

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SUNDAY EDITION

OPINION

Remember the impacts of Typhoon Yagi

PAGE 8

NATIONAL PAGE 7



MSME market fair, music show at People's Square mark Independence Day

NATIONAL PAGE 11



Independence Day amnesty: Over 1,009 local and foreign prisoners pardoned

Dinner hosted in honour of 77th Anniversary of Independence Day



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets diplomats at the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day dinner in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A dinner in honour of the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day hosted by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla took place in conjunction with the honorary entertainment ceremony at the lawns of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Union ministers and

their wives welcomed the guests.

The Senior General and his wife arrived there and cordially greeted chairpersons and representatives from political parties, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign missions, honorary consulars and guests on the lawns.

The Senior General, his wife and the dinner attendees enjoyed the displays of fireworks.

The Senior General and his wife dined with the attendees. Before and during the dinner, artistes from MRTV and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed songs and dances.

After the entertainment, the Senior General and his wife presented the flower baskets to the artistes.

Also present on the occasion were the SAC Secretary and his wife, the Joint Secretary and his wife, council members and their wives, union-level dignitaries and their wives, advisers to the SAC Chairman, the SAC Central Advisory Body members, union ministers and their wives, union-level organization members, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, honorary title recipients, and specially invited guests. — MNA/TTA

TRISTAR TYRE

CYCLE TYRE

The Best Quality Tyre

Star Department Ph: 09-254212843, 09-463255548
 STARSMART new mile Showroom - (Nay Pyi Road, Yangon) Ph: 09-20860180
 KHA YAZ PIN MART - Mingaladon, Pyay Road, Yangon Ph: 09-671443555
 STARSMART MANDALAY Wholesale - Corner of 28th and 88th road, Mandalay Ph: 09-661702244
 STARSMART Nay Pyi Taw Yangon - Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gak West, Pyin Oo Lwin Ph: 09-685118077

NATIONAL

Notification 1/2025

Continued from yesterday

7. Bhaddanta Pannavara, Kantha Monastery, Athawkarama Monastery, Kyunlon Okshaung Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
8. Bhaddanta Sasana, Yadana Gonyi Monastery, Mahamyaing Monastery, Mahamyaing Ward 1, Mahaaungmyay Township, Mandalay Region
9. Bhaddanta Kovida, Nyeinchan Yeikmyon Dhammacariya Training School, Saya San Ward, Bilin, Mon State
10. Bhaddanta Cakkinda Bhivamsa, Shwehintha Maha Bawdi Buddhism Learning Centre, Yedashe Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
11. Bhaddanta Kosalla, Zabuthiri Monastery, Ward 14/2, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
12. Bhaddanta Nandasara, Athawkayon Shwegyin Buddhism Learning Centre, Sawbwagyigon Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region
13. Bhaddanta Pannasara Bhivamsa, Mingalayama Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Ward 10, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region
14. Bhaddanta Candobhasa, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
15. Dr Bhaddanta Acinna, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward, 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
16. Bhaddanta Nyanissara, Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery, Ward 9, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
17. Bhaddanta Tejavamta, Theintaung Buddhism Learning Centre, Chantha Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State
18. Bhaddanta Javanavamsa, Dekkhinarama Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, Kyaiklat, Ayeyawady Region
19. Bhaddanta Candasiri Bhivamsa, Myitkway Buddhism Learning Centre, North UYin Ward, Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region

To be continued

Notification 2/2025

Continued from yesterday

- | Wunna Kyaw Htin title | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Daw Hla Hla Win | Regional Advocate-General | Sagaing Region Advocate-General Office |
| 2. U Hla Htay | Permanent Secretary | Union Constitutional Tribunal Office |
| 3. U Khaing Tun Oo | Permanent Secretary | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| 4. U Tin Myint | member (Retd) | Union Constitutional Tribunal Office |
| 5. U Maung Hla | member (Retd) | Union Civil Service Board |
| 6. U Hla Swe | Ambassador (Retd) | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 7. U Tin Tun | Ambassador (Retd) | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 8. U Hset | Ambassador (Retd) | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 9. U Maung Maung Lay | Ambassador (Retd) | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 10. U Thaug Lwin | Ambassador (Retd) | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 11. U Shwe Zan Aung | Ambassador (Retd) | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 12. U Ko Ko Gyi | Ambassador (Retd) | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 13. U Nyunt Hlaing | Ambassador (Retd) | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 14. Dr Soe Lwin Nyein | Director-General (Retd) | Ministry of Health |
| Alinka Kyaw Swa title | | |
| 1. Major Khin Maung Hla | (Yebaw Khin Maung Hla) Theikpa Kyaw Swa title | vocalist |
| 2. Dr Tin Tun Oo | Chairman, Myanmar Press Council | Ministry of Information |
| 3. Daw Nwe Nwe Khin | Chair, Myanmar Nurse and Midwifery Council | Ministry of Health |

To be continued

Notification 3/2025

Continued from yesterday

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 26. U Tin Aung | Managing Director (Rtd) | Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries | 51. U Than Tun | Deputy Director-General (Rtd) | Union Election Commission Office |
| 27. U Win Zaw Nyunt | Managing Director (Rtd) | Directorate of Industry | 52. Police Brig-Gen Khin Maung | Head of Criminal Investigation Department (Rtd) | Myanmar Police Force |
| 28. Dr Khin Maung | Managing Director (Rtd) | Medicines and Medical Supplies | 53. Colonel Ye Myint | Deputy Director-General (Rtd) | Bureau of Special Investigation |
| 29. U Nyi Pu | Director-General (Rtd) | Department of Immigration and Population | 54. U Zaw Tun | Deputy Director-General (Rtd) | Prison Department |
| 30. U Min Aung | Director-General (Rtd) | Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department | 55. U Khin Maung Oo | Deputy Director-General (Rtd) | Planning and Administration Department |
| 31. U Tun Shwe | Director-General (Rtd) | Directorate of Labour | 56. U Myint Kyaing | Deputy Director-General (Rtd) | Department of Cultural Beikman |
| 32. U Min Hla Aung | Managing Director (Rtd) | Advisor Ministry of Commerce | 57. U Myat Htwe | General Manager (Rtd) | Myanma Agriculture Industry |
| 33. U Maung Maung Than | Director-General (Rtd) | Department of Higher Education | 58. U Than Htay | Deputy Director-General (Rtd) | Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration |
| 34. U Hla Tun Aung | Rector (Rtd) | Mawlamyaing University | 59. U Thein Aung | Deputy Director-General (Rtd) | Department of Advance Science and Technology |
| 35. U Aung Than | Rector (Rtd) | Yangon Technological University | 60. U Lawric Thaw | Headteacher (Rtd) | Hpa-an Degree College |
| 36. Dr Sein Yi | Director-General (Rtd) | Department of Traditional Medicine | 61. Dr Hla Myint | Headteacher (Rtd) | Bago Degree College |
| 37. Dr Myint Lwin | Director-General (Rtd) | Department of Medical Research | 62. U Kaung Hla | Inspector-General (Rtd) | Public Works Enterprise |
| 38. U Nay Soe Naing | Managing Director (Rtd) | Public Works Enterprise | 63. U Soe Lwin | Deputy Director-General (Rtd) | Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development |
| 39. U Saw Thein | Director-General (Rtd) | Department of Relief and Resettlement | 64. U Tun Aung | General Manager (Rtd) | Ministry of Construction |
| 40. Daw Khin Than Tin | Director-General (Rtd) | Auditor-General Office | 65. Lt-Col Chit Lwin (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence |
| 41. U Khin Maung Myint | Director-General (Rtd) | Civil Service Affairs Department | 66. Lt-Col Aung Kyi Tun (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence |
| 42. U Hla Kyi | Director-General (Rtd) | Department of Civil Service Selection and Training | 67. Lt-Col Htwe Maung (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence |
| 43. Colonel Win Maung (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence | 68. Lt-Col Tin Win (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence |
| 44. Colonel Khin Maung San (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence | 69. Lt-Col Myint Aung (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence |
| 45. Colonel Min Thaw (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence | 70. Lt-Col Khin Maung Than (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence |
| 46. Colonel Ohn Cho (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence | 71. Lt-Col Myint Aung (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence |
| 47. Colonel Naing Lwin Oo (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence | 72. Lt-Col Ye Aung Toe (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence |
| 48. Colonel Tin Oo (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence | 73. Lt-Col Aung Myint (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence |
| 49. Colonel Mya Than (Rtd) | | Ministry of Defence | | | |
| 50. U Zaw Myint Pe | Deputy Director-General (Rtd) | State Peace and Development Council Office | | | |

