

National brethren to achieve success through political dialogue

All stakeholders must set aside political, ethnic, and religious biases.

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 Kachin State Day which falls on 10 January 2025. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

Esteemed ethnic national brethren in Kachin State,

I cordially extend my greetings to all ethnic national brethren residing in Kachin State and the entire national people living all over the country to enjoy physical and mental well-being with good aspirations on the significant occasion of the 77th Anniversary of Kachin State Day which falls on today.

SEE PAGE 4

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Belarus FM emphasized the enhancement of diplomatic relations and the trade sector.

Myanmar and Belarus foster friendship and cooperation



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, at the Credentials Hall of the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they frankly discussed the improvement of friendly relations between Myanmar and Belarus and cooperation, enhancement of diplomatic relations and trade sector between the two countries.

Both sides talked about on the promotion of cooperation in education, agriculture, livestock breeding, pharmaceutical, industrial and tourism sectors and other realms. They also cordially exchanged views on sending scholarship students to pursue science and technologies, enhancing cooperation in defence measures, and political progress in Myanmar, and mak-

ing preparations with utmost efforts to hold a free and fair election.

Also, present at the meeting together with the Senior General were Council Joint Secre-

tary General Ye Win Oo, Council member General Nyo Saw, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw and U Tun Ohn, deputy

ministers and officials.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus was accompanied by Hanoi-based Belarusian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Uladzimir

Baravikou, Deputy Ministers of the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus, and delegation members. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Empowering Youth: Nurturing Future Leaders for National Integrity and Prestige

- The youth who will serve the State are its future leaders.
- It is essential to systematically nurture young people to instil good morale and a strong national spirit, enhancing the State's prestige and preserving national integrity.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Union government meeting 4/2024 on 22 April 2024)

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

His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of State of Qatar, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar

ON the occasion of the anniversary of your country's Independence Day, I want to extend to you and your people, on behalf of the people of the State of Qatar and my own behalf, our best felicitations and wishes of good health and well-being to Your Excellency and further progress and development of your people.

His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy Amir of State of Qatar, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar

IT pleases me, on the anniversary of your country's Independence Day, to express to you my best greetings and wishes of good health and well-being to Your Excellency and further development and progress of Myanmar's friendly people.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Bin Jassim Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of State of Qatar, 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, on the anniversary of your country's Independence Day, to extend to you, on behalf of the Government of the State of Qatar and myself, our best greetings and best wishes of good health and well-being to Your Excellency and further development of your people.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Bin Jassim Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of State of Qatar, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Republic of Union of Myanmar

ON the occasion of the National Day of the friendly Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I am pleased to extend to your Excellency, my warm felicitations and congratulations coupled with my best wishes.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the close relations between the State of Qatar and the friendly Republic of the Union of Myanmar and look forward to working together to strengthen and develop the relations in all areas of common interest and to elevate it to wider prospects for the mutual benefits of our two friendly countries and peoples.

Please, accept my best regards and wishes for your Excellency's good health and personal well-being, as well as progress and prosperity for your friendly country, and further development of the relations between our two friendly countries.

**Gold Market Rate as of
9 January 2025**

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,360,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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)



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the opening speech at the International Conference on Applied Research in Education 2025 yesterday.

2025 International Conference on Applied Research in Education begins

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that technology transfer programmes can help industries adopt these innovations while knowledge-sharing initiatives disseminate research findings to relevant organizations, accelerating national development within a short time.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the opening of the International Conference on Applied Research in Education 2025 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General underscored that research uncovers new knowledge, discoveries and innovations while validating existing concepts, offering solutions to

Through research, new technologies can be introduced to MSMEs, helping them expand into new markets.

current challenges and deepening academic insights.

Through research, he continued, new technologies can be introduced to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), helping them expand into new markets.

He noted that research and development (R&D) also supports Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) by producing a skilled workforce equipped with advanced competencies.

The Senior General expressed his aspiration for the conference to open new opportunities for R&D collaborations,

fostering partnerships that drive progress and innovation.

He stressed that expanding research activities is essential for developing innovative technologies that drive new product creation.

He added that this year's

conference features keynote speeches from renowned academics and over 100 research paper presentations across five domains: Teacher Education, Arts and Science, Marine and Earth Sciences, MSMEs and TVET, and Natural Language

Processing (NLP) and AI Technology.

In conclusion, the Senior General emphasized that it is necessary to encourage everyone to share knowledge, insights and innovative ideas and to collaborate on impactful research projects, with the promotion of evidence-based research initiatives, especially among young researchers, to foster a vibrant research culture through such conferences.

SEE PAGE 4

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the International Conference on Applied Research in Education (2025)

1. Research and development (R&D) also supports Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) by producing a skilled workforce equipped with advanced competencies.
2. Expanding research activities is essential for developing innovative technologies that drive new product creation.
3. Technology transfer programmes can help industries adopt these innovations while knowledge-sharing initiatives disseminate research findings to relevant organizations, accelerating national development within a short time.

NATIONAL

National brethren to achieve success through political dialogue

FROM PAGE 1

All ethnic national groups in Myanmar have been residing in the same land in peace and unity through thick and thin sharing the same fortune since time immemorable.

Myanmar with ethnic groups living in unity has been standing tall in the global community grandly. After Myanmar regained independence, the Kachin State Day was designated on 10 January as a gesture of honouring the formation of the Kachin State government at the first session of the Kachin State Council Conference held on 10 January 1948. The celebration to mark the Kachin State Day has been held yearly, and now it turns 77 years old.

Kachin State is rich in invaluable natural resources and it is blessed with a sound natural environment and fertile soils which contribute much to the thriving of crops. Kachin State is the origin of the beautiful River Ayeyawady flowing through Myanmar, showcasing the panoramic scenes of the state. Wonderful mountains capped with snow year-round, the pleasant Indawgyi Lake and the attractive Myitstone River confluence are prominent scenic beauties of the state.

The beautiful state is home to more than 1.5 million population of Kachin ethnic groups such as Jaingphaw, Lachid, Lawwaw, Lisu, Rawam and Zaingwa together with Shan ethnic groups such as Tailon, Taileng, Taikhamti, Taisa and Tailay in addition to other ethnic nationals in a fraternity.

The Kachin traditional Manaw festival is an integral symbol of Kachin State Day. The Manaw dance represents the culture and traditions of the Kachin ethnic group, performed in grandeur with traditional costumes. Hence, the Manaw dance depicts the unity of ethnic people from the state and contributes to cementing peace and stability in the state.

Kachin State is endowed with sound foundations which can improve its economy by practically utilizing natural resources. Manufacturing finished products with the use of domestic raw materials can improve the socioeconomic life of residents and create employment opportunities.

Currently, the State Administration Council is striving for the overall development of the political, economic and social sectors of the country. Similarly, the government has pledged to continue the development of the nation by building a Union based on democracy and federalism and restoring durable peace across the nation in accord with Our Three Main National Causes.

The State Administration Council is implementing a point of its Five-Point Roadmap, saying “Continued efforts will be made to promote the state economy and enhance the socioeconomic situation of all people through expediting manufacturing businesses rooted in agriculture and livestock to benefit the entire national people”.

