Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 295, 12th Waning of Pyatho 1385 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Tuesday, 6 February 2024

Myanmar's pulses exports in Jan last week bag US\$23.42 mln

The pulses were mainly exported to India, Pakistan and the UAE.

YANMAR exported about 26,860 tonnes of various pulses worth US\$23.429 million in the last week of January 2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The pulses were mainly exported to India, Pakistan and the UAE. Approximately 13,240 tonnes of black gram worth \$12.551 million were shipped to India, Pakistan, the UAE,

Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Viet Nam, and Indonesia. Additionally, over 7,900 tonnes of green grams with an estimated value of \$5.08 million were delivered to foreign trade partners through maritime trade, while 102 tonnes of green grams were sent to China through land borders.

Similarly, more than 5,600 tonnes of pigeon peas worth \$5.729 million were sent to India by sea. —TWA/KK



An overseas-going merchant vessel docks at Yangon Port for the loading of export cargoes

Equity market surpasses K1 bln in trading value for January

HE eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) registered a remarkable grand trading value of over K1 billion with 425,102 shares in January 2024, according to the monthly report released by the exchange.

At present, shares of eight listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ



Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are traded in the security market.

The total trading volumes were registered at 13,397 shares of FMI worth K116.8 million, 179,517 shares of MTSH worth K514 million, 549 shares of MCB worth K4.246 million, 145,179 shares of FPB worth over K222.5 million, 1,738 shares of TMH worth K4.338 million, 8,823 shares of EFR worth over K17.07 million, 588 shares of AMATA worth K2.76 million and 75,311 shares of MAEX worth K126.37 million last month.



Signals Corps helps resume communications whenever the country faces state of emergency

The image captures the share indexes displayed on the panel board at Yangon Bourse.

The closing share prices per unit were K8,700 for FMI, K2,900 for MTSH, K8,000 for MCB, K1,550 for FPB, K2,450 for TMH, K1,950 for EFR and K4,700 for AMATA and K1,750 for MAEX in January.

SEE PAGE-4

BUSINESS

NATIONAL



PAGE-



CBM sells US\$11M, 200M Thai baht into financial market on 5 Feb

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



Tachilek Township to host Lahu New Year festival

LAHU villages in Tachilek Township, Shan State (East), will celebrate the New Year festival as usual, according to the Lahu National Literature and Culture Association.

"Traditionally, our people celebrate the new year festival between the 1st and 11th waxing of Tabodwe. Villagers will organize traditional dances daily and welcome the visitors with our cuisines," Chairman of the association U Yae Shel said. The festival will fall around 10 to 20 Tachilek Township is home to over 40 Lahu villages, with Yaypusan Village holding the largest Lahu population. While the youth enjoy dances and feasts, the elders partake in hand-washing ceremonies, symbolizing their hopes for a tranquil and prosperous year ahead.

Other festival highlights include the pine-growing demonstration, pounding khawpoke (dried sticky rice), games of spinning tops, courtship rituals among bachelors, and dodge ball



Travellers seen at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda under arrangements to be involved in the World Heritage Sites.

Myanmar's efforts to secure Kyaiktiyo Pagoda on World Heritage List

MYANMAR is conducting necessary arrangements to enlist the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in UNE-SCO's World Heritage Sites, according to U Aung Naing Moe, Assistant Director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mawlamyine Branch).

"There is a lot of work that the Department of Archaeology and National Museum has to carry out to maintain the ancient and cultural heritage within Mon State. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture will make an effort to include the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda located in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, on the World Heritage List. Ten historical and cultural heritage sites in Mon State are preserved at the national level. The pagodas and stupas located in respective townships are maintained by the township level historical research bodies, pagoda trustees, and archaeological heritage bodies," U Aung Naing Moe said. In addition, the ministry is also making efforts to be able to enlist the Shwedagon Pagoda, Pontaung Ponnya area, and Powintaung on the World Heritage List. Required documents and proposals are submitted to the World Heritage Centre in order to register the designated sites on the World Heritage List.

Eight places rich in cultural and historical values in Myanmar were submitted to

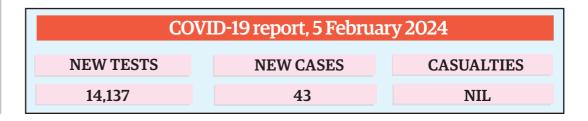
February this year.

matches. — ASH/NT



Lahu traditional dancers entertain the audiences with traditional dances.

UNESCO to be enlisted on the list in 1996. Amongst, three ancient Pyu cities are listed as the world heritage sites in 2014 and the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone was listed in 2019. — ASH/ TMT



Signals Corps helps resume communications whenever the country faces state of emergency



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win observes the display at the booths yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

VICE-SENIOR General Soe Win said the Signals Corps serves its primary duties of not only communications but contributes to the TV transmission sector as well whenever the country faces a state of emergency.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win honoured the brilliant efforts of members of the Signals Corps at the ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Signals Corps Day at Hsinbyushin Hall of the Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander Maj-Gen Saw Than Hlaing and Director of Signals Maj-Gen Tun Tun Oo cut the ribbon to open the Signals Corps Day. The Vice-Senior General unveiled the signboard to mark the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Signals Corps Day and posed for documentary photos with attendees.

In his address, the Vice-Sen-

ior General said the Signals Corps plays a key role in Tatmadaw, but the development process of the Corps built the first-ever Fibre Optic Network of Myanmar in 2001 for military and civilian use with the advancement of the information and communication technology with momentum.

Moreover, he disclosed that those from the Signals Corps are undergoing training with collaborative efforts to successfully launch electronic warfare (EW), which is essential for the current wars. In the incidents when the country faced natural disasters of cyclonic storm Nargis in 2008, cyclonic storm Giri in 2010 and cyclonic storm Mocha in 2023, he recounted that the Signals Corps created communications with utmost efforts amid difficulties in order to ensure a smooth process of supervision over the rescue and relief teams.

He stressed that as the Signals Corps was born in the independence struggle period together with Tatmadaw, serving the interests of the State, nationality and Tatmadaw in successive eras, the Diamond Jubilee Signals Corps has to strive to preserve its fine traditions as a reliable corps of Tatmadaw in the future and has to serve the communication technologies, the lifeblood of Tatmadaw for its long term existence.

In looking back at the history of the Signals Corps, the Vice-Senior General retold that 30 soldiers who returned from Pakistan after attending the communications course in 1937 were based on forming the Burma Signals in Maymyo, now called PyinOoLwin, in 1939.

He highlighted that signals officers and other ranks made utmost efforts to repair the communication devices to resume communications nationwide on 5 February 1949. He added that such a day, the 5th of February in 1949 when the whole Tatmadaw could resume communications, was designated the Signals Corps Day as a significant day.

Officers and other ranks from the Signals Corps accomplished missions and visions during the 75 years and secured the records of winning honorary medals and titles.

Director of Signals Maj-Gen Tun Tun Oo presented a commemorative gift to mark the significant day to the Vice-Senior General.

The Vice-Senior General cordially greeted retired senior signals officers and visited the booths of the corps. — MNA/TTA

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives UNOCHA Head

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Sajjad Mohammad Sajid, Head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on matters related to the facilitation of the provision of humanitarian assistance to needy people in hard-to-reach areas and ways and means for cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and United Nations agencies in the field of humanitarian aid.

Also present at the meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms Danielle Parry and Ms Kyoko Ono, Deputy Heads of Office for UNOCHA. — MNA



The UNOCHA head calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

4

Vocational training centre opens hailing 77th Shan State Day Anniversary

THE opening ceremony of the Shan State Ethnic Community and Vocational Training Centre was organized to mark the 77th Anniversary of Shan State Day, which will fall on 7 February, in Ayethaya of Taunggyi Township yesterday.

