, Shan State (South), while raw opium was



An arrestee seen alongside confiscated drugs and a vehicle.

transported from Mongpyin Township to Tachilek Township.

Legal action has been initiated against the perpetrators,

and an investigation is underway to identify others involved in the chain of crimes. — MNA/KZW

### Counter-argument to false information

## False news: Tatmadaw burned houses near Chaunghnahkwa and used human shields in Kawkareik

MALICIOUS media outlets are spreading false news regarding Tatmadaw, alleging that it set fire to houses near the Chaunghnahkwa police station in Kyaikmaraw township, Mon State.

According to the relevant regional authority, the actual situation involved PDF terrorists and KNLA armed insurgents attacking the Chaunghnahkwa Police Station in Kyaikmaraw township, Mon State, in November and December 2023. They occupied the houses surrounding the police station, constructing bunkers and looting household items. Subsequently, they set fire to the houses, resulting in the village being engulfed in flames.

Furthermore, these malicious media outlets are circulating fake news on social networking platforms, accusing Tatmadaw of using local people

from Kawkareik township as human shields since 22 January. This misinformation is being deliberately spread while Tatmadaw is committed to ensuring the security and protection of the residents of Kawkareik township. — MNA/TRKM



Screenshot of fake news about Tatmadaw by malicious media outlets.

## Fake news: Authorities direct to build bomb shelters in Bilin

MALICIOUS news outlets are intentionally spreading fake news on social media, alleging that the General Administration Department (GAD) instructed governmental departments to construct air raid shelters in Bilin Township, Mon State.

In response to these claims, the GAD officer of the respective township confirmed that there was no such directive. The media outlets are circulating misinformation to instil fear and concern among the public.

These malicious media sources deliberately spread

similar misinformation to undermine the country's stability and peace, causing heightened anxiety among the public. — MNA/TMT



Screenshot validates misinformation.

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# NATIONAL

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts & Science Research Conference: Research symposia on day three

AS a national-level event, the Ministry of Education is organising the 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference at Naypyitaw State Academy from 25 to 27 January. On the morning of 27 January, researchers presented their papers in designated subject rooms, while various universities showcased research posters and displays.

The research papers were reviewed and supported by notable figures, including Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, Deputy Ministers Dr Zaw Myint and Dr Moe Zaw Tun, Permanent Secretary Dr Soe Win, directors-general, deputy directors-general, pro-rectors, and officials.

During the Arts and Science Research Conference on

27 January, researchers from six universities and other ministries presented various papers. These included seven papers in English, one in language research, five in chemistry, five in physics, four in mathematics, three in computer science, three in marine science, three in environmental studies, four in archaeology, three in anthropology, five in international studies, three in oriental studies, four in industrial chemistry, three in travel studies, and two in bibliography.

Sixty-one research papers on arts and sciences were presented and discussed on 27 January. The attendees included the chairman and officials of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Sciences, authors, professors, teachers, and students. — MNA/TKO



The 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## Myanmar Pavilion featured at Expo 2023 Doha, Qatar



The Myanmar Day ceremony at the Expo 2023 Doha takes place yesterday at the Expo House in AI B Park, Doha.

THE Myanmar pavilion is currently on display at the Expo 2023 Doha in Doha, Qatar, under the management of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, a department of the Ministry of Commerce.

The Myanmar Day ceremony at Expo 2023 Doha took

place yesterday at the Expo House in AI B Park, Doha. Attending the event were Daw Naw Muta Kapaw, the Director General of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Mr Mohamed Alkoori, the Secretary General of Expo 2023 Doha, and the commis-

sioners-general from various countries.

The Myanmar Day ceremony began at 4:00 pm local time. It commenced with the singing of the national anthems of Myanmar and Qatar, followed by the hoisting of the flags of both nations and a cultural dance performance showcasing Myanmar's traditions.

Subsequently, the leader of the Myanmar delegation, the director-general of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, delivered a speech, after which the guests were invited to tour the Myanmar and Qatar galleries.

Expo 2023 Doha is scheduled for six months, from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024. At the exhibition, the Treasure Cap Company represents the Myanmar pavilion. The Myanmar gallery showcases a variety of agricultural produce, jewellery, natural orchids, and aquatic items from Myanmar. — MNA/KZL

## Five Myanmar nationals died in landslide in Malaysia

DURING a landslide at Cameron Highlands district in Pahang state, Malaysia, five Myanmar nationals of Chin ethnicity died.

Of five Chin ethnic people from Mindat Township who were working at a plantation field in Cameron Highlands, one died in the landslide that occurred at around 8 pm on 25 January, and four were buried alive. According to the Myanmar Social Rescue Association (Malaysia), the search is continuing.

"It is an agricultural zone in Cameron Highlands, which is the major agricultural area of Malaysia and is surrounded by mountains. Tomatoes, radishes and lettuce are planted there. The landslide happened from continual rain on the night of 25 January, and our five Myanmar nationals were dead in the incident. They all are from Chin State's Mindat, and a family is included. Father and child from the family and two Chin ethnic workers living together with them were among the victims buried alive," said an official from the association. Of five Chin ethnic people who died and went missing, four were men,

and one was a woman. The dead have been identified as U Shing Lan Har, U Lan Haphey, Daw Om Myue, Ko Thang Maung and Ko Kee Shing Om, aged between 25 and 56.

Of these five victims, two were found on 26 January, and the rest are still being searched.

"Malaysian rescue teams have been carrying out search and rescue operations. Two dead bodies were found on 26 January, and the rest of the bodies are still being searched for," said the official. A similar landslide occurred about six years ago in Malaysia, and during that incident, one from Magway Region and one from Chin State died, and the other two escaped.

"A similar incident once happened about six years ago. At that time, one from Magway and one Chin slept together, and they heard a loud voice, and earth fell on the roof of the house. The one from Magway fled in panic but straight towards the earth, falling, and the other two got injuries and escaped. But bodies were found about three days later," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

# NATIONAL



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspects the preparations for the Myanmar Academy Awards Ceremony 2023 at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw.

## MMPO announces Myanmar Academy Awards invite collection details

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), attendees of the Myanmar Academy Awards Ceremony at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 February must collect their invitation cards by 4 pm on 28 January. Failure to do so will result in removal from the guest list.

The MMPO noticeboard will display the list

of invited artists starting on the morning of 26 January. Invitees must collect their invitation cards in person.

Artists who were not initially invited but wished to attend can complete the required forms and submit them to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization by 4 pm on 28 January. — TWA/TRKM

## Pesticide Registration Board announces prohibition of five weed killers

THE Pesticide Registration Board, operated by the Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, has announced the prohibition of five weed killers — Atrazine, Fomesafen, S-metolachlor, Terbutylazine, and Mesotrione — as banned pesticides, with enforcement effective in early 2025.

According to the report, the decision was made at the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Pesticide Registration Board on 27 December.

