

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

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

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Saturday, 4 January 2025

Honouring the 77th anniversary Independence Day



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"

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Notification 1/2025
6th Waxing of Pyatho 1386 ME
4 January 2025

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council has offered religious titles to following Sayadaws, Ganthadhura Pariyatti lecturer Sayadaws, Vipassanadhura Patipatti Sayadaws, meditation instructor Sayadaws, mobile preachers and those in missionaries at home and abroad and laypeople who significantly contribute to the Buddhism with four prerequisites: -

Abhidhaja Maharathaguru title

1. Bhaddanta Candavara Bhivamsa, Khemathiwun Buddhism Learning Centre, Khemathiri Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Pannobhasa, Maha Htupayon Buddhism Learning Centre, Phayagyan Ward, Thonze, Thayawady Township, Bago Region
3. Bhaddanta Kesava, Abbot Training School, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region
4. Bhaddanta Pannajota Bhivamsa, Padamya Monastery, West Pyigy Pyawbwe Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
5. Bhaddanta Vimala Buddhi, Ovada Monastery, Myazedi Buddhism Learning Centre, Maungngan Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
6. Bhaddanta Pannobhasa, Kaingkon Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Ward 5, Kayan Township, Yangon Region
7. Bhaddanta Sirinda Bhivamsa, Maha Withokdayon Pali Tekkatho Shwegyin Taikthit, Yedashe Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
8. Dr Bhaddanta Kumara, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
9. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Pissamayon Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 3, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region

Aggamaha Pandita title

1. Bhaddanta Candavamsalankara Bhivamsa, Palikarituluk Monastery, Ward 10, Shwebo, Sagaing Region
2. Bhaddanta Karunika, Zinawdaya Buddhism Learning Centre, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
3. Bhaddanta Sujana, MyoU Taikthit Thanlan Buddhism Learning Centre, No 2 Aungzeya Ward, Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw
4. Bhaddanta Vannaraha, Maha Zanaka Buddhism Learning Centre, Saya San Ward, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw
5. Bhaddanta Sasanadhaja, Taikkyaung Pali Tekkatho Buddhism Learning Centre, South Zeygyo Ward, Gyobingauk, Bago Region
6. Bhaddanta Siha, Maha Withutayama (Central) Monastery, Ward 10, Pakokku, Magway Region

To be continued

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Notification 2/2025
6th Waxing of Pyatho 1386 ME
4 January 2025

THE State Administration Council Chairman has conferred honorary titles and medals on the following individuals: -

Pyidaungsu Sithu Thingaha title

Sithu title

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Colonel Kyi Maung | Union Minister (retd) | Ministry of Health |
| 2. Dr Daw Tin Win | Writer | Ministry of Information |
| (Dr Ma Tin Win-University of Education) | | |
| 3. Dr Min Tin Mon | Writer | Ministry of Information |
| (Paragu Minnanda) | | |
| 4. Dr Toe Hla | Vice-Chairman 2 | Ministry of Religious |
| | Myanmar Historical | Affairs and Culture |
| | Commission | |

Gallantry titles of Tatmadaw

Thura title

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Colonel Thet Paing Myint | Ministry of Defence |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|

Titles for Performance

Zeya Kyaw Htin title

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Maj-Gen Zaw Min Latt | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. Maj-Gen Myo Min Tun | Ministry of Defence |
| 3. Maj-Gen Than Htaik | Ministry of Defence |
| 4. Rear-Admiral Naing Min Kyaw | Ministry of Defence |
| 5. Maj-Gen Moe Myint Swe | Ministry of Defence |
| 6. Maj-Gen Aung Khin Thein | Ministry of Defence |
| 7. Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Moe | Ministry of Defence |
| 8. Maj-Gen Naing Win Swe | Ministry of Defence |
| 9. Maj-Gen Thein Zaw | Ministry of Defence |
| 10. Maj-Gen Hla Moe | Ministry of Defence |
| 11. Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Oo | Ministry of Defence |
| 12. Maj-Gen Thet Tun Aung | Ministry of Defence |
| 13. Maj-Gen Win Myat | Ministry of Defence |
| 14. Maj-Gen Nay Myo Oo | Ministry of Defence |
| 15. Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Lwin | Ministry of Defence |
| 16. Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw | Ministry of Defence |
| 17. Rear-Admiral Kyaw Shwe Tun | Ministry of Defence |

To be continued

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Notification 3/2025
6th Waxing of Pyatho 1386 ME
4 January 2025

STATE Administration Council Chairman has conferred Excellent Performance in Social Field medals (First Class) on 249 National Convention delegates under Notification 3/2025 dated 4 January 2025 for their outstanding activities in taking part in discussions to adopt detailed principles in drafting the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the National Convention.

Honorary medals on the following individuals for their excellent performances

Excellent Performances in Social Field medals (First Class)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Commodore Thein Ngwe (Rtd) | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. U Soe Myint | Director-General (Rtd) High Court |
| 3. U Tin Ohn | Director-General (Rtd) Department of Civil Aviation |
| 4. U Kyaw Khine | Director-General (Rtd) Department of Transport |
| 5. U Thaug Shwe | Director-General (Rtd) Department of Transport Planning |
| 6. U Khin Maung Htoo | Managing Director (Rtd) Myanma Five Star Line |
| 7. U Khin Maung Thein | Managing Director (Rtd) Inland Water Transport |
| 8. U Htay Aung | Managing Director (Rtd) Myanma Posts and |

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 9. U Aung Thein | Director-General (Rtd) | Telecommunications (MPT)
General Administration
Department |
| 10. U Tin Maung | Director-General (Rtd) | Pension Department |
| 11. U Myat Thin | Director-General (Rtd) | Planning and Statistics
Department |
| 12. U Khin Nyein | Director-General (Rtd) | Customs Department |
| 13. U Maung Toe | Director-General (Rtd) | Revenue Appellate Tribunal
Office |
| 14. Lt-Col Thein Han | Director-General (Rtd) | Office of the Work Committee
for the Progress of Border
Areas and National Races |
| 15. U Kyaw Aye | Director-General (Rtd) | Office of Attorney-General |
| 16. U Kyi Lwin | Director-General (Rtd) | MRTV |
| 17. U Than Maung | Managing Director (Rtd) | Printing and Publishing
Enterprise |
| 18. Dr Than Htike | Director-General (Rtd) | Cottage Industries Department |
| 19. U Tin Hla | Director-General (Rtd) | Forest Department |
| 20. U Hla Pe | Managing Director (Rtd) | Myanma Timber Enterprise |
| 21. U Tin Win | Managing Director (Rtd) | No 2 Mining Enterprise |
| 22. U Win Maung | Managing Director (Rtd) | Myanma Pearl Enterprise |
| 23. U Sein Lwin | Managing Director (Rtd) | Myanma Pearl Enterprise |
| 24. U Soe Myint | Director-General (Rtd) | Ministry of Energy |
| 25. Colonel Tin Oo | Director-General (Rtd) | Industrial Planning Department |

To be continued

NATIONAL

THE fellow citizens need cohesion, unity and discipline. They are necessary to exert efforts not to lose sight of the main goal and not to deviate from the path, regardless of any kind of incitement by the unscrupulous elements.

[An excerpt from the radio speech delivered by Bogyoke Aung San on 1 January 1947]



Inlay Lake. PHOTO BY MYO MIN HTIKE (IPRD)

Citizens urged to unite in safeguarding the nation

Government firmly pledges to ensure that the general election will be systematic, fair, and dignified, and to transfer state responsibilities to the government formed as a result of the election.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day 2025. The full translated text is as follows: -

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

On the auspicious occasion of the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day, which falls on 4 January, today, I extend my heartfelt greetings with best wishes to all ethnic peoples of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for their mental and physical well-being, happiness, and fulfilment.

