

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

## Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony marking Kayin New Year Day

22 December 2022

**Esteemed national brethren people and all Kayin ethnic nationals,**

Today, 22 December 2022, 2762 Kay-

in Era, 1<sup>st</sup> Waxing of Pyatho 1384 Myanmar Era, is a significant day adored by Kayin ethnic national brethren. Being

an auspicious New Year day, I extend my greetings with a wish for all Kayin ethnic nationals to enjoy physical and

mental well-being with auspiciousness on the occasion of the New Year.

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## Once one is fit and healthy, he will become a smart military man in the standard army: Senior General



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing inspects the graduate cadet company at the Passing-Out Parade of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon on 21 December 2022.

**T**HE Passing-Out Parade of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy took place at the parade ground of DSMA in Yan-

gon yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha

Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present at the ceremony together with the Senior General were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Chief

of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Thiri Pyanchi Maung Maung Aye and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Moe Aung

and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Tun Aung and wife, senior military officers from the Office of the

**SEE PAGE-3**

## Five National Objectives of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

1. To ensure cementing the discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democratic system and build the Union based on democracy and federalism;
2. To utmost strive for ensuring prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency as national work processes;
3. To build a better State and socioeconomic life in accord with the theme "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal" focusing on interests of the State and ethnic national people;
4. To initiate national solidarity and peace of the Union with a firm vow;
5. To successfully hold the free and fair multiparty democratic general elections and emerge an electoral system in which all ethnic nationals would participate proportionately.

## Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister ...

### FROM PAGE-1

Although all ethnic people residing in Myanmar have different cultures, traditions and customs, they all live in the country together by culturing the family spirit in their relations with each other with mutual respect. No matter what their natives, residences, usages of literature, languages, faiths, traditions and customs are, they all have been living in the same place in unison as close relatives by sharing the same future with each other through thick and thin. The Kayin national represents all Kayin ethnics and tribes regardless of lineage, religion, ism and faith.

The Kayin National New Year Day is the first day of the Kayin era. Whenever it falls on the 1<sup>st</sup> Waxing of Pyatho, it is learnt that Kayin ethnics build new houses and repair the equipment. Moreover, they reclaim new croplands in new hilly areas. It is known that all Kayin ethnics honourably recognize the Kayin National New Year Day wherever they are.

The prominent landmark of Kayin State is the River Thanlwin and the cultural emblem is the frog drum and buffalo horn. Kayin ethnics enjoy religion-related traditional festivals such as the New Year festival, house-warming ceremony, new harvest feast and soul call festival, and the Kayin don dance is lively and very popular.

With regard to the faiths, Kayin ethnics pay respects to gods whereas Buddhist Kayin ethnic people pay homage to the Lord Buddha, visit religious edifices, perform meritorious deeds, and listen to sermons delivered by members of the Sangha. At the same time, Kayin Christians attend prayer services. Moreover, all Kayin of different faiths hold religious festivals. Hence, Kayin New Year Day is grandly celebrated together with funfairs in the history of Kayin ethnics.

### Esteemed ethnic national brethren,

Kayin ethnic people residing in Myanmar and all Kayin ethnic brethren everywhere have to preserve traditional culture and customs in unison and hand them down to posterity. They all should have to emphasize the preservation of culture and traditions of ethnics not to be faded out whatever lifestyles are changed.

Ancestors of Kayin ethnics have been preserving the literature, language, culture, fine arts, customs, and historical heritage from generation to generation. Hence, I'd like to exhort a new generation of youths to continue the preservation of honest, hardworking, loyal, and decisive undertakings. If all ethnic national people residing in the country can always maintain their fine traditions, the Union will last forever.

Currently, the State Administration Council is taking State responsibilities in accord with the Constitution while striving for peace and stability of the State and development and improvement the socioeconomic life of the ethnic national people as much as possible by implementing the five-point roadmap and nine political, economic, and social objectives. I'd

like to invite Kayin ethnics on the New Year occasion to harmoniously join hands with the government for the State with courage based on knowledge, braveness based on compassion, and the noble Union spirit.

### Esteemed ethnic national brethren of Myanmar,

If efforts can be made for ensuring success in micro, small and medium-scale enterprises, agriculture and livestock farms, and the tourism industry by utilizing the existing natural resources and sound foundations from Kayin State, it is sure that Kayin State will have progress in businesses and improvement of socioeconomic life of local ethnic people in a short time.