It was attended by State Administration Council members Dr Ba Shwe and Khun San Lwin, Union Ministers U Min Thein Zan, Dr Soe Win, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Dr Zheng Zhihong, Deputy Ministers Dr Zaw Myint, Dr Aye Tun and U Zaw Aye Maung, relevant officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, vicechair of Mekong-Lancang Coop-



The inaugural event of the Shan State Ethnic Community and Vocational Training Centre in progress yesterday in Taunggyi.

eration National Coordination Unit (Myanmar), invitees and

ethnic people. After the opening procedures, SAC Member Dr Ba Shwe talked about the centre that was established using the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund and State budget, exchange of ethnic literature, dialogue, artworks and culture and vocational training courses to be provided at the centre aiming at promoting the socioeconomic status of locals in Shan State.

Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung then highlighted the socioeconomic development programmes of the ministry and the benefits of establishing such a vocational training centre.

After the ceremony, the SAC members, Union ministers and guests inspected the four-storey building and met the trainers and trainees of the motorcycle maintenance course. — MNA/ KTZH

Equity market surpasses K1 bln in trading value ...

FROM PAGE-1

The YSX will offer a onemonth online introductory stock investment training course from 10 February to 9 March 2024, with fees of K30,000. The capacity of the trainees is set for 150 persons. Those interested can register through https://ysx-mm.com/ events/001-2024/.

The security market closed out 2023 with an unexpected high of K9.833 billion from 3.575 million shares of the eight listed companies, according to the annual report released by the eigners to invest in the local equity market since 20 March 2020.

The YSX conducts touring programmes to local universities and educational institutes, stock investment webinars and training courses to disseminate rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading among the public. YSX Investment Virtual Series also offers insight talks with listed companies' executives and investment presentations by security companies every weekend at

Counter-argument to false information Misinformation: Tatmadaw airstrike causes casualties, injuries, damage to religious building in Dimawhso, Hsihseng townships

THE malicious media, DVB, has spread false information on social media that some children were killed and wounded in Tatmadaw airstrike in Dimawhso Township on 5 February.

The regional security official claimed that Tatmadaw did not fly over Dimawhso township.

Similarly, Khit Thit media spread misinformation, claiming that the artillery shells and airstrike of Tatmadaw destroyed some buildings of Zawanarama Buddhist learning Centre in Hsihseng Town-



Screenshot validates false claims.

posts using heavy weapons, drones and drop bombs, and

news and disinformation to devastate the State. Therefore,

the true news is published on

exchange.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed for4 pm on YouTube, Facebook, Viber and Telegram platforms of the YSX, along with panel

discussions with experts. - KK

ship on 2 February.

According to the regional security official, the insurgents launched attacks on security

they exploded in Zawanarama Buddhist Learning Centre. The malicious media outlets intentionally spread fake

State-run media agencies and newspaper in a timely manner. — MNA/KTZH

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 255597511 **ADVERTISING & MARKETING** (+95) (01) 8604530, Hotline - 09 251022355 marketing@gnlm.com.mm subscription@gnlm.com.mm Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmnews@gmail.com,

newsroom@gnlm.com.mm

www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter** to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

MoBA UM opens Advanced English Course 1/2024, English Proficiency Course 1/2024

THE opening ceremony of the Advanced English Course 1/2024 and English Proficiency Course 1/2024 was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry's Assembly Hall in the Ministry of Border Affairs to develop the efficiency of the employees under the Minister's Office and departments,

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Permanent Secretary U Thein Htay Oo, the director-general, the deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general, assistant secretaries/directors, service personnel, the training instructor and trainees.

The Union minister first urged the trainees who will



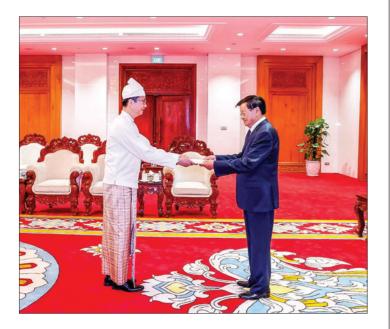
Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung speaks on the opening occassion and observes the courses yesterday.

attend the advanced English course to study and learn to be more outstanding than before based on the essential foundation they have gained from the previous English Proficiency Course 1/2023. He also called on the trainees who will attend the English Proficiency Course to learn and memorize with all their energy and strength, to work hard to become highly qualified and efficient employees, and to make utmost efforts to become good civil servants who will contribute to the country's development.

Afterwards, Training In-

structor U Than Swe gave an explanation about improving English skills and the courses, while the Union minister and officials observed the lecture being given at the courses. — MNA/TS

U Aung Ko presents Credentials to President of Lao People's Democratic Republic



U Aung Ko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Suppliers of arms to PDFs arrested with arms, ammunition

THE terrorist groups CRPH, NUG and their subordinates PDF terrorists and their related organizations and insurgents commit terrorist attacks such as the murder of innocent civilians, including government employees, arson attacks and bombing attacks aiming at deteriorating the government administrative mechanism and imposing threats to the public.

According to the tip-off, the NUG's subordinate Mandalay



PDF and No-More Dictatorship terrorist groups transported the arms and ammunition stored in the gearbox of vehicles to Mandalay from Kya-in-Seikkyi township of Kayin State. On 4 February, Thida Soe (aka) Ma Soe, Toe Nyunt and Kay Khine (aka) Kay Kay were arrested in Aungmyaythazan township together with eight pistols, 16 magazines, one grenade and 300 sorts of bullets.

Suspect Thidar Soe (aka) Ma Soe testified that she met with



another suspect, Myo Min Yan Naing (still at large) of the No-More Dictatorship (NMD) terrorist group while attending a onemonth terrorist training course of KIA in Laiza in April 2022. After the training, she served duties in transporting arms and ammunition for the NMD group in the 14thmile village of Sagaing township together with Kay Khine (aka) Kay Kay and Toe Nyunt. They transported weapons four times from November 2023 to January 2024. The arrested suspects will face legal action under the law. People can participate in fighting terrorism and arresting insurgents as quickly as possible, secretly reporting to the officials about their hiding places and activities. The whistle-blowers and those who help arrest the suspects will be covertly rewarded. - MNA/KTZH

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, presented his Credentials to Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 5 February 2024 at the National Assembly in Vientiane. — MNA

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.



Thida Soe (aka) Ma Soe Toe Nyunt (39) (36) Kay Khine (aka) Kay Kay (39)





Firefighters are extinguishing fire at the Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal. **PHOTO: FSD**

Fire at Aung Mingala coach terminal kills 3 men, destroys some bus stations

ACCORDING to the Department of Fire Services, a fire broke out at the Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal yesterday, resulting in the deaths of three men and the destruction of several bus stations.

The fire ignited at 5 am on 5 February. Fire engines from Mingaladon Township Fire Station, Insein Township Fire Station, North Okkalapa Township Fire Station, Waibagi Fire Station, and local auxiliary fire brigades and social assistance associations assisted in extinguishing the fire.

"The fire reportedly originated from an overheating in the air-cooler at the Golden Eagle bus station, but the exact cause will only be known after the relevant authorities complete their investigation," stated a member of the social assistance association to The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). "Much of the damage was to the goods intended for delivery by the bus line stations, which were destroyed in the fire."

The fire lasted approximately 50 minutes and was controlled by 5:48 am. — TWA/ TKO

Myanmar's tobacco secures good prices in Thailand market

THE farmers reported that a kilogramme of tobacco from Myanmar is priced at 250 baht in the Thai market.