Additionally, the report highlights that the toxic ingredients of these five pesticides have a four-month rotational period. This duration can adversely affect crops in the next season, pose health hazards for humans, and contaminate underground water resources.

As a result, import recommendations for these pesticides will only be issued until 1 June 2024, and pesticide distributors must withdraw the products



The photo shows five kinds of pesticides that were prohibited by the Pesticide Registration Board.

from the market.

Furthermore, the board notifies that registration, import, selling, formulation, and repackaging of these pesticides will not be permitted starting 1 January 2025. Failure to comply with the notice may result in legal actions under the Pesticide Law, which carries a five-year prison sentence, a K1 million fine, or both. Additionally, the banned items will also be confiscated. — TWA/TMT

## Over 100 repeated red-light runners dismissed from YBS

A total of 110 YBS drivers who ran red lights more than three times have been dismissed, said U Lyan Cin Mang, joint secretary of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

A driver's job will be terminated if he causes an accident resulting in a personal death or runs the red light three times, and the above figure is the number of red light runners who have run the red light more than three times.

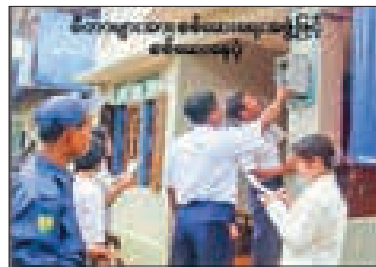
"A YBS driver will be dismissed if the accident results in a fatality or he has run the red light three times. A tribunal is formed for undisciplined drivers in the event of an accident or a death. Action will then be taken depending on the findings and comments of that tribunal," he said.

Red light running is a serious traffic offence, and YBS drivers who are caught more than three times will also have their driving licences revoked.

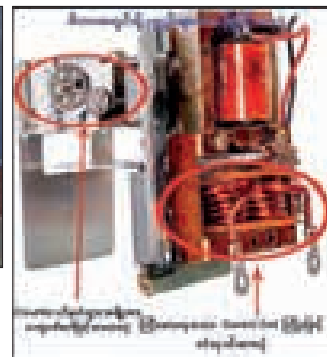
In 2023, 22 educational sessions were held for undisciplined YBS drivers, with a total of 2,194 drivers attending.

According to the statistics from YRTC, 35 people died and 122 were injured in traffic accidents in 2023. — MT/ZN

## Officials inspect illegal power consumption situation in Yangon streets



Officials check whether the items inside the meter have been prepared for illegal purposes.



ACCORDING to the Ministry of Electric Power, field inspections are underway by neighbourhood and street to detect instances of illicit electricity consumption.

In the townships overseen by the Eastern District of Yangon Electricity Corporation, the Eastern District Electricity Manager's Office is conducting supervision and inspections to reduce power loss and ensure no illegal elec-

tricity usage or outstanding electricity bills.

Seven project teams, led by the district electrical manager and the district electrical engineer, have been established in South Okkalapa Township. They are conducting field inspections of neighbourhoods and roads from 22 to 24 January to identify illegal power consumption.

Illegal power usage leads to voltage drops, overloading

transformers, and poses risks of burns, electrocution, and fire hazards. These incidents cause power outages, resulting in financial losses for the electricity sector and disruptions to the distribution system due to power line and substation failures. The Ministry of Electric Power reports that the State subsidizes about K60 per unit of electricity consumed by the public. In the last financial year (2022-2023), approximately K1,000 billion were spent on subsidies.

National electricity rates are set at K35 per unit and K120 per unit for consumption exceeding 100 units. Locally, one megawatt of electricity can serve a total of 3,500 households. Last year, the average per capita electricity consumption reached about 378 kilowatt-hours. — TWA/KZL

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## Corn price gradually dips on bearish market sentiment

WITH domestic and foreign demand cooling down, the corn prices gradually declined to K1,150 per viss on 27 January from K1,200 on 13 January.

Myanmar exports corn to China and Thailand through land borders and delivers them to China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines by sea at present, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Thailand nodded corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

China has been purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution program. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted for corn exports.

Myanmar shipped 934,883 tonnes of corn worldwide as of 29 December in the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, bagging US\$279.042 million, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.



A thriving corn plantation. Myanmar exports corn to China and Thailand through the border.

Myanmar delivered more than two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand, and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons- winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM

## CBM injects significant liquidity into markets

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar (CBM) boosted liquidity injection into markets in January 2024, adding US\$57.93 million and 300 million Thai Baht.

CBM sold \$12.93 million on 1 January, \$16 million on 5 January, \$15 million on 15 January, 50 million Baht on 19 January, nine million dollars and 200 million Baht on 25 January, and five million dollars and 50 million Baht on 26 January.

Last year, CBM injected US\$22.15 million into the fuel oil sector, selling \$9.72 million on 18 December and \$12.43 million on 21 December for fuel oil importing companies.

Yet, CBM disclosed the exchange rate for selling those US dollars and Thai baht. CBM set the reference exchange rate at K2,100 against a US dollar. The Kyat-US dollar exchange rate exceeds K3,500 at the over-the-counter market, while the Thai Baht is approximately K100.

On 5 December 2023, CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate forex exchanges freely as per the market rate determined by the supply and demand market forces.

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

## Surging bicycle usage drives sales of second-hand Japanese bicycles

ACCORDING to the second-hand Japanese bicycle trading market, Japan-used bicycles have been used widely, and their sales have also risen.

"We are wholesalers. Generally, in the second-hand bicycle market, demand declines a little after 20 days of the month but regains a gradual increase in the early next month. Price goes up due to rising transport costs. In some areas, driving motorcycles is prohibited, so the use of bicycles is relatively greater than before. The number of sellers is becoming abundant, and the number of buyers is also increasing. There are also resellers," said an official from Thet Paing Bicycle Trading, a Japan-used bicycle wholesaler.

In the Japan-used bicycle market, there are two price categories: second-hand price and new price. The second price ranges from K100,000 to K2 million to the maximum, depending on brands, according to the used bicycle market.

"In the second-hand market, the price starts from K100,000 to K1 million, even nearly K1.5-K2 million for some branded used bicycle," he said.

In the market for new Japanese bicycles, the price starts from K500,000 to K10 million, to the maximum, depending on brands. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Bullish market sentiment raises peanut prices

ACCORDING to the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre, the demand by Chinese buyers and domestic oil millers drove peanut prices upwards.

The prices touch a high of K6,500-K8,600 per viss in the domestic market depending on current varieties.

The prices hit a record high of K7,550-K11,000 per viss on the back of strong foreign and domestic demand on 18 August 2023.

Myanmar has been exporting oil seeds (sesame seeds and peanuts) to foreign countries. In April 2022, the world's top palm oil exporter, Indonesia, one of Myanmar's leading oil suppliers, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce domestic shortage. Consequently, Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May 2022 to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notifica-



Peanuts are pictured in the market.

tion dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department.