At present, two national missions such as prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency are being implemented for the improvement of socio-economic life. Economic development will contribute much to the prosperity of the nation and stability. Hence, the endeavours of regions and states to develop the economy will help the whole nation enjoy prosperity.

The word socioeconomy comprises social, education, health, etc, and education plays a key role among them. As the country can be built with the strength of educated persons, it is necessary to arrange for the youths to learn education and to realize self-reliance basis. Some people have not had any schooling, and a large number of students drop out from different grades. Especially, it can be seen a large number of people in rural areas did not have a learning school education, and the average number of people who did not experience learning school education in some states is larger than that of the Union. According to the statistics, as the literacy rate for persons above 15 accounts for 75 per cent in Kayin State, I'd like to urge them to have greater progress in the education sector.

It is necessary to primarily promote the education sector of rural people as 70 per cent of them are working for the economic development of the nation. Only when all regions develop will the whole nation progress. As such, all ethnic people from all parts of the nation including rural areas need to have an accumulation of knowledge and skills, and it needs to nurture a new generation of educated human resources. School education contribute to accumulation of knowledge, and those who have knowledge will be qualified to study techniques. Only when an emphasis is placed on the creation of learning opportunities for the youth will they effectively serve the interests of the State in the future.

It is important to give proper training to new generations for the persistent development of the nation including Kayin State. The youths who would become intellectuals and intelligentsia in the future have to accumulate knowledge and skills and have to learn to culture the spirit to adore the State and the nationals as well as religion and language.

The State Administration Council has adopted and is implementing the political procedures to ensure

the strengthening of the genuine, disciplined-flourishing multiparty democratic system and building the Union based on democracy and federalism in accord with the wishes of ethnic national people. The unpeaceful region will lag behind the development as well as socioeconomic life such as economic, social, health, and education, etc of the people will meet a downtrend. In this regard, peace and stability of the nation are key points.

As such, the government is subtly controlling the terrorism and unrest under the law while holding talks with ethnic organizations along the route of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA, and is gaining progress. As political and ethnic issues cause armed conflicts in Kayin State, efforts are being made for overcoming the hindrances to socioeconomic development triggered by the deterioration of stability and peace.

To bring about practical progress in the peace process, the government meets with ethnic armed organizations to talk about the actual needs of the region and the nation based on the Union Spirit. Now, good results came out for the people and the State. The forthcoming Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2023 will be the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. As internal armed conflicts which emerged soon after regaining independence have lasted for many decades, I'd like to say that now is the time to struggle free from the circle of endless and answerless armed conflicts.

Restoration of perpetual peace across the nation is the primary requirement for building the Union based on democracy and federalism the entire people aspire. Hence, it is very important for leaving the armed struggle line and the armed conflicts for the sake of the country and the entire people and to peacefully walk along the correct political path through dialogue.

Only when relevant ethnic organizations and all ethnic national people cooperate with the government in realizing the perpetual peace, and tranquillity of the nation will the path to the new nation and development be smooth.

If the entire national people implement the restoration of peace and stability and development of socio-economic development the country needs today, Myanmar will stand tall as a modern and developed nation among the global countries. So, I send a message to mark the ceremony of Kayin National New Year Day, urging ethnic national people and officials at different levels from regions and states on the occasion of the Kayin National New Year Day to make cooperate with each other for the sake of the country.

Senior General Maha Thray Sithu  
Min Aung Hlaing  
Prime Minister  
Chairman, State Administration Council

## Our historical duty to build a genuine and disciplined democratic State

"It is our historical duty to build a genuine and disciplined democratic State holding pragmatic views on the events experienced in the past and with each of us having understanding and trust."

*(Excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Shan State Day on 7 February 2021)*



Scenic Beauty of Bagan. PHOTO BY U NAY LINN (IPRD)

# Once one is fit and healthy, he will become a smart ...

### FROM PAGE-1

Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Union ministers, the chief minister of Yangon Region, the commander of Yangon Command, the Yangon mayor, the commandant of DSMA, officials, officer instructors from studies and training departments of the academy as parents and guardians of cadets, and guests.