The government and Tatmadaw will join hands with ethnic national people to achieve success in shaping a good present to initiate a peaceful and prosperous future for the sake of the State and ethnic national people.

Everyone needs to collaborate in achieving sustainable development through people-centred and inclusive efforts across agriculture, livestock, education, health, communications, and other sectors, to advance the development of Kachin State. It is necessary to emphasize adopting the economic framework to sustain and fairly allocate natural resources and encourage the development of agriculture and livestock businesses to ensure food security. Moreover, I would like to urge all to harmoniously manage raw materials, inputs, capital and technologies which are basic needs for thriving micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and focus on regional development of the state.

The State Administration Council is initiating two political visions which are actual requirements of the state — exercising a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and building a Union based on democracy and federalism. Through this action, all citizens have to join hands with the government and Tatmadaw in forging peace and stability in the State and restoring durable peace.

As the government is implementing the multiparty democratic system to ensure peace of the Union, all need to reduce different attitudes on political, ethnic and religious grounds while striving for peacefully placing the Union on the trends of democracy and Hluttaw management. If so, political problems can be ironed out in political ways. In initiating peace in the nation, only when all ethnic national brethren hold dialogues in political ways with the Union spirit to seek solutions will they achieve success.

I would like to urge all ethnic national people to forge enduring peace among national brethren in harmony and to serve the interests of the State through united strength as now is the most important to restore national unity.

At present, all ethnic national people are experiencing bitter sufferings due to a lack of security, peace and stability due to terror acts of some ethnic armed organizations and terrorist groups in the country. Hence, I would like to urge all ethnic groups and youths with full capacity of physical and mental strength to stop the actions destroying the interests of the State and nationals and to build a modern, developed, peaceful and prosperous Union in unison.

In conclusion, I send this message honouring the 77th Anniversary of Kachin State Day, deeply urging all ethnic people who adore the State and nationals with national spirit together with all ethnic national brethren of Kachin State to participate in initiating the peace foundation in their respective sectors for ensuring peace and stability of the State, forging enduring peace, development of the national economy, improvement of the socioeconomic life, peace and prosperity of the entire Union and the rule of law.

*Senior General Thadoe Maha Tharay Sithu
Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing
Prime Minister
Chairman, State Administration Council*

2025 International Conference on Applied Research ...

FROM PAGE 3

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Council member General Mya Tun Oo, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

The Senior General unveiled the

archway to the conference and ignited the oil light dedicated to education.

Students from Yangon University of Education, universities and education degree colleges performed songs and dances to honour the conference.

The Senior General visited the poster exhibition to mark the International Conference on Applied Research in Education (2025).

Also present at the ceremony were

SAC members, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, ambassadors of foreign missions to Myanmar, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, rectors and principals, scholars and officials.

In line with the theme of the conference “Navigating the Future: Education,

Science and Technology for Brighter and More Prosperous Societies”, 62 scholars and experts from 16 countries and 45 organizations and 40 internal and external experts from the Ministry of Education and relevant ministries and educational organizations will attend the conference and submit six keynote addresses, five special talks and 133 internal and international research papers to the conference. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Kachin State Day celebrated with Ayeyawady Resort Opening and Museum Expansion

THE opening ceremony for Ayeyawady Shukhintha Resort in Myitkyina marking the 77th Anniversary of Kachin State Day that falls on 10 January 2025 was held at the resort yesterday.

The event was attended by State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister at the Prime Minister Office Admiral Tin Aung San and SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Maung Maung Ohn, U Min Naung, U Hla Moe, U Nyan Tun, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, Northern Command Commander Brig-Gen Aung Zaw Htwe, Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan and relevant officials.

The state chief minister first the establishment of Ayeyawady Shukhintha Resort, and the Admiral and party cut the ribbon to inaugurate the archway.

Then, they observed the decoration, collective exercise section and performance of students in the resort, and gave cash prizes to them. They also enjoyed the performance of students marking the



SAC Member Deputy PM and Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San and dignitaries observe the exhibition at the Kachin State Day celebration yesterday.

77th Kachin State Day at Sitapur Manaw ground.

The Admiral and party attended the opening ceremony of the Manaw festival.

They also participated in the Manaw dance together with all the participants happily. They observed the local agricultural products, goods, instant foods,

traditional clothing, bamboo and cane products, and cultural and educational galleries.

During the awarding ceremony of the horticultural show, the Admiral and party presented prizes to the winners.

They then proceeded to the opening ceremony of the first phase of the Kachin

State Cultural Museum in Ayeya Ward, Myitkyina, marking the 77th Kachin State Day.

After the opening ceremony, the state chief minister, deputy minister and state head of department explained the construction of the newly extended museum building and displayed booths and a digital museum hall. The extended building is 60 feet in length, 120 feet in width, and 32 feet in height and it is a two-storey building. The Department of Buildings under the Ministry of Construction built it using K994.880 million of the Union budgets in the 2023-2024 financial year.

The Admiral and party arrived in Myitkyina on 8 January to attend the 77th Kachin State Day and were welcomed by the state chief minister and wife, and relevant departmental officials at Myitkyina airport.

After the greeting speech of the chief minister at the lounge of the airport, he presented Kachin's traditional costume, knife, bag and turbans to the Admiral and party. — State IPRD/KTZH

Deputy PM Union Foreign Affairs Minister holds bilateral meeting with Belarusian Foreign Minister

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe held a bilateral meeting with Mr

Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.



Also in attendance were the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, the Belarusian Ambassador to Myanmar, Deputy Ministers of the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus, First Vice-Rector of Belarusian State University and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters related to the closer collaboration between the two foreign ministries, the milestones and achievements in bilateral cooperation to mark the 25th Anniversary of

the diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2024, the enhancement of mutually beneficial cooperation and people-to-people exchange between the two countries, including in the fields of economy, trade, agriculture and livestock, education, and defence, and holding Myanmar-Belarus Business Meeting as well as the broadening of closer cooperation in regional and multilateral contexts.

In the afternoon, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs hosted a working lunch in honour of the Belarusian Foreign Minister and delegation at the Horizon Lake View Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe shakes hands with Belarusian Foreign Minister Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov during their meeting yesterday.

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NATIONAL

Myanmar and Belarus hail further bilateral cooperation

STATE Administration Council Member General Nyo Saw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw and Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn received a delegation led by Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed signing an agreement on cooperation in bilateral development programmes between the two countries, promising business cooperation, investment in agriculture, livestock and dairy produce, value-added commodities and food production, electricity, industry, automobile assembly, medicine and raw medical supplies production and investment opportunities at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. Belarusian Foreign Min-



SAC Member General Nyo Saw receives the Belarusian delegation led by Foreign Minister Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

ister then highlighted the mutually beneficial trading and economic policies of Belarus and discussed matters on in-

vestments in Myanmar's milk and dairy production, natural gas to fertilizer manufacturing, medicine and medical supplies

production including human and veterinary medicines, holding of Myanmar-Belarus Joint Committee on Trade and Economic

Cooperation meeting, transfer of technologies for investments in Myanmar and signing of agreements on cooperation in science and technology.

