

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association formed

The Union Registration Board issued local association (temporary) registration certificate No Local/0226 (2022) to the Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association on 2 January 2025.

The association applied for a registration permit as a local association to the Union Registration Board under the Registration of Associations Law.

The Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association aims to enhance the friendship and socioeconomic ties between Myanmar and Japan. It promotes sector-specific communication based on existing bilateral relations, strengthens bilateral friendship, and fosters cooperation in various supportive projects and programmes initiated by the Japanese government,

NGOs, and other organizations in Myanmar.

The Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association is organized aiming to enhance Myanmar-Japan friendship and socioeconomic of two countries, promote the sector-wise communication of people of two countries based on existing bilateral relations, strengthen the bilateral

friendship and promote cooperation in comprehensive supportive projects and programmes launched by the Japanese government and NGOs and related organizations in Myanmar.

The association opens its office at No 23 (G 1), Shwe Zabu Riverview Condominium, Strand Road, Sin Min ward, Ahlon Township, Yangon. – MNA/KTZH



Rice bags are being loaded onto the overseas-bound merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

Indonesia tops Myanmar rice imports in Apr-Nov

Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports reached 1.7 million tonnes from April to November, with an estimated value of \$804 million, according to MRF statistics.

Indonesia is the largest rice trading partner of Myanmar with over 480,000 tonnes in the past eight months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, according

to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

China is the second largest importer of Myanmar rice with over 355,000 tonnes, followed by 246,900 tonnes to Belgium, over 128,300 tonnes to the Phil-

ippines, over 44,300 to Senegal, 43,100 to Mozambique, 37,000 to Cote d'Ivoire, 30,000 to Spain, over 27,100 to Cameroon, 17,500 to the Netherlands, over 13,900 to Ivory Coast, over 13,300 to Italy and over 12,300 to Poland.

Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports reach 1.7 million tonnes during April-November period, with an estimated value of US\$804 million, statistics of MRF showed.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March).

The Ministry of Commerce has been cooperating with departments and institutions concerned to achieve monthly export targets and beyond, depending on supply volume of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, rubber and fisheries from the respective companies.

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Politicians or Leaders be

By UAC

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NATIONAL

Students under training to have correct thinking and outlooks

DUE to taking time to carry out the development of human resources, students must be under training to have education qualifications, learn modern techniques and technology and possess correct thinking and outlooks.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the National Planning Commission Meeting 1/2024 on 21 March 2024)

Cybersecurity Law

(State Administration Council Law No 1/2025)

Continued from yesterday

- (o) Data refers to the data which can be stored in various forms in a network or a computer system.
- (p) Cyber resources refer to computers, computer systems, software programmes, networks, network utilities, databases, technological advancements and related accessories.
- (q) Computer refers to a device capable of acquiring, storing, transmitting, processing, and retrieving information as needed, as well as performing tasks systematically according to mathematical and logical methods by applying electronic technology, electromagnetic wave technology, or other forms of technology.
- (r) Computer programme or simply a programme refers to a set of instructions or descriptions that guide a computer system to perform specific tasks or functions during its operation.
- (s) A computer system refers to a system of devices that can automatically process and operate data through a programme which comprises a system of a single device or interconnected and related devices that communicate and function together. This term encompasses systems involving storage devices (Removable Storage Medium) used in connection with the computer system for storing data.
- (t) A network refers to a collection of connections established to mutually link and utilize cyber resources or related technologies and associated devices through communication technology.
- (u) A virtual private network refers to a specific system as a back-up network in the original network with the use of a technology in order to ensure safety of linking networks each other.
- (v) A network utility refers to either a physical component of the basic infrastructure used in network operations or the integration of such components.
- (w) Data analysis refers to the act of gathering, examining, analyzing, or investigating specific information or data – whether entirely or partially – using cyber resources or similar technology-related tools for the purpose of cybersecurity.
- (x) Malware refers to malicious code that disrupts or poses a threat to cyber resources.
- (y) A cyberspace refers to exchanging, communicating, distributing or accepting the electronic information with the use of a cyber resource or a similar related technological accessory in a network or among networks.
- (z) A cyberattack refers to any act conducted within the cyber domain using cyber resources or related technologies to harm, disrupt, halt or degrade the governance, financial systems, economy, rule of law, national security, public safety, or the lives and property of individuals, aimed at interfering with, distorting, suspending, or damaging information and communication systems in any way.
- (aa) Cybercrime refers to committing, attempting to commit, aiding, abetting, or encouraging an offence either specified under this law or punishable under any existing law, using cyber resources or related technologies within the cyber domain.
- (bb) Cybersecurity threats refer to actions taken within the cyber domain, using cyber resources or similar technologies and related tools, to compromise cybersecurity in some way.
- (cc) A digital forensics laboratory is a technology-assisted lab that enables the discovery, retrieval, management, analysis, and reporting of data stored through electronic systems.
- (dd) Online Gambling System refers to a system where various cyber resources or related technologies are used as gambling tools, whether or not they involve betting on chance or skill-based games, involving the use of money, or any valuable item that can be exchanged or agreed upon as having a monetary value, for gambling purposes, whether it is for financial gain or loss, allowing the participation in gambling activities with a mutually agreed-upon value, whether it be in terms of money or something else that holds similar value.
- (ee) Cybersecurity team refers to a group authorized by the steering committee to operate without profit for the nation's cybersecurity activities, in accordance with the guidelines set by the committee.

Chapter III Objective

5. Objectives of this law are as follows: -
 - (a) To safely use cyber resources, critical information infrastructure, and electronic data
 - (b) To protect and safeguard the sovereignty and stability of the nation from being harmed by cyber threats, cyberattacks, or cyber misuse through the application of electronic technologies
 - (c) To systematically develop cybersecurity services
 - (d) To effectively investigate and take action against cyber crimes
 - (e) To contribute to a digital economic system based on cyber resources

Chapter IV

Formation of Central Committee, Responsibilities and Authority

6. The Union government -
 - (a) shall form the Central Cybersecurity Committee with a Vice-President as Chairperson, the Union Minister of the ministry as Vice-Chairperson, relevant Union Ministers and chairs from relevant Union-level organizations as members to implement the objectives of this law.
 - (b) shall assign a secretary and a joint secretary at the central committee.
 - (c) shall amend formation of the central committee in accord with the criteria under Sub-Section (a), if necessary.
7. Responsibilities and authority of the Central Committee are as follows: -
 - (a) Adopting cybersecurity policies, strategies, or operational plans for the emergence of a secure and robust national cyber domain
 - (b) Guiding, overseeing, and coordinating the implementation of cybersecurity policies, strategies, or action plans, as well as to facilitate collaboration with international and regional countries and organizations,
 - (c) Developing human resources concerning cybersecurity
 - (d) Enhancing necessary infrastructures to prevent cybersecurity breaches and cybercrimes
 - (e) Coordinating and guiding relevant government departments and organizations in order to contribute to cybersecurity, prevention of cybercrimes, the rule of law and judicial measures
 - (f) Providing guidance to collaborate on cybersecurity services for critical information infrastructure in accordance with the cybersecurity plan
 - (g) Defining the storage of information for critical data infrastructure within the national cyber domain that the public is actively engaging with
 - (h) Allowing establishment and authorization of the National Digital Laboratory and digital laboratories in accordance with the set standards
 - (i) Providing guidance to the relevant ministry or organization for issuing policies, rules, regulations, orders, or directives related to online payment services as necessary
 - (j) Carrying out the tasks related to cybersecurity, which are assigned from time to time, by the Union government

To be continued

NATIONAL

THE door is open to all ethnic armed groups at all times for the sake of peace in the State. They are always welcomed to resolve the differences, not by military means, but through dialogue. Only when the entire population makes collective endeavours to achieve peace and stability, the rule of law and socioeconomic development, will Myanmar be able to stand tall in the world as a modern and developed country.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion to mark the Kayin New Year Day held on 11 January 2024)



Yangon's night beauty. PHOTO BY AUNG KYAW MOE

Judges urged to strive for competence, integrity, and patriotism

STATE Administration Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, on behalf of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, urged the judges of the Supreme Court of the Union and the subordinate courts to follow the established judicial guidelines that 'not only should the truth be decided in judgment, but also the public should see that the truth has been decided,' while encouraging the judges to love the truth, have a good heart for the country and the public, and strive to become competent judges.