The country exported over 12,300 kilograms worth US\$17.95 million to foreign markets through seaborne and border trade channels over the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April. — NN/EM

# OPINION

## Earn deserved taxes for the State in serving customs duties

**I**NTERNATIONAL Customs Day serves as a global tribute to customs organizations worldwide, recognizing the dedication of customs personnel who diligently impose rightful taxes for the State and uphold customs regulations. Having joined the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 1991, Myanmar has celebrated this noteworthy day for 33 years.

Looking back, the World Customs Organization (WCO) is dedicating the year 2022 to the amplification of Customs Digital Transformation. This involves embracing a Data Culture and building a robust Data Ecosystem. In 2020, Customs4trade collaborated with the International Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (ICC Belgium) to institute the Customs Professional Award, recognizing individuals utilizing their customs expertise to support the growth of companies in international trade.

The Department of Customs in Myanmar plays a pivotal role in serving the nation's interests by generating revenues for the State. Department staff members emphasize the importance of levying deserved taxes on imported cargo. Businesses involved in customs-related measures are urged to follow government, ministry, and Customs Department policies to enhance trade facilitation by simplifying customs procedures and ensuring the proper collection of Customs Duties and Taxes.

By emphasizing the duties of government employees, there is a call to garner public trust in every government service. Adherence to the Model Code of Ethics and Conduct released by the World Customs Organization is stressed, emphasizing the pivotal role of modern techniques over traditional methods. Ongoing plans include linking with the National Single Window based on the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS).

The Department of Customs in Myanmar plays a pivotal role in serving the nation's interests by generating revenues for the State. Department staff members emphasize the importance of levying deserved taxes on imported goods, customs staff contribute to the overall economic welfare, promoting adherence to policies that facilitate trade and ensure proper revenue collection. The staff members need to accelerate the momentum to brighten up the dignity of the department. They must avoid bribes when serving customs duties and levying taxes on imported goods. If so, incomes from customs services can be changed into deserved revenue for the State, and these will be spent on nation-building endeavours.

## Cold water swimming improves menopause symptoms: Research

*Participants described cold water swimming as an "immediate stress/anxiety reliever" and referred to it as a "healing" activity.*

**A** NEW study led by UCL researchers found that menopausal women who swim in cold water on a daily basis experience considerable improvements in both physical and mental symptoms.

The research, published in Post Reproductive Health, surveyed 1,114 women, 785 of which were going through the menopause, to examine the effects of cold water swimming on their health and wellbeing.

The findings showed that menopausal women experienced a significant improvement in anxiety (as reported by 46.9

per cent of the women), mood swings (34.5 per cent), low mood (31.1 per cent) and hot flushes (30.3 per cent) as a result of cold water swimming. In addition, a majority of women (63.3 per cent) swam specifically to relieve their symptoms.

Some of the women quoted in the study said that they found the cold water to be "an immediate stress/anxiety reliever" and described the activity as "healing".

One 57-year-old woman stated: "Cold water is phenomenal. It has saved my life. In the water, I can do anything. All symptoms

(physical and mental) disappear and I feel like me at my best."

Senior author, Professor Joyce Harper (UCL EGA Institute for Women's Health), said: "Cold water has previously been found to improve mood and reduce stress in outdoor swimmers, and ice baths have long been used to aid athletes' muscle repair and recovery. Our study supports these claims, meanwhile the anecdotal evidence also highlights how the activity can be used by women to alleviate physical symptoms, such as hot flushes, aches and pains."

**SOURCE: ANI**

## Coastal (or) Scenes of a lake

By Shin Ottama Gyaw  
Translated by Myint Zan

သဲခင်းသာဝယ်  
သီတာကြည်လှိုင်သံနွဲ့၍  
လွမ်းဘွဲ့မြိုင်မြိုင်မြူးဝေခုံ...။  
ရှင်ဥတ္တမကျော်

the sands are elegantly beautiful  
the waters are crystal clear  
birds sing coquettishly  
poems of nostalgia  
(can be composed)  
of this (scenic) 'orchestra' of nature

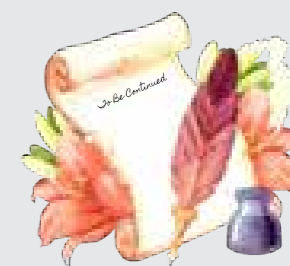


*Shin Ottama Gyaw was a Burmese monk-poet who flourished over 500 years ago. He is famous for his Tawla – songs praising the beauty of nature and the seasons and 'travel poems'.*

## Beauties of dawn and dusk

By Mya Thae (Research)

Cloud has not disappeared  
Pale light has appeared  
Birds sing lovely songs  
It is the beauty of dawn  
Workers go to jobs strong  
These are the beauty of dawn  
When pale light goes away from the sky  
Dusk embraces the world so high  
Birds sing songs to go to bed  
Students return home with glad  
People listen to Buddha's sermon with pious heart  
These are the beauties of dusk



## Eternal Legacy

By Chit Ko Pe

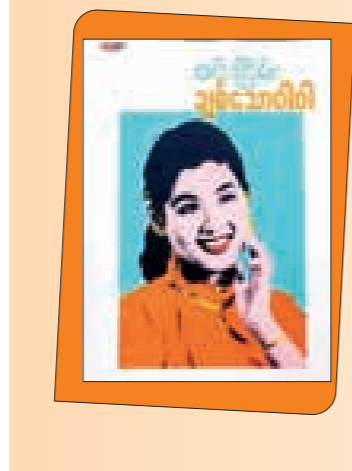
Oh! Madam, with your sweet song greeting,  
all feel blessed in the good morning.

Oh! Madam, with your sweet song Cocoon,  
the child is soothed to doze at dusk soon.

Oh! Madam, with your sweet song love-mood,  
thoughts invade the hearts of the youth.

Oh! Madam, our lips still move with your songs  
though you are no more, how long.  
Your music legacy shall ever abound!

(Paying tribute to the late Myanmar classical vocalist Daw Mar Mar Aye)



Book Title - Chit Thaw Wah Wah  
Writer - U Win Nyein  
Publishing House - We (NDSP)  
Publication Date - December 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)  
Price - K6,000

## Chit Thaw Wah Wah

THE book "Chit Thaw Wah Wah" is a compilation of personal interviews with Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe, a luminary in the film world in Myanmar. The interviews were conducted by Saya U Win Nyein, who is quite close to the great actress. As they are good friends, the interviews are highly frank. Saya U Win Nyein exclusively does these interviews. The revelation of her secret private life can indeed be attributed to the interviewer's close relationship with the interviewee. Nonetheless, we cannot forget the excellent art of interviewing possessed by Saya U Win Nyein.

Saya U Win Nyein said in his foreword, "I have retired from running Shwe Ah Myoo Te, which I have been involved in for over 31 years. After retirement, I have been doing the translation at home. Most of my translations are concerned with the biography of the great people. While doing the translation, I thought I ought to write the biography of Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe, who was in her early eighties then. Her biography is worth writing because her audience is unaware of many hidden things, particularly about her secret, private life. And when I talked about this, she expressed her willingness.