Myanmar has stood proudly as an independent nation for many centuries, with its own land, water, territory, crown, monarch, and heritage. The people have long possessed their own language, literature, culture, art, and traditions with dignity. All the national race groups of the Union have lived together harmoniously, sharing the same fortune through thick and thin.

Following three aggressive invasions by colonialists in 1824, 1852, and 1885, resource-rich Myanmar lost its independence and sovereignty.

The entire national race people of the Union, with a nationalistic spirit rooted in ethnic pride, united in solidarity to resist and overthrow colonialists and fascists. As a result, on 4 January 1948, Myanmar regained independence and was able to re-establish the country as a sovereign nation. On 4 January 2025, this achievement will mark its 77th anniversary.

Although Myanmar has emerged as a sovereign and independent nation in the world, the consequences of colonialist instigations continue to resonate to this day.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union

In Myanmar, to bring an end to the long-standing armed conflicts, resolve political issues through political means rather than military solutions, and establish long-term sustainable peace, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed on 15 October 2015. The agreement aimed to cease all armed hostilities across the country. Tatmadaw has repeatedly declared ceasefires, and the government has made numerous calls for peace dialogues. However, it has been observed that some Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) that signed the NCA have failed to comply with its commitments, breaching the terms of the agreement.

The conflicts and armed terror attacks occurring in Myanmar are primarily rooted in differing political attitudes, driven by a desire for separate self-rule and the pursuit of personal interests and gains. In various regions, the terror attacks carried out by armed insurgents have led to the destruction of the lives, homes, and livelihoods of residents, causing widespread poverty and suffering. It is important

for every citizen to be aware that behind these terror actions, various forms of support are involved.

The groups engaged in armed struggle against the State have been urged to abandon the path of terror and resolve the political issue through peaceful means. It has also been clearly declared that no solutions will be provided to demand of armed terrorism. Therefore, it is strongly urged that, for the sake of “non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, all armed conflicts and differing attitudes should be resolved under the law”.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union

National race people of Myanmar, when faced with important challenges, have united with a spirit of kinship, setting aside any regional or territorial divisions, and with a shared sense of brotherhood and the spirit of the Union, they were able to achieve independence. The spirit of the Union, which was the foundation of past efforts for independence, is also the cornerstone for safeguarding the future democratic nation.

The current global situation is becoming increasingly complex and difficult, and it can only be faced through the unity and solidarity of the people. There is a proverb, “When the cow breaks loose, the tiger pulls it back.” In Myanmar, where diverse ethnic groups coexist, the country faces armed terror attacks, action intended to instil fear in the villages, and misconduct by military forces. These actions undermine the rule of law, cause the government machinery to collapse, and weaken the nation, which could ultimately threaten national independence and sovereignty. To ensure the continued stability and longevity of Myanmar, it is crucial for all national race groups to unite. The entire people have to support Myanma Tatmadaw and patriotic citizens, who have sacrificed life, blood and sweat over generations to achieve success in justice clashes.

As safeguarding the nation’s independence and sovereignty is the inborn responsibility of all citizens, I strongly urge all citizens to unite and, with the spirit of the Union, collectively safeguard and protect the nation.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

The ultimate goal of the State Administration Council is to successfully hold a free, fair, and multiparty democratic general election. The nationwide population and housing census was conducted from 1 to 15 October 2024. Efforts are underway to compile an accurate and verified population list to be submitted to the Union Election Commission to facilitate the preparation of voter lists for eligible voters. I firmly pledge to ensure that the general election will be systematic, fair, and dignified, and to transfer state responsibilities to the government formed as a result of the election.

SEE PAGE 4

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)

Citizens urged to unite in safeguarding the nation

FROM PAGE 3

I urge all citizens to participate in the effort to ensure the emergence of a genuine and disciplined democratic system by holding fair, dignified, and procedurally correct general elections.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

It is necessary to march onwards without halting despite experiencing difficulties and crises in undertaking development of a country or a region. The State Administration Council operates with the belief that politics is inherently tied to the economy. Through ensuring the well-being of the people in terms of livelihood and sustenance, the aim is to elevate living standards and achieve national development as a primary objective.

To ensure national economic prosperity, efforts are being made to prioritize and enhance agricultural and livestock-based productivity. By advancing agriculture and livestock sectors, production and industrial activities can operate more efficiently, which, in turn, will drive the growth of service industries. This process is expected to contribute to an increase in the country's GDP and improve the livelihoods of approximately 50 per cent of the population. Moreover, support is being provided to develop MSME (Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprises) businesses to ensure sufficient domestic production of foodstuffs and consumer goods.

The foundation of a nation's development lies in the abundance of educated and skilled individuals. As such, to nurture a human resource equipped with knowledge and technology, an education system is being implemented to ensure that everyone completes at least KG+9 (kindergarten through grade 9) as a compulsory education system. Upon successfully completing KG+9, students can proceed to attend high schools specializing in basic education, agricultural development, or industrial studies. Those who meet the required qualifications will then have the opportunity to further study at relevant universities or colleges.

As the saying goes, "Strength of the nation lies within", efforts will be made to build and enhance the three pillars of strength: domestic economy, national political stability, and internal defence capability. Therefore, I urge all citizens to work collectively for the balanced and harmonious development of the entire Union in all aspects.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren of the Union,

In line with the motto of the State Administration Council, "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal", efforts will be made to prioritize the nation's interests and the well-being of all ethnic people, striving to build a better nation and socioeconomic life.

The State Administration Council has adopted and is implementing four political objectives based on Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as fundamental principles by upholding the Constitution.

In moving forward, enhancing the nation's economy serves as the best driving force. By supporting the development of the country's production industries, it is possible to contribute to both the advancement of the national economy and the improvement of the socioeconomic lives of the entire population.

Tatmadaw originated from the people and will exert its utmost efforts to defend the nation. The unity between Tatmadaw and the people serves as a fundamental pillar for national defence.

All Myanmar citizens, with the spirit of being Myanmar and the mindset of "We are Myanmar", through the national spirit, must work together with determination to realize peace, stability, and development of the State.

The State Administration Council emphasizes implementation of the two national visions of prosperity and food security of the nation.

The peace and stability of a country are directly related to the matters of peace and security, just as peace and stability are directly connected to development and progress. Hence, peace and stability, as well as development and progress, are being pursued simultaneously.

The agricultural production for food security, the sown acreage expansion of oil crops, and the increase in cotton yields are being actively implemented. In order to improve the income of each farmer, agricultural and livestock projects are being expanded and implemented with the State economic promotion fund.

To enjoy welfare facilities, uniform expenses and house rents, as well as additional allowance have been provided for civil servants. Moreover, housing for staff has been expanded to ensure convenient living conditions. Teachers are being granted monthly incentives based on their qualifications, and stipends for students are being increased.

To preserve the national identity and foster a strong sense of patriotism, traditional Myanmar cultural performing arts competitions are being revived. At the same time, efforts are being made to promote the development of libraries across the country. In order to ensure health, fitness and education promotion, the policy "Every hospital must have a doctor" has been adopted and is being implemented. Moreover, the National Sports Festival was successfully held in December 2024, contributing to the cultivation of well-rounded and capable students who possess both physical and mental strength.

As such, I deeply urge the people to move forward in unity with the State Administration Council under the motto, "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal" and to strive in unity with determination, perseverance, and courage to strengthen the political, economic, defence, and national character while fostering a strong sense of national spirit through diligence, industriousness and perseverance.

I would like to convey a message urging all Union-born national brethren to strongly implement the five National Objectives of the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day 2025 with unity and solidarity.



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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.

NATIONAL

Congratulatory messages from foreign heads of states on 77th Anniversary of Independence Day

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

ON the auspicious occasion of the 77th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia join me in extending our warmest felicitations to Your Excellency and all the citizens of your country.