General Aung Lin Dwe made this statement at the opening ceremony of the Judicial College building at the Union Supreme Court in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, where he attended on behalf of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday.

During the ceremony, he stated that many countries around the world have established institutions with various names, such as Judicial Academy, Judicial College, and Judicial Training Centre, to enhance the judicial sector, improve legal knowledge, and foster judicial exchanges through inviting in-



State Administration Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe cuts the ceremonial ribbon to unveil the new Judicial College in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ternational judges to provide training, conduct consultations, deliver lectures, and exchange knowledge, which not only strengthens relations between nations but also creates opportunities to attract foreign investment.

The Judicial College, which has been magnificently built at great expense using State funds, will serve as a place for studying, discussion, and teaching not only for foreign students but also for new, mid-level, and senior judges from Myanmar.

The SAC Secretary stated that the college will be used effectively to develop the skills of each judge, as the reasoning, morale, and performance of judges, along with the structure and physical appearance of the courts, are key to creating a trusted judicial system; therefore, to improve the quality of the courts, the government has built new High Courts in Mandalay Region and Mon State, along with five new district courts, while also addressing the needs of the judicial sector by covering the expenses of cloth-

ing required for judges' duties, in addition to the Outfit Allowance they are entitled to.

He then highlighted the SAC's clear announcement that it will focus on 'the rule of law' in its five-point roadmap and nine objectives, emphasizing that adjudicating cases fairly and speedily in accordance with the law is crucial to implementing the rule of law, and urged the judges to make every effort to achieve this.

He also urged judges to strive to make Myanmar's judiciary, which upholds the universal

values of justice, freedom, and equality, one that is respected and honored not only in ASEAN but also around the world.

In line with the objectives of establishing and opening the Judicial College building, the College will work to foster international friendship, demonstrate Myanmar's ability to attract investments with reliable judicial protection, and promote dialogue and exchange on bilateral judicial issues with friendly countries, including ASEAN.

The second part of the ceremony continued with the SAC Secretary and the attendees watching a video clip related to the Judicial College, before touring the new structure.

The ceremony was attended by members of the SAC, Union-level officials and Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, judges and judicial officers from the Union Supreme Court, members of the Union Constitutional Tribunal, members of the Anti-Corruption Commission, chief justices of the Regions and States, the Chairman of the Union Legal Assistance Board, and officials from various ministries. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Efforts made to double export volume; MoAs signed for port facilities expansion

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo in his capacity of Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods Chairman attended the signing event of Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) on the establishment of new jetties for loading and unloading processes of crops and oil products at Wharf Nos 27, 28 and 29 of the Thilawa Port Terminal, and installation of sheltered conveying systems at Sule Jetty and Warehouses 1, 2 and 3, held at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

In his speech, the Union minister said the rice export volume in the 2023-2024 financial year (FY) was only 1.7 million tonnes at Yangon Port, the volume reached 2.1 million tonnes between April and December in the 2024-2025 FY. The maize export was only 1.3 million tonnes in previous FY, and it increased to 1.6 million during nine months of this financial year. Therefore, the need of



State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo observes the display at the signing event of Memorandum of Agreements held at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon.

jetties become high and modern equipment should be installed to promote the productivity.

In order to implement the guidance to double the export volume given by the Head of the State, the expansion of jetties

and modern port machinery can ensure the readiness to manage the increasing trade volume. Therefore, it should work hard to conduct four projects successfully and enhance the government-to-business (G2B) and business-to-business (B2B) cooperation.

At the event, MoAs were inked for the construction of an edible oil jetty at Thilawa Wharf 27 between Myanmar Edible Oil Industrial Public Company Limited (MEICO) and Myanmar China Harbour Engineering (MCHEC), whereas the Myanmar Agribusiness Public Company Limited (MAPCO) and MCHEC for the construction of a crop jetty at Wharf 28, a crop jetty at Wharf 29 by Myanma Agricultural and General Development Public Limited (MAGDPL) and MCHEC, and the installation of sheltered conveying systems at Sule Warehouses 1, 2, 3, 4 and jetties by Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and MCHEC. The projects' initial investment totals US\$61 million. — MNA/KTZH

Social security coverage ensures healthcare for MoI staff

THE Ministry of Labour's Social Security Board, in collaboration with the

Royal Dragon clinic provided healthcare services to registered Ministry of Infor-



Mobile medical unit of the Ministry of Labour's Social Security Board delivers medical services to insured workers at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

mation (MoI) employees covered by the social security scheme. These services were delivered via mobile medical units yesterday morning at the Ministry of Information's vehicle parking compound.

Social security-covered staff from various departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information received healthcare services including medical check-ups, medication, laboratory tests, ECGs for heart health and other necessary treatments. Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung and other officials observed and encouraged healthcare services.

The Social Security Board provides healthcare services as part of implementing its social security scheme

through three major hospitals, 96 township social security clinics, 61 departmental clinics, 68 contracted clinics, 48 outpatient maternity clinics, 16 contracted maternity hospitals and delivery rooms and one traditional medicine clinic.

These healthcare services are also delivered through two township social security clinics, four departmental clinics, four contracted clinics, and three outpatient maternity clinics in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. As part of the first phase of its initiative, the board plans to continue providing healthcare services in 2025 to 18,631 insured workers from 239 covered departments between 2 January and 27 February. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Academy actor's family donates cash for rural Sangha members

ACADEMY Award-winning actor Khant Sithu and his family donated K10 million to support monks from remote borderlands and mountainous areas on 1 January.

The donation event was held at the Kantha Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, according to Khant Sithu.

The donation was intended to assist monks in distant regions who face challenges in receiving sufficient food and

supplies. It also included offerings and donated items for the Kantha Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, bringing the total donation amount to K150 million.

“We have donated robes, bedsheets, blankets, and cash to the Sayadaws at Kantha Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery. The donation also includes K10 million specifically for monks in remote borderlands and mountainous areas where transport is difficult. We share

these good merits with others,” Khant Sithu explained.

Additionally, on 15 November 2024, Khant Sithu offered a Mathoe robe at the Botahtaung Pagoda, where he also served as the primary donor of the Wunnapaba loom.

— ASH/TMT



This photo shows Khant Sithu offering K10 million to monks from rural areas.

3-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K51M



Confiscated vehicle involved in illegal trade.

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 28 December, the combined teams impounded 0.180 tonne of illegal teak, 0.050 tonne of hardwood and 2.51 tonnes of other timbers worth K261,080 in Taungwingyi Township, 2.8 tonnes of illegal charcoal, 2.78 tonnes of teak and 10.243 tonnes of other timbers (valued at K817,353) in Lewe District. The action was conducted under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 1 and 2 January 2025, the combined on-duty teams nabbed a Nissan Concor truck (worth approximately K30 million) carrying industrial

materials worth K15.75 million without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, and 11.84 tonnes of illegal charcoal and 5.896 tonnes of illegal teak worth K4.36 million in Bago, Toungoo and Thayawady Districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported eighth arrests on 28 December 2024 and 1 and 2 January 2025, confiscating illegal goods worth approximately K51.18 million. — MNA/MKKS

Royal Thai Embassy shares key e-visa form instructions

THE Thai Embassy to Myanmar has issued a notice stating that when filling out the e-visa form in Directive 6, the applicant's name should be entered in “First Name” field and “Family Name” field should be left blank as Myanmar citizens do not have a family name.

Applicants are advised to strictly follow this instruction, and failing it will result in the rejection of the e-visa application, the embassy said.

Myanmar citizens who will apply for an e-visa at www.thaievisa.go.th should read the instructions at <https://www.thaiconsularyangon.com/evisapay/instruction>. If the applicants for 2-7 January 2025 have filled their names in wrong name fields, the embassy will allow to re-submit a new form after filling again. They must use the new Request No together with the original e-visa payment reservation No, it stated.