First, the Senior General took the salute of the cadet battalions and inspected the graduate cadet company. Cadet companies saluted the Senior General with slow-march past and quick-march past.

The Senior General presented the Best Cadet Award to Cadet Hein Tun Zaw, the Excellent Award in Training to cadet Min Khant Kyaw and the Excellent Award in Studies to cadet Kyaw Thura.

In his graduation address,



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing takes salutes of the cadet companies.



the Senior General said: You, as military men, are would-be medical officers and must also try hard mainly to abide by the disciplines and to be fit and healthy. When you are well-dis-

ciplined, there will be mutual respect between seniors and juniors which leads to unity in carrying out your duties. Once one is fit and healthy, he will become a smart military man in the standard army.

Medical corps are not only serving at the hospitals and medical battalions but also giving mobile health care service with the aim of giving perfect health care service to the public all over the country. After being provided with necessary medical machines and apparatuses by Tatmadaw, it could be seen that health care services like operations, childbirth and outpatient treatment have been brought about to benefit the public all over the country.

Up to now, military hospitals have been upgraded to perform kidney transplants, liver transplants, coronary angiograms and coronary balloon angioplasty, cardiac surgery and radiation oncology, by doing so, it can be seen that Tatmadaw has carried out ad-

vanced treatment like cardiac and neurosurgery, coronary stent insertion, pacemaker implantation, renal transplant and chest surgery in order to keep abreast with other nations.

Besides, it is a great pride for the military corps because the very first liver transplant, which is a milestone for the military corps, has been successfully undertaken in Tatmadaw on 27 September to honour the Diamond Jubilee of the medical corps. Concerning healthcare services, Tatmadaw has been giving healthcare services to not only family members in Tatmadaw but also civilians all over the country.

I'd like to exhort you to try your best to become medical officers who are reliable for the nation and Tatmadaw as the motto goes, "To be a good soldier and an efficient doctor," to work hard solemnly to become medical men who can keep abreast with others from all over the world by doing researches and keep on study-

ing medical subjects which are constantly improving, and to work diligently to give healthcare services to Tatmadaw men, their family members and local people where you are assigned.

The Senior General left the parade ground after taking to the salute of the cadet companies.

After the parade, the Senior General received outstanding cadets at the parlour of DSMA and spoke words of honour.

In his speech, the Senior General stressed the need for the cadets to adhere to ethics and morality of prestige to be persons with good morality. The cadets have to pay back debts of gratitude to their parents, the academy, Tatmadaw and the State by faithfully serving their duties. They have to continuously try hard to meet their goal in life while studying the advancements in medical technologies throughout their life. — MNA



The Senior General presents the Best Cadet Award.

### Implementation of two national visions for prosperity and food sufficiency in the nation

THE government is implementing two national visions for prosperity of the nation and sufficiency of food. Some 70 per cent of the population are engaged in agriculture, and the country is striving for development of the State economy based on agriculture and livestock farms. Hence, the government prioritizes the food sufficiency, nutrition and food safety for all citizens.

*(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Myanmar Rice Conference-2022 on 6 October 2022.*

## Graduation dinner of 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake of DSMA held

STATE Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the graduation dinner of the 23<sup>rd</sup> intake of Defence Services Medical Academy that took place at the convocation hall of DSMA in Yangon yesterday evening.

Also present at the graduation dinner were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung and wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives,

Union ministers, the Yangon Region chief minister, the Yangon Command commander, the Yangon mayor, the commandant of DSMA, officials from the Mingaladon station, officer instructors from studies and training departments of the academy as parents and guardians of cadets, and guests.

First, the Senior General cordially greeted graduate officers. Then, the Senior General and party had dinner together with graduate officers and attendees.

Before and during the dinner the Myawady Band entertained the guests. The Senior General and party watched performances. — MNA



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the dinner yesterday.

## Commissioning ceremony for graduates of 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake of DSMA held



The commissioning ceremony for graduate cadets of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy is in progress.

THE Commissioning Ceremony of graduates from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake of the Defence Services Medical Academy was held yesterday morning at the Convocation Hall of the academy. The ceremony was attended by Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Lin

Aung of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior military officers, Defence Services Medical Academy Commandant Brig-Gen Aung Min Oo and graduates.