As we would talk about her life of more than 80 years, we could not do it in a sitting. We had to meet often, and I asked her what I wanted to know. She answered my questions and added the stories that her audience should know and cannot know without her disclosure. These interviews are not film interviews; they are done to write a biography. I have to admit that I have embarrassed her with my questions. I am awfully sorry for my questions that intrude on her life, breaching her privacy. Nonetheless, I believe she knows my intention because we are good friends."

Traditionally, the Myanmar

film world is led by the actors, who are paid much more than the actresses. Not only is their income higher, but they are also more loved by the audience. The producers calculate their profit on the basis of the actors; their formula is that the more the actors are famous, the higher the profit they will bring. A film's success and profit depend on who the actor is. This tradition has been reversed by Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe, who can keep abreast of the great actors. She has won many Film Academy awards. However, one thing can be attributed to her success – i.e., she has starred in many films with the great actor Win Oo, with whom she has an affair. But their affair was never known until Saya U Win Nyein disclosed in his interviews. However, she was heavily guarded by her two aunts. As soon as the film shooting is finished, her aunts are near her, so they cannot go into a deeper relationship. This being so, they can have time to stay close to each other only when they are acting at the shooting time. Maybe this is the reason why they are so good at acting, mainly in the love scenes, which provide them the diamond opportunity to show their love by hugging and caressing.



Book Title - Pyaw Pya Zaya Dway Lei Dabongyi  
Writer - Mar Mar Aye  
Publishing House - Linn Lun Khin  
Publication Date - November 2017 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)  
Price - K25,000

## Pyaw Pya Zaya Dway Lei Dabongyi (Vol 1 to 6)

DAW Mar Mar Aye is known more as a great singer than a writer. True, she has written books such as Yoke Shin Hnit Taya Pyay Kodwe Ahmattaya Sardan, Yin Phwint Kyeear Thungegyin, Ma Ma Aye Doe Tay Oo Yin, and the book under review now titled, "Pyaw Pya Zaya Dway Lei Dabongyi." However, this book under review is selling very well after her death. Volume 1 of this book was first published in 2013, while volume 8 was published in 2020. But the title of volume 8 is "Getabonga Seikkonzaya Dway Ne Pyaw Pya Zaya Dway Lei Dabongyi". Linn Lun Khin Publishing House published all

eight volumes. In 2017, a book including volumes one to six was published. And this book is now selling well. These books are all of her presentations during the BBC programme titled "Pyaw Pya Zaya Dway Lei Dabongyi Shi Thay Dei".

These books include feature articles about the songs she sang, the stories behind the songs, the classical songs, the singers, the artists, the musicians, the writers, and the film stars she has met during her career. She has written these books for the young generation to imitate or learn lessons from such fields. For the book published in 2013, Ba Ba Bogale

Tint Aung has written the foreword for her. Sayagyi Bogale Tint Aung is a musician, playwright and director. He said in his foreword, "Our baby girl Mar Mar Aye is now abroad. I am afraid she will feel lonely sometimes amidst the aliens, and she may suffer from cultural shock. She will definitely feel homesick, and I believe her programme is created to relieve herself of her homesickness." The book includes 21 feature articles: after the introduction, there comes Gita Doe Ei Ahsa Khalay Chaw Gabyar – the music begins with the lullabies; Yoe Yar Gabyar Lay Yut Kya Bar – recite the folk poems; Khitthit Yazawun Pyazat Alhpwegyi – modern historical theatre troupe; Shwedaing Nyunt Swe Myo Myar – relatives

of Shwedaing Nyunt; Kyi Kyi Htay Ma Phyt Me Ga Marlar Yee – Marlar Yee turned Kyi Kyi Htay; Nay Minn Yin Thway Myanmar Yin Dei Ga Myint Moe Taung – the offspring of Nay Minn, Mount Myint Moe in the hearts of Myanmar; Sin Paw Yauk Bo Tut Kalay – Child Actor Bo Tut Kalay; Zat Ma Taik Chin Bu, Miba Doe Myitta – I hate to do the rehearsal, the love of the parents; Chauk Hsai Ta Hnit Myauk Mway Nay Pwe – 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary birthday; Pheiksar Hmar Yauk Lar Dai Gabyar Da Boke – A poem arrived at a wrong destination; Australia Hma Ah Pyaw Dan Ah Than Hlwint Htana Lay Myar – small amateur broadcasting stations from Australia; A feature for an Australian broadcasting station; Pyipa Thathana Htun Linn Phyar – Buddhist religious mission achieving success abroad; the monastery bazaar festival in Australia; Shwe Parabaik Minn Thar versus Htaminn Shin Pyithu – Prince versus golden palm leaf manuscript; We hate to die but we want to go to school; the art of cinema; I like to produce an album and the sermon for princess Yathawdaya; The family of Thahaya Saya Tin, a squatter bamboo hut; a negro soldier; and Mingala U Ba Than.



# NATIONAL Entertainment

## Channel K to broadcast "Missing Akari" series



Artistes of the "Missing Akari" series.

The filming of the "Missing Akari" series to be broadcast by Bonanza Production on Channel K is being cast in Yangon, according to CEO Ma Nora Ko of Bonanza Production.

The TV series feature eight episodes, started casting on 25 January.

"The series will include eight episodes, and the filming is now operating. It is romance and thriller, and so the youth will like it. It is about youths among four girls and four boys. It will include twist plots," said Ma Nora Ko.

Natar Sha wrote the series' story, Skyward Art made the script, and director Aung Min Thant directed it. The artistes are Sue Sha Htoo Kyi, Ella Shwe Sin, May Thu Tun, Su Yoon Htet, Nan Eaindry and so on. - ASH/KTZH



### Zaw Myint Oo

Academy director Zaw Myint Oo, one of the members of the 25-member body for scrutinizing academy awards, said, "There are specific rules for the special awards. It will be presented only for child characters, make-up performance, costumes and computer effect." The academy event will present 12 sorts of awards. It will not include the Lifetime Achievement Award, but there might be the Best Director award, he considered.

## Celebrity Brief



### Wah Wah Aung

ACADEMY Wah Wah Aung expressed gratitude to director Ko Zaw (AryonOo) for allowing her to show her talents in the "Bodaw King" film while meeting with the media. Moreover, she also highlighted the best acting skills of Ei Chaw Po and Chue Lay.

### Chue Lay

THE "A Chain Lun Moe" movie is also on the list to win Academy Awards, and the artistes of that movie, Nay Toe, Moe Hay Ko and Chue Lay, are also leading the nominations to win Academy awards. Actress Cho Madi Thwin said she would hug Chue Lay to honour if she won an Academy Award.