After the meeting, Director-General Dr Marlar Myo Nyunt of the Foreign Economic Relations Department and Belarusian Director-General Mr Dmitry Mironchik of the Directorate of Asia, Africa and Latin America initialled the cooperation agreement.

Afterwards, SAC Member General Nyo Saw, Union Ministers and the Belarusian Foreign Minister posed for the documentary photo and exchanged gifts.

Also, present at the meeting were officials from the SAC Office, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministry of Commerce. —MNA/KTZH

Myanmar and China discuss long-term infrastructure quality development

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya arrived in Beijing, China, on an official trip for the Lancang-Mekong Special Fund Project (2022) on 7 January.

The delegation met Dr Xu Wei, Vice-Minister of the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) at the SAMR headquarters. This meeting follows the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 6 November 2024 in Kunming between the Ministry of Science and Technology's Department of Research and Innovation (DRI) and China's Standardization Administration, as well

as the National Institute of Metrology-China under the SAMR. These agreements aim to enhance collaboration between the two ministries.

Both sides discuss strengthening Myanmar-China relations, especially the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2025. They focused on improving national-level scientific measurement, standardization and quality assurance. They also emphasized the importance of expanding and accelerating collaborative projects in these areas to benefit both nations, aiming to further enhance bilateral cooperation. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya (R) meets Dr Xu Wei, Vice-Minister of the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) in China.

Workshop on Optimizing Myanmar's Role in ASEAN held

A workshop on Optimizing Myanmar's Role in ASEAN was conducted at the Lawkanat Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9-10 January 2025.

At the workshop, U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs delivered an opening remark highlighting Myanmar's active participation in regional, sub-regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, ASEAN, BIMSTEC and Mekong Sub-regional Organizations, the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in line with Myanmar's independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy. He further emphasized the importance of mutually beneficial cooperation of the bilateral, regional and multilateral platforms through the intensified efforts fostering vigorous foreign relations to advance the national, political, economic, and social objectives of the country. He encouraged all participants from relevant ministries to identify priority areas to optimize Myanmar's cooperation in ASEAN by con-



The Optimizing Myanmar's Role in ASEAN Workshop in progress on 9-10 January 2025.

solidating the network among relevant bodies so that the national priorities and action plans are synchronized with ASEAN-led mechanisms.

In the high-level segment of the workshop, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung and senior officials from the respective ministries of the three ASEAN Community Pillars shared their views on Myanmar's cooperation with ASEAN and encouraged the line ministries to analyze the national projects be aligned

with the ASEAN frameworks and to ensure national priorities effectively complete works in ASEAN. They also highlighted Myanmar's constructive contribution in crafting the ASEAN Community Vision (ACV) 2045 and urged the relevant ministries to closely coordinate for the successful realization of the national priorities while implementing the Strategic Plans of the ACV 2045.

The two-day workshop was attended by around 85 government senior officials and personnel representing 30 ministries of the three ASEAN Community Pillars. — MNA

NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister meets staff of affiliated departments in Myitkyina

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met the staff of affiliated departments of the ministry at the Community Centre in Myitkyina on Wednesday.

First, the Union Minister inspected the Community Centre compound, the displayed ethnic traditional materials, children's literary books and journals in the kid's reading room, public library, book rental processes and multimedia room for conducting training courses for locals.

During the meeting with the departmental staff, the Union Minister urged them to understand the actual situation of the country, to treat each other like brothers and sisters, and to support each other by showing loyal-

ty to the country as government employees.

He continued that all need to understand the nature of media, know the true information and try hard to circulate true news to the public accurately and as quickly as possible.

He then fulfilled the requirements and gave cash prizes to the staff.

He proceeded to the MRTV Retransmission Station (Myitkyina), inspected the broadcasting processes, and met the staff. — IPRD/KTZH

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspects the Community Centre in Myitkyina on 8 January.



MoE Deputy Minister meets Belarusian State University First Vice-Rector



Discussions on educational collaboration between Myanmar and Belarus underway yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint received Dr Dzmitry Kurlavich, First Vice-Rector of Belarusian State University at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

They cordially exchanged views on further consolidating the existing friendship and collaboration of universities between Myanmar and Belarus. — MNA/MKKS

Deputy Industry Minister meets Belarusian delegation

DEPUTY Minister for Industry U Yin Maung Nyunt received a delegation led by Deputy Minister of Industry of Belarus Mr Denis Bakei in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed collaborative efforts between Myanmar and Belarus in areas such as joint production of cancer, neurological and ophthalmic medicines, development of electric vehicles and related industries,

advancements in ceramics manufacturing and technology improvements in rubber and related products. Both sides also discussed training and exchange programmes for the ministry staff to Belarus, as well as the development of Myanmar's garment sector.

Present at the meeting were directors-general, managing directors, and other officials from the Ministry of Industry. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister U Yin Maung Nyunt receives the Belarusian delegation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Thai Veterans delegation visits notable sites in Myanmar

A delegation led by General Detnitit Luangngamkum, Director-General of the Thai Veterans Association arrived in Myanmar on 6 January for a study tour.

During their visit, the delegation explored Myanmar's prominent locations. On 6 January, they visited the Myanmar Thagoung War Veterans Advance Housing in Yangon, followed by pilgrimages to the Botahtaung Pagoda and Shwedagon Pagoda.

On 7 January, the delegation met the chairman of the

Myanmar War Veterans Central Executive Committee in Nay Pyi Taw and toured the Defence Services Museum and the Maravijaya Buddha Image. On 8 January, they visited the

Zegyo Market and Mandalay Hill in Mandalay. On 9 January, they explored the Mandalay Royal Palace before departing for Thailand via air from Mandalay. — MNA/KZL



Thai Veterans Association's delegates are pictured during their tours in Myanmar.

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OPINION

Contribute to the State economy through the tourism industry

THE tourism industry is an important economic sector that fosters the development of many related industries and creates numerous employment opportunities, contributing to the State economy. These industries generate substantial revenue for the region and significantly contribute to the advancement of the local socio-economic landscape.

The period of clear and dry weather following the rainy season is considered the best time for travel within the country. This period coincides with public holidays, school breaks, regional festivals, and the New Year celebrations, making it a popular time for domestic travel. Traditionally, Myanmar people primarily embark

on pilgrimage trips as part of their domestic travels.

All regions and states of Myanmar are rich in natural resources that are ideal for the tourism industry, each with its unique attractions and beauty. To attract travellers, it is necessary to restore regional stability and the rule of law. Continuous dissemination of tourism-related information should be carried out to ensure that tourists are always informed promptly, which will enhance market promotion. Prioritizing the tourism industry in each region and state can contribute to their sustainable economic development.

attractions and developing new travel routes. By accomplishing these tasks, the local tourism industry will experience growth and development.