The appointment system for payment of the e-visa fee for

non-Thai citizens in Myanmar who have already submitted a visa application at <https://www.thaievisa.go.th/> will start at 9:30 am on 1 January 2025. Payment time is from 9 am to 11:30 am on business days at the Visa Section and it must be paid in cash in US dollars, by the applicant himself or by a representative.

Appointment slots are limited and a reservation may include up to 10 applications depending on QR Code. One reservation per day is allowed for one Citizenship Scrutiny Card (for Myanmar citizens) or one passport (for foreigners). As it is irreversible, applicants need to be careful in choosing dates.

After paying the e-visa fee at the embassy, a receipt will be sent to the applicant's email or e-visa account within 15 minutes. For applications with complete documents, the processing time is about 10 to 15 days. If incomplete or forged documents are submitted, the visa application can be rejected, it said. — MT/ZN



This photo captures visitors at the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon for visa application.

Counter-argument to false information

False reports of civilian deaths, property damage in Mandalay denied

FALSE and misleading reports have been circulated by malicious media, alleging that five civilians were killed and homes were destroyed in airstrikes on certain villages in Ngazun and Natogyi Townships, Mandalay Region, on 31 December.

Regarding these claims, security officials clarified that security forces are conducting continuous operations to ensure stability and prevent occupation by terrorists in the area. They reported that terrorist groups are using drones to car-



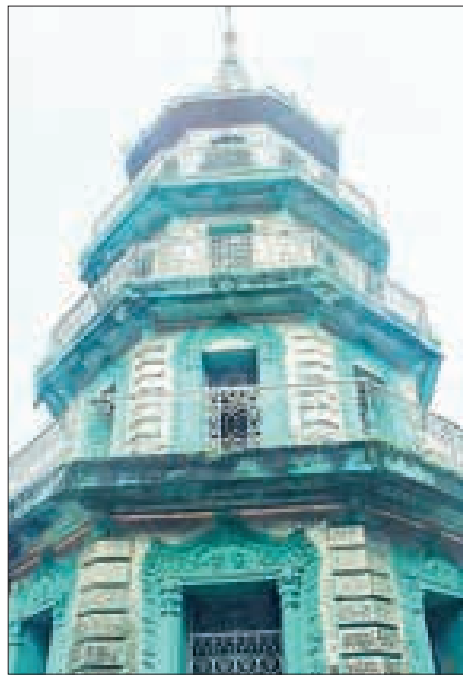
This screenshot reveals fabricated stories.

ry out bomb attacks against security personnel maintain-

ing peace and stability in the region. Furthermore, these groups are instigating conflict and committing acts of destruction and terror in residential areas, leading to loss and damage to the lives and property of local civilians.

It was also noted that malicious media outlets are intentionally spreading false reports, aiming to cover up the activities of lawless terrorist groups and mislead public opinion by falsely accusing security personnel. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL



Maha Hsaywingaba Arlein Ngahsint Monastery, host of the upcoming Independence Day festival.

Insein to host Independence Day Market & Fun Fair on 7-12 Jan 2025

AN Independence Day commemorative market festival and fun fair will be held in front of Maha Hsaywingaba Monastery in Insein Township, Yangon Region, from 7 to 12 January, according to the festival organizing committee.

The market festival and fun fair will feature around 270 stalls, offering a wide range of consumer goods, food, and various general merchandise. Ad-

ditionally, entertainment facilities for children such as a pirate ship and merry-go-round rides will be arranged.

“This event is an Independence Day commemorative market festival and fun fair. There will be approximately 270 stalls, set up along the stretch from the traffic light near Insein Park to Zee Ohn Gone bus stop. The stall sizes are limited to 8 feet by 9 feet. For children, there will also

be fun rides, including a pirate ship, a rocket, and a merry-go-round,” an organizing committee member explained.

In addition to the stalls, traditional Myanmar snacks and other delicacies will be sold by vendors. These vendors will participate in this event after completing their sales at the New Year market festival in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region. — ASH/MKKS

‘Kyelatka Meeainshin’ drama series premieres in Jan 2025

THE drama series ‘Kyelatka Meeainshin’ is set to air in January, according to Nay Min, one of the lead actors in the series.

The series is based on a novel by author Shun Yami Moe, with the script written by Khit Shay Nyo and Seven-Day, and directed by Aung Zaw Lin. The production was undertaken for the Mahar Mobile Application.

“This series breathes new life into Shun Yami Moe’s original novel. The story expands by incorporating realistic rural events into the original plot, set in a rural area and based on a true story.

It tells the tale of an ordinary village supporting an exceptional young woman who becomes a medical student. The entire village rallies behind her on her journey, and later, as a doctor, she returns to her village to give back”.

We added some additional events to enrich the story, such as a group of children arriving in the village with small boxes. These children are taken in and raised by the villagers. The series has already been completed, and preparations are underway to air it this month,” shared actor Naing Min.

The cast includes Nay Min, Nyein



Poster featuring the cast of ‘Kyelatka Meeainshin’ drama series.

Thaw, Kyaw Htet, Min Hein, Ei Chaw Po, May Panchi, Yun Wint Hlwar Aung, Tin Zar Win Phya, Wai Phyo, Nyi Nyi Min Htet, and others. It also features veteran supporting actors such as Zaw Oo and Zaw Win Maung. — ASH/TRKM

Renowned literary scholar Daw Mar Lay passes away at 91



Writer Daw Mar Lay (Tekkatho Wint Mar)

DAW Mar Lay, a distinguished literary scholar and writer, passed away on the evening of 31 December at Victoria Hospital in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

Her cremation took place at 3 pm on Thursday, 2 January 2025, at Yeway Cemetery. At the funeral, the ‘Sayamagi Daw Mar Lay Memorial’ pamphlet, jointly prepared by her proteges, was distributed. The pamphlet featured tributes written by several notable individuals, including Maung Khin Min (Danuphyu), Ma Moe Myay, Dr Aung Zaw, Ma Pan Khet, Maung Tha Cho, Naung Kyaw, Aung Way, Myint Soe Hlaing-Ma Nu Kyi, Dr Aung Myint Oo, Yathetpan (Toungoo Hall), Maung Kyaw Win, and Aung Kyaw Min.

Daw Mar Lay wrote under various pen names, including TTC Wai Oo, Yuwady Kalaungshin Wint Mar, and Tekkatho Wint Mar. Under the name Mar Lay, she compiled the book ‘Words for Traditional Myanmar Relatives’, which explores how terms used by Myanmar people to address family members — from parents and siblings to those related by marriage — have evolved from the Bagan era to the present day.

At the time of her passing, Sayamagi Daw Mar Lay (Tekkatho Wint Mar) was 91 years old and had served as an associate professor of the Myanmar Language Department at the University of Foreign Languages. — ASH/TKO

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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.

Indonesia tops Myanmar rice imports in Apr-Nov

FROM PAGE 1

The Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufac-

turers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports.

The federation was projected to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export

in the FY 2023-2024, generating earnings of one billion dollar. However, rice exports fell short of target with 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition

also hampered rice export, as affirmed by the Myanmar Rice Federation chairperson.

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

Shan State butterfly bean trade increases

THE trade of butterfly bean grown in Shan State's Heho and Pinlon has expanded in Yangon and Mandalay and even in Pyay Township.

"Butterfly bean season usually resumes in November, but harvesting in Hopong has been slightly delayed. Currently, the trade of butterfly beans from Heho and Pinlon is on the rise, with good prices. Butterfly beans are mainly produced in Shan State and are in nationwide demand, particularly in Yangon, Mandalay, and even Pyay. This bean is also sold dried, with traders processing and distributing them year-round as the season ends. It is also exported to overseas markets," said Ma Nyo Lae Yi, a vegetables and fruits trader from Aungban Township.

A trial project of the butterfly bean plantation initiated in Kayin State's Thandaunggyi Township in February 2013 was successful and even no longer import has been needed.