Lt-Gen Lin Aung, senior military officers and the DSMA

commandant DSMA took seats on the stage, and Lt-Gen Lin Aung handed over appointment certificates to each of the graduates.

Lt-Gen Lin Aung gave a closing speech to conclude the event. — MNA/CT

## Convocation of 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy held

THE Convocation of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy (DSMA) took place at the convocation hall of DSMA in Yangon yesterday.

Commandant Brig-Gen Aung Min Oo of the Defence Services Medical Academy and Brig-Gen Khin Aung Htun and academic officers attended the convocation.

According to the agenda, the DSMA commandant, the

rector and academic officers entered the convocation hall and took seats to open the convocation ceremony with National Anthem.

Then, the rector presented certificates to graduate cadets.

After the commandant gave the convocation speech, the ceremony came to a close and the commandant, the rector and party left the convocation hall. — MNA/MKKS



The Convocation of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy is underway yesterday.

# SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects Myanmar Shipyard



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report of the Myanmar Shipyard yesterday.

**S**TATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the Yangon Region chief minister,

military officers of the office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Yangon Command, the Yangon mayor and relevant officials, inspected Myanmar Shipyard under the Ministry of Transport and Com-

munications in Kamayut Township in Yangon Region on 21 December.

First, Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San and Managing Director of Myanmar

Shipyard U Kyaw Naing Aye reported to the Senior General on the brief history of the shipyard, activities, ongoing work plans, local and international shipbuilding and maintenance of vessels.

In his response to the presentation, the Senior General said that the shipyard is over 60 years old with great tradition and it initiated a new history of water transport. It should build the required vessels for water transport and safety along the long coastline and waters of the country. The water transport system is a potential transportation system. The international standard vessels can be built at Myanmar Shipyard and it should encourage reviving the water transport system. It should also conduct the building and maintenance of coastal ships, fishing ships and speed boats. Water transport should be improved by building vessels that can transport goods to neighbouring countries.

It also needs to construct cruise ships and arrange to produce human resources to carry out such shipbuilding operations. With more than 50 years of experience in building and maintenance of vessels, it should restart a new chapter of Myanmar Shipyard successfully.

Then, the Senior General and party inspected the shipyard and the dock with a capacity of 12,000 tonnes.

The Senior General also provided cash to the staff of the shipyard. — MNA/KTZH

# New one-tical, half-tical gold coins to be issued marking Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

**I**N commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar that will fall on 4 January 2023, the government will issue new gold coins weighing one-tical and half-tical.

The new one-tical gold coin will have 26.0 millimetres in diameter and 2.0 mm in thickness featuring White Elephant at the centre of the front of the coin and the inscription of “75<sup>th</sup> on the right side of the portrait. At the bottom of the White Elephant, it etches “one tical 2023”, “Central Bank of Myanmar” and “75<sup>th</sup> Diamond

Jubilee Independence Day” surrounding the coin in the Myanmar Language.

The back side of the gold coin is created with a portrait of White Elephant and “75<sup>th</sup> on the right side, “16.329 gm 2023” at the bottom and “Central Bank of Myanmar “ and “75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee Independence Day” surrounding the coin in the English Language.

The new half-tical gold coin has a diameter of 22.0 mm and a thickness of 1.5 mm.

At the centre of the face of the new gold coin is a portrait of a White Elephant with the words “half-tical 2023” writ-



Samples of half-tical gold coins.

ten at the bottom. Along the circumference of the coin, “Central Bank of Myanmar” and “75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee Independence Day” are etched

in Myanmar.

The opposite face of the gold coin will feature a portrait of White Elephant and the words “75<sup>th</sup> on the right

side and “8.164 gm 2023” at the bottom and “Central Bank of Myanmar” and “75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee Independence Day” along the circumference of the coin in English.

The CBM governor and the gold coin casting department head will provide a certificate of authenticity when the gold coins are bought.

One-tical gold coins and half-tical gold coins will be available at the shops of the Myanmar Gem Enterprise in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay starting on 5 January. —MNA/KTZH

# Necessary preparations must be made for using electric locomotives: Senior General

LOCOMOTIVE Factory (Insein) primarily operates functions of assembling locomotives and maintenance, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning at a meeting with employees from Locomotive Factory (Insein) of Myanmar Railways in Insein Township.