While I highly appreciate the close and long-standing bonds of friendship and solidarity, based on shared cultural and religious affinities, mutual respect and understanding between Cambodia and Myanmar, I firmly believe that through joint efforts, the cooperation between our two countries will be further enhanced in the future.

May Your Excellency enjoy good health and serenity.

May the coming time bring peace, well-being and happiness to all the citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Please accept, Mr Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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

ON behalf of the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to convey my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency, the Government and the friendly people of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 77th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Cambodia deeply values the strong and friendly relations we share with Myanmar. Over the years, our two countries have enjoyed warm relations and close cooperation built upon trust, mutual understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation. I am pleased to see an increasing growth in our relations, fostered by close engagement. Our recent bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 11th Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) Summit in the Chinese city of Kunming in November 2024, reinvigorated our existing warm relations and strong partnership.

May I take this opportunity to reiterate my firm commitment to working closely with Your Excellency at bilateral and multilateral frameworks to further consolidate and enhance the excellent ties for the well-being and prosperity of our two peoples. Next year marks the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic relations, both countries should jointly organize meaningful activities.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

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

PLEASE, accept my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the National Holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day.

The relations between our two countries are based on benign traditions of friendship and mutual respect.

Availing of the opportunity, I would like to congratulate You on the New Year 2025. I extend to Your Excellency my sincere wish for Your good health, happiness, success, and your fellow citizens' peaceful well-being.

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

ON behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation and on my own behalf, I congratulate You on the occasion of the National Holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day.

I wish to express satisfaction with the continued development of the Russia-Myanmar relations based on the principles of friendship and partnership. The cooperation in trade and economy, investment, cultural and humanitarian spheres has been strengthening. Promising joint projects have been brought to life.

I reaffirm our willingness for active work between our two Governments for the purpose of further enhancement of practical collaboration across the whole range of subjects. This is in full conformity with the interests of Russia and Myanmar. I wish You, Excellency, robust health, well-being and success in Your distinguished activity, and to all citizens of Myanmar – happiness and prosperity.

**Mr Ramchandra Paudel, President of Nepal sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing,
State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar**

I extend my warm wishes and congratulation to Your Excellency and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day of Myanmar. Further, I wish for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

**Mr KP Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing,
State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar**

ON behalf of the Government and people of Nepal and my own, I extend congratulations and warm wishes to Your Excellency and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day of Myanmar. I extend my best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of friendly people of Myanmar.

NATIONAL

Congratulatory messages from foreign heads of states on 77th Anniversary of Independence Day

FROM PAGE 5

Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko, President of Republic of Belarus sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar

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

Over the 77 years that have passed since liberation from colonial oppression, your country has made significant progress in political, social and economic development, despite all challenges, becoming a sovereign and independent state. I confirm my interest in prompt untapping of the considerable potential of Belarusian-Myanmar cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technical, and humanitarian spheres, and in opening up new opportunities bringing our countries closer together.

I wish good health and further success to Your Excellency, and peace and prosperity to citizens of Myanmar.

Please, accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

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

ON behalf of the Government of the Republic of Belarus and personally I congratulate you cordially on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Our countries are united by aspiration for an independent path of development in accordance with the interests of our citizens, and for a just world order where every state has its own voice and holds an honourable place in common international community.

The Republic of Belarus is interested in strengthening contacts with Myanmar at all levels and intensifying cooperation in various areas.

I consider it as essential to use the existing instruments and mechanisms of bilateral partnership as effectively as possible. I hope for your assistance in organising a session of Belarus-Myanmar Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation. I am confident that dynamic business ties and implementation of joint projects will contribute to progressive development of the two countries and enhance the well-being of peoples.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my sincere wishes of good health and successful implementation of all plans, as well as the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar

I am writing to extend our warm felicitations on the joyous occasion of the 77th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy cordial relations, marked by mutual respect, cooperation and goodwill. I am confident that through our joint efforts and collaboration, our bilateral ties will further strengthen across all areas of shared interest for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

I avail myself of this opportunity to convey my best wishes for Your Excellency's health, happiness and well-being, as well as for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar

I am pleased, as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar celebrates its National Day, to convey to you on behalf of the Algerian people and government, and that of my own, my warmest congratulations and my sincerest wishes for continued good-health and well-being to Your Excellency, and further advancement and progress to the friendly people of Myanmar.

I would like, on this occasion, to express to you my readiness to work towards strengthening the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, upgrading them to higher levels serving the mutual interests of our friendly peoples.

Mr Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Kingdom of Cambodia sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Union of Myanmar

IT is my great pleasure to convey my heartfelt felicitations to Your Excellency and the friendly people of Myanmar on the festive occasion of the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am pleased to note that both countries have warm relations and close cooperation over the past years. Both countries have been working closely and supported one another at regional and international fora. With our joint endeavours and in particular next year marks the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic relations, the warm relations of traditional friendship and beneficial cooperation between the two countries will be further deepened and strengthened for the mutual interests of our peoples.

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

SEE PAGE 7

Congratulatory messages from foreign heads of states on 77th Anniversary of Independence Day

FROM PAGE 6

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

PLEASE, accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day.

We note with satisfaction the high level of development of Russia-Myanmar relations based on longstanding traditions of friendship and mutual understanding. We are ready to carry out consistent work on further advanced of trusting political dialogue and enhancing contacts between Foreign Ministries in the spirit of agreements achieved during our talks in September 2023.

We strongly believe that strengthening of multifaceted cooperation between our countries fully meets the interests of people of Russia and Myanmar and contributes to ensuring peace and security in South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

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

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

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

Our countries are responsible partners with close views on the regional and global agendas.

Your visit to Belarus and the opening of the Consulate-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Minsk in September 2023 marked a new page in the history of the interstate relations. It is a pleasure to note that the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Belarusian-Myanmar diplomatic relations, which we celebrated last year, coincided with a surge of positive dynamics of bilateral contacts.

I hope for the continued productive cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of Belarus and Myanmar, and for your assistance in holding political consultations at the Deputy Foreign Ministers level in the near future.

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

Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Republic of Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I wish to extend our warmest felicitations to Your Excellency and to the Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar have maintained the traditional bonds of friendships and cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1948. I am confident that the existing relations and cooperation between our two countries will continue to flourish in the interest of our peoples.

I avail myself of this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, happiness, and success, as well as lasting progress and prosperity for the people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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

I extend my congratulations to you on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I wish you success in your work for the development of the country's external relations.

Mr Md Touhid Hossain, Honourable Adviser for Foreign Affairs of Interim Government of Bangladesh sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Republic of Union of Myanmar

ON the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the people of Bangladesh express greetings and felicitations to the people of Myanmar and wish them inclusive progress, peace and prosperity.

Bangladesh remains committed to fostering stronger ties based on mutual respect and developing mutually beneficially relations with Myanmar as an immediate and friendly neighbour.

Daily newspapers
available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar,

published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.
News and Periodicals Enterprise

OPINION

Commit to restoring peace and stability in the nation

ALL national race groups in Myanmar had lived under own monarchy for thousands of years, preserving their unique cultures and customs. However, due to the negative impact of colonialism, Myanmar, endowed with abundant natural resources, was aggressively occupied by the British colonialists after three wars, losing its independence and sovereignty in 1886.

National race people sacrificed their lives, blood, and sweat over many years to regain the nation's independence, which had been lost in an instant. These internal conflicts were fuelled by a lack

of national unity, a weakness exacerbated by the divisive administrative mechanisms imposed by colonial rulers. Therefore, all stakeholders should not act solely based on their own desires, but rather thoughtfully and decisively consider what is right and appropriate for the nation and the people. They must urgently cooperate to ensure the stability and peace of the country. In order to achieve a win-win situation for all, there should be meaningful and directed discussions. On the occasion of the 77th anniversary Independence Day, it is necessary to promote stability and peace, for the nation and its people.

suffered from the unrest are waiting for peace, and it is essential for all armed groups to agree on this.