It is necessary to have places that are clean, beautiful, and welcoming, as the saying goes, "Home Sweet Home can invite guests" to attract travellers. These places should be well-maintained with scenic beauty, friendly and respectful local people, reasonable prices, and delicious food. It should be a place that offers opportunities for exploration, relaxation, and enjoyment. Both urban and rural areas should have lush, green surroundings free from garbage, good roads, well-maintained paths for pedestrians, seasonal festivals, and services related to tourism.

All regions and states of Myanmar are rich in natural resources that are ideal for the tourism industry, each with its unique attractions and beauty. To attract travellers, it is necessary to restore regional stability and the rule of law. Continuous dissemination of tourism-related information should be carried out to ensure that tourists are always informed promptly, which will enhance market promotion. Prioritizing the tourism industry in each region and state can contribute to their sustainable economic development.

NOWADAYS, the world is more traumatized by the oppression of various diseases than ever before. The incidence and prevalence of these diseases are on the rise. These can be ascribed to changes in diet and lifestyle, poverty, malnutrition, climatic changes and more stressful situations. In the event of a disease, the public goes to a hospital to seek a cure. When patients and their family members arrive at the hospital, public relations in the hospital commence. In this context, public relations mean a two-way communication process between the hospital and its internal public (all hospital staff) and external public (patients, their families, their communities, and social media, among others). This article focuses on how to improve the public relation between patients and hospital staff.

Hospital staff are obliged to deal with many patients every day. The Emergency Department and the Out-patient Department are two channels through which the hospital staff start their relations with the patients. Therefore, the hospital needs to equip the staff posted in these departments with high social and organizational skills so that people will be willing to attend the hospital without any anxiety in case of a disease.

The Emergency Department is the best resort for seriously ill patients and persons severely wounded due to accidents and disasters. Usually, the minds of patients arriving there are overtaxed with financial constraints, social problems and psychological upset. Therefore, the staff should extend a warm welcome to these sorrow-stricken patients with a sweet smile on their faces. They should not wear a stern face in the presence of patients and their relatives. The staff on duty should be in their uniforms which can boost patients' confidence in them. Moreover, the staff should be kind, courteous and helpful to patients. The staff should listen to them attentively and deal with their inquiries politely. In addition, the staff should guide them in detail and treat them in an encouraging and consoling manner. The staff should always remember to say "Thank you" to every patient. This can prevent



Promoting public relations enhances patient satisfaction and directly contributes to a hospital's development, prestige, and image.
ILLUSTRATION: VISUAL ART

How to Improve Public Relations in a Hospital

By Maung Maung Win

the patients from lodging complaints and creating conflicts. But, if a complaint or a conflict occurs inevitably, the staff should curb his or her emotion, report the issue to the senior staff, find the root cause and negotiate to reach a solution.

In the outpatient department, the medical staff should examine the patients carefully, give them instructions to do necessary investigations and prescribe treatments for them. For the investigations to be done, the attendants of the patients rush to the laboratory and the Radiological Department and

wait nervously for the results. For more convenience of the waiting patients there, waiting time should be minimized. Waiting facilities should be supplied adequately. Queue jumping should not be allowed. Waiting areas should be spacious and well-ventilated. There should be enough power and water supply. Clean toilets should be provided sufficiently.

For a patient to be admitted to a ward, the admission procedure should not be cumbersome and over-processed. Unnecessary delay should be avoided. Prompt attention and

effective care should be given to him or her. The staff assigned to the ward should respect the dignity of the patient and the confidentiality of the information about his or her disease. Privacy should be given to the patient if necessary. The ward should be furnished with all necessary physical facilities to solace the worried patients and their attendants.

During the hospital stay, the family members and relatives gather round the patient to encourage him or her. So, the need to satisfy the desire of the patient to see the family mem-

bers and to limit the number of visitors should be balanced. However, enough guest hours should be allowed.

Blood requisition and blood transfusion processes are very important for a patient who is seriously ill and anaemic. The patient's family members would not tolerate any delay in receiving blood from the blood bank and transfusing blood into the patient. As blood transfusion is a life-saving procedure, all the staff concerned should try to understand and empathize with the patient and his or her family members. Therefore,

they should concentrate their attention on doing a timely blood transfusion for the patient; otherwise, it could cost his or her life.

The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) should be fully provided with sociable and efficient staff and intensive care facilities. As a rule, only one attendant is allowed for a patient. But, if necessary, the number of attendants should be increased. The ICU staff should keep a close eye on the changing situations of the patient at all times and encourage the attendants as well.

In the process of removing a dead body to the mortuary from a hospital ward, which is a most sensitive case, due respect should be shown to it. The mourning family members should be consoled with sympathy and empathy. The process should be done with the least disturbance to others in the ward. If there is a plan for an autopsy, it should be undertaken immediately after asking permission from a family member or a close relative.

In all dealings with the patients, the hospital staff should be patient-centred. They should be free from bias and discrimination in providing their services. They should always practise optimism, harmony and understanding towards the patients. They should explain to the patients about their diseases. At the same time, they should engage the patients in making decisions regarding their cases.

Today, a hospital is the haunt of the various media. The reporters frequent the hospital to elicit the news of the hospital from the staff. So the hospital staff should take much care in dealing with the questions of the media and, at the same time, they should be on amicable terms with them. To be able to evade the traps laid by shrewd reporters, they should have problem-solving, diplomatic, discourse analytical and public presentation skills.

The hospital staff tend to work more energetically and actively in a happy and pleasant work environment. So, they should be motivated by giving incentives of various forms. These should include good salaries, pay raises, cash rewards, the welfare of employees and their families, different kinds of leave, flexible scheduling, words or letters of

appreciation for their performances and achievements, job transfer to a better position, job promotion and opportunities for further education. Only then, would they become motivated staff. The staff would motivate the patients. However, one important point is that the administrative team and heads of the wards should exercise just culture but avoid blaming the staff.

In conclusion, it is observed that the public relation of a hospital depends much upon the efficiency, performance, and attitude of its staff and the physical facilities. Therefore, it is suggested that regular training courses in public relations should be given to all the staff, that a sufficient amount of staff should be appointed, lest the staff would be overloaded with tasks, and that new generations of efficient, industrious and dutiful

staff should be recruited regularly. Moreover, a public relations management office should be opened and, at any rate, no stone should be left unturned in undertaking all the measures to improve public relations in the hospital. It is also aware that the motivated, satisfied staff can make the motivated, satisfied patients, that the motivated, satisfied patients can find speedy recovery from their diseases and that, as a consequence, this hospital will be reputed to be a prestigious one among the public. Therefore, this hospital would, undoubtedly, become their choice if the patients, their family members and relatives are afflicted with a certain disease. Hence, it is taken for granted that the promotion of public relations in a hospital can serve as an impetus to its development and good image.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE GNLM

Date 6.1.2025

AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENT

In medical history, only professors give lectures, but on 28 November 2024, an extraordinary event took place at Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital.

I am 90 years old and an inpatient of Ward 1.

A certain doctor visited and tested me. He requested me to come to the Medical Hall of the Hospital. I agreed and they took me to the Hall. Where I saw many young doctors. I was so pleased and greeted them in English. They were surprised and listened with interest.

I said that I was suffering from bronchial asthma, and this was the fourth time. In the second time, I was almost died and revived by the doctors.