Further, a small-scaled plantation project was also successful in Magway Region's Pwintphyu Township in January that year, helped farmers enjoyed profits. — Thit Taw/ZS

CBM injects \$144M, 321M baht, 12M yuan into financial market in Dec



The head office of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) pumped US\$144 million, over 321 million baht and over 12 million yuan in December 2024.

CBM sold \$4.2 million, over 440,000 yuan and 1.3 million baht on 27 December; over 500,000 yuan and 4.7 million baht on 26 December and over 320,000 yuan and 900,000 baht on 24 December.

CBM announced the sale of 10 million yuan to importers via foreign exchange trading platforms on 19 December. It sold 1.36 million yuan and 2.48

million baht on that day.

CBM injected \$30 million and 2.14 million baht on 18 December; \$150,000 and over 810,000 baht on 17 December and \$28 million, one million baht and over 710,000 yuan on 16 December; 340,000 yuan and 400,000 baht on 13 December; \$28.51 million and 600,000 baht on 12 December and 500,000 yuan again on 11 December into the financial market as well.

CBM announced on 10 December the sale of \$35 million and 40 million baht through foreign exchange trading plat-

forms. Then, it sold about 900,000 yuan on 10 December; \$15 million, over one million yuan and 200 million baht on 6 December; over 1.55 million yuan on 5 December after sales of 1.48 million yuan on 4 December and 1.43 million yuan on 3 December.

Furthermore, CBM injected \$38 million, 1.48 million yuan and 107.46 million baht online through foreign exchange trading platforms on 2 December.

CBM pumped over \$59 million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November and over \$91 million, over 610 million baht and 9.8 million yuan in October into the financial market.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Five National Objectives for 77th Anniversary of Independence Day 2025

1. To address armed conflicts and differing perspectives lawfully, ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To safeguard the State with unity and strength of all citizens, guided by the spirit of the Union
3. To conduct a free, fair, and credible general election to establish a genuine, disciplined democratic system
4. To promote balanced development across all sectors of the Union through the collective strength of the entire people
5. To collectively advance politics, the economy, defence, national identity, and spirit with perseverance, diligence, and dedication, guided by the motto: "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal"



Gold Market Rate as of 2 January 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,280,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

OPINION

Foster individual growth to cultivate reliable State leaders

THE role of leaders is crucial in any organization as they are a pivot for relevant organizations. Therefore, it is important to strive continually to improve themselves and work towards becoming reliable and capable leaders whom the organization can depend on.

Leaders must be more capable than subordinates at any time. To provide effective leadership, it is essential to continuously enhance one's knowledge and skills in line with the evolving times. Equally important is maintaining integrity, honesty, and a high standard of moral character.

As such, it is necessary to establish a smooth and stable governance system with unity and fairness, make correct decisions, and work towards achieving an inclusive and effective organization without any obstacles. At the same time, leaders have to provide welfare measures for subordinates. Consequently, those subordinates will make sacrifices for their assigned duties and obligations for the sake of their leaders as well as their organizations without considering their self-interest.

presence of correct policies, precise and strong regulations, rules, and laws that must be followed and enforced, and systematic training and discipline. Hence, leaders need to support relevant organizations in all aspects to reduce hardships and challenges.

Moreover, leaders need to encourage subordinates to follow relevant disciplines, rules and regulations without violation. In terms of discipline, there are only two types of regulations: those that encourage adherence and action, and those that establish prohibitions to avoid. It is necessary to give training to subordinates to have responsible citizen practice conscientiously following and maintaining prescribed regulations, to foster good habits and practices, so that the responsibilities entrusted to them are carried out diligently and with high regard.

As such, it is necessary to establish a smooth and stable governance system with unity and fairness, make correct decisions, and work towards achieving an inclusive and effective organization without any obstacles. At the same time, leaders have to provide welfare measures for subordinates. Consequently, those subordinates will make sacrifices for their assigned duties and obligations for the sake of their leaders as well as their organizations without considering their self-interest.

It is necessary to lead the subordinates and relevant units with courage and clarity in decision-making, responsibility, and accountability while managing subordinates with integrity and fairness, free from malice. Everyone has to work towards further improving and building the organization they lead.

That is why as leaders at all levels, it is essential to assign unified and fair orders and responsibilities and to shape leadership through correct guidance and management that understands human nature. They have to enquire about the difficulties and worries of subordinates and seek ways how to resolve their challenges.

Leaders are responsible for the endurance of relevant organizations and the convenience of subordinates. The ability of an organization to stand firm and endure for a long period of time is due to the

I RECENTLY watched the movie about 'Zhu Enlai' on a China Southern flight and I cannot help but admire the film documenting his visit to Boyan county in Hebei province. The main takeaway of the movie is how to be politically beloved by people while putting your leadership skills in view of the people. The key attribute of him, or rather, a good politician, has to be 'Be one with the people'.

At the same time, I did recall during the 2020 elections a senior USDP candidate (an ex-minister) walking around a ward in Nay Pyi Taw, with his entourage. His assistant was shadowing him with an umbrella. He waved to the villagers from afar, not talking, meeting or shaking hands with them. And we wondered why he lost!

Join the grassroots

Zhu Enlai reached the grassroots by touring the village himself and talking to varied demographics, from young to old. He went into their houses, their small barren kitchens, and ate together with them whatever little food they had. The whole village is at risk of starvation (the great leap backwards!). And help secure sweet potato seedlings to ensure they have enough food for the coming winter. Besides solving their immediate issue, he joined their

hands in planting these sprouts in the rain.

Not joining the grassroots would not make you a good politician that people want to vote for. If you can prove that you can resolve whatever little issue they might have, you might have won their hearts too. Joining them in their struggles would have earned their respect and mind too. Most of the now-defunct NLD party candidates are very adept at showing this off.

Getting the truth out

One of the reasons for the USDP's downfall in 2015 was attributed to the complacency of President Thein Sein due to his reliance on the information from USDP headquarters that the party would likely win 80 per cent of the votes. The information turned out to be inaccurate. USDP secured only half of that, failing to gain the majority in the Parliament.

Hence, there is a need to figure out the facts yourself. From the healthcare of the people to food and water sufficiency, to the needs of the children and the elders, Zhu figured these out himself. Later on, even Deng Xiaopeng said 'We must seek the truth from facts', in 1976. Just as in ancient times, if the King asked its councillors, if the country was

Politicians or Leaders be

By U AC



Not joining the grassroots would not make you a good politician that people want to vote for. If you can prove that you can resolve whatever little issue they might have, you might have won their hearts too. **ILLUSTRATION: GRAPHIC ART**

doing well, who would be brave and/or stupid enough to say the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Hence it is the King's duty to send out his trusted assistance to the countryside to get the facts. Sometimes, the King disguises himself as a commoner to figure the truth out for himself.

Even in present-day Myanmar, all its leaders and government ministers may not have all the hard truth presented to them. They would have electricity in their homes 24 by 7. How would they know the real power supply situation in Yangon! Most of their daily groceries would be supplied by the government or associates for free. How would they know how much grocery prices have gone up? Their cars are filled up by staff and the government budget. How would they know how long the people have to queue up for fuel or how expensive the fuel has become?

Ministers/Directors/managers will always cover up some or all of the bad news, sometimes not to look bad and perhaps not to give problems for leadership. Those directors and advisors surrounding the leaders may not have the gut or love for the country to present them with facts. Hence, it becomes even more important to get the truth from facts, no matter what.

Empathy and sympathy

People whom you want to represent would be worse off than yourself in various life attributes. Showing empathy and sympathy towards them would carry you far in your campaign to get votes. Zhu noticed villagers having to carry water by cart from 10 miles away. He took immediate action to address that. He blamed himself for not being able to provide the necessities and apologized to the people. He addressed people by their names and sincerely listened to their concerns. Eating bad food together with them showed them that their suffering is his suffering.

A would-be politician must express empathy and sympathy towards his constituents. Ignore this at your own risk.

Relating to the people

The book on 'Influence' said relating to the people can be a way of gaining influence over them. Zhu related to the villagers who were born in the same year of the Ox, as him.