### Kyaw Htet Aung

THE actor informs his fans that they will have to watch his movies and series in which he takes lead roles in 2024. In the "Hnyoh" series of Mahar Movie Production, he takes Nay Htet Lu's character, as a lady-killer. Kyaw Htet Aung also posted, "the master of ceremonies (MC) I believe is ..." (to be continued) on his Facebook page to share his experiences of serving as an MC.

### Htet Htet Tun

Actress Htet Htet Tun takes a lead role in the "Hnyoh" series of Mahar Movie Production alongside Kyaw Htet Aung and Zin Zin Zaw Myint. It is a suspense movie directed by director Aung Chan Lu. It is about three strange characters of three friends. - Htun Htun/KTZH



## ME, FEC cohosts Myanmar-Japan business forum in Tokyo

THE Myanmar Embassy to Japan and the International Friendship Exchange Council (FEC) cohosted the Myanmar-Japan Business Forum at the Myanmar embassy in Tokyo on Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported.

The forum's objectives were to educate Japanese businesspeople about Myanmar's economic policies and procedures, foster bilateral business activities, highlight business opportunities in Myanmar, attract investments, address challenges faced by Japanese businesses in Myanmar, and enhance cooperation between the embassy and Japanese entrepreneurs.

Mr Masaya Tochio, Chairman of FEC Japan-ASEAN Cultural and Economic Exchange Committee and advisor to Ajinomoto Co Inc, delivered an opening speech. Subsequently, Ambassador U Soe Han provided insights into Myanmar's economic policies, trade and investment status, investment advantages, opportunities in Myanmar, and the State's investor protection measures.

Additionally, Economic Attache' Daw Thuzar Phyo discussed business practices in Myanmar, initiatives to facilitate trade and investment, and the performance of Japanese businesses in Myanmar. Following these presentations, embassy officials addressed questions from representatives of Japanese companies.

The forum saw participation from 30 officials and businesspeople, including Mr Ken Matsuzawa, Chairman of FEC. — ASH/NT



The Myanmar-Japan Business Forum in session in Tokyo.

## Chinese New Year celebration and cultural exhibition to be held in February in Yangon

THE Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and the Chinese Culture Centre in Yangon will organize a Chinese New Year celebration and cultural exhibition in February, announced Assistant Secretary Zhang Rui of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

The celebration will feature the opening of a traditional Chinese dancing class and discussions of Myanmar students who have received scholarships in China.

Zhang Rui remarked, "The

Chinese New Year festival is approaching in February. It holds great significance for the Chinese people, akin to Myanmar's Thingyan New Year festival, symbolizing peace and prosperity. The Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and the Chinese Culture Centre in Yangon will organize the Chinese New Year celebration and cultural exhibition. The event will include various activities such as free Chinese traditional dance classes and discussions involving

Myanmar students who have received scholarships in China".

Chinese New Year 2024, celebrated by Chinese communities worldwide, will commence on 9 February, with the festival day falling on 10 February according to the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar, marking the beginning of the Wood Dragon year. According to Chinese tradition, the Wood Dragon year signifies new opportunities for employment and



The photo shows scenes of the Chinese New Year Festival in the previous year.

business, leading to success and accomplishments.

Chinese communities in Myanmar, particularly in Yan-

gon, Mandalay, and Bago regions, traditionally observe the

Chinese New Year Festival. — ASH/TMT



The photo shows a general view of the Bagan Archaeological Museum.

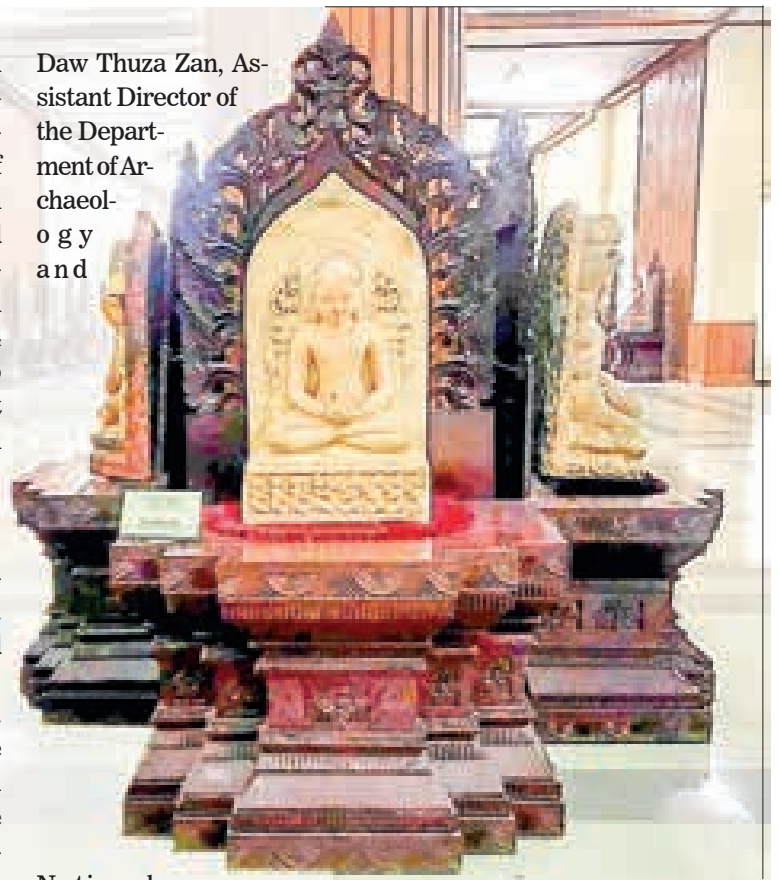
## Bagan Archaeological Museum bags over K38 mln in Apr-Dec 2023

THE Bagan Archaeological Museum in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, collected an entrance fee of K38.526 million from a total of 8,483 home-grown and overseas travellers who visited the museum from April to December of the 2023-2024 financial year, according to officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

Over nine months, 8,483 visitors — 123 foreigners and 8,360 locals — visited the Bagan Archaeological Museum.

"The arrival of local and foreign visitors in Bagan is not the same as in the past. It is not a situation where the visitor arrivals are high when the travel season arrives. The visitors come here even during the rainy season. The Bagan Archaeological Museum earned K38.526 million from visitors this financial year. The last financial year 2022-2023 saw a total of 83,761 visitors — 83,433 domestic and 328 international travellers — visiting the museum," said

Daw Thuza Zan, Assistant Director of the Department of Archaeology and



National Museum (Bagan Branch).

The Bagan Archaeological Museum had been closed to control the spread of COVID-19 since 15 March 2020, and it was reopened on 28 October 2021. The museum is open daily from 9 am to 4

pm, except Mondays and public holidays.