Although the price last year was 200 baht after labour charges, the price has surged this year to 250 baht. Thus, farmers and tobacco growers have gained much profit, said a tobacco farmer from Kayin State, U Hla Myo, to The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Tobacco plants can be grown from seeds in the silt located near creeks and rivers. It takes around two weeks for the seeds to germinate. When germination is complete, each plant must be grown in a hole. Tobacco can be harvested when the plants are six to seven months old and transported to the market after drying.

Currently, more than 35 acres of land are cultivated with tobacco; on average, an acre produces 324 visses of tobacco. Myanmar's tobacco is primarily used for pharmaceutical purposes and as fertilizer in Thailand. The buds of the plants are usually broken when there are nine leaves on a plant to ensure the quality and desired thickness of the leaves. The tobacco plants are harvested after four months of cultivation. The midribs of the harvested leaves are crushed and dried under the sun for three days in the Pyatho month or four days in the Tabodwe month. The dried tobacco leaves are stored together by binding them with thin bamboo strips.

Although tobacco is less popular among Myanmar people, it has medicinal benefits. Domestic cigar businesses use a lot of tobacco, and it is also used as an antiseptic for curing skin irritations. — TWA/TMT



The photo shows a tobacco plantation.



Workers are seen loading cargo onto a vessel at Mandalay port.

Commodities transported to Yangon, Bhamo and other cities by 117 vessels in Jan

IN January 2024, commodities were transported to Yangon, Bhamo and other cities by 117 vessels from Mandalay port, according to the Department of Marine Administration (Mandalay Region).

The 117 vessels from Mandalay port transported 46,341.86 tonnes of cement, 59,807.7 tonnes of corn, 500 pebble pits, 470 slices of tile, 103.5 tonnes of salt and 9,469.3 tonnes of sugar to various locations last month.

Due to the current increase in cargo at Mandalay port, the department has issued a direction not to load more than the specified tonnage of the vessels.

"Vessel operators need to consult with the navigational signs erected in the water and onshore to ensure safety," said an official from the Department of Marine Administration (Mandalay Region). — TWA/TKO

48 types of jobs set to be evaluated in 2024-2025FY

A total of 48 types of jobs are expected to be inspected and assessed in the 2024-2025 financial year, said U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Labour.

He said this at the National Skills Standards Authority (NS-SA)'s National Skills Certification Ceremony was held on 2 February. NSSA serves as the focal point, and 5,000 respondents for 48 types of jobs are scheduled to be screened and evaluated in the financial year 2024-2025.

There were 27,428 respondents in 40 occupations, and 25,114 were recognized as skilled workers from 2014 to January 2024. A total of 5,774 workers were examined and evaluated for 28 types of jobs, exceeding the financial year 2022-2023 target. In the 2023-2024 financial year, 3,500 workers were targeted for inspection and evaluation. So far, there have been 2,735 respondents for 29 types of jobs, and 2,534 qualified workers were recognized as skilled workers.— TWA/KZL



The NSSA official presents an excellent award certificate during the award ceremony.

7 NATIONAL BUSINESS

Black gram, pigeon pea prices rally in bull market

THE pulses market sees a sustained increase in black gram and pigeon pea prices, breaking the previous record highs.

The black gram price has been on an upward trend since the last week of January. It hit a high of K3.402 million per tonne on 2 February and a fresh new peak of K3.5 million per tonne on 5 February.

Similarly, the pigeon pea prices peaked at K4.197 million per tonne on 5 February, surpassing the previous record high of K4.15 million per tonne registered on 8 September 2023.

The robust demand and rise in FOB prices pushed up the price.

Myanmar shipped over 1.277 million tonnes of various pulses worth over US\$1 billion over the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce



Traders are evaluating beans and pulses at the Mandalay market.

stated.

The pulses exported last FY 2022-2023 generated an income of \$1.47 billion from 1.9 million

tonnes. Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Black gram and pigeon peas are shipped mainly 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.

Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly cultivated only in Myanmar. In contrast, pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM

CBM sells US\$11M, 200M Thai baht into financial market on 5 Feb



A staff is counting greenbacks at the authorized money exchange counter.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected US\$11 million and 200 million Thai baht into the financial market on 5 Feb- 313.5 million Thai baht and 4.2

Thai baht and K490 per Chinese vuan.

The CBM sold \$68.33 million,

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price shows downtick

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set a bit lower to K5,275 per viss during the week from 5 to 12 February than that of the previous week ending 4 February, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The figures reflected a slight decrease of K105 per viss this week.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has closely observed the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the weekly wholesale market reference rate for edible oil.



Palm oil is organized for sale at the shop

ruary 2024.

The CBM sold \$13 million on 1 February in the forex market and five million dollars and 50 million Thai baht on an online trading platform for the exporters/importers on 2 February, totalling \$29 million and 250 million Thai baht within five days.

The reference exchange rate set by the CBM is K2,100 against a US dollar, while it was valued at approximately K3,500 at the over-the-counter market. The exchange rates are K99 per

million Chinese yuan in January 2024. It also injected \$22.15 million into the fuel oil sector in December 2023.

The CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online forex trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand. Additionally, the outward remittance procedures must comply with the rules and reg-

ulations specified by the Foreign

Exchange Supervisory Commit-

tee. - NN/EM

Nevertheless, the market price is way higher than the reference price.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the

call centre's hotline in August. The department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to consumers in coordination with the Myanmar **Edible Oil Dealers Association** and oil importing companies. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of

the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. Approximately 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported yearly through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. -NN/EM

OPINION

Keep Myanmar society free from rabies in 2030

MYANMAR is steadfastly working towards a rabies-free society by 2030, intensifying control measures to ensure that no lives are claimed by this deadly disease within the country. The nation has outlined a comprehensive national plan spanning from 2018 to 2030, specifically targeting the reduction of rabies incidents in dogs.

Executing the One Health Strategy, mass vaccination campaigns against dog rabies are currently in progress in key areas such as Lewe township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, NyaungU township in Mandalay Region, and Hmawby township in Yangon Region. While dogs are commonly associated with rabies, it's crucial to recognize that other animals, like cats

Responsibility lies not only with authorities but also with the citizens of Myanmar. Pet owners and those caring for vagrant dogs must proactively seek timely treatments for their animals, preventing the potential transmission of the rabies virus. Only through such collective efforts can society achieve freedom from the scourge of rabies, ensuring the safety and survival of all its members.

and bats, can also transmit the virus through atmospheric bacteria. Therefore, a paramount focus should be on implementing control measures for rabies across our society's entire spectrum of animals.

Rabies poses a severe threat to human life, with one person succumbing to the disease every 15 minutes globally, as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO). The annual toll reaches between 55,000 and 70,000 lives, with the majority of deaths concentrated in impoverished villages in Asian and African nations.

Like many other regions, Myanmar grapples with a substantial population of vagrants and pet dogs. Given the difficulty in discerning whether vagrant dogs and cats carry the rabies virus, authorities must arrange annual rabies vaccinations for these animals to safeguard the well-being of society's children and adults. Furthermore, health units should be equipped to provide immediate treatment, including vaccines, for individuals facing dog bite problems.

Responsibility lies not only with authorities but also with the citizens of Myanmar. Pet owners and those caring for vagrant dogs must proactively seek timely treatments for their animals, preventing the potential transmission of the rabies virus. Only through such collective efforts can society achieve freedom from the scourge of rabies, ensuring the safety and survival of all its members.

The historical contribution of grateful scientist Louis Pasteur and his team in developing the first rabies vaccine in 1885 is noteworthy. The ongoing efforts of scientists and medical experts in refining these vaccines serve as a testament to human dedication to public health. Gratitude towards Pasteur and his team is perpetual, and it is incumbent upon present and future generations to take the initiative in safeguarding themselves against rabies, fostering a society free from the affliction by 2030.