Due to the lack of peace, transport has become difficult, and the people are unable to travel from one place to another. As a result, there are fatalities that should not have happened. Children are unable to attend school, causing them to lose educational opportunities, which will result in a lost generation without proper education. While neighbouring countries are progressing, Myanmar is suffering from armed conflict, and the people continue to endure hardship.

Therefore, all stakeholders should not act solely based on their own desires, but rather thoughtfully and decisively consider what is right and appropriate for the nation and the people. They must urgently cooperate to ensure the stability and peace of the country. In order to achieve a win-win situation for all, there should be meaningful and directed discussions. On the occasion of the 77th anniversary Independence Day, it is necessary to promote stability and peace, for the nation and its people.

IN THE current era, technology has become an inseparable part of our daily lives. Smartphones, apps, and social media have transformed how we communicate, connect, and fall in love. Yet, for all its benefits, technology often creates a sense of detachment, an invisible wall between people. In this hyperconnected age, rewinding romance — rediscovering love without screens — feels both nostalgic and radical. Imagine a love story that unfolds without notifications, likes, or swipes; a love that thrives in the quiet authenticity of human interaction. Myanmar provides a unique backdrop for such a journey with its rich cultural traditions and timeless values.

Love in Myanmar has always been deeply intertwined with its culture, shaped by Buddhist teachings, traditional practices, and communal values. In rural villages, love stories often begin not with algorithms but with festivals, family gatherings, and chance encounters by serene lakes, under the shade of tamarind trees, or a heap of straw. In these settings, the absence of technology does not hinder connection; it enriches it. A stolen glance at a pagoda, the exchange of handwritten notes, or the deliberate act of offering betel nut — each gesture carries a profound meaning that modern emojis can scarcely replicate.

Courtship in Myanmar traditionally unfolds in the public sphere, often under the watchful eyes of elders and community members. While this may seem restrictive by modern standards, it fosters a sense of accountability and respect. The process emphasizes sincerity and patience, qualities that technology often sidesteps in favour of instant gratification. For example, during the annual Thingyan Water Festival, young people participate in playful water fights, creating an atmosphere ripe for lighthearted flirtation. The festival's communal spirit encourages connections based on shared joy rather than curated online personas.

In this rewinded approach to love, the art of storytelling becomes paramount. Myanmar's oral traditions — from folktales to love ballads — offer a blueprint for expressing affection through words. Imagine sitting beneath a star-filled sky, listening to someone recount a story of two lovers overcoming obstacles. Such narra-



Myanmar's landscapes also lend themselves beautifully to this rewinding of romance. Imagine wandering together through a golden paddy field at sunset or sharing a quiet moment in the cool shade of a monastery's courtyard. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

Rewilding Romance Without Technology

tives not only entertain but also inspire, teaching us about resilience, loyalty, and the depth of human emotion. Without the distraction of technology, couples have the space to craft their own shared stories, weaving memories that will last a lifetime.

Food also plays a central role in Myanmar's love rituals. Preparing and sharing meals is seen as an intimate act of care. A young woman might offer a man a plate of Mohinga, a fragrant fish noodle soup, signalling her interest. Similarly, a man might pluck fresh flowers to adorn her hair. These small but significant gestures build a foundation of mutual respect and affection. Unlike the fleeting interactions facilitated by technology, these acts require thought, effort, and intention — the building blocks of enduring love.

The practice of writing love letters, once a universal custom, still lingers in Myanmar's countryside. Carefully chosen words, written on crisp paper and delivered by hand, evoke a vulnerability level that is rare in digital communication. The sender's handwriting becomes a tangible extension of their emotions, something which can be

held, cherished, and revisited over time. In an era of ephemeral text messages, such tangible tokens of affection hold an undeniable charm.

Myanmar's landscapes also lend themselves beautifully to this rewinding of romance. Imagine wandering together through a golden paddy field at sunset or sharing a quiet moment in the cool shade of a monastery's courtyard. The natural world, free from technological interruptions, provides an ideal setting for meaningful connections. A couple might take a boat ride on Inlay Lake, marveling at the leg-rowing fishermen, or climb the steps of an ancient pagoda, their shared journey mirroring the ascension of their budding relationship.

Of course, rewinding romance is not without its challenges. The digital age has conditioned us to expect instant responses and constant connectivity. Letting go of these habits requires a deliberate effort to slow down and be present. It also demands trust — the kind that allows a relationship to grow organically without the constant reassurance of double blue ticks or heart emojis. Yet, the rewards of

By Laura Htet (UDE)

this approach are immeasurable. By stepping away from screens, couples can focus on truly seeing and understanding each other.

Buddhist principles also offer guidance in this endeavour. Mindfulness, a cornerstone of Buddhism, teaches us to be fully present in each moment. This aligns perfectly with the idea of rewinding romance. Being mindful allows individuals to appreciate their partner's presence, words, and actions without the distraction of external noise. It encourages gratitude and fosters a deeper emotional connection.

Myanmar's commitment to the community further enriches this experience. In a culture where families and neighbours play an active role in one another's lives, love is rarely a solitary journey. Friends might act as intermediaries, arranging introductions or passing messages. Elders offer advice and blessings, ensuring the relationship is rooted in shared values. While this communal involvement might feel intrusive to some, it creates a supportive network that nurtures the rela-

tionship. The concept of rewinding romance invites us to reconsider what it means to live in a world dominated by technology. It challenges us to strip away the superficial layers and reconnect with the essence of human connection. Myanmar's traditions — steeped in simplicity, sincerity, and spirituality — offer a compelling framework for this journey. By drawing inspiration from these practices, we can rediscover a kind of love that is as profound as it is timeless.

As the sun sets over the Irrawaddy River, casting its golden glow on the water, one is reminded that the most beautiful moments in life often unfold in the absence of technology. They occur in quiet spaces where two people come together, not through screens but through shared experiences, mutual understanding, and genuine affection. In rewinding romance, we do not merely fall in love; we rise into it, embracing its complexities and joys with open hearts and unburdened minds.

Artificial heart patients can regenerate heart muscles: Study

Funded by the Leducq Foundation, the research opens possibilities for reversing heart muscle loss, an area previously considered impossible to treat.

A RESEARCH team at the University of Arizona College of Medicine—Tucson's Sarver Heart Centre found that a subset of artificial heart patients can regenerate heart muscle, which opens the possibilities of new ways to treat and perhaps someday cure heart failure.

The results of the research which was co-led by a physician-scientist were published in the journal *Circulation*.

Comparing the repair of skeletal muscles to heart muscles, Hesham Sadek, MD, PhD, director of the Sarver Heart Centre and chief of the Division of Cardiology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine—Tucson's Department of Medicine said that when a heart muscle doesn't grow back if it gets injured, "We have nothing to reverse heart muscle loss."

Sadek led a collaboration between international experts to investigate whether heart muscles can regenerate. The study was funded through a grant by the Leducq Foundation Transatlantic Networks of Excellence Programme.

The project began with tissue from artificial heart patients provided by colleagues at the University of Utah Health and School of Medicine led by Stavros Drakos, MD, PhD, a pioneer in left ventricular assist device-mediated recovery.

Jonas Frisen, MD, PhD, and Olaf Bergmann, MD, PhD, of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, led teams in Sweden and Germany and used their innovative method of carbon dating human heart tissue to track whether these samples contained newly generated cells.

The investigators found that patients with artificial hearts regenerated muscle cells at more than six times the rate of healthy hearts.