Now, the doctors are all specialists. They took care of every patient.

After examinations, I was returning to my ward. The medical students collected cash for me and gave it as a gift. But I refused to accept and thanked them all.

Yours Sincerely,

U Tin Hla
31/2 Mingala Street
13 Block, Thingangyun



NATIONAL

Around 700,000 pilgrims visit Shwedagon in Dec 2024

IN December 2024, around 700,000 pilgrims, including monks, nuns, and laypeople, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in the Yangon Region to pay homage, according to U Bo Thin, a member of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

On weekdays, approximately 12,000 pilgrims visit the pagoda, with numbers increasing on weekends and public holidays.

"In December, 8,504 foreign tourists visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, alongside 15,298 monks, 8,716 nuns, 310,830 men,

and 354,451 women," said U Bo Thin.

Since September 2024, the Board has been organizing the donation of gold foils to the entire pagoda. A consecration ceremony will be held at the pagoda in May 2025 once the donation process is complete.

To accommodate the growing number of visitors, the Shwedagon Pagoda has been open daily for pilgrimage from 4 am to 10 pm since 21 June 2024, allowing devotees to worship peacefully. — ASH/MKKS



Pilgrims are seen at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Yangon to host market fair showcasing disabled artisans on 12 Jan



This image depicts an advert for the market fair featuring works of disabled artisans.

A market fair showcasing the works of disabled artisans is set to take place at the Turquoise Mountain Hall in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, from 10 am to 3 pm on 12 January.

The event is organized by the Handicraft

Club, a group dedicated to promoting the unique creations of disabled artisans across Myanmar. The Handicraft Club also hosts the 'Differently Abled Art Exhibition', highlighting the exceptional talents of these artists.

"This artisan fair is part of the 'Differently Abled Art Exhibition' programme, designed to showcase the skills and creativity of disabled artisans. The fair will feature booths selling handicrafts made by these talented individuals, along with stalls offering employment opportunities for them. Visitors can enjoy food and drinks while browsing the stalls, making it a pleasant and supportive outing for families and loved ones. We invite everyone to come and appreciate the artistic visions and dreams of these artisans, and to support their crafts," said Daw Soe Soe Tha from the Handicraft Club, the event's organizer.

Participating groups and artisans include 'Yes, We Can', MWDN, MDSA, Shwe Min Thar, Saya Ko Tint, Pan Nan Ein, Golden Hope, Simple Solutions for Change, SISBURMA, MYJOBS, Myat Su Khaing, and Purple Lotus. — ASH/KNN

Counter-argument to false information

Malicious media defames security forces

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread fake news, claiming that security forces leading to Ayadaw from Monywa in Sagaing Region arrested over 30 civilians in North Kyaukka village for deactivating processes of mine, and five were injured during the mine clearance operation.

According to a security official, such news is invalid, and only terrorists attempted to disturb the government's administrative mechanism, and launched attacks on departmental buildings

using drone-dropped bombs and heavy weapons. Moreover, they exploded roads and bridges.

Security forces conducted counterattacks and mine clearance operations for the safe transport of people.

Subversive media outlets intentionally circulate false claims and misinformation to intimidate people, cover the unlawful actions of terrorists and mislead the public about security forces carrying out security duties. — MNA/KTZH

40 Academy receptionists' finalists selected

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization has announced 40 receptionist finalists who will participate in the 2024 Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy Awards Ceremony.

The final selection event for the contestants was held on 5 January at the Golden Jubilee Hall of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization. Twenty-five male contestants and 30 female contestants competed in the final round of the competition.

"The contestants this year had very close qualities in terms of competition. The selection committee has chosen the best candidates for the final round. Because their qualifications were closely matched, those who didn't make it to the finals will still have the opportunity to participate in the entertainment segments of the 2024 Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy Awards Ceremony," said Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

The selected male contestants include Piman, Yan Thakhka, Aung Thu San, Aw Nay Theim, Ma Swan Bhone Teza, Magga, Sao Wunna Kyaw Swa, Shine Marn, Bhone Myat Maung, Maung Myint Myat, Kaung Khant, Nyan Min Set, Nann Oo Hlaing, Lyan Htet Aung, Pyae Sone, Thurein, Ko Ko Kyaw, Aung Thiha, Bhone Hein and Phyo Han Kyaw.

The female contestants are Su Kyawt Khine, Thaw Tar Hlaing Tun, Chit Ma Ma Moe, Thada Nann Htike, Htan Taya Linn, Wyne Pyae Pyae San Lwin, May Mie Lin, Miko Khant, Kyi Zeya Shin, Kay Zin Khant, Su Sandy Moe, Kay Kay Phyo, Kyel Sin Thant, Sila Win, Lin Wathan Oo, Aw Myat Khin, Phoo Phoo Nan Taw, Shin Thiri Thu, Thin Nandi Zaw and Mo Ko Khant. Scheduled for February, the awards ceremony will also feature 18 shortlisted films selected from 49 movies screened in 2024 which will undergo further review for the Academy Awards. — ASH/KZL

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Zalun's traditional Myanmar 'Mayway' snack selling well



A traditional Myanmar snack, Mayway.

ONE of Myanmar's traditional snacks, 'Mayway', made in Zalun Township has received orders from Yangon Region and other areas.

Mayway price has been fine as it has been sold well in Yangon, as well as in Aphyauk and

Pantanaw townships.

"Mayway trade is doing well. Mayway is one of the most consumed traditional Myanmar snacks. Mayway gains orders from Yangon, as well as Aphyauk and Pantanaw. It is sold in ready-to-eat packages and sold by visses. It is one of the most popular snacks," said U Tin Kyaing who runs a Mayway-making business in Zalun Township.

Mayway, a popular traditional snack of Myanmar, is being produced seasonally but Mayway makers said they have planned to upgrade the manufacturing so that it can be available throughout the year with the help of technology. — Thit Taw/ZS



A Mayway-making business.

Ginger depends solely on domestic market

ACCORDING to ginger farmers, the ginger trade has now relied on domestic consumption only after exports declined.

"We have to rely on the domestic market only. Ginger is mainly grown in Aungban and Kalaw in southern Shan State, and the price has fallen again. Ginger has local orders mainly from Yangon and Mandalay. But this is a ginger season, so the production is large and the price has fallen slightly," said a ginger farmer from Kalaw Township.

Ginger prices will likely rise again if exports increase in the coming months.

"If it can export, the price will be good. But the ginger price seems unable to climb again in the next months. At present, the price has declined just a little. Ginger trade is fine in the internal market," he added.

Previously, Myanmar exported ginger to China, Thailand, India, Bangladesh, Yemen, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates, according to figures released by the Department of Trade. — Thit Taw/ZS



A vendor shows gingers that are traded at the market.

CBM sells over US\$256,000 on 8 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over \$256,000 on 8 January again after sales of over \$2.15 million on 7 January, \$25 million and 2.8 million baht on 6 January, 510,000 yuan on 3 January, \$25 million, over 670,000 yuan and 2.45 million baht on 2 January.