HE state is the "absolute owner" of Land in Myanmar; citizens do not hold absolute property rights. Land ownership and land use in Myanmar are regulated under various laws depending on whether the land is designed: grant land, freehold land, permit land, urban area land, forest land, farmland, or fallow land.

Chain of title is the ownership history of a piece of land, from its first owner to the present one. The ownership history of commercial paper is traceable through the endorsements. Every prior negotiation must have been proper for the holder to have a good title. If a necessarv endorsement is missing or forged, the chain of title is broken, and no later transferee can become a holder. (Black's Law Dictionary, Second Pocket Edition)

Real estate includes the land and anything fixed, immovable or permanently attached to it, such as buildings, walls, fixtures, improvements, roads, trees, shrubs, fences, sewers, structures and utility systems.

The "chain of title" in real estate is associated with the complete and unbroken history of ownership for a particular property. Chain of title includes the transfers of ownership from the original owner to the present owner, transferring all the documents, deeds, and other instruments which have conveyed legal or equitable interest in the real estate property.

The chain of title is an essential concept in real estate law, governing the ownership history and rights associated with properties, deeds, liens, and easements. The chain of title concerns to the sequential arrangement of historical records and legal instruments which establishes the historical records of ownership for a particular property.

Clear and unbroken titles

The term "bundle of rights" refers to a package of legal advantages granted to a real estate purchase that covers all they may and cannot do with the property as its owner.

Titles are phrases which introduce the topic of the entire document. Titles should be easy to understand and address the subject of the entire document.

Titles are described at the top of the first page on short documents or on a separate title page in longer documents.

Title is the union of all elements (as ownership, possession, and custody) constituting the legal right to control and dispose of property, the legal link between a person who owns property and the property itself. Legal evidence of a person's ownership rights in property; an instrument (such as a deed) that constitutes such evidence, record your title with the county clerk. (Black's Law Dictionary, Ninth Edition)

A legal title is a title that evidences apparent ownership but does not necessarily signify a full and complete title or a beneficial interest. (Black's Law Dictionary, Ninth Edition)

A legal title gives absolute ownership of a property, while an equitable title does not. An equitable title only gives an individual the right to enjoy the benefits of ownership. A legal title also gives the owner the right to transfer ownership, which the equitable title does not.

An equitable title is a title that indicates a beneficial interest in the property, and that gives the holder the right to acquire a formal legal title. (Black's Law Dictionary, Ninth Edition)

An equitable title can be defined as the rights a person or an individual enjoys and the benefits that come with property ownership despite not being the legal titleholders.

Equitable and legal title similarities include that they grant certain rights to individ-

uals Whose names appear on the deed, and both are legally binding and can be enforced in a court.

by a title firm when you buy a home. The chain of the title search is investigated as part Title deeds of this procedure to confirm ownership, discover liens, and ensure that judgments and fines have been paid.

The history of ownership of real property helps to build a chain of title to a piece of real estate

When buying, selling or licensing real estate property rights, be sure to make sure the chain of title is clean and



Obtaining a clear and unbroken title is crucial when purchasing a home, and the associated legal document, the title document, outlines key details about property ownership. ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ PIXABAY

Chain of title in real estate

unbroken

Chain of ownership documents are paperwork discovered in public land records that identify the current property owner.

A chain of title document establishes a history of ownership of a specific property. This is important because it helps avoid confusion over who owns the property and can come in A title search is completed handy if ownership of your property is ever challenged

A certificate of title is an official state or municipal-issued document that identifies the owner(s) of personal or real property. A certificate of title provides documentary evidence of the right of ownership.

The promissory note, mortgage/deed of trust, and deed are all chain of title documents that affect a person's ownership rights. These are the docu-

mentation that title agents and laws that specify what an indilawyers evaluate for possible vidual or business can do with title flaws before a real estate their property. transaction

Also known as deeds, transfer documents record the transfer of ownership. They describe the property in detail and convey the real estate from the grantor or seller to the grantee or buver.

A deed is a written statement that transfers title (ownership) or interests in the property to another individual in real movable property. estate.

A few additional documents take part in creating a chain of title. The deed is a written document that's used to transfer ownership of the property to someone else.

A chain of title is updated over the years. This chain will grow whenever the property title is transferred to a new owner.

ARTICLE

By Kyaw Kyaw (Judicial Officer)

Valid Contract

A valid contract creates legal relations and complete and unbroken ownership of property or clear title.

For a contract to be valid and enforceable by law, it must create a clear and unbroken chain of title. Legal title confers the right to recover specific im-

A person entitled to the possession of the specific immovable property may recover it in the manner prescribed by the Code of Civil Procedure. (Section 8 of the Specific Relief Act)

Any person entitled to any legal character or to any right as to any property may institute a suit against any person denying or interested in deny-Property rights are a set of ing their title to such charac-

ter or right. The Court may, at its discretion, make therein a declaration that he is so entitled, and the plaintiff need not in such suit ask for any further relief. (Section 42 of the Specific Relief Act)

The chain of title confers the following numerous advantages: (1) Ensuring Legal Ownership: The establishment of a valid chain of title. (2) Facilitating Real Estate Transactions: (3) Establishing and maintaining an unbroken and precise sequence of ownership records. (3) Protecting Property Rights: A chain of title that is strong and resilient shall serve as a safeguard for property owners, shielding them from any unjustified disputes.

Legal framework

The government has a legal framework that provides and enforces property rights. Individuals can acquire property rights only through mutually agreed-upon transactions.

"Transfer of property" means an act by which a living person conveys property, in present or in future, to one or more other living persons, or to himself or to himself and one or more other living persons, and "to transfer property" is to perform such Act. (Section 5 of the Transfer of Property Act)

Mode of Transfer: The Transfer of Property Act also specifies which modes of transfer are valid and which are not. The modes of transfer recognized by the Act include sale, gift, mortgage, and lease. Any other form of transfer is not legally recognized.

Delivery of Possession: The Transfer of Property Act requires that property transfer include possession delivery. It means the transferor must give the transferee physical possession of the property. This requirement is essential for the validity of the transfer and must be met for the transfer to be legally recognized.

The Transfer of Property law is applicable to the property transfer from one person to another. It specifies the legal requirements for such transfers and provides for both parties' rights and liabilities. Property transfer can be in the form of a sale, gift, mortgage, or lease.

According to Section 5 of

the Transfer of Property Act, a transaction of a live person transferring property to one or more living individuals, himself, and other living persons is considered a property transfer. The phrase "assignment" can refer to selling a home, transferring a mortgage or other property right, or assigning a debt. This transfer must take place at a time when the property is in existence. Companies, organizations, and other groups of people are all included in the definition of "living person," omitting only the specific laws that apply to such entities.

Where, on a transfer of property, an interest therein is created in favour of a person without specifying the time when it is to take effect or in terms specifying that it is to take effect forthwith or on the happening of an event which must happen, such interest is vested unless a contrary intention appears from the terms of the transfer. (Section 19 of the Transfer of Property Act)

Unless a different intention is expressed or necessarily implied, a transfer of property passes forthwith to the transferee all the interest which the transferor is then capable of passing in the property and in the legal incidents thereof. Such incidents include, where the property is land, the easements annexed thereto, the rents and profits thereof accruing after the transfer, and all things attached to the earth; and, where the property is machinery attached to the earth, the moveable parts thereof; and, where the property is a house, the easements annexed thereto, the rent thereof accruing after the transfer, and the locks, keys, bars, doors, windows, and all other things provided for permanent use therewith; and, where the property is a debt or other actionable claim, the securities therefor (except where they are also for other debts or claims not transferred to the transferee), but no arrears of interest accrued before the transfer; and, where the property is money or other property, yielding income, the interest or income thereof accruing after the transfer takes effect. (Section 8 of the Transfer of Property Act)

The Transfer of Property

Act 1882 is a crucial law regulating the transfer of movable and immovable property from one person to another. It's a crucial law since it protects the integrity of property sales and purchases. The Act aims to establish a sound legal basis for the transfer of ownership and to spell out the steps for the transfer to be recognized by the law.