"This is the strongest evidence we have, so far, that human heart muscle cells can actually regenerate, which really is exciting, because it solidifies the notion that there is an intrinsic capacity of the human heart to regenerate," Sadek said.

Earlier, Sadek published a paper in *Science* showing that while heart muscle cells actively divide in utero, they stop dividing shortly after birth to devote their energy to pumping blood through the body nonstop, with no time for breaks.

In 2014, he published evidence of cell division in patients with artificial hearts, hinting that their heart muscle cells might have been regenerating.

"The pump pushes blood into the aorta, bypassing the heart," he said. "The heart is essentially resting."

Sadek's previous studies indicated that this rest might be beneficial for the heart muscle cells, but he needed to design an experiment to determine whether patients with artificial hearts were actually regenerating muscles.

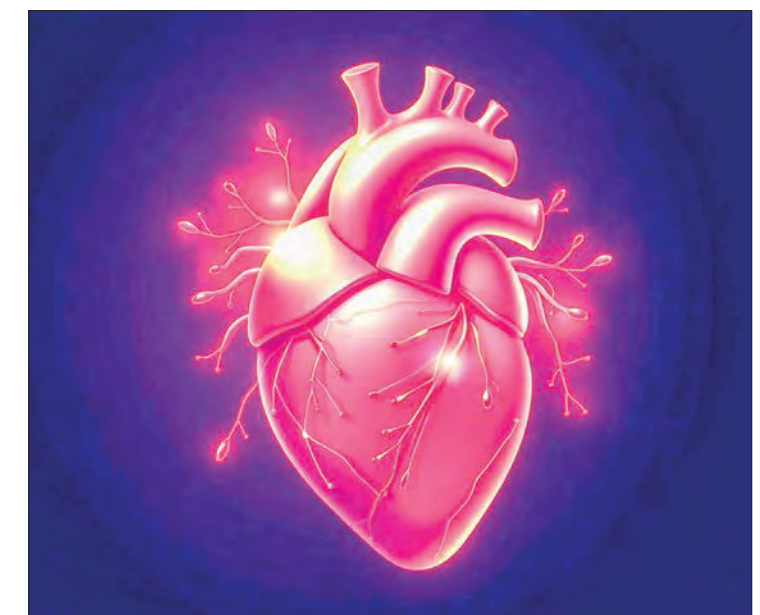
"Irrefutable evidence of heart muscle regeneration has never been shown before in humans," he said. "This study provided direct evidence."

However, Sadek wants to figure out why only 25 per cent of patients responded to the regeneration of the muscle.

"It's not clear why some patients respond and some don't, but it's very clear that the ones who respond have the ability to regenerate heart muscle," he wrote.

Sadek believes that in future a mechanical heart will not be a therapy on which people will rely and with this study, he hopes to deliver regeneration of heart muscles in future.

SOURCE: ANI



A research team discovered that a subset of artificial heart patients may be capable of regenerating heart muscle, potentially revolutionizing the treatment of heart failure. ILLUSTRATION: ANI

NATIONAL

Myanmar students, parents to China's Harbin join friendship tour

ORGANIZED with the support of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, a tour group of Myanmar students and parents has departed for Harbin City in Heilongjiang Province to experience the renowned annual Harbin Ice and Snow Festival.

The programme, facilitated by the Bowen School with assistance from the Chinese Embassy, aims to strengthen people-to-people ties and foster friendship as part of the ongoing bilateral relations between Myanmar and China.



This image depicts a documentary group photo of the Myanmar schoolchildren and parents in China.

“Our goal is to provide the people of Myanmar with an opportunity to experience the joy of China’s ice and snow world,

explore the space museum, and deepen cultural exchanges between our two countries. Tour participants will also gain firsthand exposure to Chinese culture in the northernmost province,” said Mr Song Le, director of the Bowen School.

Harbin City, well-known for ice and snow tourism in China, will host a festival featuring wonderlands adorned with Chinese-style sculptures and snow-crafted architecture. Visitors explored the Russian-inspired Zhongyang

Pedestrian Street and its iconic churches, adding a unique cultural dimension to the experience.

The Bowen School, established in Myanmar in 2016 and registered at the Ministry of Education, offers comprehensive Chinese language programmes alongside other subjects for elementary, primary and lower secondary classes, with instruction provided by teachers certified with international Chinese teaching licences. — TMT

Region, State govts to support entrepreneurs to join MSME expo in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 78th Union-Level Micro-Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Expo will take place in Nay Pyi Taw for five days starting from 12 February 2025. The respective region and state governments will support MSME entrepreneurs to join that expo.

That expo will be held on a grand scale near Up-patasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. Businesses showcasing One Region One Product (OROP) will be awarded



This picture shows the previously held Micro-Small and Medium Enterprise Expo.

at the expo. Products from regions and states and innovations can be observed. It will also bring networks for business people to produce value-added products. Representatives of each region and state are preparing to display local products and traditional food. — ASH/KK

2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K2.086 bln

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

On 1 January, the combined on-duty teams confiscated eight grammes of cocaine worth K400,000, which were found without official documents in a package delivered from Paris, France, at the Myanma Post Office (Yangon). Additionally, they seized the MV Thitsa Shwesin, estimated to be worth K1.75 billion, which was docking at Thakayta jetty and carrying three types of industrial materials worth K68.959 million, also without official documents, from Myeik to Yangon. The action was conducted per Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 2 January, the on-duty teams seized a shipment of consumer goods worth K18.45 million that had been smuggled and piled up by the side of the road near Kengpoung in Kengtung Township. They also confiscated a Yutong bus (estimated value of K40 million), heading to Yangon from Kawthoung, which was carrying three types of foodstuffs worth K4.634 million

without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray checkpoint. Additionally, two trucks (estimated value of K60 million), traveling from Mandalay to Myitkyina, were found carrying 19 types of industrial materials and seven types of consumer goods worth K45.280 million without official documents at the Yadanabon Bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint. A Toyota Dyna truck (approximately K30 million), heading to Mandalay from Chauk, was also seized while carrying 14 types of consumer goods and six types of industrial materials valued at K40.429 million without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint. Furthermore, six types of industrial materials and three types of consumer goods valued at K28.084 million were confiscated without official documents from a Yangon-Mandalay Up train at the Mandalay railway station. The action was taken following Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 15 arrests on 1 and 2 January, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K2.086 billion. — MNA/MKKS

PDF terrorists apprehended with explosives in Kala Village

SECURITY forces conducted an operation in Kala Village, located about 8,500 metres west of Ngazun at around 11 pm on 2 January.

They targeted PDF terrorists allegedly involved in destructive activities under directives from NUG and CRPH. These terrorists were reportedly sheltering at homes and a school while stockpiling weapons and explosives.

Acting on tips from residents who opposed violent actions disrupting community peace, security personnel launched a swift operation. The encounter resulted in the death of three terrorists. Discoveries were also made including explosives, weapons and related materials stored in the targeted school and houses. Two vehicles: a Nissan Xtrail and a Hijet with bearing charitable organization documents were also confiscated.

The arrested group had reportedly entered rural areas to exploit civilians as human shields while engaging in terror activities. Their acts included ambushing

security forces, planting explosives and constructing bunkers around commandeered locations such as schools, administrative buildings and private homes.

These violent acts not only endangered lives but also hindered children’s education and regional development. Security forces are committed to exposing such operations. All recovered items are being processed in accordance with legal procedures.

Authorities commend the timely intelligence shared by responsible locals which facilitated the successful interception of these terrorist’s activity. Security forces urge the public to report any movements or activities by such groups to ensure regional stability and community peace. — MNA/KZL



Photos reveal seized weapons and munitions in Ngazun.