Currently, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum is working to establish digital museums so that overseas and internal travellers can easily visit the facilities online. — ASH/MKKS

# ECONOMY WORLD

## African leaders call for accelerating industrialization to achieve prosperity

*African leaders attending the ongoing Africa Prosperity Dialogue in Ghana have urged the continent to propel industrialization to achieve prosperity at a faster pace.*

AFRICAN leaders attending the ongoing Africa Prosperity Dialogue in Ghana have urged the continent to propel industrialization to achieve prosperity at a faster pace.

The three-day dialogue, which kicked off Thursday in Ghana's Eastern Region, brought together many African leaders, experts, and stakeholders to delve into road maps for

the continent's prosperity.

Speaking during the dialogue, Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said, "Without the capacity to industrialize, add value to our raw materials, and invest to build the social, digital, economic and physical infrastructures to connect our peoples and businesses to customers across Africa, intra-Africa trade would remain

at the negligible lows that it has always been."

Akufo-Addo said Africa still needs to develop efficient transportation and logistics infrastructure, streamline trade processes, and embrace digital technologies to facilitate payments in cross-border transactions, to unlock the full potential of trade within the continent. — Xinhua



Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo delivers a speech at the 2024 Africa Prosperity Dialogue held in Ghana's Eastern Region, 25 January 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Fears as homeschooling rates 'surge' in England

EDUCATION campaigners demanded government action Friday after new figures revealed that the number of children in England being homeschooled jumped more than 13 per cent in one term last year.

The spike — from an estimated 86,200 in homeschooling at the start of 2023 to 97,600 by the April to July summer term —

emerged from data provided by local councils to the Department for Education (DfE).

It showed a 20 per cent rise during the last full school year from September to July. Nearly a quarter of parents involved said they were keeping children at home primarily as a "lifestyle choice" or for "philosophical or preferential reasons". — AFP



Home schooling in Huddersfield during lockdown, in May, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

## UK facing Brexit realities after failed Canada talks

THE UK's failed free trade talks with Canada show that it is struggling to deliver on its promises to thrive after Brexit, experts said on Friday.

London has been seeking to sign new trade pacts around the world to show it was right to sever ties with its nearest

neighbours nearly four years ago.

But negotiators paused talks with Ottawa late Thursday, with sources pinpointing British cheese imports to Canada and Canadian beef exports to the UK as major sticking points to agreement. — AFP

## Climate crisis prompts Biden to halt new gas export facilities

*The US is pausing approval for new liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities, a move aimed at addressing the climate crisis.*

THE United States, which ships more liquefied natural gas than any other country, is hitting pause on approving new export facilities, the Biden administration announced Friday in a step seen as vital to tackling the climate crisis.

It comes as President Joe Biden looks to shore up youth voters energized by environmental issues in a tough election rematch this year.

He will likely face Republican candidate Donald Trump,

who calls human-caused global warming a "hoax" and has vowed to torpedo his Democratic opponent's climate agenda.

"This pause on new LNG approvals sees the climate crisis for what it is: the existential threat of our time," Biden said in a statement. "While MAGA Republicans willfully deny the urgency of the climate crisis, condemning the American people to a dangerous future, my Administration will not be

complacent."

The US only began exporting LNG in 2016 but rapidly became the world's biggest supplier, driven in part by Europe turning away from Russian gas following Ukraine war.

Under the plan, new export applications would be subjected to a review, of unspecified length, that considers climate and wider environmental and economic impacts, imperiling the future of more than a dozen planned facilities. — AFP



Cranes are seen near the construction site of the Venture Global LNG plant next to the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish south of New Orleans, Louisiana. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Pre-mass production begins at Audi's new NEV production base in China

The facility, with an annual capacity of over 150,000 vehicles, will produce three electric models for the Chinese market, available from early 2025.

GERMAN luxury carmaker Audi AG launched pre-mass production on Friday at its first production base for purely electric vehicles in China, an important step for the company in further optimizing its strategic layout in China's new energy vehicle (NEV) market.

Helmut Stettner, chief executive officer of Audi

FAW NEV Company, said the base, in northeast China's Jilin Province, boasts a planned annual production capacity of over 150,000 vehicles. Three pure electric models tailored for the Chinese market are expected to roll off its production lines by year-end, successively becoming available on the

market from early 2025.

Cooperating with China's leading automaker FAW Group Co Ltd, the Audi FAW NEV project, with total investment expected to surpass 35 billion yuan (about 4.9 billion US dollars), broke ground in June 2022 in the northeastern Chinese city of Changchun. — Xinhua



Constructors work at a construction site of the Audi-FAW new energy vehicle (NEV) project in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, 26 June 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Alaska Airlines says expects \$150 mln hit from 737 MAX grounding

Alaska Airlines anticipates a \$150 million impact from the Boeing 737 MAX grounding, leading to limited capacity growth in 2024.

ALASKA Airlines said Thursday it expects a \$150 million hit from the Boeing 737 MAX grounding, which will limit its capacity growth in 2024.

Alaska Airlines said Thursday it expects a \$150 million hit from the Boeing 737 MAX grounding, which will limit its capacity growth in 2024.

The airline, which executed an emergency landing on a MAX on 5 January following the mid-flight blowout of a panel on the jet, disclosed

the estimates in a securities filing, saying capacity growth will be "at or below the lower end" of its prior estimate.

The Alaska Airlines financial hit is the latest ripple effect from the episode, which prompted US air regulators to ground 171 MAX 9 planes.

Earlier this week, United Airlines, another big MAX 9 user, projected a first-quarter loss due to the grounding. Southwest Airlines, which doesn't fly the MAX 9, Thursday low-



Boeing 737 MAX 9 plane operated by Alaska Airlines made an emergency landing on 5 January after a panel blew out. PHOTO: AFP

ered its forecast for 2024 Boeing MAX deliveries "due to Boeing's contin-

ued supply chain challenges", it said in an earnings statement. — AFP

## EU hails 'change' as Apple opens App Store to competition

THE European Union's digital enforcer celebrated on Friday the "change" underway in the tech world after Apple yielded to a new EU law by announcing it would allow alternative app stores on the iPhone for the first time.

The significant overhaul, which will take place in March when the European Union's sweeping Digital Markets Act comes into force, will curtail the dominance of the App Store, which has been a mainstay of the iPhone since 2008.

"The DMA will open the gates of the internet to

competition so that digital markets are fair and open," European internal market commissioner Thierry Breton said when asked by AFP about Apple's announcement. "Change is already happening".

Breton said that from 7 March, when the law comes into force, the European Commission will assess the proposals of tech companies, "with the feedback of third parties".

"If the proposed solutions are not good enough, we will not hesitate to take strong action," he warned. — AFP

## Microsoft lays off 1,900 staff after Activision gaming buyout



Microsoft is laying off 1,900 people in its gaming division after its buyout of Activision Blizzard. PHOTO: AFP

MICROSOFT is laying off 1,900 people, or eight per cent of staff, from its gaming division as it consolidates the blockbuster buyout of "Call of Duty" maker Activision Blizzard. The head of Microsoft's gaming division, Phil Spencer, said in a memo to employees that the cuts came after synergies were found between the two companies, the company confirmed.