Therefore, CBM injected \$52 million, 1.2 million yuan and 5.3 million baht as of this month.

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

MoALI invites bidding for pineapple export to China

THE Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation called for an Expression of Interest (EOI) for pineapple exports to China.

As per the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Protocol agreement between Myanmar and China, the SPS measures will be undertaken every year.

Those interested companies are asked to submit an EOI to the respective Agriculture Departments in regions and states by 28 February 2025.

The General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) announced on 11 November that Myanmar's pineapple will be allowed to import to China, following the Phytosanitary regulation.

Myanmar's pineapple is cul-

tivated in northern and southern Shan State. The harvest season is in June-September. Earlier, Myanmar's pineapple export to China was conducted via a green channel under a cross-border trade plan. Yet, China halted this trade route on 16 June 2019, affecting Myanmar's pineapple industry adversely.

Myanmar's exporters explored new markets in Thailand, Singapore and other countries. However, market share is quite low. A series of negotiations between Myanmar and China in the past years reaped a fruitful result and Myanmar's pineapple is now allowed to be exported to China via sea trade.

According to GACC's notification, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation



Myanmar's pineapples enter Chinese markets.

needs to forward the list of pineapple farms and processing factories to the China side to seek approval from the GACC. The approved list will be disclosed on its website.

Myanmar's growers are required to strictly adhere to good

agricultural practices and implement quality management, a tracking system for food security and integrated pest management measures.

Packing fresh fruits includes washing fresh fruits with high-pressure spray and check-

ing and removing debris to be free from insects, snails, invasive grass seeds, soil, crop residue weeds and dirt.

Infestation of the spiralling whitefly (*Aleurodicus dispersus*), gray pineapple mealybug (*Dysmicoscoccus neobrevipes*), Passionvine mealybug (*Planococcus minor*), Jack Beardsley mealybug (*Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi*) and the fungal plant pathogen *Fusarium sacchari* are considered as devastating pests.

Therefore, Myanmar's relevant authorities are asked to check samples of not less than two per cent of export volume within the first two years of pineapple trade. Inspection of food samples will be reduced to one per cent if pests cannot be detected in two years. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Health Minister: No need to worry, HMPV virus under enhanced surveillance

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win said that the public need not worry as surveillance of respiratory diseases caused by the HMPV virus is being stepped up.

The Union minister made the remarks at a coordination meeting on the prevention and control of respiratory diseases common in the cold season held at the meeting room of the Ministry of Health, the afternoon of 7 January.

The Ministry of Health continues to monitor international and regional disease outbreak information, statements and recommendations from the World Health Organization.

According to research conducted in Myanmar in 2023 and

2024, cases of HMPV infection were found among outpatients, suggesting that the body's immune system has been developed to the virus, said Dr Thet Khaing Win.

Some neighbouring countries are currently experiencing respiratory infections caused by HMPV, so Myanmar citizens must take the same precautions as they do for seasonal flu and COVID-19. The Ministry of Health has advised people to avoid crowded places and to wear masks if they need to go there. — Htun Htun/ZN

A coordination meeting to prevent and control respiratory infections that occur in the cold season is underway on 7 January 2025.



Hlawga Park welcomes hundreds of visitors daily this season

THE Hlawga Nature Park near Yangon has seen hundreds of visitors every day during this year's dry season, with the number of visitors significantly higher on public holidays, according to an official of the park.

Since the Thadingyut, which is the start of the open and travelling season, the park has seen a significant increase in visits by families and groups of friends during public holi-

days and weekends, he said.

"As the non-rainy season has arrived, there are many visitors to the park. There are birdwatchers and families during school holidays. There are fewer visitors on weekdays, and more on weekends and holidays – around a few hundred visitors every day and some thousands per month," he said.

The park is open from 8 am to 5 pm every day, and ticket sales close at 4 pm.

Those who want to learn about bird watching or just for fun can choose Hlawga Bird-watching, while sports enthusiasts can enjoy trekking, adventure boating, and SUP riding together with families and friends. The park has invited the public to visit the Hlawga Nature Park, which is easily accessible and is the closest place to the Yangon metro to experience the natural atmosphere. — MT/ZN



This photo showcases visitors enjoying the Hlawga Nature Park.

LBVD: Submit veterinary science diploma applications by 28 Jan

THE Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation stated that applications for a one-year Diploma in Veterinary Science (2nd Batch) will be accepted by 28 January 2025 and the course will start in May 2025.

Those who meet the following qualifications are entitled to submit applications to the LBVD (head office) at Office 36, Nay Pyi Taw, before the deadline. The applicants under 30 must be Myanmar citizens holding a Bachelor's Degree in Science. If they are staff of the LBVD, they must not be over 35. Only unmarried persons can join the course. They must complete the course and deposit the fee. Those who have completed the course will serve for the LBVD as a deputy officer for five years. Those selected who fail to attend the course or those who do not finish the course will get fined K300,000. They must sign a commit-

ment contract with an obligation to serve the country under the set timeframe. If not, K1 million fine will be paid.

The employee of the LBVD needs an approval letter from the head of the department. A certificate of BSc, a matriculation exam pass certificate, a citizenship scrutiny card, two ID photos taken within six months mentioning the number of citizenship scrutiny cards on the back of the photo, the certificate granted by the relevant township police force and a health certificate are required.

Application forms are available for free at the LBVD (head office) and the respective offices in districts, townships and self-administered zones. Assessment tests will be notified through the respective offices. Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the head office (067 3408478) or the region and state departments. — NN/KK

Huawei launches conservation project for marine protected area in Kenya

CHINESE telecoms firm Huawei has partnered with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to promote the conservation of a marine protected area on Kenya's south coast.

The three-year project, which was unveiled Monday, seeks to protect the ecological health of Kisite-Mpunguti Marine Park and Reserve, a biodiversity hotspot located on the edge of Kenya's south coastal county of Kwale.

Other implementing partners in the Tech4 Nature project include Kenya Wildlife Service and Wildlife Research and Training Institute, a state agency, according to a statement by Huawei issued

in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, Tuesday.

The project is aligned with Huawei's TECH4ALL initiative and the IUCN Green List as its primary goal is to improve the monitoring and management efficiency of the marine protected area, which is home to pristine coral reefs as well as iconic but endangered species, like green turtles and bottlenose dolphins.

Huawei Kenya Media Director Khadija Mohammed Ahmed underscored the need to leverage technology and innovations to boost the health and resilience of marine ecosystems, threatened by climate change and human activities. — Xinhua

People sail a dhow in Indian Ocean, Lamu County, Kenya, on 23 November 2022. PHOTO: MUKOTO IMBOVA/XINHUA



Mushrooms from quake-hit Noto fetch record 350,000 yen at auction

A six-pack of shiitake mushrooms from the disaster-hit Noto region fetched a record 350,000 yen (\$2,200) at the year's first auction on Thursday in central Japan.

The sale of the "Nototemari" shiitake drew cheers and applause from participants in Kanazawa,

capital of Ishikawa Prefecture, as the prefecture's Noto Peninsula continues efforts to recover from two natural disasters last year — a powerful New Year's Day earthquake and record torrential rains the following September.