Cybersecurity Law (State Administration Council Law No 1/2025)

Chapter V

Formation of Steering Committee, Responsibilities and Authority

Continued from yesterday

8. The Central Committee
 - (a) shall form the Steering Committee with the Union Minister from the ministry as Chairperson and deputy ministers or permanent secretaries from relevant ministries, vice-chairpersons from relevant Union-level organizations or permanent secretaries, cybersecurity experts, and representatives from non-governmental organizations as members and the director-general from the department as the secretary in order to carry out and supervise cybersecurity measures mentioned in this law.
 - (b) shall amend formation of the Steering Committee in accord with the criteria under Sub-Section (a), if necessary.
 - (c) shall permit allowances and cash awards set by the Union government for Steering Committee members who are not in service.
9. The Responsibilities and Authority of the Steering Committee are as follows: -
 - (a) Implementation of cybersecurity policies, strategies, or action plans set in line with the guidelines adopted by the Central Committee
 - (b) Carrying out human resources development activities related to cybersecurity
 - (c) Setting a timely response system if an event of a cyberattack occurs
 - (d) Coordinating with relevant ministries or organizations to ensure safety of the national cyber arena
 - (e) Studying and presenting to the central committee whether it is appropriate for the country to participate as a member state in conventions, agreements, and memoranda of understanding related to cybersecurity or cyber incidents.
 - (f) Implementation and collaboration in accordance with cybersecurity or cybercrime-related conventions, agreements, and memoranda of understanding in which the country participates as a member state
 - (g) The exchange of information related to cybersecurity threats, cyberattacks, cyber exploitation, or cybercrimes, along with investigations, responses, and actions, in collaboration with international organizations, regional organizations, and neighbouring countries.
- (h) Releasing press on cybersecurity recommendations, announcements, and the reporting of cyberattacks, cyber threat incidents, as well as their prevention and early mitigation
 - (i) Coordinating and collaborating with emergency monitoring and response teams for cybersecurity breaches in critical information infrastructure protection activities
 - (j) Verification, supervision, and guidance regarding the storage of critical information of the infrastructure in accordance with the standards and criteria
 - (k) Granting authorization for the cybersecurity team under verification, establishing and issuing regulations that these teams must adhere to, and taking action to verify groups that were formed without permission for cybersecurity matters
 - (l) Determining the licence fees, registration fees, fines, or other charges to be collected under this law
 - (m) Formulating policies and setting standards related to cyber resources produced domestically and abroad, installed, or imported from foreign countries
 - (n) Formation of an investigation team with setting duties and powers in accord with the approval of the Central Committee in carrying out the activities under this law, if an investigation is necessary
 - (o) Submitting working reports and other necessary reports to the central committee at least once a year
 - (p) Serving cybersecurity-related tasks as assigned by the Central Committee from time to time
10. The Steering Committee shall form and assign duties to relevant work committees in accord with the approval of the Central Committee as follows: -
 - (a) Cybersecurity Work Committee
 - (b) Cybercrime Operation Work Committee
 - (c) Cyber Protection Work Committee
 - (d) Other necessary work committees

To be continued

MoST Union Minister receives Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw received Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire of Nepal to Myanmar yesterday afternoon at the guest hall of the ministry.

During the meeting, the two sides held cordial and open discussions on cooperation in

the areas of technological advancement, human resource development and collaboration in the information technology sector.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya, the permanent secretary and other officials. — MNA/KZL



Nepali Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire calls on Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw yesterday.

Union Energy Minister meets Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar



China's Ambassador Ms Ma Jia calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin yesterday.

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin held talks with Ambassador Ms Ma Jia of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar yesterday at the guest hall of the Union Minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed various topics including opportunities for increased investment in the energy sector between Myanmar and China. They highlighted the rising de-

mand for natural gas in both countries and the potential for swiftly collaborating to construct Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals in Myanmar, enabling natural gas extraction and shared usage.

They exchanged views on exploring the feasibility of fully utilizing the Myanmar-China crude oil and natural gas pipelines, implementing joint projects for constructing a new

oil refinery using crude oil from the pipeline, and promoting Myanmar's promising oil and natural gas projects.

They also focused collaboration on pipeline construction and upgrades, investments in building and enhancing oil refineries and fertilizer plants and the possibilities for broader government-to-government cooperation between Myanmar and China. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Fuel prices indicate slight decline

FUEL prices showed a slight decrease in the domestic fuel oil market.

Fuel prices were K3,010 per litre of Octane 92, K3,120 for Octane 95, K2,635 for diesel and K3,260 for premium diesel on 2 January.

The prices were to K2,985 per litre of Octane 92, K3,095 for Octane 95, K2,615 for diesel and K3,225 for premium diesel on 3 January.

The figures reflected a decrease of K20 to 35 per litre.

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

Under the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

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



A vehicle being fuelled at the filling station in Yangon.

taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate. As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Con-

sequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

Myanmar Customs Dept releases exchange rates for Customs tariff

CUSTOMS Department announced weekly foreign exchange rates to be practised in collecting Customs tariff and a US dollar is set to be exchanged at K3,587.5.

This notification 90/2024 of the Ministry of Planning and Finance stated that Customs Department will

amend the weekly exchange rate as per the online trading rate, instead of the rate based on the reference rate of the CBM, while collecting Customs tariff starting from 1 January 2025.

Moreover, the weekly exchange rate based on online trading rate will be posted on the website and Facebook

page of the Customs Department on a weekly basis, the notification revealed.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate is K2,100 against the US dollar.

The exchange rates for Customs duty from 5 to 11 January are K3,587.5 against a US dollar, K2,641.8025 for a Singapore dollar, K104 against a Thai baht and K491.5075 for a yuan, Customs Department announced. — NN/KK



KBZ Pay logo.

KBZ Pay refunds scam-induced loss of 31 users

KBZ Pay has been reimbursing scam-induced loss of 31 users, announced on 3 January 2025.

CBM stated that "third party service provider systems were hacked or targeted by cyberattack through mobile network operators and digital wallet scams were recently reported".

While KBZ Pay inspected the scammed case, a changing device was found. Thirty-one online scams occurred.

At present, the device change process is temporarily halted and system maintenance is being undertaken. On 7 January 2025, the switching device process will be resumed.

KBZPay is committed to digital wallet security measures in cooperation with mobile network operators and the Central Bank of Myanmar. During the inspection process, KBZPay refunded scam-induced loss of 31 users from 31 December 2024. — NN/KK



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

CBM sells \$25M, 670,000 yuan, 2.45M baht into financial market on 2 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected \$25 million, over 670,000 yuan and 2.45 million baht on 2 January.

CBM pumped \$144 million, 321 million baht and over 12 million yuan in December 2024, 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 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

Vodafone completes 8 bln euro sale of Italian unit to Swisscom

BRITISH mobile phone giant Vodafone announced Thursday it had completed the sale of its Italian unit to Swisscom for 8 billion euros (\$8.3 billion) as part of a Europe-wide restructuring.

“The completion of the sale of Vodafone Italy is the final step in the reshaping of Vodafone’s European footprint,” a spokesman said in a statement.

It follows agreements to sell Vodafone’s Spanish division and the merger of its UK unit with rival Three, owned by Hong Kong conglomerate CK Hutchison.



Vodafone on Thursday added that it would continue to provide certain services to Vodafone Italy for up to five years. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Vodafone on Thursday added that it would continue to provide certain services to Vodafone Italy for up to five years. Proceeds from the

Swiss transaction would go towards reducing Vodafone’s net debt, while up to two billion euros will be redistributed to shareholders. — AFP

Extradited S Korean crypto ‘genius’ in court to face US charges

THE South Korean co-founder of Terraform Labs appeared in a New York court on Thursday to face fraud charges stemming from the multi-billion-dollar collapse of his cryptocurrency company.