Spencer told employees that Microsoft and Activision were committed to finding a "sustainable cost structure" to grow the gaming business, which employs 22,000 people and includes the Xbox division.

"Together, we've set priorities, identified areas of overlap, and ensured that we're all aligned on the best opportunities for growth," he added. — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RANCAK VOY.NO. (KRCK0315N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA RANCAK VOY.NO. (KRCK0315N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-1-2024 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## EU forces tried to push some 35,000 refugees into Belarus in 2023

*Belarusian officials reported that their border guards stopped around 35,000 undocumented migrants from being displaced into Belarus by neighbouring European security forces in 2023.*

BELARUSIAN Security Council State Secretary Alexander Volfovich said Thursday that Belarusian border guards prevented the displacement of about 35,000 undocumented migrants into the territory of the republic by the security forces of neighbouring European countries in 2023.

“The illegal displacement of migrants from Poland and the Baltic States to our terri-

tory continues. In 2023 alone, the Belarusian side stopped the illegal expulsion of about 35,000 refugees.

“Inhumane measures applied to migrants often lead to their deaths. During the past year, the Belarusian Border Guard Service has documented 27 cases of deaths of refugees who died at the border because of mistreatment by Polish, Lithuanian and Latvian border

guards,” Volfovich said in an interview with the SB. Belarus Today newspaper.

He added that the current situation causes serious concerns not only in Minsk but also in many European countries.

Various European structures and humanitarian organizations criticize Polish authorities because of their tough migration policy, Volfovich stated. — SPUTNIK



Polish border guards patrol along a section of the border wall in northeastern Poland. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Civilians trapped by fighting in Gaza

DESPITE calls from the international community, overnight strikes continued to hit the city, with the barely functional medical facilities struggling to handle the dead and injured.

Thousands of civilians were trapped in southern Gaza by bombardment and fighting between Israeli troops and Hamas fighters on Saturday.

Growing alarm has focused on Khan Yunis, the biggest city in Gaza's south, where the two main hospitals were barely functioning under the weight of the relentless bombardment and the press

of thousands in need.

Witnesses reported more overnight strikes on Khan Yunis, the current epicentre of Israel's assault on Gaza, and

the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said some of the dead and wounded had been taken to the city's barely functioning Al-Amal hospital. — AFP



An Israeli tank moves behind Palestinians fleeing Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Second body found following deadly Malaysian landslide



This photo taken on 26 January 2024 shows rescuers working at the site of a landslide in Pahang state, Malaysia. **PHOTO: FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT OF MALAYSIA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

A second victim has been found following a deadly landslide in Malaysia's Pahang state on Friday, authorities said.

The second body was found near a structure used by workers on a vegetable farm, district police chief deputy superintendent Azri Ramli said in a briefing.

Azri said the search and rescue (SAR) team faced challenges due to several more landslides in the area.

Meanwhile, the Cameron

Highlands district disaster management committee confirmed that all five victims are Myanmar nationals aged between 25 and 56.

Authorities had received a distress call at 2:51 am local time (1851 GMT) informing them of the incident and had recovered the body of one victim soon after. The other three victims are still missing with search and rescue efforts currently underway. —

Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Over 17,000 hectares destroyed in Colombia forest fires

FOREST fires have destroyed more than 17,000 hectares in Colombia since November, authorities said Friday, as the country faces its hottest January in decades. More than 340 fires have been recorded in that period, spurred by prolonged drought, record heat, and the El Nino weather phenomenon, Environment Minister Susana Muhamad said, adding that 26 fires were still blazing.

Colombia has been battling several fires near the capital since Monday, including some in the mountains overlooking Bogota, and authorities have advised residents living close to burnt areas to avoid going outside because of the poor air quality. —AFP

#### Venezuela court disqualifies opposition presidential hopeful

VENEZUELA'S Supreme Court, loyal to President Nicolas Maduro's government, on Friday disqualified opposition leader Maria Corina Machado — who handily won a 2023 primary vote — from seeking election this year.

The court upheld a 15-year ban on Machado, 56, from holding public office, and also confirmed the ineligibility of a possible opposition stand-in — two-time presidential candidate Henrique Capriles.

The United States and others have repeatedly called for the reinstatement of disqualified opposition candidates ahead of elections, for which a date has yet to be set. Maduro's government and the opposition agreed in talks in Barbados last year to hold a free and fair vote in 2024 with international observers present. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Three top teams keep winning in Week 7 of MFF Futsal League II

THE Week 7 of the MFF Futsal League II was held at Thuwunna Futsal Stadium in Yangon yesterday, and three top teams shaped victories.

In the Week-7 matches, TG United defeated SGF FC 3-1, while Sun Far team beat KKY team 4-2, and YRG trounced Seven team 7-0. Meanwhile,

the Shwepyitha team shaped a big 7-3 win over the M-Million team. Noka United team and the Black Cross team tied with two goals each, and the Maryar team played a 1-1 tie against the Golden Yoma team. After the week-long matches, TG United led the stand-

ing table with 18 points, followed by the YRG team, which collected 17 points, and the Sun Far team, which picked 15 points.

The Black Cross team and the Shwepyitha team shared 13 points each, and the SGF team earned 10 points, while Noka United got one point. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Futsal players compete in the Week 7 of the MFF Futsal League II at Thuwunna Futsal Stadium in Yangon on 27 January 2024. PHOTO: MFF

## Bopanna and Ebden crowned Australian Open men's doubles champions

INDIA'S Rohan Bopanna celebrated becoming the oldest number one in men's doubles history by winning the Australian Open with his partner Matthew Ebden on Saturday.

The second seeds claimed a 7-6 (7/0), 7-5 victory over unseeded Italian

pair Simone Bolelli and Andrea Pavanello on Rod Laver Arena.

It was their maiden title as a team and Bopanna's first in men's doubles after 60 previous Grand Slams — a record for most attempts before winning.

The 43-year-old will become the oldest number one in men's doubles history when the new rankings are released next week. Bopanna's only previous Grand Slam win was at the 2017 French Open in mixed doubles, with Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski. — AFP

## Barça's Balde set to miss months after hamstring injury

Barcelona announced that 20-year-old defender Alejandro Balde will undergo surgery for a hamstring injury following his early exit during Wednesday's Copa del Rey match against Athletic Bilbao.

BARCELONA said Saturday defender Alejandro Balde will have surgery on a hamstring injury, with Spanish media reporting he is set to miss four months.

The left-back, 20, was taken off injured in the Catalans' 4-2 extra-time defeat by Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday.

"Tests show that first team player Alejandro Balde has an injury to the tendon in his right hamstring," said Barcelona in a statement. "In the coming days he will undergo surgery".