The Transfer of Property law safeguards the rights of all parties involved in a real estate transaction, from the seller to the buyer. Also, the Act aids in safeguarding the rights of all parties to a real estate deal. It provides legal protection against dishonest dealings and guarantees that all business is conducted openly and honestly.

It is crucial to follow the relevant succession acts and probate procedures to ensure a clean, legally sound transfer of property rights.

Importance of chain of title in real estate

When you purchase any type of home, you must be able to obtain a clear and unbroken title that you shall own the home, which is why the title document is essential. This legal document specifies the most important details about your ownership of the property.

Deed validation can estab lish a clear and marketable title. reducing the risk of future disputes or complications.

The chain of title develops through the years. The chain grows each time the title gets transferred to a new owner.

The chain of title plays a significant role in real estate transfer

The chain of title is a critical concept in real estate that provides the historical conveyance of ownership for real estate. Establishing a clear and unbroken chain of title is essential for ensuring marketable title and promoting the integrity of property ownership. So, we should establish a clear and unbroken chain of title, and we can promote the real estate market.

I would like to present an understanding that the chain of title is essential in real estate transactions as it provides a clear and unbroken real estate ownership

10

Restoration efforts for ancient water reservoirs in Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone

AUTHORITIES have commenced maintenance works on ancient water reservoirs such as Shwehtee Pond and Swetaw Myotaw Pond in the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch).

The reservoirs played a crucial role in the water distribution system of the Bagan Kingdom. Engineers are currently endeavouring to revitalize the distribution networks through dredging and cleaning operations in key locations, including Shwehtee Pond (located east of Bagan Hmyaw Pagoda), Swetaw Myotaw Pond (situated between Culamani and Dhammayangyi temples), and an unnamed pond (positioned south of the Anawrahta Road).

They will also elevate the embankments and reconnect the water routes. The maintenance works, including producing a topographic map, began on 24 January.

Likewise, efforts to elevate embankments, construct spillways, and dredge water canals have been undertaken at မြေဘုံသာဘုရားလှအစုမြောက်ဘက်ရှိရှေးဟောင်းရေကန်၊ရွှေထီးကန်နှင့်ဆွေတော်မျိုးတော်ကန်တို့၏ တည်နေရာပြမြေပုံ



The map of ancient water reservoirs vital in the Bagan-era water distribution system.

Alanpagan (Alanpya) Pond, Alel (Mayoe) Pond, and Nyunlettaphet Pond. The three reservoirs can store up to

458 acre-feet of water. Plans are underway to renovate an additional 11 ancient reservoirs, as they can help prevent flooding of ancient religious buildings during heavy rain.

Director U Kyaw Myo Win of the department said: "Our studies show ancient Bagan people relied more on rainwater than the Ayeyawady River. They made ways for the water cascading from the MtPopa to flow into Mya Lake near the Tuyin Range. Then, the reservoirs, drains and spillways along the villages all the way to the royal moat indicate that ancient Bagan people utilized rainwater for social, agricultural, and religious needs."

The department consulted with experts from Trent University in Canada over the Bagan-era water management system of Katat Pond and Nat Pond near the Tuyin Range. Additionally, officials collaborated with hydrologist Dr Massimo Sarti three times.

The department's water network surveys date back to 2015. The experts conducted field studies and grading of reservoirs to cross-check the ancient water networks back in November 2023. — ASH/NT

MSF assists seafarers and families, regardless of membership status

REGARDLESS of membership or non-membership, the Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF) has assisted seafarers and their families in dealing with difficulties they have encountered, said MSF president Captain U Soe Min Aung.

He said that if seafarers and their families have difficulties, MSF has opened the door to welcome them and consult. "Whother they are our

"Whether they are our

"There is an ongoing case that a seafarer died, but no compensation was received. We had mediated with the department and regional representative for not receiving compensation but didn't reach a settlement. Therefore, we have helped his family, who will file a lawsuit," he said.

About five cases are left to be settled by litigation, he said. "We don't want to do things

Yangon's Chinese Culture Centre hosts Chinese Lunar New Year opening ceremony

THE Chinese Culture Centre reported that the opening ceremony of the Chinese New Year and the Spring Festival took place at the Chinese Culture Centre in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region, on 4 February.

The Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and the Chinese Culture Centre organized the event. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Chen Hai, inaugurated it. Chinese citizens residing in Myanmar and those of Chinese descent born in Myanmar also attended the festival. During the event, attendees were treated to a video introduction to the joyous Chinese New Year Festival and performances of the dragon dance, lion dance, and traditional Myanmar dances.



members or non-members, any seaman or their families can come to meet us if they are facing difficulties. We have opened the door. They can come to consult us any time," he said.

MSF has assisted in settling problems through faceto-face negotiations, and if the talks can't reach a compromise, it has helped them to find a solution by proceedings, he said. that must be settled in court. We prefer to find a solution through negotiations between the two parties.

"We mediate between them without taking charge but sacrificing time, human resources, and finances. But

resources, and finances. But sometimes, there are cases in which no settlement is reached. It is necessary to proceed to be settled in court. It is not good for both parties," said Captain U Soe Min Aung. — MT/ZS

Visitors had the opportunity to view a photo exhibition



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein remarks at the opening event on 4 February 2024.

on the "Flavour of Chinese New Year Festival", watch short video clips titled "Spring is Coming", and participate in hands-on experiences of Chinese intangible cultural heritage such as tie-dyeing and paper-cutting.

Additionally, visitors could enjoy the lantern enigma and participate in Chinese traditional sports such as badminton and archery. Prize-giving ceremonies were also part of the programme. Ancient Chinese traditional costumes were on display, and photo opportunities were available. Dumplings and other traditional Chinese foods were served at the event. — ASH/ TMT

WORLD

11

Indonesia economic growth slows in 2023

INDONESIA'S economic growth slowed last year owing to weak exports driven by lower commodity prices, official data showed Monday.

Southeast Asia's largest economy expanded 5.05 per cent, slightly above government projections but down from 5.3 per cent in 2022, Statistics Indonesia said.

Fourth-quarter growth came in at 5.04 per cent, marginally better than the same period in 2022.

Domestic consumption was the key driver for the economy, offsetting lagging exports, said acting Statistics Indonesia head Amalia Adininggar Widyasanti.

"The main contributor to the GDP (growth) ... included household consumption, which grew

4.82 per cent," Widyasanti told reporters, adding that investment also grew.

Exports were up just 1.32 per cent on-year, while imports contracted 1.65 per cent, the data showed.

And economists warned of a further slowdown in growth in the coming months as Jakarta tightens monetary policy and commodity demand continues to weaken.

"Our forecast that growth in advanced economies will struggle and that commodity prices will remain subdued suggests that exports will stay weak," said Ankita Amajuri at Capital Economics.

"We think the economy is set to struggle over the coming quarters." - AFP

A clothe vendor waits for customers at a market in Surabaya on 31 January 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Aerial view of the forest fire that affects the hills of the city of Viña del Mar in the Las Pataguas sector, Chile, taken on 3 February 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Wildfires scorch central Chile, death toll tops 110

THE death toll from central Chile's blazing wildfires climbed to at least 112 people on Sunday, after President Gabriel Boric warned the number would rise "significantly" as teams search gutted neighbourhoods.