Forms of relations we can use include the birthplace, the schools that we used to study, the workplaces, the language, race, jobs, etc. You relate to them and you are one of them.

Integrity

In the movie, Zhu is shown re-

fusing a gift of an ancient postage stamp from a girl, whose father has collected from the Qing dynasty. The virtue of integrity would travel far in the hearts and minds of the people.

Wife effect

Having a complementary spouse also helps. Mdm Deng Yeng Chow contributed to the aura of Zhu as a people person by showing care for the people and contributing to his works. She dressed as a commoner and did not carry any expensive handbags!

Inspire people to solve their problems

Inspire people through the need to raise standards, compete internationally and highlight the story of Myanmar's glorious past. Get them to sort out local issues among themselves. Everyone will have a chance to correct his mistakes, but you cannot make mistakes again and again.

At the end of the day, Myanmar is an agricultural country, its prosperity depends not only on the farmers but also on the leaders! Agricultural and livestock experts for training and year-round water supply must be provided for the farmers and you as a leader, have to make this happen.

Misleading Classroom Behaviours Any Teacher Should Have Known

By Hu Wo
(Cuckoo's Song)

TO ERR is human, as the saying goes. Everybody, great people included, likes to make at least a few mistakes all through their lives. Of course, misleading is also wrong just because the former is nearly as bad as the latter. However, teachers' misleading classroom behaviours may have a huge effect on their society and then on the state. In fact, not only newcomers to education but also long-serving instructors tend to commit some misleading classroom behaviours sometimes. Thus, certain unacceptable classroom behaviours will herein be described for amateur teachers, in particular, to avoid them sooner or later.

First of all, every teacher

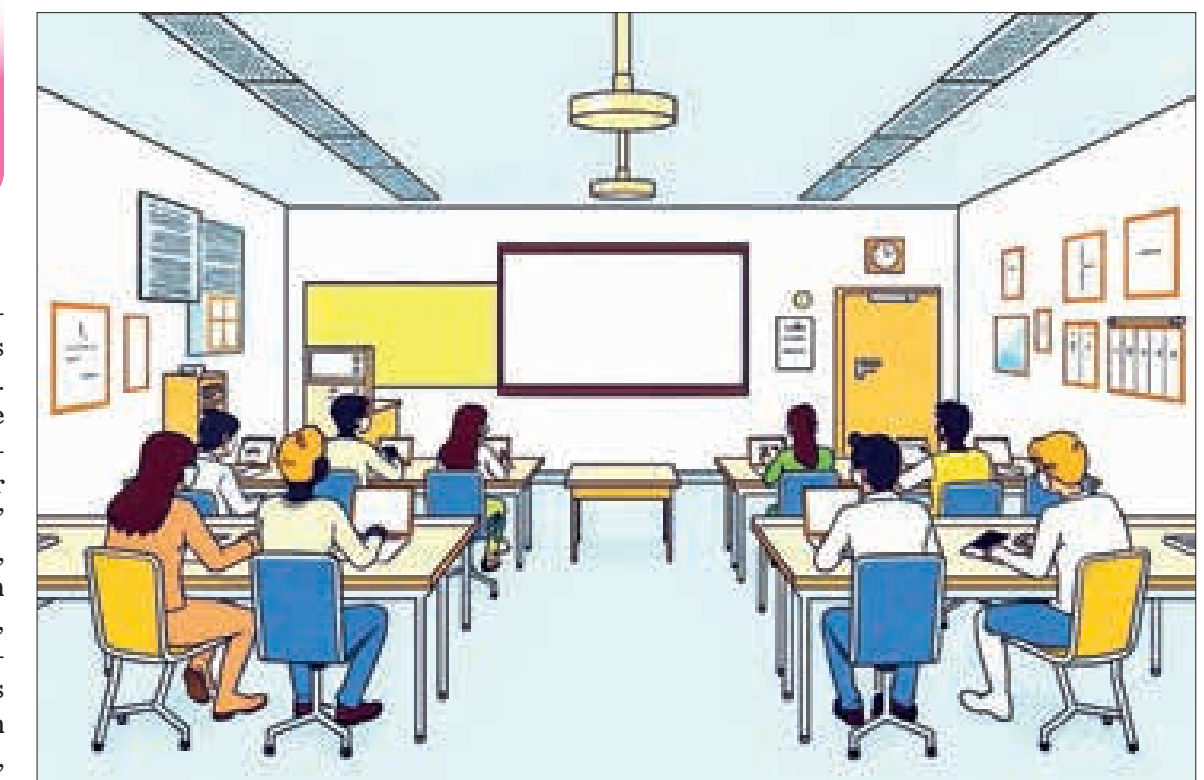
should be aware that subject matter and methodology often go hand in hand so that both of them cannot be isolated. Most teachers imitate and follow their former teachers' instructional methods to the letter with their eyes shut. This is not wrong at all. Despite this, some teachers are under the illusion that they will be able to teach perfectly well on whatever subject matter under any classroom situation, just knowing that they have mastery of the subject. Educational success in subject teaching depends on several factors of an instructional process. Despite having a good command of a subject or language, the teacher's instructional methods are effectively and efficiently based on

the nature of the subject matter, the modernization of an education system, and the learning rate of his students. Cramming and skipping methods of the lesson for the reason that the examination is drawing near is the worst pedagogy of education, I believe. If a teacher thinks that his teaching methods are flawless, he will be a failure as a teacher in the educational field in the not-too-distant future.

The second theme of misleading classroom behaviours is class control. The main reason why the teacher can lose control of the class is simply not getting educational psychology. Educational psychology always lets teachers know behavioural changes in different developmental stages of primary,

secondary and higher students. As per Lokaniti, primary students like teachers' cajoling; secondary students are afraid of teachers' intimidation, and higher students only accept teachers' sweet talks. Whatever is said, many teachers are given to apply the carrot and the stick, adding some incentives for students to achieve success in their studies. A teacher's legitimate power, reward power and coercive power usually play an essential role in his class control. But getting abashed and scolding the entire class even though only one student commits some mistake are ill manners of a teacher. Worst of all, the teacher is getting angry after inflicting punishment on his students.

Thirdly, a teacher consciously or unconsciously imparts his wrong personality to students. Teachers are deemed to be role models for students. This is because students try to be like their teachers, for instance, teachers' speaking and clothing style. Hence, a teacher must keep away from drinking, smoking, betel chewing, gambling and taking drugs, needless to say. And the teacher does not have to be absent himself from school too often. Many moons ago, many people said, 'Do as I say; don't do as I do'. I am strongly of the opinion that those words have had their day. Today's teenagers like to do or do not do as others both say and do, as they wish. In that connection, teachers need



Teachers' classroom behaviours significantly impact their students and society, and it's important for both new and experienced educators to avoid misleading practices. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

to be an 'ideal person' in front of their students.

Fourthly, some teachers

sometimes bring their regrettable personal feelings to the class. In other words, they go into the

classroom with any physical, mental and emotional readiness.

SEE PAGE-10

NATIONAL/ARTICLE

Misleading Classroom Behaviours Any Teacher Should Have Known

FROM PAGE 9

After certain teachers are on bad terms with family members at home, close friends or someone else, they go to the class and give it to their students on purpose, sometimes beating them. Despite not physically doing so, several teachers go off the

deep end like the explosion of a nuclear reactor just before their students. Then, undesirable problems may crop up in the aftermath of classroom teaching due to such personal cases. In truth, teachers can unexpectedly lack emotional control in a while.

Teaching is a noble job and

even the noblest job, as many people say. The reason is that teachers take good care of too many parents' sons and daughters. So, this job is not usually well done by a normal person. Only the people who can put up with others' children like the ground can do it very well. As mentioned above, as teachers

are the leaders of students, the students will mislead their lives if the teachers do wrong in their teaching and instructing. And a teacher ought to have love for children like their own ones. In the main, children are honest, and gentle but sometimes rude. Despite this, the children can be moulded

into the way teachers want. Therefore, it is most important that the teachers not mislead their students' way of life by any means. As the proverb says 'Once a teacher, always a teacher', teachers will have to be standing up for themselves as the life-long leader throughout their whole lives.