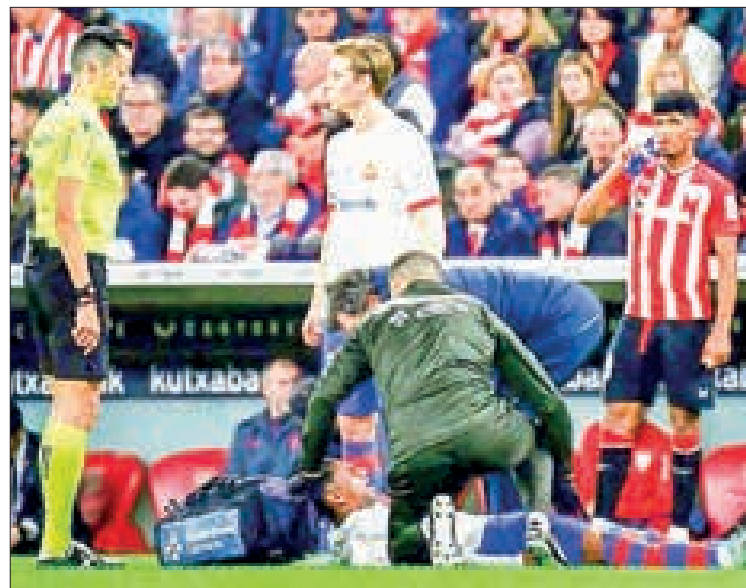
Balde, a Spain international,

may not return before the end of the season but will be aiming to recover before Euro 2024 which starts on 14 June in Germany.

Barcelona's back-up left-back Marcos Alonso is also injured, but the club can use Joao Cancelo or youngster Hector Fort in the position.

The Spanish champions also said midfielder Sergi Roberto had muscular discomfort.

Roberto is expected to miss Saturday's match against Villarreal and Wednesday's clash with Osasuna in La Liga. — AFP



Barcelona's Spanish defender Alejandro Balde was injured during his team's Copa del Rey defeat in Bilbao. PHOTO: AFP

## S Korean figure skater Shin ready to give her best at Gangwon 2024



Shin Jia of Republic of Korea competes during Day 2 - JR Women FS ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final Turin 2022 at Torino Palavela. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ FABRIZIO CARABELLI/ SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS SEOUL (SOPA)/FILE

South Korea's Shin Jia is geared up for Gangwon 2024 figure skating events, expressing her determination to give her best.

SOUTH Korea's Shin Jia says she is ready to give it her all at Gangwon 2024 as the figure skating events kicked off on Saturday.

"I want to show everything I have prepared," Shin told Olympics.com on Friday. "I want to focus on myself and my performance".

"I will be very happy to win a medal, but there are more competitions to come so I need to work even harder. I hope to achieve good results by giving it my best. It will be very special to win a medal in my country, but it will be very competitive," she added.

At the Junior Grand Prix Final

in Beijing last December, Shin was runner-up to Shimada Mao of Japan, who won her second successive crown with a triple Axel and quadruple toeloop.

In what will be the first and last Winter Youth Olympic Games for the two, Shin said she had been uncompromising in her preparation, adding that she hoped it would be enough to give her the edge over Shimada. — Xinhua

## “Hamlet” in Tibetan opera playwright’s eyes

*The Tibetan version of “Hamlet” premiered in Shanghai in 2021 and was performed in Beijing during its 2023 tour, translated by Nyima Dondrup, a national first-level playwright of Tibetan opera.*



Actors stage British playwright William Shakespeare’s play Hamlet in Lhasa, southwest China’s Xizang Autonomous Region, 3 August 2021. **PHOTO: KELSANG PALJOR/ XINHUA**

“To be or not to be, that is the question.” The Tibetan version of “Hamlet” was performed in Beijing during its latest tour in 2023, following its 2021 premiere in Shanghai. It was translated by Nyima Dondrup, a national first-level playwright of Tibetan opera.

Nyima Dondrup has been busy writing plays for various new year galas in southwest China’s Xizang Autonomous Region as

the Tibetan New Year and Spring Festival approach. However, his mind and heart are still focused on the classic works of William Shakespeare, and he plans to stage the play at more theatres in the new year.

Nyima Dondrup translated the Tibetan version of the play with his wife, and they feel extremely fortunate and thankful to see their work performed beyond the autonomous region.

“There are a thousand Hamlets in a thousand people’s eyes. In my eyes, ‘Hamlet’ belongs to all of humanity. Therefore, it is worthy of being translated into Tibetan,” he said. Nyima Dondrup, who is now in his 50s, was born in a village under the city of Xigaze. The oral stories told by the elders, the most ancient form of Tibetan opera, accompanied most of his evenings throughout his childhood. — Xinhua



Tourists visit the Patuxay Park in Vientiane, Laos. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## ASEAN Plus Three countries to boost tourism cooperation

*A key focus of the meeting was the emphasis on upskilling and reskilling the tourism workforce, providing them with essential tools, including digital technology, to adapt to evolving business practices.*

THE 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China, Japan and South Korea (APT) Tourism Ministers was held in Vientiane Friday to exchange and share information on the tourism sector.

The meeting was co-chaired by Lao Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Suanesavanh Vignaket, and Wang Chang, charge d’affaires of the Chinese embassy to Laos.

Speaking at the meeting, Wang said China is ready to strengthen communication with all parties, advance practical cooperation and jointly promote regional tourism cooperation to a higher level.

The meeting also emphasized the importance of upskilling and reskilling the tourism workforce, and equipping them with valuable tools, including digital technology to enable them to adapt to new ways of doing business. — Xinhua

## Sweet and ‘spicy’: Nicaraguan cigars winning over the world

WITH a deftness that comes from four decades of experience, Aristo Torres sorts tobacco leaves at a factory in Nicaragua — a country making great strides in the manufacture and export of cigars.

Tobacco in the Central American nation is grown in volcanic soils that growers, merchants and consumers at the 11<sup>th</sup> Nicaraguan Cigar Festival agreed gives it a special something.

Nicaraguan tobaccos “have a very good body, are round — they are tobaccos that are sweet, some are spicy”, Colombian An-

dres Diaz Cote, a regular smoker of 57, told AFP at the fair held in the city of Esteli, some 150 kilometres (93 miles) north of the capital Managua.

“The way they burn is perfect,” he insisted.

Nicaragua’s tobacco industry emerged in the 1960s from the hands of Cuban migrants who had fled after the revolution there. Around Esteli, they found the volcanic soils rich in minerals and nutrients, and a tropical climate perfect for tobacco plants.

Today, Nicaraguan cigars are smoked in more than 90



Nicaraguan cigars are smoked in more than 90 countries around the world. **PHOTO: AFP**

countries around the world, according to Juan Ignacio Martinez, president of the country’s oldest tobacco company, Joya de Nicaragua.

Most are exported to the United States, where a ban on Cuban imports under sanctions in place since 1962 has cut consumers off from cigars from the communist island — widely considered the best in the world.

There are about 150 companies around Esteli working in tobacco growing, processing, packaging and cigar making, added Martinez. — AFP