Responders continued to battle fires in the coastal tourist region of Valparaiso amid an intense summer heat wave, with temperatures soaring to 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) over the weekend.

Abraham Mardones, a welder who fled his burning home in Vina del Mar, told AFP he narrowly escaped the fast-paced inferno that raged over a hillside Friday and through several

blocks of the seaside city.

"We looked out again and the fire was already on our walls. It took only 10 minutes. The entire hill burned," he said.

"The fire consumed everything - memories, comforts, homes. I was left with nothing but my overalls and a pair of sneakers that were given to me as a gift," Mardones told AFP. "I could only rescue my dog."

Upon his return on Sunday, he said he found several neighbours who had died in the flames.

Friends passed by driving a truck "carrying the burned bodies of their brother, their father, their daughter".

The Interior Ministry said late Sunday that the medical examiner's office had received 112 dead victims, 32 of whom have been identified, and that there are 40 fires still active in the country.

Speaking earlier in Quilpue, a devastated hillside community near Vina del Mar, Boric had said the death toll was 64 but "we know it is going to increase significantly," adding it was the country's deadliest disaster since a 2010 earthquake and tsunami that killed 500 people.

Vina del Mar mayor Macarena Ripamonti told reporters "190 people are still missing" in the city.—AFP

Researchers find new treatment for aggressive breast cancer



RESEARCHERS have found a new drug that can successfully inhibit the growth of the most aggressive form of breast cancer, a study showed on Monday.

A pre-clinical study led by the University of Adelaide has been considered an exciting development in the battle against triple negative breast cancer, which is the most aggressive form of the disease, said Theresa Hickey, a breast cancer expert at the University of Ad-

elaide's Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Laboratories.

The results of this study, according to tests in animals, cells and tissue, show that this drug could hold the key to improving survival rates, as there is currently no treatment that specifically targets this type of breast cancer, with chemotherapy and immunotherapy being the only options.

The drug is designed to be taken orally and works by targeting a specific protein in the cancerous tumour called CDK9, which speeds up cell growth, Hickey said, adding it effectively stops cancer in its tracks by inhibiting this protein.

"Our pre-clinical study shows that the drug was able to stop the tumour cells from multiplying but did not affect the normal cells in breast tissue taken from patients," she said. Published in global cancer journal Oncogene, the collaborative study also involved Prof Wang Shudong at the University of South Australia, who developed the drug (CDDD11-8) for the treatment of acute myeloid leukaemia, which has also been used as a potent, selective, and orally bioactive CDK9 inhibitor for cancer therapy, according to Wang.

The drug needs further development before it can progress to human trials, hopefully within the next five years, if not sooner, Hickey said, adding researchers also plan to conduct future trials to explore if this potential therapy could be used to treat other types of breast cancer.

About 2,500 women are diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer each year in Australia, which occurs more frequently in younger women and has a higher rate of relapse within five years and a higher mortality rate than other breast cancers. — Xinhua

12 ECONOMY WORLD/ AD

BRI-backed economic zone in Cambodia records 34.8% rise in trade volume in 2023

THE value of imports and exports passing through the Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone (SSEZ) in Cambodia reached 3.36 billion US dollars in 2023, a year-on-year increase of 34.8 per cent, the zone operator said in a recent statement.

Jointly ventured by Chinese and Cambodian investors, the SSEZ is a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"The trade volume through the SSEZ accounted for approximately 7.18 per cent of Cambodia's total trade volume," the statement said.

The 11-square-kilometre economic zone has attracted a cumulative investment of 2.27 billion dollars, accommodat-



A man works at the General Tyre Technology (Cambodia) factory in the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) in Sihanoukville, Cambodia on 21 November 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

ing a total of 180 enterprises ed States, Southeast Asia and from China, Europe, the Unitother countries and regions,

creating about 30,000 jobs for local people.

Sok Siphana, a senior minister and chairman emeritus of the Board of Directors of the Asian Vision Institute, said that the SSEZ, together with other major BRI projects, have significantly promoted Cambodia's economic development and connectivity.

"The construction of multiple industrial parks such as Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone, and the capital increase and production expansion of car tire and cement plants have improved the level of industrialization in Cambodia and created a large number of jobs and tax revenues for the country," he told Xinhua in a recent inter-

view.

Neak Chandarith, director of the Cambodia 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Research Centre, said the SSEZ is located near the deep-water Sihanoukville Autonomous Port, which is convenient for trade between Cambodia and the rest of the world.

"The SSEZ has contributed to boosting Cambodia's economic growth," he told Xinhua on Monday.

"This industrial zone, along with other BRI projects, has been playing an important role in helping Cambodia achieve its ambitious goals of becoming an upper-middle income country by 2030 and a high-income nation by 2050." — Xinhua

Myann [According to Section 147 and Rule 9 and 15 ALPHA SOLAR	y Winding Up of the Company under nar Insolvency Law Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and 5 of the Insolvency Rules] POWER MYINGYAN LTD. 'he Company'')	
The General Meeting of the ALPHA S	SOLAR POWER MYINGYAN LTD. was held on	T
	al Meeting and resolved the followings:	th
	YINGYAN LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily	
according to the Insolvency La	I 1	
	b. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator	
	the power to the extent to carry out all procedures	
regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.		
Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from ALPHA SOLAR POWER		
MYINGYAN LTD. shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before		
2 March 2024.	-	
U Aung Nay Myo	Mrs. SHU QIANLAN	
Advocate (No. 17955)	Director	
Liquidator	(Authorized Person)	
Ph No. – 09952211180	ALPHA SOLAR POWER MYINGYAN LTD.	
		_
	y Winding Up of the Company under	
	har Insolvency Law	
[According to Section 147 and	Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and	

In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules] **BUDDHAKONE SLP LTD.** ("The Company")

e General Meeting of the BUDDHAKONE SLP LTD. was held on 2 February 2024 rough Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings:

- 1. "BUDDHAKONE SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law.
- 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.

erefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from **BUDDHAKONE SLP LTD**. all be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.

U Aung Nay Myo	Mrs. SHU QIANLAN
Advocate (No. 17955)	Director
Liquidator	(Authorized Person)
Ph No 09952211180	BUDDHAKONE SLP LTD.

In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules] CHAUNGKU SLP LTD.

CHAUK SLP LTD. ("The Company")

Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules]

The General Meeting of the CHAUK SLP LTD. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings:

- 1. "CHAUK SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law.
- 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.

Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from CHAUK SLP LTD. shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.

U Aung Nay Myo	Mrs. SHU QIANLAN
Advocate (No. 17955)	Director
Liquidator	(Authorized Person)
Ph No 09952211180	CHAUK SLP LTD.

("The Company")

The General Meeting of the CHAUNGKU SLP LTD. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings:

- 1. "CHAUNGKU SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law.
- 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.

Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from CHAUNGKU SLP LTD. shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.

> U Aung Nay Myo Advocate (No. 17955) Liquidator Ph No. - 09952211180

Mrs. SHU OIANLAN Director (Authorized Person) CHAUNGKU SLP LTD

13 BIZ WORLD/ AD

Toyota to continue partial production halt until Friday amid scandal

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Monday it will extend a partial suspension of production in Japan through Friday as it has still been unable to ship some cars due to a data rigging scandal at an

affiliated diesel engine supplier.

The suspension of six production lines at four of its factories in central Japan will remain in place after the transport ministry ordered a shipment ban on certain engines produced at Toyota Industries Corp.

The production halt affecting popular models such as the Land Cruiser and the Hiace was earlier scheduled until Monday. The automaker will decide on Thursday whether it can resume production from 12 February, it said.