Police arrest illegal fuel oil dealers

ALTHOUGH certain areas in Kachin State and Shan State (North), where MNDAA/TNLA/KIA and PDF terrorists reside in, are blocked not to transport and sell fuel oil, the greedy business people transport the fuel oil taking advantages of security restrictions in some areas of Sagaing Region and Mandalay Region. They construct oil storage tanks in some villages of Sagaing Region, and sell the fuel oil at the highest prices and transport to Sagaing Region, Kachin State and Shan State (North).

According to the report that the fuel oil is stored at illegal oil tanks near Kanalu combined inspection camp, in Nyaungbinzin village of Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, security forces raided Thein Than fuel oil depot of U Thien Than Win (at large), fuel oil depots owned by Daw Htet Htet Myo Swe, Daw Zin Mar Myint, Myo Min (at large), and oil browsers parked near Golden Star restaurant. During the operation, they arrested 17 offenders with four



This photo shows vehicles involved in illegal fuel trafficking.



Offenders seen with vehicles used in illegal fuel transport.

ers, one 12-wheeled bowser, three 10-wheeled bowzers, one eight-wheeled bowser, three

six-wheeled bowzers, five light trucks and one Toyota Van, totalling 22 vehicles, and 30,083

gallons of premium diesel, 30,462 gallons of 92 Octane, totalling 60,545 gallons, and cash.

According to the investigation, the offenders carried fuel oil from Mandalay passing Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana-bon) along Sagaing-Shwebo No 3 inter-district road to Sagaing-Sheinmaka-Kanphyu-Thitseintgyi to transport the fuel oil to jade mining blocks in Hpakant and gold and amber mining blocks in Tanai under the control of KIA, illegal gold mining blocks in Kawlin and Chindwin River under the control of PDFs, illegal gold mining blocks in Singu, Thabeikkyin and Mogok under the control of TNLA/PDFs.

Similarly, Sagaing residents purchased fuel oil at the official fuel stations depending on the prices. When they have large amount of fuel oil, they resell at the illegal oil depots. Therefore, such doings create illegal fuel oil markets leading to high prices in the local market.

The arrestees are taken action under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law, and the seized vehicles will be managed following rules and procedures. — MNA/KTZH



Documentary photos showcase fuel barrels and containers transported to Sagaing Region, Kachin State and Shan State (North).

Former PM Manmohan Singh's ancestral village mourns his demise, invites his family

The villagers expressed immense pride in his journey from humble beginnings in their village to becoming India's Prime Minister.



Despite the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, the villagers of Gah in Pakistan, the ancestral home of former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, honoured his memory following his death on 26 December 2024. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/YOUTUBE**

DESPITE the strained ties between India and Pakistan, the small village of Gah in Pakistan, the ancestral home of former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, held a special event to honour his memory following his death on 26 December 2024. Singh passed away at the age of 92 at AIIMS Delhi due to age-related health issues.

The villagers expressed pride in their connection to Singh, reflecting on his remarkable journey from humble beginnings in Gah to becoming the leader of the world's largest democracy. One villager shared, "It fills me with pride to know that Manmohan Singh was a classmate of my father. A boy from this small village rose to become the Premier of such

a large nation and served with great dignity."

An invitation was extended to Singh's family, inviting them to visit Gah and assuring them a warm welcome. The villager emphasized, "Though he is no longer with us, his family will always be welcomed here, and we'll honour them in a way that will be remembered in history." — ANI

Israel allocates millions for animal welfare

ISRAEL'S Ministry of Environmental Protection, through the Animal Welfare Fund, supported 36 animal welfare organizations in 2024. The support was provided as part of a call for proposals for the activities of public institutions that promote animal welfare in the amount of up to 400,000 Shekels (\$110,000) per organization and a total of 4.5

million Shekels (\$1.23 million).

Support was provided for one or more of the following activities: construction, improvement or renovation of animal facilities, sterilization and castration of animals, keeping and caring for animals, education and outreach on the subject of promoting animal welfare and protection. — ANI

BRIEF: LIFESTYLE

UN condemns Taliban ban on Afghan women working at NGOs

UN human rights chief Volker Turk on Tuesday said Afghanistan's governing Taliban authorities must reverse their ban on Afghan women working for NGOs.

Since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, women have been progressively erased from public spaces, prompting the United Nations to denounce the "gender apartheid" the administration has established. "I am deeply alarmed at the recent announcement by the de facto authorities in Afghanistan that non-governmental organizations' licences will be revoked if they continue to employ Afghan women. This is absolutely the wrong path being taken," Turk said in a statement. — AFP

Cosmetic surgery aficionado Jocelyne Wildenstein dies aged 79: partner

SWISS socialite Jocelyne Wildenstein, also known as "catwoman" due to her extensive plastic surgery, has died aged 79, her partner said on Wednesday.

"It is with heavy heart and with great sadness that Mr Lloyd Klein announces the unexpected death of his beloved fiancée and longtime companion Jocelyne Wildenstein," the fashion designer said in an English-language statement sent to AFP. — AFP



Kyoto's Gion Festival is one of Japan's most famous and culturally significant festivals. It takes place every July, honouring the Yasaka Shrine and its deities. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Tradition vs tourism debate clouding future for famed local festivals

BALANCING the need for tourism with preserving traditional cultural practices is a complex issue in Japan, especially regarding its festivals. While local festivals, such as Kyoto's Gion Festival, provide significant economic benefits through tourism, they also risk losing their cultural integrity. The introduction of premium seating options for high-paying tourists—complete with food and alcohol—

has sparked controversy. For instance, the priest of Yasaka Shrine, which oversees the Gion Festival, expressed concerns about serving alcohol during such a sacred event, calling it a "show" rather than a religious ritual. He even threatened to resign over the issue.

Festivals in Japan, many rooted in Shinto practices, are vital to local communities but are also grappling with challeng-

es like depopulation and the high costs of hosting large events.

As a result, organizers have introduced premium tickets to attract wealthier tourists, but this trend may undermine the essence of these sacred rituals. Some festivals, such as the Aomori Nebuta Festival and Awaodori Dance Festival, have already embraced this approach, with mixed results. — Kyodo

ECONOMY WORLD



A survey of importers indicates widespread readiness to adopt the new framework in early 2025. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE / PORT OF HAIFA**

Israel: New European import standards take effect 1 Jan

ISRAEL'S Ministry of Economy and Industry published the results of a survey conducted among hundreds of importers, in preparation for the entry into force of the import reform "What's good for Europe is good for Israel" starting 1 January 2025. The survey shows that most importers expect to take advantage of the reform tracks as early as the first quarter of this year.

The "What's good for Europe is good for Israel" reform is the adoption of European regulatory

standards for the importation of various products. Israel's standards and regulations are much higher and more complicated than those in Europe. This limits the variety of products available for import. The reform is expected to lower prices for Israeli consumers by increasing competition.

The Ministry said the results of the survey, to which 400 importers responded, indicated a "high willingness to use the reform tracks as early as the first quarter of the year". — ANI

India met all-time maximum power demand of 250 GW in 2024

The government prioritizes reliable, affordable, and clean energy through advancements in conservation, consumer empowerment, and infrastructure development initiatives.

THE year 2024 marked a landmark period for India's power sector, with historic advancements in energy generation, transmission, and distribution.

From meeting record power demand of 250 GW to

reducing energy shortages at the national level to a mere 0.1 per cent in 2024-25, the sector demonstrated resilience and commitment to sustainable growth.

Significant strides in

energy conservation, consumer empowerment, and infrastructure development underscore the government's efforts to ensure reliable, affordable, and clean energy for all. — ANI



The electrification of rural areas and households highlights a transformative step in India's energy sector. **PHOTO: ANI**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia lifts export duties on coal

RUSSIA has officially dropped export duties on anthracite, coking coal, and thermal coal starting 1 January 2025, RIA Novosti news agency reported on Wednesday.

Introduced on 1 October 2023, flexible export duties were in place until the end of 2024. However, duties on anthracite and thermal coal were temporarily suspended between 1 May and 30 November 2024.