Do Hyeong Kwon, 33, was extradited to the United States from Montenegro on Tuesday.

Kwon, the former chief executive of Terraform, is accused of

deceiving investors to fraudulently inflate the value of his firm’s cryptocurrencies.

“Do Hyeong Kwon will now be held accountable in an American courtroom for... his elaborate schemes involving Terraform’s cryptocurrencies, which resulted in over \$40 billion in investor losses,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. — AFP



South Korean cryptocurrency entrepreneur Do Hyeong Kwon at a court appearance in Podgorica, Montenegro, in March 2024. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Apple agrees to \$95 mln deal to settle Siri eavesdropping suit

APPLE has agreed to pay \$95 million to settle a lawsuit accusing its digital assistant Siri of listening in on users’ private conversations.

The proposed settlement detailed in a court filing accessed on Thursday came with Apple holding firm that it did nothing wrong.

“Apple has at all times denied and continues to deny any and all alleged wrongdoing and liability,” the tech titan

said in the proposed settlement, which requires a judge’s approval to be finalized.

A class action lawsuit filed five years ago accused Siri of listening in on private conversations of people with iPhones, iPads, HomePods or other Apple devices enhanced with the digital assistant.

The California-based tech giant has made user privacy a big part of its brand image, and one of the reasons it tightly con-

trols its “ecosystem” of hardware and software.

Talk captured by “unintended Siri activation” were obtained by Apple and perhaps even shared with third parties, according to the suit.

A proposed settlement fund of \$95 million would be used to pay no more than \$20 per Siri device to US owners who had private conversations captured without permission, the settlement indicated. — AFP

Member’s Voluntary Winding-up & Appointment of a Liquidator for Furukawa System & Solutions Myanmar Co., Ltd. (Registration No. 106117705) pursuant Articles 147(a)(ii) and 152(a) of Insolvency Law 2020

Notice to Creditors

With respect to Furukawa System & Solutions Myanmar Co., Ltd. (Registration No. 106117705) (the “Company”) which is located at Room No.609, La Pyat Wun Plaza, No.37, Alanpya Pagoda Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar, it is hereby noticed that:

1. According to Article 147(a)(ii) of Insolvency Law, the Company unanimously passed the following resolutions:
 - (i) to wind up the Company voluntarily effective on 31 December 2024; and
 - (ii) to appoint the following liquidator (the “Liquidator”) pursuant to Article 152(a) of Insolvency Law, effective on 31 December 2024:

Name: Daw Nilar Thwin
 Name of the Company/Title: Global United Myanmar Ltd./Managing Director
 MAIP member serial: 00120
 Phone number: 095049113
 Address: #14-11, Level 14, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar 11182

2. Any creditors who have any debts or claims against the Company are required to submit their names, addresses, and details of their claims, together with any documentary evidence in their possession, to the Liquidator on or before 31 January 2025.

Daw Nilar Thwin
 Liquidator
 Global United Myanmar Ltd./Managing Director
 #14-11, Level 14, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road
 Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar 11182
 Phone number: 095049113

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
 M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3501S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3501S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-1-2025** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
 M.V SEIYO GODDESS VOY.NO. (2415)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SEIYO GODDESS VOY.NO. (2415)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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**

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Thai PM declares millions in watches and bags among \$400 mln assets

Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra declared over \$400 million in assets, including luxury watches, designer handbags, and investments. Her net worth stands at \$258 million.

THAILAND'S Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra declared more than \$400 million in assets on Friday, her party said, including more than 200 designer handbags worth over \$2 million and at least 75 luxury watches, valued at almost \$5 million.

The youngest daughter of telecom billionaire and ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Paetongtarn took office in September as the fourth member of the clan to lead a Thai government in 20 years.

She was obliged to declare her assets and liabilities to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC).

She identified 13.8 billion



Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra has declared more than \$400 million in assets, including at least 75 luxury watches, valued at almost \$5 million. **PHOTO: MANAN VATSYAYANA / AFP/FILE**

baht (\$400 million) in assets, a document posted on media websites showed.

Her investments were worth 11 billion baht and she had another billion baht in deposits and cash, her declaration said.

Her other assets included 75 watches valued at 162 million baht and 39 more timepieces, plus 217 handbags worth 76 million baht, as well as property in London and Japan, among other holdings.

She also declared liabilities of nearly five billion baht, according to the NACC document posted by local media, giving her a net worth of 8.9 billion baht (\$258 million).

A representative from the Pheu Thai Party confirmed to AFP that the figures reported by local media were accurate. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Delhi airport issues advisory for non CAT III compliant flights

AMID the prevailing dense fog conditions, Delhi airport authorities on Friday issued an advisory and stated that flights which were not CAT III compliant would get affected.

Taking to social media X, the authority wrote in a post "While landing and take offs continue at Delhi airport, flights that are not CAT III compliant may get affected." Further, the airport authorities requested passengers to contact concerned airlines for their updated flight information.

"Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information," the post further read. — ANI

S Korean investigators fail to detain Yoon in standoff with security

SOUTH Korean investigators suspended their attempt to detain President Yoon Suk Yeol on Friday over his brief declaration of martial law after an hours-long standoff with the presidential security service at the entrance to his residence.

"We tried to execute a detention warrant this morning, but it was deemed effectively impossible to proceed due to

the ongoing standoff," a joint investigation team with the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials said in a briefing with reporters, adding that future actions will be decided after a review.

The team said they had to suspend the operation due to safety concerns, as about 300 people — roughly 100 investigators and 200 members of the

presidential security service — were gathered in the narrow aisle in front of the residence gate.

"We express deep regret over the suspect's attitude in not complying with the lawful procedure," the investigators said.

The detention warrant, valid until Monday, was issued after Yoon ignored three summonses from the investigators on charges of insurrection over the declaration of martial law on 3 December, which led to the passage of a motion to impeach Yoon on 14 December.

Yoon's defence team has maintained that the warrant is illegal, asserting the investigation office is not authorized to probe insurrection. "Legal action will be taken regarding the unlawful circumstances of the execution process of the illegal warrant," the defense team said in a message sent to media on Friday. — Kyodo



Police keep watch as supporters of South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol gather. **PHOTO: AFP**

Spain's Canary Islands received record 46,843 migrants in 2024: ministry



Spain has moved to the forefront of the European Union's migration crisis. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A record 46,843 migrants reached Spain's Canary Islands illegally in 2024 via the increasingly deadly Atlantic route, the second consecutive year of unprecedented arrival numbers, official data showed on Thursday. The landmark came as the European country received 63,970 irregular migrants last year, the vast majority in the Atlantic archipelago, up from 56,852 in 2023, the interior ministry said.

Spain has moved to the fore-

front of the European Union's migration crisis as tighter controls in the Mediterranean push more migrants to attempt the perilous trip from west Africa to the Canaries.

EU border agency Frontex has said irregular crossings into the bloc from January to November 2024 fell 40 per cent overall. But they grew 19 per cent on the Atlantic route, with Mali, Senegal and Morocco the most common nationalities. — AFP

SPORTS

Liverpool may pile agony on Manchester United as Premier League continues

PREMIER League leader Liverpool has the chance to strengthen its place at the top of the table while piling the misery on eternal rival Manchester United, when the two sides meet at Anfield on Sunday afternoon.

Liverpool goes into the game after three consecutive wins, which have given the Reds a six-point lead over Arsenal, who has played a game more, and three more points would set Arne Slot's side up ahead of next weekend's break in the league for the third round of the FA Cup.

Dominik Szoboszlai returns after suspension, while defender Conor Bradley could also be available again after injury.