The lines have been stopped since Toyota Industries admitted

in late January it had fabricated the data on diesel engines it makes and supplies for the automaker, resulting in a shipment halt of 10 Toyota models sold globally. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (109N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (109N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-2-2024 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

In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules] KYUNGCHAUNG SLP LTD. ("The Company")

The General Meeting of the **KYUNGCHAUNG SLP LTD**. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings:

1. "KYUNGCHAUNG SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law.

2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.

Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from **KYUNGCHAUNG SLP LTD**. shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.

U Aung Nay Myo	Mrs. SHU QIANLAN
Advocate (No. 17955)	Director
Liquidator	(Authorized Person)
Ph No 09952211180	KYUNGCHAUNG SLP LTD

In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules] MYANMAR SLP INVESTMENT LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0314-763N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0314-763N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-2-2024 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

Agent For:

Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE.,LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ALAHAS VOY.NO. (213)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALAHAS VOY.NO. (213)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules]

MINHLA SLP LTD.

("The Company")

The General Meeting of the **MINHLA SLP LTD**. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings:

- 1. "MINHLA SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law.
- 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.

Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from **MINHLA SLP LTD**. shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.

U Aung Nay Myo	Mrs. SHU QIANLAN	
Advocate (No. 17955)	Director	
Liquidator	(Authorized Person)	
Ph No 09952211180	MINHLA SLP LTD	

In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules] NGAPYAWDINE SLP LTD.

("The Company")		("The (Company")
 The General Meeting of the MYANMAR SLP INVESTMENT LTD. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings: 1. "MYANMAR SLP INVESTMENT LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law. 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets 		 The General Meeting of the NGAPYAWDINE SLP LTD. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings: 1. "NGAPYAWDINE SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law. 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets 	
of the Company. Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from MYANMAR SLP INVESTMENT LTD . shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.		of the Company. Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from NGAPYAWDINE SLP LTD. shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.	
U Aung Nay Myo Advocate (No. 17955) Liquidator Ph No. – 09952211180	Mrs. SHU QIANLAN Director (Authorized Person) MYANMAR SLP INVESTMENT LTD	U Aung Nay Myo Advocate (No. 17955) Liquidator Ph No. – 09952211180	Mrs. SHU QIANLAN Director (Authorized Person) NGAPYAWDINE SLP LTD.



In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules] OAKSHITPIN SLP LTD. ("The Company")

The General Meeting of the **OAKSHITPIN SLP LTD**. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings:

- 1. "OAKSHITPIN SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law.
- 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.

Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from **OAKSHITPIN SLP LTD**. shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.

U Aung Nay Myo	Mrs. SHU QIANLAN
Advocate (No. 17955)	Director
Liquidator	(Authorized Person)
Ph No 09952211180	OAKSHITPIN SLP LTD

In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules] SHWEDAUNG SLP LTD. ("The Company")

The General Meeting of the **SHWEDAUNG SLP LTD**. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings:

- 1. "SHWEDAUNG SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law.
- 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.

Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from **SHWEDAUNG SLP LTD**. shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.

U Aung Nay Myo	Mrs. SHU QIANLAN
Advocate (No. 17955)	Director
Liquidator	(Authorized Person)
Ph No 09952211180	SHWEDAUNG SLP LTD

In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules] THARZI SLP LTD.

("The Company")

The General Meeting of the **THARZI SLP LTD**. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings:

- 1. "THARZI SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law.
- 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.

Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from **THARZI SLP LTD**. shall be read an elaimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 Marsh 2024.

New international airport opens in northern Laos

A newly-built international airport in Tonpheung district in northern Laos' Bokeo province officially opened on Monday, with an expected capacity to handle about two million passengers a year. al Airport was held at the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (GTSEZ) in Bokeo province, some 350 kilometres northwest of the Lao capital Vientiane, Lao Army Television reported on Monday. Minister Sonexay Siphandone and Governor of Bokeo Province Buakhong Nammavong, along with senior leaders and relevant officials.

The passenger terminal is expected to process more than two million passengers a year. — Xinhua

The opening ceremony of Bokeo Internationattended by Lao Prime

Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticide registered by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) is transferring from MARGA MIN Company Limited to Farm Link Co., Ltd. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within two weeks.

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Reg.	Reg No.
1.	ERASE 500 EC	Pretilachlor 500 g/l EC	Full	F2018-1592

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch). Room 209, Rangoun Business Centre; No. 97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tele: 09-5145328

In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules] SHWEMYO SLP LTD. ("The Company")

The General Meeting of the **SHWEMYO SLP LTD**. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings:

- 1. "SHWEMYO SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law.
- 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.

Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from **SHWEMYO SLP LTD**. shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.

U Aung Nay Myo	Mrs. SHU QIANLAN		
Advocate (No. 17955)	Director		
Liquidator	(Authorized Person)		
Ph No 09952211180	SHWEMYO SLP LTD		

In the Matter of Voluntary Winding Up of the Company under Myanmar Insolvency Law [According to Section 147 and Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules] THEPHYU SLP LTD.

paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.

U Aung Nay Myo Advocate (No. 17955) Liquidator Ph No. – 09952211180 Mrs. SHU QIANLAN Director (Authorized Person) THARZI SLP LTD

Advertise with us/ Hot Line:

09251022355, 09255597511

("The Company")

The General Meeting of the **THEPHYU SLP LTD**. was held on 2 February 2024 through Online Virtual Meeting and resolved the followings:

- 1. "THEPHYU SLP LTD." shall be wound up voluntarily according to the Insolvency Law.
- 2. Advocate U Aung Nay Myo (No. 17955) shall be appointed as the official liquidator of the Company and shall have the power to the extent to carry out all procedures regarding with the voluntarily winding up of the Company and to liquidate the assets of the Company.

Therefore, it is announced that the assets and liability from **THEPHYU SLP LTD**. shall be paid or claimed from the aforementioned liquidator before 2 March 2024.

U Aung Nay Myo Advocate (No. 17955) Liquidator Ph No. – 09952211180 Mrs. SHU QIANLAN Director (Authorized Person) THEPHYU SLP LTD

SPORTS

New York selected to host 2026 FIFA World Cup final

THE 2026 World Cup final will be held at MetLife Stadium in New York/ New Jersey, organizers FIFA announced on Sunday.

The New York bid held off a strong challenge from Dallas to secure the 19 July game, the culmination of the expanded 48-team tournament being co-hosted by the USA, Canada and Mexico.

The competition will

kickoff with the opening game at Mexico City's iconic Azteca Stadium on 11 June.

"The most inclusive and impactful FIFA World Cup ever is no longer a dream but a reality that will take shape in the form of 104 matches in 16 state-of-the-art stadiums across Canada, Mexico and the USA," said FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

"From the opening

tadio Azteca to the spectacular final in New York New Jersey, players and fans have been at the core of our extensive planning for this game-changing tournament... that will not only set new records but also leave an indelible legacy."

match at the iconic Es-

Atlanta and Dallas will host the semi-finals while the third-place game will be played in Miami. — AFP

OBITUARY

Daw Onma Maw Age 90 Director, Shambhala Co., Ltd Librarian (Rtd), National Library B.Sc., Rangoon University

Postgraduate Diploma in Taxidermy, Smithsonian Institute, USA

Beloved youngest daughter of Nainggandaw Adipadi (Dr. Ba Maw) & (Daw Khin Ma Ma Maw), daughter-in-law of Attorney General and Justice (U Chan Htoon) & (Daw Khin Khin Thein), wife of (U Ye Htoon (Roland Chan Htoon)), mother of Daw Yuza Maw Htoon & Dr. Phone Win, (Ko Ogga Maw Htoon), grandmother of Ma Hai Thi & Ko Zwe Lynn Ngwe, Ko Phone Maw Htoon, sister of (Daw Tinsa Maw Naing) & (Bo Yan Naing), (UZarli Maw), (Dr. Malar Maw), (Daw Thida Maw) & (Mr. William Sturtevant), U Ba Nya Maw & Daw Kyu Kyu, (U Neta Maw) & (Daw Aye Aye Thein), has passed away peacefully on Sunday, at 9:09 PM 4th February 2024 at No. 53, Pyay Road, 6¹/₂ Miles, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar surrounded by family.