According to a body formed by

local producers, mushrooms from four municipalities in the region including hard-hit Wajima must meet the criteria of having a cap of at least eight centimetres in width and three centimetres in thickness to be shipped as Nototemari. — Kyodo

ANNOUNCEMENT

Embassy of Pakistan intends to sell out 1 x unit car KIA Optima, Model year 2014, Gasoline, Brown Colour, 2.0 (2000 cc)) 6A/T, 4 Doors, 4 x 2, LHD to local as well as Diplomat community in Yangon. Sealed bids are invited from all the interested parties by 10th – 24th January 2025 in the name of Embassy of Pakistan, A-4 Diplomatic quarters Pyay Road, Dagon township, Yangon. Car can be visited between 1000-1300 hours at the Embassy location from 13th – 23rd January 2025.

Electric car sales go into reverse in Germany

SALES of new electric vehicles in Germany plunged last year, official figures showed Monday, as a slow switch to battery-powered cars deepened the woes of the country's flagship auto industry.

Just 380,609 EVs were registered in 2024 in Europe's largest auto market, 27.4 per cent fewer than in the previous year, the KBA federal transport authority said.

After years of growth, demand for

battery-powered cars lost momentum as the German economy has struggled and key subsidies were withdrawn. The slump in EV sales amounted to a "lost year for electro-mobility", said EY analyst Constantin Gall. The sudden end of the support programme in 2023 amid a government budget crisis had led to "massive uncertainty among potential buyers", he said. — AFP

Member's' Voluntary Winding-up & Appointment of a Liquidator for JACCS Microfinance

(Myanmar) Company Limited (Registration No. 114679542) pursuant Articles 147(a)(ii) and 152(a) of Insolvency Law 2020 & Notice to Creditors

With respect to JACCS Microfinance (Myanmar) Company Limited (Registration No. 114679542) (the "Company") which is located at Level UG2, Unit C, Central Tower 1, Corner of Kabar Aye Pagoda Road and Kanbe Road, Yankin Township, Yangon Region, 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 7 January 2025; and
- (ii) to appoint the following liquidator (the "Liquidator") pursuant to Article 152(a) of Insolvency Law, effective on 7 January 2025:

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 7 February 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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09 454237515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (036N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (036N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-1-2025** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

US military presence in Iraq “illegal”, says Iranian leader

Khamenei urged Iraq to “stand against” the US efforts to maintain and expand its military presence, emphasizing the need for Iraq to resist foreign occupation.



Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is seen meeting foreign ministry officials in Tehran on 21 July 2018. **PHOTO: KHAMENELIR/AFP/FILE**

IRAN'S Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on Wednesday noted that the military presence of the United States in Iraq is “illegal”, urging the Arab state to stand against the US occupation.

“There is evidence indi-

cating that the Americans are making bids to consolidate and expand their presence in Iraq. This occupation should be stood against seriously,” said Khamenei when meeting with visiting Iraqi Prime Minister

Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani in Tehran, according to a statement published on his website.

He also mentioned the recent developments in the Middle East, especially the circumstances in Syria, emphasizing that the role of external forces was completely evident in the events that had unfolded in Syria.

The Iraqi prime minister, for his part, expressed hope that the “favourable” talks and agreements reached during his trip to Tehran would further strengthen bilateral relations.

Sudani condemned Israel's “aggressions” against Gaza and Lebanon, underscoring his country's principled position of supporting the people of Gaza and Lebanon as well as the resistance in the region. — Xinhua

Egypt fully supports Lebanon to end presidential vacuum: FM

EGYPTIAN Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty voiced on Wednesday Egypt's “full support” for Lebanon to elect a new president and end its two-year presidential vacuum.

Abdelatty made the remarks during his phone talks with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, one day after the latter called for a general session to be held on Thursday to elect a president for Lebanon. The Egyptian foreign minister emphasized the necessity of reaching a purely Lebanese consensus, free from foreign dictates, to elect a president “capable of leading Lebanon to face internal and regional challenges and risks”.

“Egypt will continue to provide all forms of support to Lebanon,” he reiterated.

For his part, Berri expressed his appreciation for

Egypt's continuous political and humanitarian support for Lebanon, especially at such a critical stage and under difficult circumstances. — Xinhua



Lebanese MPs attend the 12th parliamentary session to elect a new president. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

At least two people killed in California wildfires

At least two people have been killed and many others were injured as several fires erupted in Southern California amid dry and windy conditions, ABC News reported.

While addressing a press conference on Wednesday, LA County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said that two people were killed and there have been a high number of injuries due to the Eaton Fire. The cause of death for the two civilians has not yet been determined. About 100 structures have been destroyed in the Eaton fire.

Tens of thousands were evacuated as over 5,000 acres burned in the Palisades Fire in the Pacific Palisades neighbourhood in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, an estimated 1,000 structures were destroyed in the Palisades Fire. Officials said there were injuries due to the fire, ABC News reported. — ANI



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has told local media she has ‘excellent relations’ with Elon Musk. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Italy's Meloni denies discussing SpaceX deal with Musk

ITALIAN Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni denied Thursday talking to Elon Musk about a cybersecurity deal with the American billionaire's SpaceX company following reports that sparked controversy in Italy.

“I have never spoken personally with Musk about these matters,” she told journalists at her annual press conference in Rome.

In the wake of Meloni's whirlwind visit with President Donald Trump in Florida on Saturday, Italian media reported that Rome was in advanced talks with SpaceX for a 1.5-billion-euro (\$1.6 billion) contract to provide Italy with secure telecommunications.

In a message posted on his X

network on Monday, Musk said he was “ready to provide Italy with the most advanced and secure connections”.

Meloni acknowledged on Thursday that “SpaceX has presented the government with a technology that allows secure communications at the national level but above all at the global level”.

She said that for Italy it “means above all guaranteeing secure communications with our diplomatic missions and, for example, our military contingents abroad”. Rumours a contract was discussed on the sidelines of Meloni's visit to Trump prompted outraged reactions from Italy's opposition parties. — AFP

SPORTS

Legendary Hungarian gymnast Keleti laid to rest

AGNES Keleti, a five-time Olympic champion and Hungary's most decorated female Olympian, was laid to rest here on Thursday, on what would have been her 104th birthday.

The burial ceremony, held in Budapest's Kozma Street Jewish Cemetery, followed traditional Jewish customs. Keleti, who passed away on 2 January at the age of 103, was celebrated as an extraordinary athlete and a symbol of resilience and perseverance.

Born in Budapest on 9 January 1921, Keleti overcame the horrors of World War II and the Holocaust, surviving under a false identity.

Her Olympic journey began in 1952 in Helsinki, where she

won her first gold medal in the floor exercise at age 31, defying expectations in a sport dominated by younger athletes.

She achieved her greatest success at the 1956 Melbourne Games, winning four golds and two silvers, cementing her legacy as one of the most accomplished gymnasts in history.