It has been a miserable holiday season for Manchester United, who has lost its last three games, conceding seven goals and failing to score in the process, leading new coach Ruben Amorim to comment after a 2-0 defeat at home to Newcastle that his side was in a battle against relegation.

Despite United's lack of goals, Amorim has resisted putting the want-away Marcus Rashford back in his side, although he was on the bench for the latest defeat. The weekend kicks off with another game between two sides with very different recent form as Tottenham entertains Newcastle United. — Xinhua



Trent Alexander-Arnold (centre) celebrates scoring Liverpool's fourth goal against West Ham on 29 December 2024. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

77th Independence Day Cycling Race features 84-year-old competitor



A 84-year-old male biker participated in the Cycling Race in Yangon yesterday, showcasing the inclusive nature of the race. The Yangon Region government organized the men's and women's open cycling race as part of the lead-up to the 77th Independence Day celebrations.

The event commenced yesterday at 6 am with cyclists departing from designated starting points. The race drew the participation of the Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, de-

partmental officials, athletes and spectators.

The men's race began near Daewoo Garment Factory near Htaukkyant Nwekhway bus-stop, following Pyay Road to the finish line at the People's Square near the Yangon Region government office. Similarly, the women's race started at the Mingaladon Airport Junction and also followed Pyay Road to the same finish line.

Following the conclusion of the races, an award ceremony was held at the People's Square.

The Yangon Region chief minister presented prizes and cash awards to four top winners in both the men's and women's open categories. Honorary cash awards were also given to senior athletes aged 60 and above and young participants aged 10 and above who completed the race.

The competition included a total of 608 cyclists, comprising 506 male and 102 female athletes from Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, Shan State and Mon State. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Barca coach Flick optimistic but 'not happy' over Olmo situation

BARCELONA coach Hansi Flick said Friday he was unhappy about potentially losing key midfielder Dani Olmo because of the club's dire financial state, but optimistic the situation would be resolved successfully.

The Catalan giants said Tuesday they had asked the Spanish football federation to grant Spanish international Olmo a new license to play, after his initial registration expired on 31 December 2024 and Barcelona exhausted legal avenues to extend it.

Barcelona signed Olmo for around 60 million euros (\$62 million) in the summer and according to Spanish media his contract includes a clause which would allow him to be



Barcelona midfielder Dani Olmo (L) is in an uncertain situation with the club not yet registering him. PHOTO: AFP

released if he is not registered.

The Spanish top flight's strict financial rules limit indebted Barcelona's spending and they were initially only able to register Olmo after defender Andreas Christensen was injured in August.

Along with Olmo, striker Pau Victor is in a similar position.

"If I am honest, I was not happy about the situation, and the players are not happy about the situation," Flick told a news conference Friday. — AFP

ITTF sets up task force to address players' concerns after world rankings affair

THE International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) announced on Friday the establishment of a dedicated task force to gather feedback from players and review existing regulations, following the recent withdrawal of three Olympic champions from world rankings.

The move was made after receiving the approval of an ITTF Executive Board meeting held on Thursday, in response to widespread concerns after renowned Chinese paddlers Ma Long, Fan Zhendong and Chen Meng had withdrawn from the ITTF world rankings released on 31 December 2024. The ITTF said that as part of this initiative, players, their entourage and coaches, as

well as related ITTF bodies will be consulted extensively.

In addition, a players' forum will be held during the 2025 World Table Tennis (WTT) Singapore Smash, which will take place from 30 January to 9 February, providing an open platform for addressing the concerns.

"The ITTF is fully committed to creating a supportive environment for players' well-being and fostering open dialogue within the entire table tennis community," read the statement from the global table tennis governing body.

In response, WTT expressed its full support towards the ITTF Executive Board's decision to set up the task force. — Xinhua

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Israel will send a delegation to Doha on Friday to resume negotiations for a hostage agreement related to Gaza. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE

Israeli delegation to visit Qatar for hostage negotiations

Israel will send a delegation to Doha, including Mossad, Shin Bet, and IDF officials, to resume negotiations for a Gaza hostage agreement.

ISRAEL is set to send a delegation to Qatar's capital Doha on Friday to resume negotiations regarding a hostage agreement in the Gaza Strip, The Times of Israel reported.

The delegation will include officials from Mossad, the country's intelligence

agency; Shin Bet or the Israeli Security Agency, the intelligence, technological, and operational organization of Israel; and Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

On Thursday, the Israeli Prime Minister's Office had announced that the Prime Minister had approved the delegation's

visit to Qatar to discuss a potential hostage-ceasefire arrangement.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office said, "Netanyahu authorised a working-level delegation from the Mossad, Shin Bet and IDF to continue negotiations in Doha." — ANI

FOREIGN CURRENCY GENERATORS

Egypt breaks record with 15.7 mln tourists in 2024

EGYPTIAN Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said Wednesday that the country received a record high of 15.7 million tourists in 2024, according to a statement issued by the Egyptian cabinet.

Calling the figure "promising", Madbouly told a weekly news conference in Egypt's new administrative capital east of Cairo that "if it weren't for the events that took place in the region, the number of tourists would have reached 18 million."

Madbouly expressed his hope that Egypt will achieve the target number of 18 million tourists in 2025, "especially with the anticipated official opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum during this year."

The number of tourists in Egypt significantly dropped from over 13 million in 2019 to around 3.7 million in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, then it gradually recovered to about 8 million in 2021, 11.7 million in 2022, and 14.9 million in 2023, according to official data. — Xinhua

Bill Gates turns mosquitoes into 'flying syringes', but who controls what they inject?

A Bill Gates-funded centre has created genetically-modified mosquitoes to deliver malaria vaccines, raising concerns about consent and potential misuse, as insects could unknowingly transmit harmful pathogens instead of vaccines.

A Bill Gates-funded centre has bred mosquitoes capable of injecting parasites into unsuspecting humans under the pretext of vaccinating against malaria. But are they truly harmless?

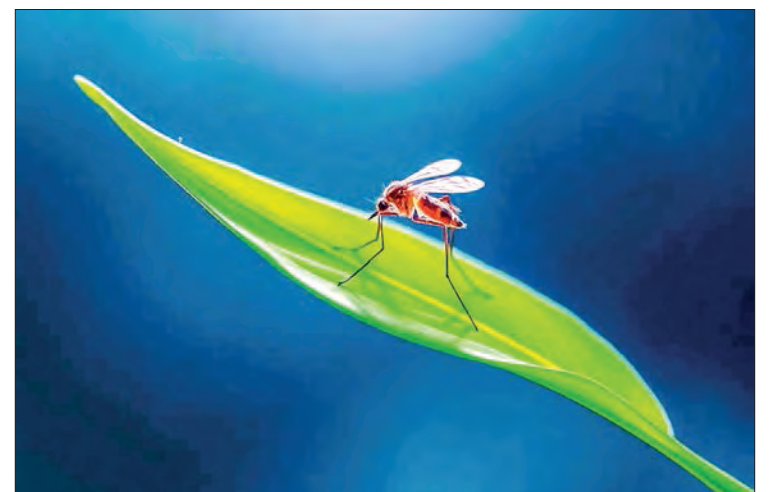
The Gates Foundation-backed Leiden University Medical Centre in the Netherlands has developed a method

of malaria vaccination using mosquitoes to deliver live-attenuated Plasmodium falciparum parasites.

The mosquitoes act as 'flying syringes' to deliver malaria vaccines – or potentially other substances. But concerns have been raised that recipients could be unaware of the process

and be vaccinated without their consent.

In 2008, Gates pledged \$168 million for malaria vaccine research, funding genetic modifications in mosquitoes, raising concerns over ethics and unintended consequences of using insects as biological vectors. — SPUTNIK



If issues of human consent and ethics are overlooked, insects could be used as 'vectors' for other biological agents. PHOTO: PIXABAY