In November 2024, the Russian government decided to lift the export duty on coking coal ahead of schedule and extended the suspension of duties on anthracite and thermal coal to support the coal industry. — Xinhua

Poland takes over rotating six-month EU presidency

POLAND is set to take over the six-month rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union from Hungary on Wednesday.

Every six months, an EU member state takes the helm of the Council to lead the policy discussions. While 2024 saw Belgium and Hungary preside, Poland and Denmark take charge in 2025.

Polish representatives are to assume the chairmanship of numerous ministerial meetings until the end of June. — ANI

S Korea's exports hit record high in 2024

SOUTH Korea's export revenue hit a record high last year thanks to strong demand for locally-made semiconductors

and other tech products, government data showed Wednesday.

Export revenue, which

accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, grew 8.2 per cent over the year to US\$683.76 billion in 2024, surpassing the previous high of US\$683.6 billion in 2022, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

The daily average exports expanded 8.2 per cent to reach a new high of \$2.53 billion last year.

Imports retreated 1.6 per cent to \$631.99 billion in 2024, sending the trade surplus to \$51.77 billion. The trade balance turned around from a deficit of \$10.3 billion in 2023.

Of the country's 15 major export items, eight products saw an expansion in outbound shipment. — Xinhua



Mobile device shipments hit \$17.19 billion, marking an 11.2 per cent growth due to the introduction of new products. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

9% increase in passenger traffic at Egyptian airports

THE passenger traffic at Egyptian airports rose nine per cent in 2024 compared to 2023, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported, citing the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The total number of passengers at Egyptian airports in 2024 reached 22.097 million, up from 20.276 million in 2023. Additionally, the number of flights also rose by three per cent, reaching 167,684 in 2024, compared to 162,773 the year before.

Cairo International Airport recorded 28.775 million passengers with a total of 211,664 flights in 2024, compared to 26.463 million passengers and 198,943 flights in 2023. — ANI



Cairo International Airport recorded 28.775 million passengers with a total of 211,664 flights in 2024. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Tomato production in Israel rebounding from war

ISRAEL'S local tomato production is surging, now meeting over 90 per cent of domestic demand, the Agriculture Ministry said.

Agriculture slumped since Hamas's 7 October attacks as farmers near the Gaza and Lebanon borders could not access fields and orchards, and foreign labourers left the country.

Ministry Director-General Oren Lavie credited the recovery to dedicated farmers and ministry support. Lavie said the turnaround has reduced Israel's reliance on imports, lowering wholesale prices from 11 shekels (US\$ 3) to six shekels (US\$ 1.6) per kilogramme. — ANI



Israel's local tomato production is surging, now meeting over 90 per cent of domestic demand. **PHOTO: ANI**

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 4th JANUARY 2025 (Independence Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2422S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2422S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (24011E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (24011E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.140N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.140N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (450W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (450W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB451A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB451A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-1-2025** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Osaka Expo 'Grand Ring' a symbol of unity: architect



The vast "Grand Ring" built for Expo 2025 in Osaka pays homage to Japan's architectural history. **PHOTO: PAUL MILLER / AFP**

A towering wooden "Grand Ring" built for Expo 2025 in Osaka pays homage to Japan's architectural history and is a

symbol of unity despite criticism over costs, its creator says. The two-kilometre (1.2-mile) circumference of Sou

Fujimoto's striking structure will surround dozens of national pavilions at the six-month-long event from April.

The "Grand Ring", a massive wooden structure designed by architect Sou Fujimoto for Expo 2025 in Osaka, is both a tribute to Japan's architectural history and a symbol of unity.

World Expo, held every five years in different locations, allows participating countries to show off their technological and cultural strengths.

Organizers have struggled to rouse enthusiasm for the 2025 event, facing slow ticket sales and public concern over the ballooning construction budget.

But Fujimoto, one of Japan's top architects, told AFP there is a deeper value to the 34.4 billion yen (\$220 million) Grand Ring than just its price tag.

The Expo is a "really beautiful, precious opportunity where

so many different cultures... and countries come together in one place to create diversity and unity", the 53-year-old said under the Ring's imposing latticed beams.

Such an event facilitates international exchange, even as conflicts rage in Ukraine, Gaza and elsewhere, and to illustrate this concept "the simplest shape is a circle".

Traditional techniques for joining wooden pillars inspired by the famous raised platform at Kiyomizu Temple in nearby Kyoto were used to construct the Grand Ring. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump to attend Jimmy Carter state funeral

US President-elect Donald Trump said Tuesday he plans to attend the state funeral of former president Jimmy Carter, who died Sunday aged 100. Trump shared his intentions with reporters during New Year's Eve celebrations at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida.

Carter, a Democrat who served one term as US president from 1977 to 1981, voted by mail in the 2024 US presidential election, with family members saying he planned to vote for Trump's opponent, Vice-President Kamala Harris.

State funeral plans for Carter, a one-time peanut farmer who worked his way to the White House, begin Saturday in his home state of Georgia and will conclude 9 January at the Washington National Cathedral, where Trump is expected to attend along with other dignitaries. — AFP

Cybertruck explodes outside Trump hotel in Las Vegas, killing one

At least one person was killed and seven wounded when a Tesla Cybertruck exploded outside a hotel belonging to US President-elect Donald Trump in Las Vegas, police said Wednesday.

The electric vehicle pulled up to the Trump International Hotel's glass entrance before a "large explosion", Las Vegas Sheriff Kevin McMahon told reporters.

Video footage shows the stainless steel truck parked at the hotel entrance before bursting into flames, followed by smaller explosions that appeared similar to fireworks.

McMahon said there was "one deceased individual inside the Cybertruck" while seven people received "minor" injuries.

Tesla chief Elon Musk said that the explosion was "caused by very large fireworks and/or a bomb carried in the bed of the rented Cybertruck," adding in a post on X that it was "unrelated to the vehicle itself". — AFP

India clears toxic waste 40 years after Bhopal gas disaster

INDIAN authorities moved hundreds of tonnes of hazardous waste remaining more than 40 years after the world's deadliest industrial disaster struck the city of Bhopal, media reported Thursday.

Communities have for decades blamed a high level of sicknesses on contamination of the groundwater in the wake of the highly toxic gas leak from the Union Carbide

factory in December 1984.

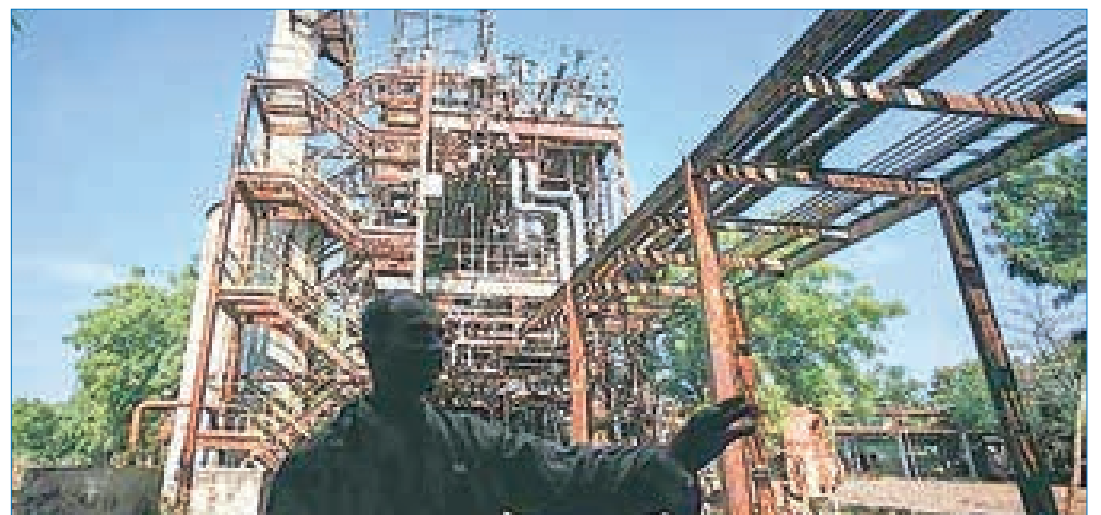
Some 3,500 people were killed in the immediate aftermath of the chemical leak on the night of 2 December 1984, and up to 25,000 are estimated to have died overall.