The funeral had been cremated at 1:30 pm on Monday, 5th February 2024 at Yayway Cemetery, Yangon.

The bereaved family



FC Inter's Nicolo Barella (L) vies with FC Juventus' Adrien Rabiot during a Serie A soccer match between FC Inter and FC Juventus in Milan, Italy, 4 February 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Inter beat Juve to take control of Serie A title tussle

INTER Milan took firm control of the Serie A title race by winning Sunday's highly-anticipated clash with Juventus 1-0 and moving four points clear of their closest rivals for the Scudetto.

Simone Inzaghi's side prevailed in a tense but eventful clash at the San Siro thanks to Federico Gatti's own goal eight minutes before half-time.

Home fans who packed the stands for the biggest match of the season roared in delight as leaders Inter put daylight between themselves and second-placed Juve with their sixth straight win in all competitions.

"It's a step in a long journey because there are lots of games to go and Juve won't give up, but it was a great night in front of a great crowd," said Inzaghi to DAZN.

"It's hard to find a weakness tonight... we've

won 18 matches from 22 which is great but we're only four points ahead of Juve. Napoli were much further ahead at this stage last season."

Inter also have a game in hand — at home against Atalanta at the end of the month — a big advantage just as they head into a run of tough fixtures featuring their Champions League last-16 tie with Atletico Madrid. They also travelled to Riyadh last month to win the Italian Super Cup.

Juventus, who on Sunday suffered their second defeat of the season and their first since September, have no European distractions.

Serie A's two leading goalscorers Lautaro Martinez and Dusan Vlahovic were on the San Siro pitch but it was the unfortunate Gatti who provided the decisive touch. — AFP

Myanmar to play Indonesian clubs in warm-up futsal matches

THE Myanmar national futsal team left for Indonesia yesterday morning to play warm-up matches with Indonesian futsal clubs as part of making



preparations to take part in the final stage of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024.

The Myanmar team comprises 19 players and eight managers/coaches.

The Myanmar national futsal team arrived in Surabaya, Indonesia, yesterday afternoon.

The Myanmar team will play three warm-up matches with Indonesian clubs during the trip from 5 to 10 February. Team Myanmar will play against Indonesia's Futsal League Champion Bintang Timur Futsal Club on 7 and 9 February and the Regional East Java Team on 10 February. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

Players of the Myanmar national futsal team pose for a group photo. PHOTO: MFF

ECONOMY WORLD

BRI-backed economic zone in Cambodia records 34.8% rise in trade volume in 2023

PAGE-12



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

6 FEBRUARY 2024

H5N1 bird flu detected in Laos

THE bird flu virus H5N1 has been detected at a market in Xaythany district in the Lao capital Vientiane, according to a report from the Department of Livestock and Fisheries under the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Lao National Radio reported on Monday that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry last Friday officially confirmed an outbreak of H5N1 bird flu, after a concerning 30 out of 65 poultry samples collected from the market tested positive for the virus.

After an initial discovery, 11 additional samples were collected, revealing the presence of the H5N1 virus in five samples and H9N2, a subtype of avian influenza, in another five samples, said the report.

In response to the outbreak, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry has issued directives to the livestock sector to collaborate with relevant agencies to investigate the sources of infection, gather essential information, isolate affected areas, and implement measures such as the destruction of infected poultry or the zoning off of high-risk areas.

Additionally, local residents are also being instructed to play a vital role in curbing the spread of the disease.

H5N1 influenza is a flu that normally spreads between sick poultry but can sometimes spread from poultry to humans. Its symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, and severe respiratory illness. — Xinhua

Indonesia presidential front runner draws fire in final debate

INDONESIA'S presidential front runner Prabowo Subianto drew flak in his final debate with election rivals Sunday over issues from women's rights to remarks about voters' intelligence, as they battle to run the world's third-largest democracy.

Nearly 205 million people are eligible to cast their ballots in the 14 February vote that will determine the successor to popular two-term President Joko Widodo, who is barred from running to lead the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation again.

Third-time candidate and current defence minister Subianto is ahead in opinion polls, widening the gap since choosing Widodo's eldest son Gibran Rakabuming Raka as his running mate last year.

But in the last of three debates he was criticized by former Jakarta governor Anies Baswedan and former Central Java governor Ganjar Pranowo, who according to polls are neck and neck for a potential second-round runoff vote against Subianto.

Pranowo criticized Subianto for last month suggesting people who wanted free internet instead of free lunches — a key policy of the defence chief — were not intelligent.

"Which is more important, free internet or free food for those who are



Indonesian presidential candidates Anies Baswedan, Prabowo Subianto and Ganjar Pranowo (L-R) attend the fifth presidential candidates' debate at Jakarta Convention Centre in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 4 February 2024. Indonesia will hold presidential and legislative election on 14 February 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

struggling, for the poor? That's what I meant to say," said Subianto.

Baswedan questioned him about rates of violence against women under the current government.

"The level of violence against women is extremely high... from catcalling to physical violence," said Baswedan.

"All of it must be dealt with firmly." Subianto said he would do more to protect women and support women's rights NGOs if elected. Baswedan also appeared to accuse the government of increasing social aid before election day to win over lower-income voters.

"Social aid is a help for those who accept it, not for those who give it," he said.

After appearing to support his son and Subianto, Widodo has been widely criticized for trying to create a political dynasty in a country long known for its nepotistic politics. — AFP

Blinken heads to Mideast to press for Gaza truce

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken headed to the Middle East for another crisis tour on Monday in a bid to secure a new truce in the Israel-Hamas war, as southern Gaza saw no let-up in fighting.

On his fifth trip to the region since Hamas's 7 October attack that triggered the war, Blinken is expected to visit Saudi Arabia, Israel, Egypt and Qatar.



displaced due to Israel's assault.

"Whether you have a million dollars or a hundred you are in the same situation," Hamouda said.

Over the weekend, Israel pressed further south towards the overflowing border city, warning its ground forces could ad-

Ahead of the trip he stressed the need for "urgently addressing humanitarian needs in Gaza", after aid groups have repeatedly sounded the alarm over the devastating impact on the besieged territory of nearly four months of war.

"The situation is indescribable," said Said Hamouda, a Palestinian who fled his home in the Gaza Strip to the southern city of Rafah on the border with Egypt.

Dubbed a "pressure cooker of despair" by the United Nations, Rafah now hosts more than half of Gaza's population, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken walks to board a plane at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland on 4 February 2024 en route to Saudi Arabia as part of his fifth urgent trip to the Middle East since the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza erupted in October. **PHOTO: AFP**

vance on Rafah as part of its campaign to eradicate Hamas.

On Monday morning, sources told AFP they could hear artillery shelling in the areas of eastern Rafah and Khan Yunis, southern Gaza's main city.

Israel says Khan Yunis is where militants prepared for the 7 October attack, and that high-ranking Hamas officials are hiding there.

At least 128 people, mostly women and children, were killed in Israeli strikes overnight Sunday to Monday in the besieged territory, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-ruled territory. — AFP