To be continued

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)

The State Administration Council sets Five-Point Roadmap including the fact "Emphasis will be placed on ensuring peace and stability and the full rule of law across the whole Union, and on successfully conducting free and fair multiparty democratic general elections" and Nine Objectives including "To ensure a strong, disciplined and authentic multiparty democratic system and foster a Union founded upon democratic and federal systems" for the socioeconomic development of the national people, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing attended a ceremony to confer honorary titles to mark the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day to relevant recipients, held at the SAC Chairman's Office yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Senior General highlighted the endeavors and efforts of entire national people in regaining Independence of the country on 4 January 1948.

He added that the country is still weak in tranquility and peace to date due to the internal and external destructive elements and negative succession of colonialism although the country marks 77th independency. Therefore, all are responsible to maintain the independence and not only should make concerted efforts to build a peaceful and develop nation as per the visions of the ones who made sacrifices for independence but also protect the endurance of independence.

Nationwide participation key to country's success

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing attended a ceremony to confer honorary titles to mark the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day to relevant recipients yesterday.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing confers the Sithu title on Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein at the conferring of honorary titles on recipients at SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He then stressed the power of the participation of all national people for the nation whereas

the government confers honorary titles to those who put their hearts and souls into this matter

on Independence Day and other significant days.

The Senior General revealed

that at today's ceremony, the Sithu title will be conferred on two, the Thura title on nine, the Thiri Pyanchi title on five, Zeya Kyaw Htin title on three, Wunna Kyaw Htin title on 96, Alinka Kyaw Swa title on five and Theikpa Kyaw Swa title on two, totalling 122.

He then urged the intellectuals, intelligentsia and national people to work with the government actively while the Five-point Roadmap, Nine Objectives and Two National Visions are being implemented practically.

The Senior General conferred the Sithu title on one recipient, the Thura title on eight, the Thiri Pyanchi title on one, the Zeya Kyaw Htin title on three, the Wunna Kyaw Htin title on 78, the Alinka Kyaw Swa title on three and Theikpa Kyaw Swa title on two individually.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and wife, the council secretary and wife, the joint secretary, council members and their wives and State dignitaries. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivers the address at the conferring of honorary medals on recipients at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

and their efforts are recorded.

Those who are awarded honorary medals and certificates served their assigned duties in addition to defending the State and other duties for the State and the people with perseverance, diligence and industriousness. Hence, it needs to take pride of them for their good citizen actions. As such, all Tatmadaw members have to continue their efforts with good concepts to hand over the good legacy to new generations.

The Senior General presented gallantry medals to four Brigadier-Generals, two Colonels, eight Lieutenant-Colonels, nine majors, four captains, one warrant officer, one sergeant, three corporals, and two lance corporals respectively.

The Senior General gave

Safeguarding independence and sovereignty: An inborn duty for all citizens

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the ceremony to present honorary medals to winners at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the duty of safeguarding independence and sovereignty of a country is an inborn duty for all citizens. In fulfilling their historical duties, good citizens sacrifice life and limb for the sake of the State and nationality, guided by the belief that 'if a person is brave, they never go to hell.' Thus, these good citizens are rightfully honoured on Independence Day each year.

Myanmar Tatmadaw which emerged along with the independence struggle history has fought various battles against colonialists for independence.

Tatmadaw members serve assigned duties with sacrifices without any complaints for the sake of the State and the people.

After regaining independence, Tatmadaw defended against various challenges in consequence of the colonialism. Amid internal and external various dangers triggered by political and military measures, Tatmadaw members served assigned duties without any complaints for the sake of the State and the people with sacrifices. Tatmadaw focuses on the genuine national duty amid various attacks based on internal insurgencies and dogmatism and sectarianism along with independence and has been serving the interests of the State and the people for many years.

While Tatmadaw members are fighting on the frontline for defending the country, their wives and family members are impor-

tant reserve forces for the defending the State. As better halves, it can be seen proudly that they are fought against the enemies with sacrifice of life for the State and the nationality applying military techniques.

Peace and stability with free from armed conflicts are basic for development of a country. Hence, infrastructures can be built and trading will boom. Likewise, fulfilment can be given to education, health, social and other sectors of the residents.

Whenever the individual selfishness of a few is put forth under the guise of state or ethnic causes, residents suffer losses. To prevent such measures, Tatmadaw must prioritize its duty to defend the people. Since no

human society accepts armed terrorism, Myanmar must completely prevent terrorism.

This ceremony, 34 persons will be awarded the gallantry medals. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, remaining medals and certificates will be presented to relevant persons at respective military command headquarters at the same time. They performed sacrifices in serving their difficult duties at critical time. They served their duties with courageous and bravery for the sake of the nation and the nationality through strong spirit. Other Tatmadaw members who are not awarded medals are also honoured for their brilliant serving of duties as spirit of a good soldier

a tea party to those medallists. After the ceremony, the Senior General and party cordially greeted the medal recipients.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) Lt-Gen Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung and his wife, union-level dignitaries and their wives, union ministers and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, honorary medal recipient officers, other ranks and inheritors. — MNA/TTA

Global NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

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

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

NATIONAL

Raising and saluting State Flag marks 77th Anniversary of Independence Day 2025

A ceremony to raise the State flag and salute the flag in honour of the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day 2025 took place at the square in front of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday morning.

At 4:20 am, the flag-hoisting platoon flanked by national races raised the State Flag.

At 6 am, union-level dignitaries, union ministers, the Union Auditor-General, the Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, Union level officials, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, departmental heads, service personnel, national races and people took the respective positions in



The 77th Independence Day flag-hosting and saluting ceremony in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win reads the message sent by the SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

the square.

The Guard of Honour took the position in the square at 7 am.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day 2025 State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win took the

salute of the Guard of Honour.

The Vice-Senior General and attendees together with the Guard of Honour saluted the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Guard of Honour saluted the fallen leaders and Tatmadaw members and took oaths.

The Vice-Senior General read the message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Sen-

ior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day.

Before closing the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General took salute of the Guard of Honour.

The flag-raising and saluting ceremony was held in accord with the national objectives of the 77th Anniversary of Inde-

pendence Day 2025: To address armed conflicts and differing perspectives lawfully, ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty; To safeguard the State with unity and strength of all citizens, guided by the spirit of the Union; To conduct a free, fair, and credible general election to establish a genuine, disciplined

democratic system; To promote balanced development across all sectors of the Union through the collective strength of the entire people; and 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". — MNA/TTA

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.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order 1/2025

6th Waxing of Pyatho 1386 ME
4 January 2025

Remitting prison sentences

IN commemoration of 77th Independence Day, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds as well as on the goodwill of the government, the State Administration Council Chairman has remitted the punishment of prisoners from their respective prisons, detention centres and camps reducing one-sixth of the sentences they are serving as per the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) except those convicted of murder and rape or jailed for charges under the Explosives Act, Unlawful Association Act, 1878 Arms Act Section 19 (f), 1949 The Arms (Emergency Penalty held) Act (temporary), 1951 Arms (Temporary Amendment) Act, 1924 Shan State Arms Order, 2023 Weapons Law, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, Natural Disaster Management Law, Counter-Terrorism Law and Anti-Corruption Law before 4 January 2025.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
General
Secretary

State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order 2/2025

6th Waxing of Pyatho 1386 ME
4 January 2025

Pardon Order

THE State Administration Council Chairman has pardoned 5,864 male and female prisoners who are serving their terms at respective prisons, detention centres and camps under the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) on the condition that “they will have to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which they were sentenced this time if more offence is committed”, in commemorating the 77th Independence Day, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
General
Secretary

State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order 3/2025

6th Waxing of Pyatho 1386 ME
4 January 2025

Remitting prison sentences

THE State Administration Council Chairman has remitted the lifetime imprisonment to 15 years of imprisonment for 144 male and female prisoners who are serving their terms at respective prisons, detention centres and camps under the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1), in commemorating the 77th Independence Day, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
General
Secretary

State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order 4/2025

6th Waxing of Pyatho 1386 ME
4 January 2025

Pardon Order

THE State Administration Council Chairman has remitted the punishment of 180 foreign prisoners from the respective prisons, detention centres and camps, upon the conditions “to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which he was sentenced this time if more offence is committed” under the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1), in commemoration of the 77th Independence Day, on bilateral relation of countries and humanitarian grounds, and they are expelled from Myanmar.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
General
Secretary

State Administration Council

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Statement 1/2025

1. In commemoration of the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day, which falls on 4 January 2025, the State Administration Council issued State Administration Council Order 1/2025, which granted remission of one-sixth of the remaining sentences to be served, for prisoners incarcerated in respective prisons, jails, and camps under existing laws; Order 2/2025, a total of 5,864 prisoners serving sentences in respective prisons, jails, and camps were conditionally pardoned; Order 3/2025, commuted the life sentences of 144 prisoners in respective prisons and jails to the 15-year imprisonment, and Order 4/2025, 180 foreign prisoners from the respective prisons has remitted and deported. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

welcomes these acts of clemency.

2. These actions reflect the positive step in terms of human rights, and it is expected that the released prisoners will be able to participate in some way in establishing a State based on democracy and a federal system. The granting of remission and deportation of foreign prisoners is also viewed as a step to promote friendly relations between nations.
3. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is delighted to share the joy with the relevant family members of those who have been released and hopes that similar positive human rights and humanitarian actions will continue to be carried out.

MYANMAR National Human Rights Commission
DATE: 5 January 2025

Actress donates K2.5M to support artistes in film industry

ACTRESS Saung Yoon San has donated K2.5 million to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) to support its plan to distribute rice, cooking oil, and other food supplies as a New Year donation to members of the film industry, according to MMPO Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay.

MMPO plans to provide rice and food supplies to its members for the 15th time in January 2025. Film industry members and donors have reportedly been contributing both monetary and food donations to make this possible.

“MMPO will distribute rice and foodstuffs to film industry members as a New Year donation for the 15th time. For this purpose, U Kyauk Taung donated K1 million, actor Naw Phaw Eh Htar contributed K3 million, and actor Aye Chan Maung donated K1 million. Actress Saung Yoon San donated K2.5 million on 3 January,” said U Aye Kyu Lay.

Previously, MMPO organized its 14th distribution

event from 3 to 6 April, 2024. During the event, sector wide members of the film industry received rice, cooking oil, and other foodstuffs. — ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases actress Saung Yoon San donating K2.5 million to MMPO.

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Pro-Rector Dr Aye Aye Thant from Yenangyoung University, the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education, as Rector of the same university on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

NATIONAL

DPM MoPF Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia in Nay Pyi Yaw yesterday.

They cordially discussed matters pertaining to further consolidation of the bilateral cooperation, development projects conducted with Chinese loans, training for human resource development conducted by China and further mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries based on Pauk-Phaw relations.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Min Htut and departmental officials. — MNA/KTZH



China's Ambassador Ms Ma Jia calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Win Shein in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 January 2025.



The 77th Independence Day flag-hosting and saluting ceremony in progress in Yangon yesterday.

77th Independence Day celebrated in Yangon

THE State flag-hoisting and saluting ceremony of the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day took place at People's Square in Yangon yesterday.

The flag-hoisting platoon raised the State Flag at 4:20 am together with the departmental officials and ethnic groups.

At 7 am, the flag saluting ceremony was organized and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein received the salute

of the Guard of Honour. He then saluted the State Flag together with the Guard of Honour and attendees to the event.

The Guard of Honour also saluted the nation's fallen leaders and soldiers and took the four-point oath.

The Yangon Region chief minister read the message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadde Maha Thray Sithu Thadde Thiri

Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing to the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day ceremony.

The event was attended by Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, Regional Chief Justice Daw Sandar Thwe, cabinet members, the regional advocate-general, the regional auditor-general, senior Tatmadaw officers, national people, students and invitees. — Ko Ko Zaw (MNA)/KTZH

40 trainees leave for India to attend judicial capacity-building training

THE Fifth Capacity-Building Training Programme for Myanmar Judges and Judicial Officers will be conducted at the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal, India, from 6 to

9 January 2025.

A total of 40 trainees of the Union Supreme Court departed Yangon for India yesterday to attend the training. — MNA/KTZH

MSME market fair, music show at People's Square mark Independence Day

THE MSME Product Market Fair and Music Show were hosted from noon to 10 pm yesterday at People's Square in Yangon to commemorate the 77th Independence Day.

The event was very crowded with visitors who participated peacefully and happily, in families and groups.

People not only joyfully viewed and purchased goods at the market but also enjoyed lively performances by famous singers, DJ groups, dance troupes, and new-generation singers at the music entertainment stages. In the evening, fireworks were set off to celebrate the 77th Independence Day.

More than 160 stalls, including restaurants and souvenir shops, were opened at the fair, contributing to the large crowds of visitors.

Charity food events and music shows featuring famous artistes will also take place during the festival. Shuttle buses have been arranged to ensure the smooth transport of visitors, so they can enjoy the fair and other events.

To maintain cleanliness and order at the festival, garbage bins have been placed for visitors to properly dispose of their waste, and mobile toilets have been provided. — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/MKKS



A crowded audience watches the music concert at the music shows at People's Square in Yangon to commemorate the 77th Independence Day, yesterday.

Advertise

with us/ Hotline :



09 454237515,, 09 255597511

OPINION

BOOKRACK POEM

Remember the impacts of Typhoon Yagi

THE worst and most dangerous natural disasters Myanmar people experienced in 2024 indicated Typhoon Yagi which struck many regions and states across the nation. Impacts of the typhoon immediately destroyed a large number of lives and property of the people. It was unforgettable and regrettable incident in the history of Myanmar.

The typhoon “Yagi,” centring over the South China Sea, which severely struck China and Vietnam, has affected nearly six million children in the Southeast Asia region, according to a statement released by UNICEF. It was seeming a dreadful dream for the society. It is necessary to take a lesson from the event of Yagi how to overcome similar challenges in the future.

Typhoon Yagi struck the Southeast Asia region, severely caused heavy rains and strong winds across Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar. On 18 September, three deaths were reported in Thailand due to Typhoon Yagi, bringing the total number of fatalities to 18.

The death toll in the region has risen to 537 people.

Due to the cyclone, around six million children have experienced hardship, and UNICEF reported that access to clean drinking water, education, healthcare, food, and shelter has become scarce. The impacts of the typhoon have been most severely felt by vulnerable children and families, who are the least able to cope with the consequences.

The number of fatalities from Typhoon Yagi’s impacts in Myanmar has surged to 384, with 89 people went missing. This tragic toll underscores the urgent need for Myanmar to intensify its efforts in disaster prevention and invest in training for search and rescue operations, ensuring that lives can be saved more effectively during future disasters. Authorities should recruit volunteer youths by offering essential supplies and support, along with complete rescue equipment, to ensure their participation in search and rescue efforts. Additionally, proper training must be provided to help these youths gain the experience needed to address rescue challenges effectively in a short timeframe. Organizing these volunteer groups will create reliable forces that can assist the State and the public during times of natural disasters.

Natural disasters are unavoidable events. While humans cannot prevent the occurrence of disasters, we can mitigate their impacts on lives and property. By applying modern technology and human intelligence, everyone has the opportunity to safely navigate the challenges posed by these events. Preparedness is a key, as it can significantly reduce casualties. Therefore, everybody needs to make preparations to overcome challenges similar to Typhoon Yagi in the future.



Book Title - Midsummer Rain
Writer - Mon Halsey
Publishing House - Pan Satt Lann
Publication Date - October 2024 (1st Edition)
Price - K9,000

Midsummer Rain

By Mon Halsey

THE back cover blurb of this novella reveals that she has been dreaming of rain even on midsummer nights. She is finding light in the darkness of life to survive and maintain peace amidst the storm. I introduce this to readers to show them the silver lining.

The genre is psychological drama. This marks the 25th book by Mon Halsey, one of the best-selling writers. She spent about two and a half years writing this book.

“I began writing short stories on social media platforms in 2016 and published my first book in 2017. Over eight years, I reached the milestone of my 25th book,” the writer mentioned.

Midsummer Rain highlights

an individual who is mentally struggling with childhood trauma. There are two female characters in this drama, but it primarily focuses on dealing with trauma and pain to find emotional healing.”

Reader discretion is advised, as the content may contain sexual and violent acts and may not be appropriate for readers under 18. The characters and content are not based on any real individuals, as stated in the disclaimer.

To enhance the appeal of the book to potential readers, here are some taglines and brief descriptions:

An art studio located inside an old, obscure building battered by severe weather conditions for a decade remains eerily quiet.

This tranquil, cold, and beautiful place inspires the artist’s creation of paintings, sculptures, and artistic photographs.

The ceiling is high, but its dim colour evokes a nostalgic feeling. The cloudy, gloomy sky can be seen just before the rain.

The quiet studio seems to have been waiting for rain for a year. Nevertheless, the rain hitting the roof makes an obnoxious thumping noise. The vision grew dimmer, and the tapping sound on the antique window became increasingly disturbing.

The loud hammering sound on the roof gradually grows louder and louder, resembling the beat of a drum.

Moisture in the wood creates a cracking and popping sound, reminiscent of clomping

footsteps at night and a haunting hum.

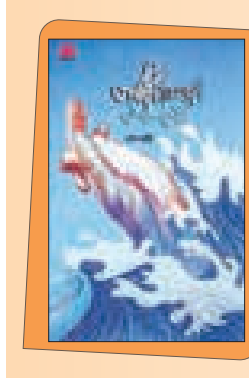
Rain pouring onto the studio’s ceiling seeps through the cracks and holes.

Some artists are captivated by rain, as it can spur a vigorous pursuit of emotion and perceptive insight. A rain shower ignites cognition and artistic creation, inspiring them to compose songs and create paintings. The rainy days master creative thinking and generate new ideas while they sip coffee.

The character Yu Wai embodies contradictions. She truly detests rain and harbors an intense fear of it. Rain triggers her anxiety, causing her to ruminate about past events that she cannot get over. This unresolved pain makes her feel like crying over her past experiences.

Rain feels as sharp as a knife, stabbing into his nerves and memories. Her memory falters, and her thoughts become confused. Thunder on a stormy night traps her in a cycle of replaying negative experiences. It is incredibly difficult to escape these repetitive and intrusive worries about past events.

The book contains six parts: Cruel Rain, Haunting Rainy Nights, Nostalgia on Rainy Days, Terrifying Rain Dreams, Stormy Heavy Rain, and Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining.



Book Title - Tain Pachi
Author - Ham Sai (Say-Mann)
Publishing House - Hsu Yaungzin
Publication Date - December 2024 (2nd Edition)
Price - K10,000

Tain Pachi

By Ham Sai (Say-Mann)

I have heard a saying.” If thoughts are good, they become a poem. If the poem is good, it becomes a song. If the story is good, it becomes a novel. If the novel is good, it becomes a movie.” In fact, the novel and movie are inseparable, like husband and wife. Filmmakers often buy novels to adapt them into movies. Some novels are republished as the movie adaptation becomes famous. This week, ‘Tain Pachi’ is an example of such a novel; it has achieved great success as a movie and is being republished for the second time.

While it might be assumed that novelist Saya Ham Sai (Say-Mann) gained more fame from the ‘Tain Pachi’ movie, he was already a well-known author in

the field of short stories. Furthermore, he is a recipient of the Shwe Amyutay Literary Award and is well-recognized by fellow literary artists.

Author Saya Ham Sai (Say-Mann) has released several works, including ‘Nyi Ma Lay Thoe Pay Sar Myar’, ‘Tatiya Lu’ and magazine short stories, ‘Ma Nwan Tae Layaung’ and magazine short stories, ‘Thoe Amay’ and non-fiction stories, ‘Behind Living Together’, and ‘Thabawa Ka Paytae Latsaung’, as well as ‘Tain Pachi’.

‘Tain Pachi’ is a serialized novel that was first published in Shwe Amyutay magazine before becoming a combined novel. The author began writing ‘Tain Pachi’ in 2016, and it was serialized in Shwe Amyutay magazine

in 2019. In 2020, it was purchased to be adapted into a movie.

In ‘Tain Pachi’, the author creates a character named Tain Pachi, depicting the true stories of three girls and their married lives. A doctor who bravely saves the life of Tain Pachi, also known as Kyal Sin, undergoes a transformation into another man in real life – Wai Yan Oo.

The marriage highlights the humanity, bravery, and past weaknesses of a woman, and Tain Pachi overcomes them with her firm resilience. Dr Wai Yan Oo’s character changes due to the third character called ‘Ma Thuzar’, emphasizing the Monogamy Law.

The author said, “Dr Wai Yan Oo is now living with his wife and children in real life. I asked

for his permission, and he does not represent the character Wai Yan Oo from the novel 100 per cent. He served as an inspiration. Although Tain Pachi and Wai Yan Oo do not get married again, the child mentioned in the novel is under the care of both parents in real life. Tain Pachi is now living her own way. They might have trauma.”

Regarding people’s criticism, the author confirmed that the worst experiences can be seen in real life. He omitted cases such as Tain Pachi breaking her arms from being beaten by her husband, who cheated in front of her while she was bedridden after tummy surgery, and her husband cursing at her just before she entered the surgery room. He continued, stating that every girl can be Tain Pachi.

Similarly, concerning the comparison between the novel and the movie, he added, “It is difficult for the script to be the same in both the novel and the movie. While the creative process is similar, the final products differ. I did not influence the production regarding the actors for this movie. The movie did not include the imprisonment of the two cheaters, but the book detailed their imprisonment. I urge everyone to read the book.”

တာဝန်မျှ

လင်းကြက်တူနဲ့ အရက်ဦးမှာ ပေါက်တူးဆွဲ ယာထဲဝင် အဖ ထွန်ရေးငင်၊ အမိ ချက်ပြုတ်ပြင် နေဝင်သည်မိုးချုပ်။ ခေါင်းလောင်းမြည် ကျောင်းအဆင်းမှာ ယာခင်းဆီ အပြေးလှင်နဲ့ ပေါင်းသင်ကာ ပျိုးချဖို့ သားတို့အလုပ်။



Shared Duties

By Chit Ko Pe

At dawn, the rooster crows and a father gets ready to go to the field holding a hoe till a sun-set follows while a mother does the house chores. In the afternoon, a school bell rings, and their children rush to the terrain to weed out and transplant the seedlings. It’s their part to follow a duty sharing.

May May and Thapyay Nyo

By Mya Thae (Research)



- May May liked Thapyay Nyo flowers.
- She offered Thapyay Nyo at the altar.
- Sometimes she adorned her hair Thapyay Nyo, for a beautiful fair.
- Her pen name is Shwe Myaing Thapyay Nyo.
- She liked heartily graceful Thapyay Nyo so.
- She adorned me Thapyay Nyo When I sat exams and jobs so much.
- For these kind behaviours I attained good luck.
- Thus, my love for May May is enormous.

New Year Wish

By Tin Moe
Translated by Mint Zan

အမြင်ကျဉ်းမြောင်း၊ စိတ်ကျဉ်းမြောင်း၍ တွင်းအောင်းရသည့်ဘဝမှ လွတ်ပါစေ။ စိတ်ဓာတ်သေးနပ်၊ ဉာဏ်သေးနပ်၍ ချုပ်ချယ်မှုအမျိုးမျိုးမှ လွတ်ပါစေ။ တို့အချင်းချင်း၊ ခေါင်းထက်နင်း၍ သိမ်ဖျင်းလုပ်စား၊ စိတ်ယုတ်ပတ်နှင့် ပုတ်ခတ်ကျသည့်ဘဝမှ လွတ်ပါစေ။ သူကမမှန်၊ ငါကမှန်ဟု တစ်ယူသန်၍၊ စိတ်သေးဖွဲနှင့် ငရဲဘဝမှလည်း လွတ်ပါစေ။ သူ့ဂုဏ်ကိုချ၊ ကိုယ့်ဂုဏ်ပြကာ မာနကား တဖွားဖွားနှင့် အမှားကျမှလည်း လွတ်ပါစေ။ မကောင်းမှခင် ကောင်းမှုကြည့်သည့် ဉာဉ်ဆိုးညဉ်မိုက်၊ မီးပုံမြိုက်၍ ငိုရှိုက်ရခြင်းမှလည်း လွတ်ပါစေ။ နှစ်သစ်မြတ်ဆု၊ ဤကောင်းမှုကြောင့် သာဓု သာဓု ခေါ်စေသော်။ ။

တင်မိုး
၁၇ - ၄ - ၉၁

NATIONAL Entertainment

Nominated movies for second-round screening announced

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization released 18 nominated movies for the second-round screening session for 2024 Academy Awards.

The screening board reviewed 49 movies, and released 18 movies for second-round screening.

"We watched 49 movies for 2024 Academy Awards, and now we are going to review 18 movies this month for

the second time," said MMPO Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay.

Eighteen nominated movies are Bodaw Kin, Chit Thu The Thar Pan Ta Pwint Phyt Khae Yin, Asoe Maya Anatta, York Kyar Kaung Ataung Hta Sal, Than Yaw Zin Tway Thar Kyisan Phyt Khae Yin, Tak-hote Taya, Phone Shwe, Mi Tin Sein, Noh Htamin, Sate Ka

Kyoe, Mee, Ayet Set Sone Anan, Thabin The Mya Hninzi, Hnaung, Ma Yae Aye Khe Kya Thu Myar, Eait Mat Kar Yan, Tain Pachi and Metta. — ASH/KTZH



Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt)

"SOME are passionate about the arts and know everything about them. However, they are not outstanding; they are knowledgeable, but not experts. Therefore, they lack creativity. True experts are those who not only understand art but continually practice and create based on their experiences. They receive lessons and inspiration from their work. Some people know but cannot act, while others can act but lack knowledge. It's essential for them to know themselves well," director Maung Myo Min posted on his Facebook page. In 2025, the movies he created 'Thu Taw Tasay', 'Yoke Thay' and 'Yorkkya Aye Kan' films will be screened.

Paing Takhon

ACTOR PAING TAKHON hosted a betrothal event with his fiancée, Lin Mya Phyu, at her house, surrounded by their parents and relatives. Friends and colleagues from the arts community were also present. His sister, May Chit Thway, praised her future sister-in-law, saying, 'Paing's lover is so decent. She tries to understand everything just for Paing. I'm so satisfied.'

Chit Chit Zaw

THE 58th birthday of Sayagyi Uppala Wunna Theri, head of the Bodhi Sara (Theri Village) on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway (18 miles and three furlongs), was celebrated on 3 January. Actress Chit Chit Zaw honoured the nun by making a singing donation, performing the Vijeta Mingala song. Artistes often make donations at the Bodhi Saya.



Wai La

COMPOSER and vocalist Wai La organized his solo show at Nya Kyaung Music Bar and IT Express Food Villa on 4 January. He performed songs from his series, including '1982',



'Makeup Ma Kyite Thaw', 'Adipati Phwa', 'Bed No 18', 'Atu Mya Tae Myo', and 'Sayeikta'. During the show, he was supported by the Mercury IX band.



Htet Nay Kyi

SINGER HTET NAY KYI received one million viewers on Tribute Records YouTube Channel on 1 January 2025 for his song 'Ayat Cho Achit Khar' at Tribute Live Concert. The Melody World (2007) winner is well-known for his 'Nauksoke Phoe Kyosar Yin' song.

Mae Min Bon

THE movie 'Pyusa' (Bewitch) directed by Mae Min Bon is scheduled to premiere nationwide in January. The cast includes Nay Win, Shane Tin Htoo, Soe Myat Thu Zar, Khine Hnin Wai, Yadana Bo and Chuu Lay and shows their unique acting skills. Their audience nominates the movie for academy awards. "In a movie, the script is central to the acting or directing skills," said Mae Min Bon. — Htun Htun/ KTZH



CELEBRITY BRIEF

NATIONAL

MoI Deputy Minister encourages 77th Independence Day celebrations

IN honouring the 77th Independence Day in 2025, various fun and sports events were organized

across ministries, basic education schools, and residences within the Nay Pyi Taw Council

Area. Civil servants, teachers, students, and the public enthusiastically participated in these

celebrations.

Led by the Ministry of Information, along with the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Science and Technology, collective festivities and sports events took place at No 11 Basic Education High School in Wunna Theikdi Ward, Zabuthiri Township. Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, accompanied by teachers, students, and guardians, observed competitions such as the long jump, foot-tied race, lemon spoon-biting, snack-eating, balloon shot, cock fighting, tug-of-war, volleyball tournament, Sepak Takraw, slow bicycle race, and Myanmar's traditional games, among others.

Following the competitions,

the deputy minister awarded prizes to the winners of various contests, including tug-of-war.

The permanent secretaries and personnel from the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Science and Technology, as well as the headmistress of No 11 Basic Education High School, presented other awards.

Simultaneously, sports competitions were unfolded in various basic education schools and residences within the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Students, family members, and residents participated, and awards were distributed by educators, school heads, and officials from each ward based on sports achievements. — MNA/MKKS



Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint enjoys a competition of students at No 11 Basic Education High School in Zabuthiri Township at the Independence Day fun and sports event in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

695 prisoners granted amnesty from Mandalay Central Prison

MANDALAY Central Prison, located in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay, released 695 prisoners, including 541 males and 154 females, as part of an amnesty granted yesterday.

“The release aims to bring peace and harmony to the people. Those who have been released received daily allowances and wages for their work. Arrangements were made to transport them to bus terminals or railway stations by departmental vehicles on their way to their respective regions. We are pleased to see them reunited with their families,” said U Thein Zaw Maung, Deputy Director of the Mandalay Central Prison. The amnesty recipients were addressed by Colonel Nay Lin Soe, Mandalay

Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs, and Police Brig-Gen Win Bo, Chief of the Mandalay Region Police Force, who offered guidance and advice. Prison officials also conducted health checks and provided allowances and travel expenses to those released. “I’m deeply happy to be reunited with my family. Moving forward, I plan to contribute to both my family and the country by following the law. I’m grateful to the officials for their kindness in granting this amnesty,” shared one of the released prisoners.

Yesterday’s release included a total of 1,141 prisoners across five prisons and seven labour camps within the Mandalay Region, comprising 877 males and 264 females. — MNA/KZL



Families warmly welcome recently-released inmates from the Mandalay Prison yesterday.

Independence Day amnesty: Over 1,009 local and foreign prisoners pardoned



Some released prisoners from the Insein Prison are pictured boarding the bus for their homes in front of the prison in Yangon yesterday.

THE government has granted amnesty to 5,864 local prisoners and 180 foreign prisoners from prisons across the nation in commemoration of the 77th Independence Day and on humanitarian grounds.

Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Win Tint and Regional Police Force Commander Police Brig-Gen Sein Lwin delivered speeches to 1,009 inmates at

the gymnasium of Insein Prison yesterday morning.

The State Administration Council has released 1,009 prisoners from Insein Prison, including nine foreigners, 24 Bengali prisoners, 768 male prisoners, and 208 female prisoners.

The released prisoners were sent to relevant districts in the Yangon Region by YBS buses yesterday afternoon. — MNA/MKKS

ECON WORLD



Agriculture still employs a large portion of India's population. Introducing advanced farming techniques, better irrigation systems, and more equitable land reforms can increase productivity and income for farmers. **PHOTO: ISTOCK**

Manmohan Singh as PM pulled 138 million people out of 'below poverty line'

Montek Singh Ahluwalia praised Manmohan Singh for lifting 138 million people above the poverty line, highlighting India's record economic growth under his leadership.

ECONOMIST Montek Singh Ahluwalia praised former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for his efforts to bring 138 million people out of the 'below poverty line (BPL)'. Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India, said that India grew faster in terms of economic growth during Singh's tenure than it had ever done.

"People forget that when

you are Prime Minister you are not running an individual department. You have to be judged by how the country performs. So if you put that criterion, during his tenure, India grew faster than it had ever done before and it grew faster than it has grown since. In his period, 138 million people were pulled above the poverty line for the first time. Before that, the percentage of people below the poverty line

was falling, but the population was expanding and so did the number of people below the poverty line," Montek told ANI in an exclusive interview. Montek further said that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure must be judged in its entirety. The Indo-US nuclear deal that freed India from nuclear restrictions was the most important achievement during his second term, he added. — ANI

Qatar's foreign merchandise trade surplus achieves QR57.7 billion in Q3 2024

IN Q3 of 2024, Qatar recorded a merchandise trade balance surplus (difference between total exports and imports) of QR57.7 billion down from QR60.9 billion in Q3 2023.

According to figures released by the Planning and Statistics Authority on Wednesday Aand carried by Qatar News Agency (QNA), the value of Qatar's total exports in Q3 2024 (including exports of domestic goods and re-exports) amounted to QR87.8 billion. This decreased by QR2.0 billion (2.2 per cent) compared to Q3 2023, which amounted to total exports of QR89.8 billion. However, it increased by nearly QR2.8 billion, or 3.3 per cent, compared to Q2 2024.

The Q3 2024 year-on-year (Y-o-Y) decrease in total exports was mainly due to lower exports of Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials by QR5.0 billion (6.5 per cent), and Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles by QR0.1 billion (22.0 per cent).

On the other hand, increases were recorded mainly in Chemicals and Related Products by QR1.5 billion (24.5 per cent), Machinery and Transport Equipment by QR1.2 billion (53.3 per cent), Manufactured Goods Classified Chiefly by Material by QR0.4 billion (17.1 per cent), and Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels by QR0.1 billion (24.8 per cent). — ANI



A file photo shows a Qatari liquid natural gas (LNG) tanker being loaded up with LNG at Ras Laffan, northern Qatar. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Slovak PM threatens to cut support for Ukrainians in Slovakia over gas transit dispute



SLOVAK Prime Minister Robert Fico has threatened that his party, Smer-SD, is ready to support reducing assistance to Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia in response to Ukraine's suspension of Russian gas transit.

"On behalf of Smer-SD, I say that we are ready to discuss and agree within the coalition

Slovakia hosts 109,000 Ukrainian refugees with inclusive policies but threatens to reduce aid over Ukraine's stance on Russian gas transit. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

to halt electricity supplies and significantly reduce support for Ukrainian citizens on Slovak territory," Fico stated in a video message posted on his social media.

He expressed hope that his government coalition partners would also take the situation of the suspended gas transit through Ukraine seriously.

"On Tuesday, a government delegation will take part in negotiations in Brussels, where Ukrainian politicians had the audacity to complain about us

for being ready to take reciprocal measures, for example, by stopping electricity supplies to Ukraine. After the delegation returns from Brussels, the coalition and then the government will convene. We will discuss the measures that we will take to adequately respond to [Ukrainian President Volodymyr] Zelenskyy's sabotage," Fico said.

An agreement between Russia's Gazprom and Ukraine's Naftogaz was concluded on 30 December 2019 and expired on Tuesday. — SPUTNIK

China announces month-long online shopping event for Spring Festival

CHINA will launch a month-long online shopping event for festive goods ahead of the upcoming Spring Festival, which falls on 29 January this year.

The event, initiated by the Ministry of Commerce and organized under the guidance of several government departments and the China Consumers Association, will run from 7 January to 5 February.

According to the ministry, this event marks the first nationwide online sales promotion following the inscription of the “Spring Festival, social practices of the Chinese people in celebration of traditional new year” on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2024.

The event aims to meet people’s consumption needs during



People visit the Yuyuan Garden Lantern Festival at Yuyuan Garden in east China’s Shanghai, 1 January 2025.
PHOTO: LIU YING/XINHUA

the festive season, promote traditional Chinese culture and boost e-commerce sales.

A launch ceremony for the event will be held on 7 January in the city of Jiujiang in east China’s Jiangxi Province, featuring a series of activities, including displays of festive goods and exhibitions highlighting intangible cultural heritage.

Various Chinese regions and e-commerce platforms will host distinctive events to celebrate the Spring Festival, including local product promotions as well as exhibitions and performances themed on intangible cultural heritage, according to the ministry. For instance, starting 22 January Shanghai will host a Silk Road e-commerce Spring Festival event to promote tourism products for visitors traveling to China for the Spring Festival. — Xinhua

Boeing adds new manufacturing quality control checks

US aviation giant Boeing announced Friday that it has implemented over a dozen new quality control checks as it looks to rebuild trust following several recent high-profile incidents.

The company has been under pressure from US regulators following several safety scares, including a mid-flight Alaska Airlines panel blowout that required an emergency landing in January 2024.

Boeing’s new “Safety & Quality Plan” includes enhanced training for quality control inspectors and mechanics, and a new random quality audit when aircraft parts are removed and returned, it said in a statement posted on its website. — AFP

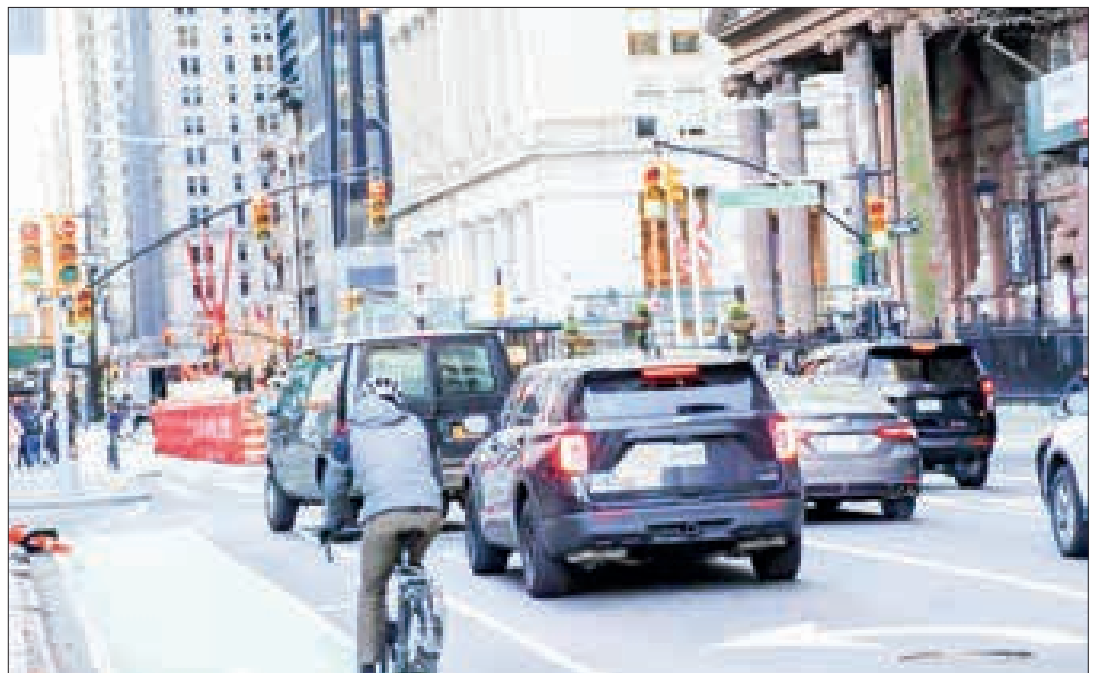
Ghana announces visa-free entry for African passport holders

GHANA’S outgoing President Nana Akufo-Addo Friday announced visa-free travel for all African passport holders from the start of this year, marking a step towards continental economic integration.

The announcement came during his final state of the nation address as he prepares to step down on 6 January after two terms in office. “I am proud to have approved visa-free travel to Ghana for all African passport holders, with effect from the beginning of this year,” Akufo-Addo said in his speech to parliament.

“This is the logical next step to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the workings of the largest trading bloc in the world,” he said. “All these are essential elements to the realization of the AU’s Agenda 2063, which envisages an integrated and connected Africa by 2063,” he added, referring to the African Union’s development blueprint for a 50-year period. — AFP

US federal judge OKs NYC congestion pricing plan



A bike rider joins the traffic in Lower Manhattan, New York City, the United States, on 3 January 2025.
PHOTO: LIU YANAN/XINHUA

A US federal judge in New Jersey on Friday dismissed a last-minute attempt to block New York City’s congestion pricing plan, allowing it to take effect Sunday.

The decision means that starting from Sunday, drivers entering Manhattan below the 60th Street during peak hours

will face a congestion fee of nine US dollars.

While the Metropolitan Transport Authority welcomed the decision, opponents in New Jersey vowed to appeal the decision before Sunday. According to local media, one lawyer for New Jersey suggested seeking emergency

relief from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

As the first of its kind in the United States, the Manhattan congestion pricing plan was first introduced and approved in 2019 under the administration of then New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. — Xinhua

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

4 JANUARY

Japanese woman, world's oldest person at 116, dies

TOMIKO Itooka, a 116-year-old Japanese woman recognized as the world's oldest person, has died of old age, an official of the western Japan city of Ashiya where she lived said Saturday.

Born on 23 May 1908 in Osaka as the eldest of three siblings, Itooka died Sunday night at the nursing home where she resided, the city government in Hyogo Prefecture said.

Itooka became the oldest living person in Japan in December 2023 following the death of Fusa Tatsumi, a 116-year-old in Kashiwara, Osaka Prefecture.

She was subsequently recognized as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records in September 2024, following the death of the previous holder, Maria Branyas Morera, a 117-year-old from Olot, Catalonia, Spain. — Kyodo



The world's oldest person, Japanese woman Tomiko Itooka, has died aged 116, the city where she lived, Ashiya, announced on Saturday. Itooka celebrates her 116th birthday in the city of Ashiya, Hyogo prefecture. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

3 JANUARY

Mourners prepare for Jimmy Carter's farewell

MOURNERS are gearing up to pay their respects to Jimmy Carter, marking the start of a meticulously planned six-day farewell for America's longest-living president on Saturday.

Carter died on 29 December at the age of 100 in his hometown of Plains, Georgia.

Carter's state funeral officially begins on Saturday with Secret Service agents from his current and former protective

detail carrying his casket to a hearse for a tour through Plains.

The motorcade bearing his remains is to pause at Carter's boyhood family peanut farm while a farm bell rings 39 times in honour of America's 39th president.

Carter's remains will be flown on Tuesday morning from a military base in Georgia to Joint Base Andrews outside Washington on a US Air Force plane.

2 JANUARY

Syria FM hopes Saudi visit opens new chapter

SAUDI Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan met on Thursday Syrian official Asaad Al-Shaibani in Riyadh to discuss Syria's future.

This follows a Saudi delegation's meeting last month with Syria's new leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa, in Damascus.

Sharaa, head of the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham group, played a key role in the rebel offensive that ousted President Bashar al-Assad in December. In

a recent interview, Sharaa emphasized Saudi Arabia's important role in Syria's future and highlighted investment opportunities for neighbouring countries.

Over 13 years of civil war have devastated Syria's economy and infrastructure. While Saudi Arabia initially opposed Assad, severing ties in 2012, it has since restored relations and helped reintegrate Syria into the Arab League. — AFP

1 JANUARY

India implements new subscription scheme

THE One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme was implemented in India on Wednesday to provide students and researchers from government-run higher education institutions and research and development centres with access to international scholarly journals.

"The goal is to ensure that India's academic and research communities are equipped with the best global resources, fostering innovation and enhancing the quality of research across disciplines," said an official statement issued by the Ministry

of Education. The scheme envisioned India's emergence as a leading global power driven by cutting-edge research, technological advancement, and self-sustained progress. "Through such initiatives, India is preparing to build on its rich legacy of knowledge, positioning itself at the forefront of global innovation and discovery," added the statement. The scheme would provide access to more than 13,000 scholarly journals from 30 major international publishers. It would benefit nearly 18 million students, faculty, and researchers. — Xinhua

31 DECEMBER

Panama marks canal handover anniversary

PANAMA on Tuesday marked the 25th anniversary of the United States' handover of its interoceanic canal, a milestone overshadowed by President-elect Donald Trump's threat to demand control be returned to Washington.

The anniversary came two days after the death of former US president Jimmy Carter, who in 1977 signed the treaties that led to the vital waterway's eventual transfer decades later.

Former Panamanian president Mireya

Moscoso, who oversaw the symbolic turn-of-the-century handover, told AFP that "today we feel the same emotion" as on that occasion 25 years ago. At Tuesday's ceremony, neither Mulino nor other speakers addressed Trump's recent threats. The US President-elect angered Panamanians by claiming he would demand the canal "be returned to us" if Panama failed to ensure its "secure, efficient, and reliable operation". Panama's political leaders and citizens strongly rejected his remarks. — AFP

30 DECEMBER

Cambodia urges caution over respiratory virus HMPV

THE Cambodia's Ministry of Health (MoH) on Monday urged people to take precautions over human metapneumovirus (HMPV) in the cold season. In its press statement, the MoH said the HMPV causes respiratory diseases with symptoms similar to flu, including fever, cough, nasal congestion, sore throat, and sneezing.

"The virus can cause serious illness among infants, children, the elderly over

65 of age or people with weakened immune systems," it said. HMPV was not a new virus as it was first detected in 2001 in the Netherlands, and Cambodia also detected the disease among children between 2007 and 2009, the MoH said.

It added that most of the cases were mild, but about six to 16 per cent of the infected children could progress to bronchiolitis or pneumonia. — Xinhua

29 DECEMBER

China creates department to boost low-altitude economy

CHINA'S top economic planner has established a department to support the development of the burgeoning low-altitude economy, as the country strives to foster new growth drivers.

The new department, under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), is responsible for formulating and organizing the implementation of strategies as well as mid-term and long-term

development plans, providing policy recommendations, and coordinating major issues related to the low-altitude economy, according to the NDRC.

The department has recently held symposiums on advancing the construction of low-altitude infrastructure and low-altitude intelligent network systems, according to the latest updates on the NDRC website. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar to compete in Nepal Women's Football Tournament

THE Myanmar women's football team will participate in the upcoming Nepal Women's Invitational Football Tournament, scheduled for February. The tournament featuring four teams: the host Nepal team, Myanmar, Kazakhstan, and Lebanon will run from 17 to 26 February.

The Nepal Football Federation has yet to announce the tournament format but it is expected to follow a round-robin system. The Myanmar squad has

been training intensively since mid-December in preparation for this and other international competitions this year. The team's coach, Japanese Yukitaka Teturo is overseeing the training as he selected 32 players ahead of the tourney.

Team Myanmar will also compete in the ASEAN Women's Championship, the AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifiers and the 33rd Sea Games in Thailand. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



The Myanmar women's national football team is seen under training. PHOTO: MFF



The 2026 Olympic Games chief Andrea Varnier was all smiles last month at the launching of the "Look of the Games" in Milan. PHOTO: AFP

ITALIAN 2026 Winter Olympic organizers named American ski resort Lake Placid as their "Plan B" on Friday should work on the new bobsleigh slope at Cortina d'Ampezzo not be ready in time.

The next Games is spread

over two venues, with Milan hosting the ski events and Cortina the bobsleigh, luge and skeleton competitions.

After concerns, Cortina is officially back on track to confound doubters and win its race to be completed for the

upcoming Olympics only 13 months away.

The more upbeat vibe around Cortina will come as a relief to all Italian fans of winter sliding sports, and also the Italian government led by Giorgia Meloni. — AFP

Osaka reaches 1st WTA final since return at ASB Classic

JAPAN'S former world No 1 Naomi Osaka reached the ASB Classic tennis tournament final in Auckland on Saturday after beating Alycia Parks of the United States 6-4, 6-2 in the semifinals.

The four-time Grand Slam title winner made her first WTA singles final since last January when she returned after giving birth and taking some time off. "I've actually never gotten to the final of the tournament the week before Melbourne, so this is like a career first for me," the

two-time Australian Open champion said on the WTA website.

"I'm really happy. There's always constantly things to improve or to get better, no matter how old you are." The 27-year-old, currently ranked 57th, broke back immediately against her 78th-ranked opponent and got another break en route to winning the opening set. She held all her serves in the second set to close the match in 1 hour, 11 minutes. — Kyodo

Man Utd's fresh start turns sour on Ratcliffe's watch

MANCHESTER United fans began 2024 buoyed at the prospect of a new dawn but the winds of change at Old Trafford under Jim Ratcliffe have so far only hastened the demise of the English giants.

Twelve months on, United travel to bitter rivals Liverpool on Sunday fearing another humiliation on the back of four consecutive defeats that have left new manager Ruben Amorim stressing his side are in a Premier League relegation battle.

AFP Sports looks at what has gone wrong on and off the field since British billionaire Ratcliffe bought a \$1.6 billion (£1.25 billion) minority stake in the club and took control of the club's football operations.

United's FA Cup victory in May, a brief moment of triumph, came at a significant cost. Beating Manchester City to lift the trophy was seen as a potential turning point for coach Erik ten Hag, but instead, it became a pyrrhic victory.

The Dutch coach, who had overseen a disastrous eighth-place finish — United's worst-ever Premier League position — seemed destined for the sack before the cup win. His stay was extended after an internal review, but his struggles continued, with only three wins from the opening nine games of the new season.

In October, United opted to part ways, paying a £10.3 million buyout to bring in Ruben Amorim from Sporting Lisbon. However, his arrival has failed to spark an improvement. With just two wins from eight league matches, United find themselves 14th, only seven points above relegation.

Amorim's struggle to implement his 3-4-3 system, compounded by a lack of time and unsuitable personnel, leaves his future uncertain. — AFP



China's civil aviation sector maintained steady operations in 2024, with the number of air passenger trips made last year estimated at a record 730 million, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said at a press

China's civil aviation sector reported no accidents in 2024, highlighting a strong safety performance.

conference on Friday.

The figure represents a year-on-year increase of 18 per cent, according to CAAC official Shu Mingjiang.

It is estimated that the sector completed 13.81 million flight hours and 5.39 million flights in 2024, with those figures up 13.1 percent and 9.5 per cent year on year.

Shu also said that China's civil aviation sector reported no accidents in 2024, and that the CAAC has worked to guard against security risks, improve

China's 2024 air passenger traffic hits record high



Foreign tourists go through customs at the Beijing Daxing International Airport in Beijing, capital of China, 27 December 2024. **PHOTO: JU HUANZONG/XINHUA**

emergency response efficiency and carry out special security inspections for the upcoming Spring Festival travel rush.

China's civil aviation sector is expected to handle a record 90 million passenger trips during the 2025 Spring Festival

travel season, which will run from 14 January to 22 February according to the CAAC. — Xinhua



The larvae expel a versatile, biodegradable thread to build protective nests by binding leaves, twigs, and other materials. **PHOTO: VISUAL ART**

Japan firm turning bagworm silk into fiber products in world 1st

Kowa Co is developing environmentally friendly, durable bagworm silk for commercial use, aiming for applications in sports equipment, airplane parts, and bullet-proof vests.

ENVIRONMENTALLY friendly and highly durable bagworm silk is set to be used in a commercial application for the first time, according to a Nagoya-based firm.

Bagworm moth larvae expel the versatile thread from their mouths to bind together leaves, twigs and other materials into nests to protect themselves. The biodegradable thread has proven to be tougher and more flexible than silk extracted from silkworms or spider web, according to Kowa Co.

Kowa, whose business fields range from textile trading to the manufacturing of medical products, has developed sheets from the thread that can be mixed with carbon fiber reinforced polymers used in applications such as golf clubs and other sporting equipment to create a light and strong material. — Kyodo



US Surgeon-General Vivek Murthy called for health warnings on alcoholic drinks to highlight their cancer risk. **PHOTO: AFP**

Alcohol should have cancer warning label: US surgeon-general

100,000 cancer cases and 20,000 cancer deaths annually in the United States," Murthy said in a statement, emphasizing that this toll exceeds the approximately 13,500 alcohol-related traffic fatalities each year.

"Yet the majority of Americans are unaware of this risk,"

beverages impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery, and may cause health problems".

Dr Murthy urged Congress to update alcohol warnings, highlighting its link to seven cancers. Despite this, public awareness remains

Alcohol-related cancer deaths far exceed the approximately 13,500 alcohol-related traffic fatalities each year.

THE United States' top government doctor on Friday called for health warnings on alcoholic drinks to highlight that they cause cancer and urged a reassessment of daily consumption limits due to the risks.

Surgeon-General Vivek Murthy said that the connec-

tion between alcohol and cancer has been known since the 1980s, with mounting evidence reinforcing the dangers. Yet, mandatory warning labels fail to address the health threat.

"Alcohol is a well-established, preventable cause of cancer, responsible for about

he added, underscoring the urgent need for public education.

Introduced in 1988, the existing warning label only states that "women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects" and that "consumption of alcoholic

low. A 2019 survey showed only 45 per cent of Americans recognized alcohol's cancer risk. Additionally, 17 per cent of alcohol-related cancer deaths occur in those within recommended drinking limits, suggesting the need for reevaluation. — AFP