Around a dozen trucks began carrying the 337 tonnes of waste — sealed inside containers and with a police escort — in a slow convoy to the disposal site some 225 kilometres (140 miles) away

at Pithampur late Wednesday night, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Singh said that the waste will "undergo scientific disposal" through incineration.

In 1984, 27 tonnes of methyl isocyanate (MIC), used in the production of pesticides, swept through the city of over two million people after one of the tanks storing the deadly chemical shattered its concrete casing. — AFP



The highly toxic gas leak from the Union Carbide factory in December 1984 caused one of the world's worst industrial disasters. **PHOTO: PHOPAL.NET/FILE**

SPORTS

MIU maintains winning streak in MFF Futsal League

THE 2024-2025 season of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Futsal League I continued its Fixture II on 2 January at the MFF Futsal Stadium in Thuwunna Football Complex in Yangon, where MIU maintained its winning streak.

MIU become the only team to extend its winning run among the four teams that secured victories. MH Dream Team, VUC,

and Generations all lost their matches during the Fixture I.

In the Fixture II, MIU defeated M2K with a dominant 5-0 scoreline. SGF overcame YCDC Marga with a 5-3 victory. Matches between VUC and YRG, Generations and MH Dream Team, as well as Winner Soccer and Futsal Lovers all ended in 2-2 draws.

Following Fixture II, MIU leads the table with six points.



MIU and M2K teams face off in the MFF Futsal League I. PHOTO: MFF

MH Dream Team, VUC, and Generations are tied with four points each, followed by SGF with

three points and Winner Soccer with two. YRG, Futsal Lovers and M2K each have one point while

YCDC Marga remains winless after two matches. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Hungarian legendary gymnast Agnes Keleti dies at 103

AGNES Keleti, a gymnastics icon and one of Hungary's most celebrated athletes, passed away early Thursday at the age of 103, the Hungarian news agency MTI reported.

She was the world's oldest living Olympic gold medallist and the most decorated female Olympian in Hungarian his-

tory, with 10 Olympic medals, including five golds.

Keleti, who was hospitalized last week with pneumonia, passed just shy of her 104th birthday.

Born on 9 January 1921, in Budapest, Keleti overcame immense personal and historical adversity to achieve greatness.

During World War II, as a Jew, she survived by adopting a false identity and hiding in rural Hungary, while many of her family members perished in concentration camps. Despite these hardships, her resilience never wavered. — Xinhua

Arsenal close gap on Liverpool as Jesus stars again



Arsenal's Gabriel Jesus (C) celebrates after scoring against Brentford. PHOTO: AFP

ARSENAL closed the gap on Premier League leaders Liverpool to six points as Gabriel Jesus extended his hot-streak in a 3-1 win at Brentford on Wednesday.

Mikel Arteta's side were rocked by Bryan Mbeumo's first-half goal at the Gtech Community Stadium. But Ar-

senal refused to be blown away on a wet and windy evening in west London as Jesus equalised before the break.

It was the Brazilian's sixth goal in his last four games after he scored just once in his first 20 matches this season.

Mikel Merino and Gabriel Martinelli netted in quick suc-

cession soon after half-time to ensure Arsenal moved into second place above Nottingham Forest.

"We won in a difficult stadium against a good opponent. The record they have here is incredible and when you go 1-0 down it makes it even harder," Arteta said.

"Especially when you go a goal down early in the game it becomes a mountain to climb, but we remained patient.

"We had to manage the situation emotionally. We were very clinical in the box. Jesus's form is very important." Excluding their 5-1 rout of Crystal Palace, the Gunners had spluttered through their last four league games with lacklustre draws against Fulham and Everton followed by a narrow win over lowly Ipswich. — AFP

Valencia and Real Madrid kick off La Liga in 2025



Real Madrid's English midfielder Jude Bellingham (C) scores the opening goal against Girona. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

VALENCIA and Real Madrid get La Liga underway in 2025 on Friday in a match that could see Madrid go top, ahead of Atletico Madrid and five points clear of FC Barcelona.

Madrid and Valencia play a game that was postponed from November due to the catastrophic floods that hit the Valencia region, claiming over 200 lives and causing damage the area still hasn't recovered from.

Things have changed at Valencia CF, with Carlos Corberan replacing Ruben Baraja as coach before Christmas, and the former West Brom boss will make his debut with Valencia in 19th, with just 12 points from their first 17 matches.

He could also debut with the Mestalla Stadium much quieter than usual, with a sector of Valencia supporters threatening to boycott the match in protest at

club owner Peter Lim.

The match is the beginning of a non-stop January for Real Madrid, who follow their visit to Mestalla with a Copa del Rey tie against fourth-tier Deportivo Minera in Cartagena three days later, before flying to Saudi Arabia for their Spanish Super Cup semifinal against Mallorca on 9 January, and a possible final in that tournament three days later.

Provided they beat Deportivo Minera, there is then another midweek Copa del Rey tie, before returning to La Liga on 19 January.

The good news for coach Carlo Ancelotti is that apart from long-term absentees Dani Carvajal and Eder Militao, he has a full squad to choose from, with David Alaba back in full training after a year out with a knee injury and close to returning to action. — AFP



ASBESTOS EXPOSURE THREATS

Northern Israelis warned of asbestos contamination due to war

ISRAEL'S Ministry of Environmental Protection and Ministry of Health warn of potential exposure to possible asbestos hazards following the war in the North.

As a result of direct hits, blasts, and shrapnel during the war, asbestos cement roofs were damaged, primarily in the northern region. Physical damage to a structure containing asbestos can cause the release of asbestos fibres that were trapped in the asbestos sheets, becoming a hazard as defined by law.

In light of the preparations for the return of residents to the north and the welcome public initiative to assist residents, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Health are informing the population about the health dangers of exposure to asbestos hazards and how to avoid them. — ANI

Brazil takes over BRICS presidency, focusing on Global South cooperation

BRICS focuses on reforming international governance, facilitating trade, and enhancing cooperation across various sectors for Global South countries.



Key BRICS goals include simplifying trade and investment through payment systems, while Brazil is building a major 5G network. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BRAZIL assumed the rotating presidency of the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) on Wednesday, with an agenda focusing on strengthening Global South cooperation, the Brazilian government said in a statement.

It will also focus on reforming international governance, and creating mechanisms to facilitate trade among its members. "The group is one of the key political and diplomatic forums for Global South countries, focusing on cooperation across various sectors," said the statement.

Its key goals include developing payment systems to simplify trade and investment between members, promoting inclusive and responsible governance of artificial intelligence, and improving financing mechanisms to address climate change. — Xinhua

Beijing achieves record-breaking 290 days of good air quality in 2024



This photo taken on 17 December 2024 shows the illuminated arches of the 17-Arch Bridge at sunset in the Summer Palace in Beijing. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The national capital saw good air quality on 79.2 per cent of days in 2024.

BEIJING recorded 290 days of good air quality last year, the highest since monitoring began, the municipal ecology and environment bureau said Thursday.

The number of days with good air quality in the national capital accounted for 79.2 per cent in 2024, marking an increase of 19 days compared to the previous year and a significant rise of 114 days compared to 2013.

The number of days with heavy air pollution dropped dramatically, from 58 in 2013 to just two in 2024, a decrease of 96.6 per cent.

Beijing's average concentration of PM2.5 reached 30.5 microgrammes per cubic metre in 2024, meeting the national standards for four consecutive years. PM2.5 readings, a key indicator of air pollution, are a gauge monitoring airborne particles of 2.5 microns or below in diameter.

Compared to 2013, the annual average concentrations of PM2.5, PM10, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide in Beijing last year decreased by 65.9 per cent, 50 per cent, 57.1 per cent and 88.7 per cent, respectively. — Xinhua