Speaking at the funeral, Hungarian Olympic Committee president Zsolt Gyulay reflected on Keleti's impact. "We planned to celebrate her birthday today, but instead we bid farewell to an exceptional athlete and a wonderful person. With her timeless wisdom and unparalleled achievements, she taught generations the value of perseverance and determination," he said. — AFP



Agnes Keleti who won five Olympic gymnastics gold medals after surviving the Holocaust has died aged 103. **PHOTO: ATTILA KISBENEDEK / AFP**

Potter named West Ham boss after Lopetegui sacking



Graham Potter is back in football as West Ham boss. **PHOTO: AFP**

FORMER Chelsea boss Graham Potter was named West Ham's new manager on Thursday on a two-and-a-half-year contract, the club said, a day after sacking Julen Lopetegui.

Potter, 49, has been out of management since he was sacked by Chelsea in April 2023, just seven months into a five-year contract. He won 12 of his 31 matches in charge. The Hammers are 14th in the Premier League, seven points

above the relegation zone, after six wins in 20 league matches during former Spain and Real Madrid coach Lopetegui's ill-fated tenure. A 4-1 hammering at champions Manchester City on Saturday was the final straw for the London club. "I am delighted to be here," said Potter.

"It was important to me that I waited until a job came along that I felt was right for me, and equally that I was the right fit for the club I am joining. "That

is the feeling I have with West Ham United."

Potter began his managerial career at Swedish club Ostersund and had successful spells with Swansea and Brighton before taking over at Stamford Bridge.

His first match will be when West Ham face Aston Villa in the FA Cup third round on Friday prior to Premier League matches against Fulham and Crystal Palace. — AFP

Top seeds Pegula, Paul surge into Adelaide semis

TOP seeds Jessica Pegula and Tommy Paul powered into the Adelaide International semifinals on Thursday with straight-set wins as they play themselves into form days before the Australian Open.

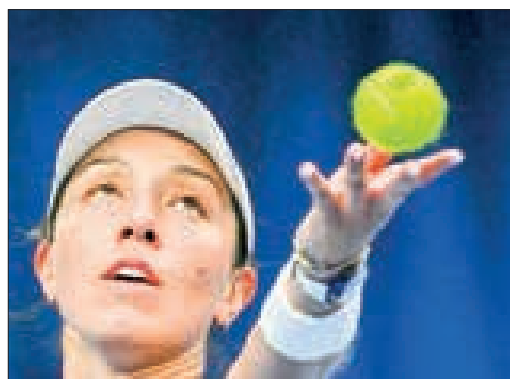
The American duo allowed their opponents few chances in quarterfinal routs, with Pegula dispatching fatigued compatriot Ashlyn Krueger 6-4, 2-0 through retirement.

Krueger, a lucky loser from qualifying, was feeling the effects of nine matches over the past 12 days in Brisbane and Adelaide.

World number seven Pegula, last year's US Open finalist, played doubles with Krueger this week and knew her partner was tired.

"It's never fun to win with a retirement," said the 30-year-old.

"I knew she had a tough singles yesterday. But coming out you never know what to expect,



Jessica Pegula serves at the China Open in Beijing in September. **PHOTO: AFP**

she was still playing amazing tennis."

She will face Yulia Putintseva for a place in the final after the Kazakh player took more than three hours to beat world number 13 Diana Shnaider 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (9/11), 6-4. — AFP

Saudi Super Cup gives Atletico chance to return to La Liga summit

THE Spanish Super Cup with FC Barcelona, Real Madrid, Athletic Club Bilbao and Mallorca in Saudi Arabia means there is a reduced fixture list in La Liga this weekend, with eight games to be played rather than the usual 10.

That gives Atletico Madrid the chance to go back to the top as Los Colchoneros entertain Osasuna after winning the last seven matches in La Liga and the last 13 in all competitions.

Atletico may have made slightly hard work of Marbella in the Copa del Rey last weekend, but will be optimistic

against a rival that has a potent threat in attack with striker Ante Budimir, but whose last league win was at the start of November.

The round of matches kicks off on Friday night when Rayo Vallecano hosts Celta Vigo, Rayo will be looking to stretch an unbeaten run to five matches, while Celta needs to improve on some irregular form away from home, but will be without talismanic striker and captain Iago Aspas, sidelined for a month with a muscle injury. — Xinhua



PM Modi emphasized the vital role of the Indian diaspora in improving India's international reputation and acknowledged their significant contributions to the nation's development. **PHOTO: ANI**

“21st century India progressing at an incredible speed”: PM Modi

In his speech at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, PM Modi highlighted India's rapid growth and its increasing influence in the global economy.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday highlighted India's rapid progress in the 21st century, emphasising the country's potential to meet the global demand for skilled talent.

PM Modi during his address also asserted that the Indian government consider it their “responsibility to help the

diaspora during crisis situations”.

Speaking at the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Odisha, PM Modi said, “21st century India is progressing at an incredible speed and scale. For many decades to come, India will remain a country with the world's most young and skilled population. India will fulfill the world's

demand for skilled talent India has the potential to fulfil the world's demand for skilled talent.”

While addressing the Indian diaspora at the event, PM Modi expressed gratitude for their support and contributions. He also lauded their role in enhancing India's global reputation. — ANI

CONVENIENCE FOR FOREIGN TRAVELLERS

Beijing opens airport service counters for foreign travellers

One-stop service counters have been operational in the international arrival areas of Beijing Capital International Airport and Beijing Daxing International Airport since the start of this year.

The counters offer over 20 types of essential services in areas such as finance, communication, transport, culture and tourism, making sure that foreigners will travel more conveniently for leisure, education or business.

Foreign travellers can visit the counters to make cash withdrawals with their bank cards, exchange currency, and get help with downloading local mobile payment apps. They can also purchase SIM cards, access airport Wi-Fi, customize travel itineraries, and make a reservation for tourist sites.

Additionally, travellers can buy a Beijing Pass – a versatile card designed to simplify transport, sight-seeing and shopping payments. The counters also offer help and advice on how to buy subway tickets or airport shuttle bus passes. A selection of brochures featuring cultural, sports and business activities is also available.

The total passenger throughput of the two Beijing airports exceeded 117 million in 2024, a year-on-year increase of 26.2 per cent, of which international passengers accounted for 16.8 per cent. — Xinhua

Mexican president trolls Trump, suggests US renamed ‘Mexican America’

MEXICO'S president took a swipe at Donald Trump on Wednesday, saying that the United States should be called “Mexican America”, after Trump's vow to rename the Gulf of Mexico the “Gulf of America”.

At her regular morning press conference, Claudia Sheinbaum displayed a 17th-century world map showing North

America as “Mexican America”.

Pointing out that the Gulf of Mexico was the name recognized by the United Nations, she turned the tables on Trump, saying: “Why don't we call it (the United States) Mexican America?”

“It sounds nice, doesn't it?”
“He talked about name, we

too are talking about the name,” she said, while assuring that she expected to have “good relations” with the incoming US president.

Trump, who will be sworn in for a second term on 20 January, said Tuesday he planned to rename the Gulf of Mexico “the Gulf of America, which has a beautiful ring”. — AFP



Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum displays a 17th-century world map showing “America Mexicana” – pushing back at Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP**