

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Unity and strength of Kayah State's national brethren crucial for peace

Understanding the historical context allows us to recognize the shortcomings of past periods and will contribute to a better future.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 73rd Anniversary of Kayah State Day on 15 January 2025.

The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

Esteemed ethnic national brethren in Kayah State,

Today, 15 January 2025, is Kayah State Day, filled with auspiciousness for the national brethren and the Kayah ethnic people in Kayah State. On this significant occasion, which coincides with the New Year festivities, I extend my heartfelt wishes for good health, peace of mind, and prosperity to all Kayah ethnic people and all

citizens of the Union.

Kayinni State, which was included as a state under the Constitution 1947, was officially rechristened Kayah State through public consensus under the Constitutional Amendment Act in 1951. This change became effective on 15 January 1952. The date of this renaming was designated as "Kayah State Day".

SEE PAGE 3

Myanmar shrimp exports reach US\$21M in Apri-Dec

Myanmar ships fishery products to 40 international countries including Japan, Bangladesh, China and Thailand by sea as well as through land borders.



Fish workers sorting shrimp at the port for export processing at cold storage facilities.

THE Fisheries Department stated that Myanmar exported more than 6,250 tonnes of shrimp to international trading partners in the past nine months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April 2024, with an

estimated value of US\$21 million.

Myanmar's seaborne shrimp export reached over 5,070 tonnes worth \$14.5 million and the border saw exports of over 1,170 tonnes worth \$6.5 million between 1 April and 31 December 2024.

Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 international countries including Japan, Bangladesh, China and Thailand, through maritime and border trade channels. Myanmar earned \$256.6 million from

more than 240,000 tonnes of fish exports in April-November, indicating an increase of \$39.344 million compared to that of the corresponding period in the last FY, according to the Fisheries Department. — NN/KK

OPINION

Build Kayah State with peace and prosperity

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MoST Deputy Minister meets ACC Secretary-General

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Pyatho: Celebrating independence and unique festivals

BUSINESS PAGE 11



India-Myanmar trade volume expected to exceed US\$1.6Billion in 2024-2025 FY

NATIONAL

Agro and Livestock Industries: Driving Regional and National Development

THE growth of agriculture and livestock-based industries plays a crucial role in regional and national development.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Magway Region government and district-level departmental officials on 24 May 2024 to talk about regional development)

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred and appointed

- The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Min Han Soe Director-General Financial Institutions Regulation and Supervision Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Governor's Office Central Bank of Myanmar
(b) Daw May Khine Win Director-General Governor's Office Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Financial Institutions Regulation and Supervision Department Central Bank of Myanmar

- The State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Thanda Kyi Deputy Director-General Department of Planning Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	Director-General Department of Planning Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
(b) Dr Aung Kyaw Deputy Permanent Secretary Union Minister's Office Ministry of Education	Director-General Union Minister's Office Ministry of Education



National Objectives for 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025

- To strive for the perpetual development of the Union through the Union spirit, patriotic values, a sublime state of mind and a genuine nationalist spirit.
- To encourage collaborative efforts among all ethnic nationals to pursue dialogue for durable peace and to end armed conflicts.
- To collectively advance cooperation amongst all national people, the government, and Tatmadaw to ensure stability and the rule of law.
- To enhance collaborative efforts to ensure nationwide stability and tranquillity, enabling the successful conduct of multiparty general elections.
- To promote balanced development across all regions and states, as well as enhance health, education and job opportunities for ethnic nationals.

Mottos for 78th Union Day 2025

- When all ethnic national brethren stand in unity, hand in hand, the Union will firmly stand.
- Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float; Bound together in communion, the heart of the Union.
- United in heart and soul, Marching towards the Union's goal.
- Let's build peace to achieve prosperity.
- Strong in unity, Ethnic national brethren ensure the nation's strength.

Gold Market Rate as of 14 January 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,380,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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

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)

Unity and strength of Kayah State's national ...

FROM PAGE 1

Kayah State is a region of stunning natural beauty, featuring mountains, forests, water bodies, and an abundance of natural resources both above and underground. It is also enriched with a vibrant cultural heritage. The temperate climate, coupled with the warmth, friendliness, and honesty of the local ethnic communities, are among the state's most charming attributes. Furthermore, the collaborative efforts of the local ethnic populations for the benefit of the state have enabled it to develop and establish a strong foundation. Building on this foundation, the ethnic communities within Kayah State must work together with the national government to achieve lasting peace, stability, and sustainable development. This collective effort is essential to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the fruits of durable peace.

Our country has been a sovereign nation with its own unique culture, literature, and language for many centuries, where all ethnic brethren lived together harmoniously and unitedly in various regions of the country through thick and thin. However, this unified and strong nation was unjustly invaded by the British colonialists through three aggressive wars starting in 1824, subjecting the country to servitude under their rule.

Subsequently, the territorial expansions were governed by laws that were distinct for each mountainous area, and for over a hundred years, colonialists administered with a clear intention of division. In ruling the country, they also carried out actions that further emphasized the differences and distinctions.

On 4 January 1948, after regaining independence, it was observed that the influence of political parties and their power struggles intensified. On 28 March 1948, the Communist Party of Burma, instead of resolving political differences through peaceful means, chose the armed struggle line as a strategy. This marked the beginning of armed conflicts across the country, preventing the nation from experiencing the full benefits of independence. Similarly, due to the territorial disputes and the division of power, some ethnic groups also pursued armed struggle lines through various ideologies, which led to the country remaining in a state of instability and unrest, a situation that persists to the present day.

Myanmar has experienced armed conflicts alongside its independence, and it has been over 76 years since these conflicts began. It is important to examine the reasons behind these ongoing armed struggles. Understanding the historical context allows us to recognize the shortcomings of past periods and will contribute to a better future. Political differences were not addressed through political means but rather through the armed struggle line, leading to internal armed conflicts. We must be aware that the lack of stability and peace continues

to persist.

The current instability and terror acts occurring within the country are the result of individuals claiming to be promoting democracy, but instead, they have resorted to electoral fraud to unlawfully seize state power. Rather than resolving issues through lawful democratic methods, they have resorted to armed terrorism. Some foreign countries, which claim to be defending democracy, are also supporting and encouraging armed terror attacks that are directly or indirectly against the democratic system. It should be noted carefully that they aim to manipulate our country and delay the people's desire for a multiparty democratic system, ultimately supporting a dictatorship disguised as democracy.

The government must continue to implement a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system, which reflects the will of the people. To implement this, necessary preparations are being made to hold free and fair general elections that allow for true representation of the people's will. It is emphasized that these elections will be conducted impartially and equitably. The government is committed to working solely for the benefit of the nation and the ethnic people, striving to ensure the stability, peace, and prosperity of the country, and to provide sufficient resources for the people. The government will continue to collaborate with the ethnic people to achieve these goals.

Following the will of the ethnic people, the government, Tatmadaw, all civil servants, all civil society organizations, and the entire population must unite and work together to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system.

The key factor in reaching our goal is the unity and solidarity of all our ethnic groups, as well as the stability and peace of the nation. In the current situation, we can witness the harmful effects of foreign countries' interference, the actions of certain organizations that prioritize their interests over the nation's and people's welfare, and false information that undermines the country's stability. Due to the persuasion and terror acts committed by terrorist organizations such as the NUG, CRPH, and PDF, there will be misunderstandings and disintegration of unity among the public in some regions, leading to ongoing unrest.

Recently, towns and villages, including Loikaw in Kayah State were damaged due to terror attacks by KNDF groups and PDF terrorists. Armed terrorists living within the state have destroyed their region. For the development and peaceful stability of any region, the people living there must contribute. The responsibility to protect the development and stability of the region lies with the local population, and they must prevent actions that would undermine the region's peace and stability. The participation of ethnic communities in terror attacks

reflects a lack of national unity, immature political thinking, and betrayal of their region and the people.

Therefore, it is requested that all citizens work together to curb the terror actions of local armed groups that are undermining regional stability, peace, and the security of the local people. These groups have taken refuge in homes in towns and villages, using civilians as shields and carrying out attacks with impunity. If the public remains vigilant and cautious, efforts to dismantle these armed groups can be carried out more swiftly and effectively.

The key requirement for the development and progress of the nation and the establishment of a democratic State is the knowledge and correct thinking of all the people. The people must manage and protect the interests of the nation and the public with knowledge. The government must ensure that people of all ages receive a good education and thrive. The education sector is being enhanced to support this goal, and I encourage ethnic people to actively participate. Efforts should be made to reopen closed schools, assist students who are unable to attend school due to various reasons to return to school and ensure that every child of school age can attend school. Only then can young people be fully empowered and contribute to the well-being of the region, the nation, and the people.

Esteemed ethnic national brethren in Kayah State,

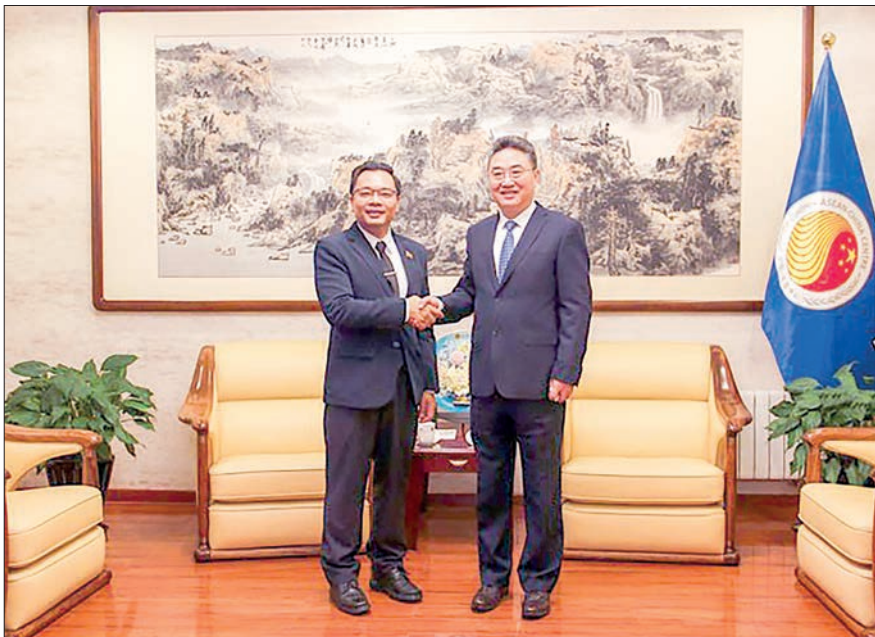
For a state to emerge as more peaceful, prosperous, and developed, the spirit and strength of all the national brethren living within the state are crucial. Just as the strength of a nation comes from within the nation itself, the strength of the state also derives from the combined power of all its national brethren.

For the long-term stability and sustainability of the Union, putting 'our three main national causes' at the forefront, I would like to call on all those concerned to protect and safeguard the nation and its people with the spirit of ethnic solidarity, unity, and the Union spirit among the ethnic people. Let us nurture and cultivate the younger generation, the future of the country, to become valuable human resources. The ethnic people of Kayah State should also participate in the reconstruction process with correct ideas and concepts, working together in unity. I am sending this message to show my hope that the entire Kayah State will remain peaceful and prosperous, with all ethnic groups experiencing progress and improvements in their social and economic lives.

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

NATIONAL

MoST Deputy Minister meets ACC Secretary-General



ON 9 January 2025, Secretary-General Mr Shi Zhongjun of the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) met Dr Aung Zeya, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology of Myanmar.

Mr Shi Zhongjun welcomed Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya on his visit to the ACC and highlighted that cooperation in scientific research and vocational education has always been an integral part of ASEAN-China and Myanmar-China relations, which has yielded fruitful outcomes. Within the framework of the 2025 ASEAN-China Year of People-to-people Exchanges and

in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China, the ACC is committed to further deepening practical cooperation to promote mutual benefits for both nations, while contributing new momentum to the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Dr Aung Zeya expressed his appreciation for the ACC's work and stressed that Myanmar attaches great importance to cooperation with China and looks forward to more pragmatic collaboration with the ACC in vocational education, technical training, science and technology, and tourism, thus better contributing to Myanmar's social and economic development and people-to-people exchanges between Myanmar and China. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya shakes hands with Mr Shi Zhongjun, Secretary-General of the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) during their meeting on 9 January 2025.

16th TOPIK test for manufacturing sector begins in Feb



The façade of the Public Overseas Employment Agency office.

THE second batch of the 16th TOPIK test for the manufacturing sector has been scheduled to start in February, the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA-EPS) announced on 13 January.

The announcement stipulates that there are 37,957 candidates and the exam timetable is also shown.

Korean language schools will do exercises for the exam, therefore POEA has reminded

students to contact the language schools.

The manufacturing sector's first batch TOPIK test was held in October 2024 and those who passed took skills test depending on their scores in November 2024. In the 16th TOPIK test, recruitment of Myanmar workers would be extended for Korea's service sector and both genders would be eligible to take the exam. — MT/ZS

Notice to renew certificates of printing, publishing and news agency businesses

1. The Ministry of Information has permitted the five-year certification for printing, publishing, and news agency businesses from the date the Printing and Publishing Enterprises Rules were issued on 10 October 2014.
2. The business owners must apply to the Ministry for renewal in accordance with Rules 21 with a fee of K10,000 within 60 days from the date of the expired certificate.
3. Businesses are not allowed to operate with expired certificates, and if people continue running their businesses, they will be prosecuted in accordance with the Printing and Publishing Enterprises Law.
4. For details, individuals can contact 01 541413, 01 8604750, 01 8604751, 01 544583 and iprd.crd.ygn@gmail.com.

Ministry of Information

Electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port



Officials inspecting newly arrived electric vehicles at Yangon Port.

ELECTRIC vehicles have been imported into Myanmar with approval from the Steering Committee on National-Level Development for Electric Vehicles and Related Industries.

These include the China-made Dayun Yuehu S1 (VIP edition) electric vehicles imported by Amazing Auto Co Ltd, the Dongfeng Nissan Ariya vehicles brought in by Qingdao CRRC Sifang Rolling Stock Co Ltd and the Hongqi Eqm5 electric vehicles imported by UV Automotive Co Ltd. These vehicles arrived at Yangon Port and have been officially claimed in accordance with the rules and regulations. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

Pyatho: Celebrating independence and unique festivals

Nyunt Win (Natalin)



Khwanyo flower – *Bulbophyllum auricomum*.

PYATHO, the 12th month of the Myanmar calendar, brings cool, dew-drenched days. *Clematis smilacifolia* blooms during this time, infusing the northern air breezes with its fragrant scent.

Farmers harvest the paddy and heap up them in Pyatho. The month also sees bountiful winter crops. The weather is fine and the donation ceremonies are usually held this month. Myanmar people donate the whole year round.

Another flower that blooms in Pyatho alongside *Clematis smilacifolia* is the *Bulbophyllum auricomum*. This flower is considered the most valuable flora, adorned with various poetic names in U Toe's poem "Ramayakan".

Myanmar's ancient kings held the equestrian festivals in Pyatho. It was not just a festival, but it also was a competition to select the heroes. According to the ancient Myanmar poem (Tra-chin) bearing the words "wearing gold embroidery on the waist", the equestrian festival was held in the reign of Tasishin Thiha Thu during the Pinya era. Moreover, the poem "Myin Saing Shwe Pyi" by Ngasishin Kyaw Swa in the Pinya era featured practice sessions with elephants and horses by the king and his entourage. Therefore, it can be said that the



This painting illustrates the ancient royal equestrian festival.

equestrian festival emerged since then. Heroes were selected based on their elephant and horse-riding skills, and other martial arts.

The equestrian festival requires a space one mile long and two furlongs wide. Addition-

ally, the area includes space for 37 types of horse-riding skills demonstrations and showcases of Myanmar's martial arts, including Bando and Banshay. A royal tent is erected for the King to enjoy the festivities. To the right of the ring are spear targets at

heights of 25, 40, and 60 cubits. Horse riders must first don their armour and ride skilfully around the ring. Then, they proceed to throw spears at the targets, aiming at the 25-, 40-, and 60-cubit marks step by step.

During the equestrian festival, the royal princes, king's entourage and subjects can participate in the competitions. The contestants must have special awareness not to lose their hats and Longyis (sarongs for males) during the competitions. If not, he will feel ashamed and it is a sign of their poor skills. The queen and princesses throw their shawls and flowers to the outstanding ones. The outstanding horse rider enters the palace wearing the shawl on his chest and flowers on his ears.

The outstanding horse rider demonstrated his 37 types of horse-riding skills during the

spear-throwing event. The leader of the Myanma Hsaing Waing, a traditional Myanmar orchestra under the King's command, led the Hsaing Waing during the competitions. Heroes were grandly selected, and unique horse-riding champions emerged in Myanmar's history. During the reign of King Min Khaung of the Inwa era, Thamein Bayan, who triumphed over the Chinese hero Garmani, became a renowned horse-riding hero.

The month of Pyatho is marked by unique festivals and a historic event: the country regained its independence on 4 January 1948 (9th Waning of Pyatho 1309 ME). Consequently, Pyatho is a month that embodies the warlike spirit of independence, along with celebrations of flowers and donation events. — Translated by KTZH



This panoramic view vividly captures the dynamic action of the equestrian race. **PHOTOS: MNA**



This image shows betel plants at a farm in Kyaukse.

Betel leaf trade rises in Kyaukse despite low yield

LAST year's flood led to a decline in betel leaf yield in Kyaukse Township, however, the trade has increased.

Betel leaf plantation and production have shrunk in Monywa and Shwebo townships, making Kyaukse-produced betel leaf trading rise.

"Betel leaf production has been low in Kyaukse this year because many betel leaf farms were damaged in flood. The betel leaf trade was pretty good in Kyaukse over the last three months and the supply has been short. Sagaing

Region grew betel leaf before but no more produced now. There are betel leaf farms in Monywa and Shwebo but their production becomes shrunken due to some reasons. Betel leaf price will continue to stay high before Tagu (the first Myanmar lunar month)," said Ma Myat Myat Mon from Myintmo Soe betel leaf retail and wholesale trading in Kyaukse Township.

Kyaukse-produced betel leaf is durable so it has received orders from different cities such as Tachileik,

Taungdwingyi and Magway, of which, Taungdwingyi is the biggest buyer.

"The price has been high here and if it declines, it will be just a little because the supply has been limited now. Kyaukse-produced betel leaf is durable and soft, so other cities and towns have placed orders. Road transport takes about three days to go to Tachilaik so it is fine because our betel leaf is durable. That is why, betel leaves produced from Kyaukse and Madaya can be transported even there," she added. — Thit Taw/ZS

NATIONAL

Endorsement of Myanmar Standards Adoption

UNDER the duties and functions of Section 5, Article B and the vested mandate of Section 33 Article (b) of the Law on Standardization, the National Standards Council endorses the following 70 standards to adopt as Myanmar Standards: -

No Myanmar Standards

1. MMS IEC 60901:1996+ AMD1:1997+ AMD2:2000+ AMD3:2004 + AMD4:2007+ AMD5:2011+ AMD6:2014 Single-capped fluorescent lamps - Performance specifications
2. MMS IEC 61215-1:2021 Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules -Design qualification and type approval - Part 1: Test requirements
3. MMS IEC 61727:2004 Photovoltaic (PV) systems -Characteristics of the utility interface
4. MMS IEC 61730-1:2023 Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification - Part 1: Requirements for construction
5. MMS IEC 61730-2:2023 Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification - Part 2: Requirements for testing
6. MMS IEC 62124:2004 Photovoltaic (PV) standalone systems -Design verification
7. MMS IEC 62368-1:2023 Audio/video, information and communication technology equipment - Part 1: Safety requirements
8. MMS IEC 62446-1:2016+AMD1:2018 Photovoltaic (PV) systems -Requirements for testing, documentation and maintenance – Part 1: Grid connected systems - Documentation, commissioning tests and inspection
9. MMS IEC 62841-2-1:2017+AMD1:2021 Electric motor-operated hand-held tools, transportable tools and lawn and garden machinery - Safety - Part 2-1: Particular requirements for hand-held drills and impact drills
10. MMS IEC 62841-2-3:2020 Electric motor-operated hand-held tools, transportable tools and lawn and garden machinery -Safety - Part 2-3: Particular requirements for hand-held grinders, disc-type polishers and disc-type sanders
11. MMS IEC 62841-2-4:2014 Electric motor-operated hand-held tools, transportable tools and lawn and garden machinery -Safety - Part 2-4: Particular requirements for hand-held sanders and polishers other than disc type
12. MMS IEC 62841-2-5:2014 Electric motor-operated hand-held tools, transportable tools and lawn and garden machinery -Safety - Part 2-5: Particular requirements for hand-held circular saws
13. MMS IEC 62841-2-11:2015+AMD1:2018 Electric motor-operated hand-held tools, transportable tools and lawn and garden machinery - Safety - Part 2-11: Particular requirements for hand-held reciprocating saws
14. MMS IEC 62841-2-14:2015 Electric motor-operated hand-held tools, transportable tools and lawn and garden machinery -Safety - Part 2-14: Particular requirements for hand-held planers
15. MMS IEC 62841-2-17:2017 Electric motor-operated hand-held tools, transportable tools and lawn and garden machinery - Safety - Part 2-17: Particular requirements for hand-held routers
16. MMS IEC 62841-4-2:2017+AMD1:2022 Electric motor-operated hand-held tools, transportable tools and lawn and garden machinery - Safety - Part 4-2: Particular requirements for hedge trimmers
17. MMS CXS 57: 1981, Amended in 2022 Standard for Processed Tomato Concentrates
18. MMS CXS 67: 1981, Amended in 2019 Standard for Raisins
19. MMS CXS 87: 1981, Amended in 2022 Standard for Chocolate and Chocolate Products
20. MMS CXS 152: 1985, Amended in 2021 Standard for Wheat Flour
21. MMS CXS 192: 1995, Revision 2019 General Standard for Food Additives
22. MMS CXS 207: 1999, Amended in 2018 Standard for Milk Powders and Cream Powder
23. MMS CXS 212: 1999, Amended in 2022 Standard for Sugars
24. MMS CXS 243: 2003, Amended in 2022 Standard for Fermented Milks
25. MMS CXS 249: 2006, Amended in 2019 Standard for Instant Noodles
26. MMS CXS 251: 2006, Amended in 2021 Standard for a Blend of Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat In Powdered Form
27. MMS CXS 252: 2006, Amended in 2021 Standard or a Blend of Sweetened Condensed Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat
28. MMS CXS 253: 2006, Amended in 2018 Standard for Dairy Fat Spreads
29. MMS CXS 260: 2007, Amended in 2022 Standard for Pickled Fruits and Vegetables
30. MMS CXS 262: 2006, Amended in 2019 Standard for Mozzarella
31. MMS CXS 263: 1966, Amended in 2019 Standard for Cheddar
32. MMS CXS 265: 1966, Amended in 2019 Standard for Edam
33. MMS CXS 266: 1966, Amended in 2019 Standard for Gouda
34. MMS CXS 279: 1971, Amended in 2018 Standard for Butter
35. MMS CXS 280: 1973, Amended in 2018 Standard for Milkfat Products
36. MMS CXS 281: 1971, Amended in 2018 Standard for Evaporated Milks
37. MMS CXS 282: 1971, Amended in 2018 Standard for Sweetened Condensed Milks
38. MMS CXS 288: 1976, Amended in 2018 Standard for Cream and Prepared Creams
39. MMS CXS 289: 1995, Amended in 2018 Standard for Whey Powders
40. MMS CXS 296: 2009, Amended in 2022 Standard for Jams, Jellies and Marmalades
41. MMS CXS 298R: 2009, Amended in 2023 Standard for Fermented Soybean Paste
42. MMS CXS 306: 2023 Standard for Chili Sauce
43. MMS CXS 321: 2015, Amended in 2022 Standard for Ginseng Products
44. MMS CXS 354R: 2023 Standard for Soybean Products Fermented with Bacillus Species
45. MMS CXS 355R: 2023 Standard for Cooked Rice Wrapped in Plant Leaves
46. MMS 45: 2024 Guideline on Food Hygiene
47. MMS UNECE Regulation 94: 2013 Uniform provisions concerning the approval of vehicles concerning the protection of the occupants in the event of a frontal collision
48. MMS UNECE Regulation 95: 2014 Uniform provisions concerning the approval of vehicles with regard to the protection of the occupants in the event of a lateral collision
49. MMS ASEAN Stan 21: 2011 Standard for Chilli Peppers
50. MMS WHO Guideline: 2007 WHO Guidelines on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Herbal Medicines: Section I
51. MMS 46: 2024 Myristica fragrans Houtt.
52. MMS 47: 2024 Swertia purpurascens (D.Don) C.B.Clarke.
53. MMS 48: 2024 Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Miers ex Hook.f. & Thomson.
54. MMS 49: 2024 Vitex trifolia L.
55. MMS 50: 2024 Zingiber officinale Roscoe.
56. MMS 51: 2024 Allium sativum L.
57. MMS 52: 2024 Alpinia conchigera Griff.
58. MMS 53: 2024 Cinnamomum tamal (Buch. -Ham) T. Nees & C.H. Eberm.
59. MMS 54: 2024 Senna alexandrina Mill.
60. MMS 55: 2024 Terminalia citrina (Gaertn) Roxb.
61. MMS ISO 15: 2017 Rolling bearings - Radial bearings - Boundary dimensions, general plan
62. MMS ISO 104: 2015 Rolling bearings - Thrust bearings - Boundary dimensions, general plan
63. MMS ISO 2858: 1975 End-suction centrifugal pumps (rating 16 bar)-Designation, nominal duty point and dimensions
64. MMS ISO 5199: 2002- Technical specifications for centrifugal pumps - Class II
65. MMS ISO 9905: 1994 Technical specifications for centrifugal pumps - Class I
66. MMS MTLAS 56: 2024 Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System
67. MMS ISO 9328-7: 2018 Steel flat products for pressure purposes — Technical delivery conditions — Part 7: Stainless steels
68. MMS ISO 12540:2017 Glass in building — Tempered soda lime silicate safety glass
69. MMS ISO 12543-2:2021 Glass in building — Laminated glass and laminated safety glass — Part 2: Laminated safety glass
70. MMS ISO 12543-4:2021 Glass in building — Laminated glass and laminated safety glass — Part 4: Test methods for durability

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw medical ships depart Yangon for healthcare mission

TATMADAW'S mobile hospital ships, Shwe Puzun and Saku, departed from Yangon yesterday morning to deliver healthcare services to villages along the Ayeyawady River. The mission includes specialists, doctors, and nurses from the Tatmadaw Special Medical Team. Meanwhile, the naval medical ship, Thanlwin, set sail from No 2 Naval Jetty (Thanlyin) in Yangon to provide medical care to residents in Cocogyun Township, Yangon Region and Hainggyikyun Township, Taninthayi Region.

The medical teams will offer various services, including surgeries, obstetrics,

gynaecology, paediatrics, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, ENT, dental care, and general health. Diagnostic services include X-rays, ultrasounds, ECG scans, and laboratory tests. In emergencies, the Shwe Puzun and Saku ships can accommodate up to 30 patients, while the Thanlwin ship can handle up to 25 patients. Each ship is equipped with operating theatres, delivery rooms, diagnostic rooms, and intensive care units.

Senior officers, personnel, and their families from the Tatmadaw (Navy) bid farewell to the medical teams. — MNA/KZL



This photo shows a Tatmadaw medical vessel leaving for healthcare mission.

Hotel Ministry invites open tenders for properties in NPT, 10 regions/states

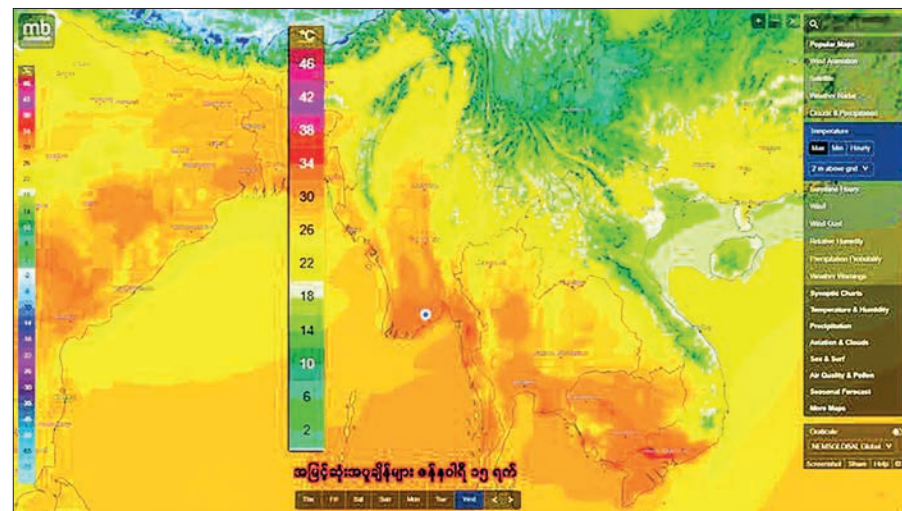
THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has invited Myanmar entrepreneurs to submit open tender prices for the lease of the buildings, rooms and land owned by its department in the regions and states in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Tender rules and regulations for Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states, and Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Yangon regions can be downloaded from the QR codes listed for each state and division or from the ministry website: tourism.gov.mm.

Interested parties can obtain price proposal forms from the relevant branches during office hours starting from 14 January and need to submit their tenders with complete specified information by 4:30 pm on 27 January. For more information, the Tender Acceptance and Scrutiny Committee welcomes enquiries at the relevant branches during office hours.

The tender rules include the information such as the name of the tenderer, a copy of the citizenship scrutiny card, permanent address, contact phone number, and the name of the business to be operated if the tender is awarded. The successful tenderer must pay the deposit of one month's rent and a down payment of 12 months' rent. The lease period will be five years and the contract will be renewed once a year, said the tender committee. — MT/ZN

Meteorologist Warns: Mid-day heat and winds may cause fires



The lowest and highest temperatures observed between 9 and 15 January are shown in the picture.

THE hot and dry weather in the afternoon is encouraging fires, while strong winds are further intensifying them, meteorologist U Win Naing said.

From 9 to 15 January, daytime temperatures will remain above 30 °C in

all regions except Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayah and northern Karen states, and fire hazards should be cautioned as there are strong winds, he said.

"It is currently the cold season. Cold, dry air currents from the north

and northeast are entering Myanmar. The northeast monsoon is strong in the South China Sea, and there are winds from the east. Daytime temperatures in Myanmar are rising from about 30°C to 34°C. And there are scattered wildfires. So, all conditions favour fire breakouts. It is time to be careful," he said.

Since the first week of January, daytime temperatures have been rising and nighttime temperatures have been gradually falling, with the highest and lowest temperatures occurring around 2 pm and 6 am respectively.

Nighttime temperatures are expected to drop below 20 °C in all regions except southern Karen, southern Mon states, and Taninthayi Region. Therefore, it is recommended to be careful of cold temperatures during the night and morning, and of fire hazards in the afternoon, he added. — MT/ZN

Counter-argument to false information



This screenshot discloses misinformation.

False claims spread on village arson in Kanbalu

FALSE information circulating from malicious news media claimed that security forces burned two villages in Pintha station in Kanbalu Township in Sagaing Region on 13 January.

Reports indicate that terrorist groups infiltrated towns and villages to engage in conflicts without considering the well-being of local communities, destroying residents' lives and property. Security forces conducted

necessary security operations in the area to prevent terrorist activities. Malicious media twisted these efforts to spread false narratives and stir public unrest.

Although security forces carried out security duties in the vicinity, they did not burn any houses, according to a security official and residents. Instead, terrorists set fire to villages that refused to support them. — MNA/KZL

OPINION

Build Kayah State with peace and prosperity

THE emergence of Kayah State Day was based on rechristening Kayah State on 15 January 1952 through public consensus under the Constitutional Amendment Act in 1951 from Kayinni State mentioned in the Constitution 1947. From then on, the day has been marked Kayin State Day yearly.

Now is the significant time for local ethnic populations to make collaborative efforts with the government to shape Kayah State with stability, peace and development by grasping strong foundations while striving to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the fruits of durable peace.

In retrospect, Myanmar has experienced armed conflicts alongside its independence, and it has been over 76 years since these conflicts began. It is important to examine the reasons behind these ongoing armed struggles. Understanding the historical context allows everybody to recognize the shortcomings of past periods and will contribute to a better future. Political differences were not addressed through political means but rather through the armed struggle line, leading to internal armed conflicts.

The government must continue to implement a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system, which reflects the aspirations of the people. To implement this, necessary preparations are being made to hold free and fair general elections that allow for true representation of the people's desire. Following the will of the ethnic people, the government, Tatmadaw, all civil servants, all civil society organizations, and the entire population must unite and work together to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system.

necessary preparations are being made to hold free and fair general elections that allow for true representation of the people's desire. Following the will of the ethnic people, the government, Tatmadaw, all civil servants, all civil society organizations, and the entire population must unite and work together to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system.

The key requirement for the development and progress of the nation and the establishment of a democratic State is the complete education and correct thinking of all the people. The people must manage and protect the interests of the nation and the public with knowledge. For a state to emerge as more peaceful, prosperous, and developed, the spirit and strength of all the national brethren living in Kayah State are crucial. Just as the strength of a nation comes from within the nation itself, the strength of a state also derives from the combined power of all its national brethren.

Some foreign countries, which claim to be defending democracy, are also supporting and encouraging armed terror attacks that are directly or indirectly against the democratic system. It should be noted carefully that these actions aim to manipulate their countries to establish control and delay the people's desire for a multiparty democratic system, ultimately supporting a dictatorship disguised as democracy.

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The Legacy of Guantanamo Bay: A Symbol of Security or Injustice?

By Hla Myet Chell (International Law)

I. Introduction

The Guantanamo Bay Detention Centre, established in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, remains one of the most controversial symbols of the global War on Terror. Located on the US naval base in Cuba, Guantanamo has sparked international debate due to allegations of human rights violations, legal loopholes, and its use as a political tool in American domestic affairs. This article examines Guantanamo Bay through the lens of international law and explores how successive US presidents have leveraged it to navigate political landscapes at home.

II. Historical Context

Guantanamo Bay's history as a US military base dates back to 1903, but its transformation into a detention centre for terrorism suspects brought it to global attention. In early 2002, the US government began detaining individuals captured in Afghanistan and other regions, designating them as "unlawful combatants" to circumvent protections afforded under the Geneva Conventions. Over the years, Guantanamo has become a focal point for debates on the balance between security and human rights.

III. International Law Perspective

Legal Frameworks and Violations

International law offers robust protections for individuals, even in times of conflict. Key legal frameworks include the Geneva Conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), all of which provide fundamental rights to detainees, including protections against torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and the right to a fair trial. These instruments, which reflect the international community's commitment

to human dignity, apply even in wartime and are central to the debate surrounding Guantanamo Bay.

The **Geneva Conventions**, particularly the Third Geneva Convention, which deals with the treatment of prisoners of war, mandates that detainees in armed conflicts be treated humanely. It prohibits torture, and degrading treatment, and demands that detainees be afforded due process, including the right to a fair trial. However, the US government has argued that the detainees at Guantanamo are "unlawful combatants," a term created to exclude them from the protections of the Geneva Conventions. This legal interpretation, however, has been challenged in both US and international courts, leading to key rulings such as Hamdan versus Rumsfeld (2006), which affirmed that detainees are entitled to some protections under the Geneva Conventions.

The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**, adopted by the United Nations in 1948, affirms the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings. Article 9 of the UDHR explicitly prohibits arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile, while Article 10 guarantees the right to a fair and public hearing. The indefinite detention of individuals at Guantanamo Bay, without charge or trial, directly contravenes these fundamental rights. The US has faced significant criticism for its failure to provide fair trials to detainees, with several detainees held for years without any formal charges being brought against them.

The **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**, which the US ratified in 1992, also protects individuals from arbitrary detention and guarantees a fair trial, including access to legal representation and the right to contest the legality of detention. Yet, Guantanamo's practices, including prolonged detention

without charge, lack of access to legal counsel for extended periods, and the denial of habeas corpus rights, have been repeatedly condemned by human rights groups as a violation of the ICCPR.

Beyond these well-established instruments, the **Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)**, ratified by the US in 1994, specifically prohibits the use of torture and requires states to take effective measures to prevent such practices. Guantanamo Bay's use of enhanced interrogation techniques, often referred to as torture by human rights organizations, stands in direct violation of this convention. The United Nations has repeatedly called for the US to close the facility and end the practices that contravene its international obligations under the CAT.

Despite these legal frameworks, the US has argued that Guantanamo is an exception due to its status as a military detention facility located on a foreign naval base. This argument has been challenged in various legal proceedings. In *Boumediene versus Bush* (2008), the US Supreme Court ruled that detainees at Guantanamo have the constitutional right to challenge their detention in US courts, reaffirming that the US cannot disregard the rule of law simply because the detention centre is located outside the US mainland.

Despite these rulings and international condemnation, the US has continued to defend its practices at Guantanamo, arguing that the need for national security in the context of the War on Terror justifies these extraordinary measures. However, the continued operation of the detention centre and the lack of accountability for the violations committed there call into question the US's commitment to upholding international law, further complicating its moral and legal standing in the global community.

In sum, the legal frameworks protecting the rights of detainees – whether through the Geneva

Conventions, the UDHR, the ICCPR, or the CAT – are clear in their prohibition of arbitrary detention, torture, and the denial of due process. The ongoing violations at Guantanamo Bay represent a significant breach of these international standards and raise crucial questions about the compatibility of US counterterrorism policies with international human rights law.

IV. Domestic Politics and Guantanamo Bay

A. Political Tool in US Elections Guantanamo Bay has not only been a topic of legal and human rights debates but also a potent political tool in US presidential elections. President Obama's 2008 campaign included a pledge to close the facility, symbolizing a shift towards restoring US adherence to international law. However, despite initial efforts, political opposition, logistical challenges, and legislative barriers stalled the closure process. The Trump administration reversed this stance, emphasizing a "tough on terrorism" approach, including the potential expansion of the detention facility. As President Biden nears the end of his administration, discussions regarding the closure of Guantanamo are ongoing, but the facility remains operational. The key question now is how the incoming Trump administration will approach the centre's future.

B. Symbol of National Security Domestically, Guantanamo Bay has been presented as an essential tool for safeguarding US national security. This framing resonates with a significant portion of the electorate, particularly those prioritizing counterterrorism measures over civil liberties. By keeping Guantanamo open, US presidents have attempted to project strength and resolve in the face of international terrorism, while sidestepping the complexities of prosecuting detainees within the US judicial system.

C. Congressional and Public Opinion Efforts to close Guantanamo Bay have faced significant resistance in Congress,

where bipartisan opposition has led to legislative gridlock. Public opinion, shaped by persistent fears of terrorism, has further complicated efforts to dismantle the facility. Congressional leaders have expressed concerns that closing Guantanamo could endanger national security, while others argue that the US must adhere to international human rights standards. This tension underscores the broader challenge of reconciling domestic security concerns with global legal norms.

V. Stories of Detainees

Guantanamo Bay's legacy is not solely shaped by legal arguments and political manoeuvring but also by the individual stories of those detained there. These stories illustrate the human cost of the detention policies:

- **Mohamedou Ould Slahi:** A Mauritanian national held at Guantanamo for 14 years without charge. His memoir, *Guantánamo Diary*, offers a searing account of torture and psychological abuse. Slahi's experiences underscore the absence of due process and the consequences of relying on flawed intelligence.
- **Omar Khadr:** A Canadian citizen, Khadr was captured in Afghanistan at 15 years old and detained at Guantanamo for over a decade. His case drew international attention due to his age and the allegations of coercion during interrogation. After his release, Khadr's story became emblematic of the ethical challenges surrounding the detention of juveniles.
- **Shaker Aamer:** The last British resident held at Guantanamo, Aamer spent 14 years in detention without trial. He was eventually released in 2015, after consistently denying allegations of terrorism. Aamer's case exemplifies the difficul-

ties of proving guilt or innocence in a system built on secrecy and a lack of transparency.

These individual stories highlight broader issues with Guantanamo's reliance on unreliable intelligence, the treatment of detainees, and the challenge of balancing national security with human rights.

VI. Global Perception and Diplomacy

Guantanamo Bay has severely damaged the US's reputation as a leader in upholding human rights and international law. The facility's continued existence has strained relations with both allies and adversaries, who have criticized the US for its treatment of detainees and its failure to close the detention centre despite widespread international condemnation. The United Nations, the European Union, and numerous human rights organizations have called for the closure of Guantanamo, arguing that it symbolizes a disregard for the Geneva Conventions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

For US allies, particularly those in the European Union, Guantanamo represents a fundamental contradiction in American foreign policy. While the US promotes democracy, freedom, and human rights abroad, its actions at Guantanamo undermine these ideals, raising concerns about US credibility in international diplomatic spheres. Moreover, the continued detention of individuals without trial has prompted accusations of hypocrisy, especially as the US positions itself as a global advocate for the rule of law.

Adversaries of the US have leveraged Guantanamo as a propaganda tool, using it to critique American foreign policy and cast the US as a violator of international norms. Terrorist groups, in particular, have cited the existence of Guantanamo as evidence of US hypocrisy, which serves to further fuel anti-American sentiments. The global perception of Guantanamo Bay thus complicates US diplomat-

ic efforts, creating a significant diplomatic rift that could take years to mend.

VII. Legal and Ethical Implications

The long-term consequences of Guantanamo's legal anomalies are profound and far-reaching. By circumventing international legal norms and the protections granted by the Geneva Conventions, the US risks undermining the rule of law, both domestically and internationally. This legal exception sets a dangerous precedent for other countries, potentially encouraging them to adopt similar practices in the name of national security. The normalization of indefinite detention without charge or trial poses a grave threat to the principles of justice and accountability that should govern both US and international legal systems.

Ethically, Guantanamo's practices raise serious concerns about the balance between national security and fundamental human rights. The use of torture, extraordinary rendition, and indefinite detention without trial not only violates international law but also questions the morality of such actions. As the US seeks to address terrorism threats, it must grapple with the ethical dilemmas posed by these methods. The question of whether the US can achieve its security goals without compromising its commitment to human rights remains one of the most pressing ethical challenges.

Furthermore, the long-term psychological and physical effects on detainees – especially those who have been held for years without charge – highlight the devastating consequences of indefinite detention. Many detainees, after being released, suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other psychological issues stemming from their mistreatment. These ethical and legal violations have far-reaching consequences, not only for those detained but also for the US's moral authority in the global arena.

VIII. The Path Forward

To align with international legal standards and restore its credibility, the US must take decisive steps to either reform or close Guantanamo Bay. The continued operation of the facility, despite the growing international outcry, presents a serious challenge to the US's role as a global leader in human rights. The first and most critical step would be ensuring fair trials for the remaining detainees. This could involve transferring detainees to the US for civilian trials or, where appropriate, repatriating them to their home countries.

Additionally, providing reparations for the human rights violations that have occurred at Guantanamo is essential for healing and reconciliation. This could take the form of compensation to detainees who have been wrongfully detained or subjected to torture, as well as public acknowledgement of the injustices they have suffered. The US must also reaffirm its commitment to international human rights norms, not only by closing Guantanamo but also by ensuring that future counterterrorism measures comply with international law.

IX. Conclusion

Guantanamo Bay stands as a powerful symbol of the challenges faced by the US in balancing national security with respect for the rule of law and international human rights standards. As a legal anomaly and political tool, it reflects the tensions inherent in navigating global security challenges. Resolving the Guantanamo dilemma requires not just policy reforms, but a profound shift in the US's approach to counterterrorism – one that places a stronger emphasis on due process, human rights, and adherence to international legal norms. The closure of Guantanamo Bay would not only restore US credibility on the global stage but also reaffirm the importance of upholding the core principles of justice and dignity that underpin the international legal order.

SEE PAGE 12

NATIONAL



This photo reveals Director Daw Moe Thida Win of the Disaster Management Department, representing the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), attending the discussion.

MRCS joins Singapore Forum on Urban Heatwave Response Measures

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) participated in a discussion on rapid response procedures to address the impacts of heatwaves in urban areas, held in Singapore, according to the MRCS.

The event took place over four days, from 7 to 10 January and Daw Moe Thidar Win, Director of the Disaster Management

Department, represented the MRCS at the discussion. During the event, MRCS presented its ongoing efforts concerning the Urban Heatwave Simplified Early Action Protocol, outlining its measures to swiftly respond to heatwave impacts in urban regions. The representative also engaged in discussions with other participants to exchange per-

spectives.

The discussion was attended by government representatives from Asia-Pacific nations, delegates from national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, UN agencies, international NGOs, global media outlets, as well as representatives from research institutions and universities. — ASH/MKKS

BANCA to conduct waterbird census in TadaU, Mandalay on 20–22 Jan

THE Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) has announced plans to conduct a waterbird census in TadaU Township, Mandalay Region.

This initiative is part of BANCA's Asian Waterbird Census programme and will take place in Pyu Lake, Paleik Lake and Banaw Lake from 20 to 22 January. BANCA has invited bird enthusiasts and individuals interested in birdwatching to observe the census activities independently.

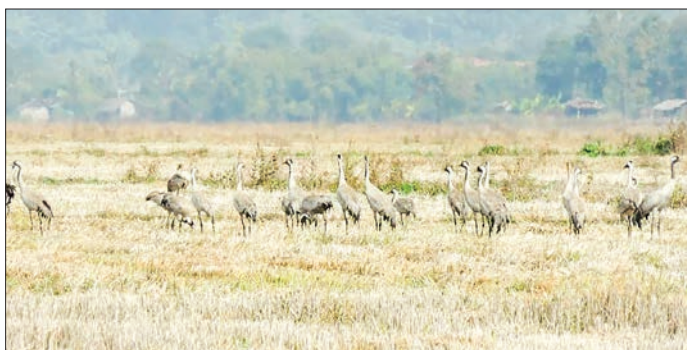
The Asian Waterbird Cen-

sus is also conducted in Myanmar's Ramsar sites, such as Inlay Lake, Indawgyi Lake, and Moeyungyi Wetland, as well as other critical areas like Pyu Lake, Paleik Lake and Banaw Lake in the central region. It involves ornithologists and birdwatching enthusiasts.

Participants typically include administrators and staff of Inlay Lake, Indawgyi Lake, and Moeyungyi Wetland wildlife sanctuaries, teachers and students from Mandalay, Yangon, Taunggyi, and Loikaw universities, as well as represent-

atives from organizations such as Bird and Nature Tour Myanmar (BNTM), SST Tourism Company, Mandalay In Bloom (MIB), FFI, and BANCA.

The latest records highlight the diversity and population of waterbirds and wetland-dependent birds in key areas. At Indawgyi Lake, 93 species have been documented, with a population exceeding 25,000 individual waterbirds. Inlay Lake hosts 36 waterbird species (13,271 individuals) and 55 wetland-dependent species (2,015 individuals). Moeyungyi Wetland boasts 84 species, including over 15,000 waterbirds. Paleik Lake is home to 32 species, including rare birds such as the Baer's Pochard, with over 1,500 individuals. Meanwhile, Pyu Lake supports 29 species, with a population of over 1,100 waterbirds. — ASH/MKKS



Photos showcase bird species visiting areas in Myanmar's wetland and Ramsar sites where observers conduct field surveys.

MMPO to distribute food supplies to film industry professionals

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization will distribute rice, cooking oil, and other food items to members of the film industry for the 16th time, from 22 to 25 January 2025, according to MMPO Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay.

Rice, oil, onions, and food supplies will be provided to various professionals in the film industry, including those in management, distribution, scriptwriting, editing, production, supporting and lead acting, directing, videography, theatrical performances, background music production, and producing. The distribution will follow designated dates, starting from 22 January.

“Our organization has been providing members of the film industry with rice, oil, and food items since the COVID-19 period, and this marks the 16th time. We have been assisting Myanmar's film industry members as much as we can since 1995,” said Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay.

The Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization plans to distribute the items in phases: on 22 January, to those in management, distribution, lead acting, and directing; on 23 January, to scriptwriters, producers, background music professionals, and editors; on 24 January, to technicians; and on 25 January, to supporting actors and actresses. — ASH/MKKS



This photo reveals the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization presenting foodstuffs to artistes.

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.

India-Myanmar trade volume expected to exceed US\$1.6 Billion in 2024-2025 FY

THE bilateral trade volume between India and Myanmar is expected to exceed US\$1.6 billion in the financial year 2024-2025, which ends on 31 March, according to U Min Min, Deputy Minister for Commerce.

He made this statement at the India-Myanmar Business Conclave 2025, held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon on 10 January, three months before the end of the 2024-2025 financial year. The bilateral trade volume reached \$1.2 billion by the end of December 2024.

At the event, Mr Shri Sidharth Mahajan, Joint Secretary in the Department of Com-



Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min seen delivering a speech at the India-Myanmar Business Conclave 2025.

merce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, delivered an online address,

highlighting the significant untapped potential between the two countries and the recent

initiatives by the Indian government to increase trade with Myanmar. Similarly, Mr Naresh Kumar Dinodiya, President of the India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC), stated that the two countries aim to increase their bilateral trade volume to \$5 billion.

According to the value of bilateral trade by financial year, the trade volume between the two countries was \$1.4 billion in the financial year 2022-2023 and \$1.33 billion in the financial year 2023-2024, respectively. Myanmar exports mainly pulses, rubber, fish, and garments to India, while India mainly

exports pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, electrical appliances, and construction materials to Myanmar. Now, to facilitate faster and smoother trade between the two countries, a Kyat-Rupee direct payment system has been implemented, and trade liberalization is being implemented.

Among the 53 countries investing in Myanmar, India is Myanmar's fourth-largest trading partner and ranks 11th in terms of investment size, with a total investment value of about \$783 million, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce. — Htun Htun/TH

CBM to inject \$25M to fuel oil sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 13 January that it would sell US\$25 million to fuel oil importers soon after injecting 600,000 yuan into the financial market on that day.

It sold \$3.9 million on 11 January, 714,000 yuan on 10 January 2025, \$2.2 million on 9 January, \$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 into the financial market.

CBM pumped \$144 million, 321 million baht and over 12 million yuan in December 2024, over \$59 million, over 280 mil-

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

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



Vehicles queue up to refuel.

MoPF disburses K253B for agri & rural development loan project



Farmers diligently working in the paddy field.

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance stated that about K253 billion from the Agriculture and Rural Development Two-Step Loan Project has been disbursed to farmers to support the improvement of productivity with agricultural mechanization.

Myanma Agricultural Development Bank under the Ministry of Planning and Finance held the 32nd meeting of the Steering Committee on Implementing Agriculture and Rural Development Two-Step Loan Project on 11 January 2025 at the Union Minister's office.

Deputy Minister U Min Htut of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, who also acts as the chair of the committee, ad-

dressed the two-step loan payment of money from a fund to farmers.

This two-step loan project started in July 2017. This low-interest loan aims for farmers to buy the necessary agricultural machines under a three-year short-term and five-year long-term instalment repayment scheme.

More than K247 billion were paid out to 5,816 farmers from 187 townships of 14 regions, states and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory as of 31 December 2024. The deputy minister added that 61 farmers from 19 townships from four regions and states received over K5.48 billion in loans in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Deputy Minister U Min Htut instructed the officials concerned to provide new loan schemes for farmers, increase loan amounts and ensure the smooth operation of loans to increase the income of farmers and help boost agricultural development. He asked the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank (head office) and bank branches to conduct evaluation and monitoring processes, continuously manage loan repayment, and coordinate with regional and state governments and departments concerned. Agricultural machinery companies that participated in the loan scheme are also encouraged to follow rules and regulations. — NN/KK

ECONOMY/ARTICLE

WORLD

Japanese tourist magnet Kyoto to hike hotel taxes



Tourists walk past shops during a visit to Fushimi Inari Shrine in the city of Kyoto on 13 January 2025. Japan on 15 January will announce tourist figures for the year 2024, widely expected to break the record set in 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

KYOTO authorities announced Tuesday plans to hike lodging taxes, as Japan's ancient capital seeks to assuage grumbles from locals about too many tourists.

Lured by its myriad sights and a weak yen, Japan has seen foreign tourism numbers explode in recent years, with arrivals in 2024 expected to have hit a record of more than 35 million.

But like other hotspots worldwide such as Venice in Italy or Maya Bay in Thailand, this is not universally welcome, particularly in tradition-steeped Kyoto.

The city, which is a modest bullet train ride away from Tokyo — with a view of Mount Fuji on the way — is famed for its kimono-clad geisha performers and Buddhist temples.

Residents have complained of disrespectful tourists harassing the geisha like paparazzi in their frenzy for photos, as well as causing traffic congestion and littering.

For rooms costing between 20,000 and 50,000 yen (\$127-317) per night, visitors will now see their tax double to 1,000 yen (\$6.35) per person per night, under the new plans. — AFP

BMW surpasses 400,000 NEV deliveries in China

AS of 2024, BMW Group had delivered over 400,000 new energy

vehicles in the Chinese market, the German automaker said on



This photo taken on 26 April 2024 shows a BMW electric vehicle displayed at the signing ceremony for deepening strategic cooperation between BMW and Shenyang, in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Monday. In the same year, the company sold more than 714,000 BMW and MINI vehicles in China, with electric vehicle sales rising by 7.7 per cent year on year and accounting for 15 per cent of total sales. To capitalize on the vast opportunities in the Chinese market, BMW continues to introduce new models tailored for the country. Last week, the company announced that the new model BMW X3 has officially entered mass production at its manufacturing facility in Shenyang in northeast China's Liaoning Province. The vehicle is scheduled for its official launch this February. — Xinhua

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tanzania launches beekeeping tourism in southern highlands

TANZANIA'S forest watchdog on Monday launched beekeeping tourism in Kalambo district in the Rukwa region of the southern highlands to expose tourists to honey production.

Daniel Dotto, a senior official with the state-run Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS), said the government had established a farm and distributed 500 bee hives in Kalambo to develop beekeeping tourism. "A tourist would be exposed to beekeeping activities, including honey production, in the farm where one would also learn the ecology of beekeeping," said Dotto.

Ibrahim Mkiwa, TFS chief conservation officer, said introducing beekeeping tourism was part of efforts to support the government in promoting its abundant tourist attractions. — Xinhua

Japan bankruptcies top 10,000 in 2024 on labour shortage, weak yen

THE number of corporate bankruptcies in Japan exceeded 10,000 for the first time in 11 years in 2024 as businesses faced a worsening labour shortage and higher prices of imported supplies due to the yen's depreciation, a survey by a credit research company showed Tuesday.

Small and medium-sized enterprises were hit hard, with the end of special tax deferral measures introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic causing an additional financial burden, according to Tokyo Shoko Research.

Bankruptcies rose 15.1 per cent from the previous year to 10,006, marking the third consecutive year of increases. Of these, 10,004 were small and medium-sized enterprises.



File photo taken in Osaka in November 2023 shows a construction site on Yumeshima, a man-made island in Osaka Bay. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Total liabilities were 2.34 trillion yen (\$14.9 billion), down 2.4 per cent from 2023. The yen plunged to its weakest level in 37 years against the US dollar in the summer of 2024, driving up import costs for

businesses. A worsening labour shortage, fuelled by Japan's aging population and the introduction of stricter overtime regulations, further strained industries such as construction and services.

By industry, the services sector, including restaurants, saw the highest number of bankruptcies at 3,329 cases, a 13.2 per cent increase, surpassing 3,000 for the first time since 1990. — Kyodo

Canadian insurers face record costs from 2024 extreme weather

DAMAGE from extreme weather in Canada last year pushed the bill facing insurers to an unprecedented CAN\$8.5 billion (\$5.9 billion), the Insurance Bureau of Canada said Monday.

Events that cause significant destruction "are escalating at a shocking rate and Canada is simply not prepared," said Celyeste Power, president of the IBC, an industry association representing Canadian insurers.

The IBC said the insured damage estimate for 2024 was 12 times higher

than the annual average of CAN\$701 million recorded from 2001 to 2010.



In this 24 July 2024, image obtained from the Jasper National Park in Canada, smoke rises from a wildfire burning in the park. **PHOTO: HANDOUT/JASPER NATIONAL PARK/AFP**

"The summer of 2024 stands out as the most destructive season in Canadian history for insured losses due to wildfires, floods and hailstorms," the group said in a statement.

In July and August alone, "four catastrophic weather events" caused more than CAN\$7 billion in losses, it said.

Those included a wildfire in Jasper National Park in the Canadian Rockies and flash flooding in Toronto. — AFP

Retail trade in Kazakhstan grew by 9.8% in 2024

THE retail trade in Kazakhstan saw a 9.8 per cent rise from January to December in 2024, reaching a total of 22.445 trillion tenge (about US\$42.51 billion), the Bureau of

National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms said on Monday.

Retail sales of goods by commercial enterprises increased by 3.9 per

cent. And the share of food products in the total volume of retail trade is 32.6 per cent, the bureau said.

Retail activity in 2024 was primarily concentrat-

ed in major urban centres. Almaty took the lead with 33.6 per cent, followed by Astana at (13.2 per cent), Karaganda (7.5 per cent) and East Kazakhstan (5.7 per cent). — Xinhua

Economists say US disinflation progress to stall in 2025

THE progress in driving down US inflation should stall in 2025 given expected changes to trade, fiscal and immigration policies, according to economists with Bank of America (BofA) Global Research.

"We do not see substantial upside risks to inflation but remain cautious of the recent robust labour market data and increased inflation expectations," said Stephen Juneau and Jeseo Park, economists with BofA Global Research in a note issued on Monday.

The imposition of tariffs could lead to higher inflation, with a bias toward the goods sector, according to a recent survey of fundamental analysts conducted by BofA Global Research. — Xinhua

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 29th JANUARY 2025 (Chinese New Year Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2501E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2501E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0339-788N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0339-788N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-1-2025** 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

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

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

North Korea fires short-range ballistic missiles before Trump's return



People walk past a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a train station in Seoul on 14 January 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

NORTH Korea fired several short-range ballistic missiles into the sea on Tuesday, according to Seoul's military, in what experts said could be a message to US President-elect Donald Trump's incoming administration.

The launch came as Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya

visited South Korea for a series of meetings with top officials, with the Asian neighbours seeking to boost bilateral ties before Trump returns to office next week.

"The South Korean military detected several short-range ballistic missiles fired into the East Sea," the military in Seoul said, referring

to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

South Korean and US intelligence agencies had monitored Pyongyang's launch preparations, the military said, with Seoul maintaining "full readiness" and sharing information with Washington and Tokyo. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

TurkStream attack threatens sovereignty of gas-receiving nations: Hungarian FM

Any action threatening the safety or functionality of the pipeline should be regarded as "an attack on the sovereignty of gas-receiving nations", Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijjarto said Monday.

Hungary has reiterated the importance of the TurkStream pipeline for Central Europe's energy security, following reports of a Ukrainian drone attack on the Russkaya compressor station in Russia, which supplies natural gas through the pipeline.

Turkstream is "indispensable" in the natural gas supply of Hungary and Central Europe, Szijjarto said in a Facebook post, adding that TurkStream has been a reliable energy corridor for years, "with all parties-suppliers and transit countries-honouring contractual obligations."

"We expect everyone to respect the safety and functionality of this transport route," Szijjarto added. — Xinhua

US restrictions on AI chip exports to cause sector slowdown: Malaysian research house

THE US restrictions on artificial intelligence (AI) chip exports could lead to a sector-wide slowdown, affecting the entire supply chain, Malaysia's RHB Investment Bank said in a report. Under such restrictions, some companies in Malaysia that produce semiconductor equipment and support the largest fabrication plants might see slower sales, the report said. Malaysian engineering support players, particularly front-end equipment manufacturers, may also face reduced demand, the research house added. — Xinhua

Trump would have been convicted if he wasn't elected: special counsel report

US President-elect Donald Trump would have been convicted for his alleged effort to overturn the 2020 election result if he hadn't been re-elected four years later, said a report by then special counsel Jack Smith released early Tuesday.

In a case that never went to trial, Trump, who returns to the White House on Monday, was accused of conspiracy to defraud the United States and conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding.

However, the US Department of Justice's "view that the Constitution prohibits the continued indictment and prosecution of a President is categorical and does not turn on the gravity of the crimes charged, the strength of the Government's proof, or the

merits of the prosecution, which the Office stands fully behind,"

said the report, which was released after midnight. — AFP



(FILES) (COMBO) This combination of pictures created on 14 November 2024 shows US President-elect Donald Trump on 13 November 2024 and Special Counsel Jack Smith on 9 June 2023. Donald Trump called special counsel Jack Smith "deranged" after the release of his report 14 January 2024 saying the incoming US president would have been convicted for his alleged effort to overturn the 2020 election if he hadn't been elected again. **PHOTO: AFP**

Aid response mounts for Cyclone Dikeledi victims in SE Africa: UN

THE United Nations and aid partners are responding to deadly Tropical Cyclone Dikeledi battering southeast Africa with high winds and heavy rain, UN humanitarian said on Monday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the UN partners began working with local authorities after the cyclone made landfall on Saturday in northern Madagascar; the same area hit by deadly Cyclone Chido nearly a month ago.

OCHA's latest ReliefWeb status alert reported that Dikeledi's centre was over the Mozambique Channel, approximately 75 km east of the coast of Nampula province in northeastern Mozambique. It passed just south of Mayotte, the island where Cyclone Chido inflicted heavy death and destruction.

The government of Madagascar reported that three people were killed and more than 350 displaced to several temporary sites. More than 5,200 people were directly affected, nearly 1,300 homes flooded, and five health centers were damaged. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Medvedev survives big scare to join Fritz, Monfils in Open round two



Russia's Daniil Medvedev celebrates his victory over Thailand's Kasidit Samrej after their men's singles match on day three of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 14 January 2025. PHOTO: AFP

LAST year's runner-up Daniil Medvedev smashed his racquet and avoided a huge shock at the Australian Open on Tuesday before joining a rampant Taylor Fritz and veteran Gael Monfils in the second round.

In the women's draw, Elena Rybakina, Emma Navarro and Emma Raducanu were early

winner on day three in Melbourne. Home favourite Alex de Minaur and women's world number four Jasmine Paolini are in action later. The feisty Medvedev, a three-time losing finalist at Melbourne Park including a year ago to Jannik Sinner, was heavy favourite against Thailand's 418th-ranked Kasidit

Samrej. But in his first match of the season, the Russian fifth seed nearly imploded in a fit of anger before finding some measure of calm. "Second and third set I couldn't touch the ball. I didn't know what to do," Medvedev said after finally winning 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena.

The 28-year-old mangled his racquet as he spectacularly lost his temper in the third set, slamming it into the net camera repeatedly until they both became a broken mess.

There was no such trouble for fourth seed Fritz as he blitzed fellow American Jenson Brooksby 6-2, 6-0, 6-3 to launch his bid for a maiden Grand Slam crown.

"It's never easy playing that first match in a Slam, there are some nerves, so I did a really good job shaking them off early and playing really solid," said Fritz, who took just 1hr 46min to dismantle his compatriot. — AFP

Myanmar's Joshua Van set for UFC 313 showdown



MYANMAR'S rising MMA star Joshua Van is officially set to compete at UFC 313, taking place on 8 March in the United States.

Van will square off against Brazilian fighter Bruno Silva, a 35-year-old veteran with a significant edge in experience. Silva boasts a professional record of 23 wins and 12 losses across 35 fights, holding the thirteen spot

in the UFC flyweight rankings. Meanwhile, Van is ranked fifteen, steadily climbing the division.

Joshua Van has an impressive career record of 12 wins out of 14 professional bouts. Since joining the UFC, he has fought six times, securing five victories. His latest win came on 8 December, where he defeated American fighter Cody Durden by decision. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Chinese veteran Zhang advances at Australian Open in straight sets

China's veteran Zhang Shuai continued her career resurgence by winning her first round match at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

Zhang beat American player McCartney Kessler 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 16 minutes at Melbourne Park to progress to the second round in the singles draw at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time since the 2023 Australian Open. The Chinese veteran, currently ranked 204th in the world, exhibited great control over her groundstrokes throughout the match, hitting 26 winners and only 11 unforced errors.

By comparison, Kessler, ranked 47th in the world, hit 18 winners and 22 unforced errors.

Zhang won 77 per cent of her first serve points and 65 per cent of those on her second serve compared to 57 and 43 per cent respectively for Kessler. — Xinhua

TYSON Fury has, not for the first time, announced his retirement from the boxing ring. But is this really the end of the road for the "Gypsy King"?

The towering 36-year-old British heavyweight called it a day on Monday, just weeks after his second straight defeat by Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk in Saudi Arabia.

"Hi everybody, I'm going to make this short and sweet," he said in a post on social media, apparently filmed inside a vehicle. "I'd like to announce my retirement from boxing, it has been a blast, I've loved every single minute of it".

Fury enjoyed two stints as the heavyweight world champion and retires with a record of 34 wins, two defeats and one draw. That is if he stays retired. Fury has previously announced his exit on a number of occasions, most recently in April 2022.

But they all turned out to be short-term absences from the ring and many pundits are sceptical that this really is the end. Fury's promoter, Frank Warren, told the BBC Fury had

Tyson Fury: Final curtain for the 'Gypsy King'?



(FILES) World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title holder Britain's Tyson Fury takes part in a pre-fight press conference at Wembley Stadium in west London, on 20 April 2022. Former world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury said Monday, 13 January, he had retired from boxing. "I'm going to make this short and sweet," said British fighter Fury in a social media post. "I'd like to announce my retirement from boxing. It's been a blast, I've loved every single minute of it." PHOTO: AFP

become a "world star".

"If you look at some of the fights he's had, he's not been in one fight that hasn't been excit-

ing," he said. Fury's retirement appears to mean he will not take on another former world champion, Anthony Joshua, in a long-an-

ticipated all-British showdown.

Joshua said at the weekend a fight with Fury "has to happen this year". — AFP



Gaza truce talks enter 'final round': source briefed on negotiations

A "FINAL round" of Gaza truce talks was due to start Tuesday in Qatar, said a source briefed on the negotiations aimed at ending the Israel-Hamas war after more than 15 months. Mediators Qatar, Egypt and the United States have intensified efforts to seal a ceasefire that would facilitate the release of hostages held in Gaza since Hamas's 7 October 2023 attack on Israel that sparked the war.

On Monday, US President Joe Biden said a ceasefire and hostage release deal was "on the brink" of being finalised, just days ahead of the inauguration of his successor, Donald Trump.

Hamas's 7 October attack, the deadliest in Israel's history, resulted in the deaths of 1,210 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of official Israeli figures.

On that day, militants also took 251 people hostage, 94 of whom are still being held in Gaza, including 34 the Israeli military says are dead.

Israel's retaliatory campaign in Gaza has killed 46,584 people, a majority of them civilians, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, figures that the UN considers reliable. — AFP



A man climbs out of rubble and fallen building remains after attempting to search for survivors and bodies of victims at a site that was hit by Israeli bombardment east of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on 14 January 2025 amid the ongoing war in the Palestinian territory between Israel and Hamas. PHOTO: AFP

Iran, European powers hold 'constructive' nuclear talks

IRAN and European powers said they held "frank and constructive" talks on Monday about Tehran's nuclear programme, just a week before US President-elect Donald Trump takes office.

It was the second round of such talks in less than two months, following a discreet meeting in Geneva last November between Tehran and the three European powers, Britain, France and Germany, known as the E3.

Few details were revealed about the topics discussed Monday or even the venue of the talks, but both sides said they were "constructive" and that the parties agreed to carry them on.

Iran's ISNA news agency reported that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi met "his counterparts from the E3".

"They discussed issues of mutual interest, including negotiations for lifting sanctions, the nuclear issue and the worrying situation in the region," it added without elaborating.

Later, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi described the talks as "serious, frank, and constructive". "We discussed ideas involving certain details in the sanctions-lifting and nuclear fields that are needed for a deal," he said in a post on X. — AFP



This handout picture released by the Iranian Army Office on 12 January 2025 shows a missile defence system during a military drill at an undisclosed location in Iran. Iran has expanded military drills to cover two additional nuclear facilities in the west and centre of the country, state media reported. PHOTO: IRANIAN ARMY OFFICE/AFP

Russia-Iran Strategic Partnership Agreement not targeted against anybody - Lavrov

THE Comprehensive partnership agreement, which will be signed by Russian and Iranian presidents in Moscow, is not directed against any other country, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday.

On Monday, the Kremlin said that Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian will sign the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement after negotiations on 17 January. "This agreement, as well as our agreement with North Korea, is not directed against any country and is constructive in nature, aimed at strengthening the capabilities of Russia and Iran in various parts of the world, the ability to better develop the economy, solve social issues and ensure reliable defence capability," Lavrov told a press conference on the overview of Russian diplomacy in 2024. — SPUTNIK