**Political peace and stability and economic development as primary requirements for the development of the nation**

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said the development of a country depends on a political driving force, an economic driving force and military capability. Whatever political system is implemented, if the country is politically united, it will develop. Only when the economic driving force is strong will the country be wealthy. Countries with strong economic driving forces are powerful. Likewise, countries with military capability are powerhouses. Every country has the right to exercise its sovereignty. Myanmar has sound foundations for the enhancement of the State economy.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the Locomotive Factory (Insein) in Insein Township, Yangon yesterday.

Peace talks are being held with ethnic armed organizations for restoring internal peace. Within the framework of the constitution, Tatmadaw will fulfil their requirements through the talks. Some issues will be

approved at the Hluttaw through casting votes.

**Rail transport plays a key role in State's economic driving force**

Among road transport, waterway transport and aviation

service, rail transport is the cheapest in the transport of commodities. Hence, the government is striving to improve the rail transport system.

Locomotive Factory (Insein) primarily operates functions of assembling locomotives and maintenance. In this regard, it manufactures diesel-electric locomotives. Only when locomotives are in a good condition will the Myanmar railways section improve. Myanmar has many opportunities to run electric trains. But, plans to generate electricity from natural resources cannot be put into action due to various reasons. It is necessary to consider objections to beneficial projects of the State based on political contention and instigation. Hence, necessary preparations must be made for using electric locomotives. To do so, the country must have the necessary finance and a good economy.

The locomotive factory

needs to apply its valuable experiences in manufacturing locomotives at home and improve its technologies. Those from the factory are to exchange their experiences at workplaces.

The Senior General stressed the need to dutifully serve their assignments while trying hard to improve their lives. The Senior General then asked the employees of the factory about their needs.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for staff to Managing Director Thura U Aung Myo Myint of Myanmar Railways.

The Senior General and party viewed the assembly of locomotives, maintenance and production of spare parts of locomotives at the factory.

They also viewed the test-running of the coal-fired locomotive transformed from the steamed one. The Senior General then had lunch together with employees of the factory.

— MNA



The Senior General lunches together with the factory employees.

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# Social protection measures are compulsory for a government to serve the people: Vice-Senior General

EVERYBODY needs to understand that the social protection sector would have to face achievement as well as difficulties and challenges, said Chairman of the National Committee on Social Protection Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting 1/2022 of the national committee at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that although it can seem that social protection measures might be costly, these must be undertaken without fail to reduce the socio-economic risks, contribute to the development of human capital and support basic income. As such, everybody needs to understand that the social protection sector would have to face achievements as well as difficulties and challenges. As it is necessary to create the legal backup for the sustainability of the financial assistance programme for social protection, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need to soonest enact the Myanmar Social Protection Aid Law (Bill).

Currently, the Vice-Senior General said that the Social Management Information System-SMIS is being drawn for effectively implementing the social protection measures, and such



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win chairs the meeting 1/2022 of the National Committee on Social Protection on 21 December 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw.

a system will be effective in the early coming year. Such an act can be defined as the important progress of social protection. At a time when the system has been built, all need to cooperate with each other in respective sectors for sustainable usage of the system. Moreover, the Vice-Senior General took pride in securing the Digital Government Award 2022 with the Case Management Information System-CMIS in the Digital Summit 2022 organized by the Asian-Oceanian Computing

Industry Organization-ASOCIO on 28 October 2022.

Social protection measures are one of the primary functions of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP which is strategic for the State.

Moreover, the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan is being implemented for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

To be able to successfully implement the social protection measures, the national level coordination is required for important

fields such as nutrition, education promotion, reduction of the mortality rate of those under five and creation of job opportunities under the adopted policies, strategic plans and guidance. If so, the country will have the development of human capital. Social protection measures are compulsory for a government to serve the people.

Vice-Chair of the National Committee Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine reported on the progress of undertaking social

protection measures and the Secretary of the committee on the accomplishment of the decisions of the previous meeting and future plans.

Union ministers and officials presented reports on undertakings in social protection and future tasks in respective sectors and approved the draft minute of the meeting.

Later, the Vice-Senior General coordinated the discussions and gave a concluding remark. — MNA

## Ngaphe Township cultivates 1,085 acres of Arabica coffee plantations

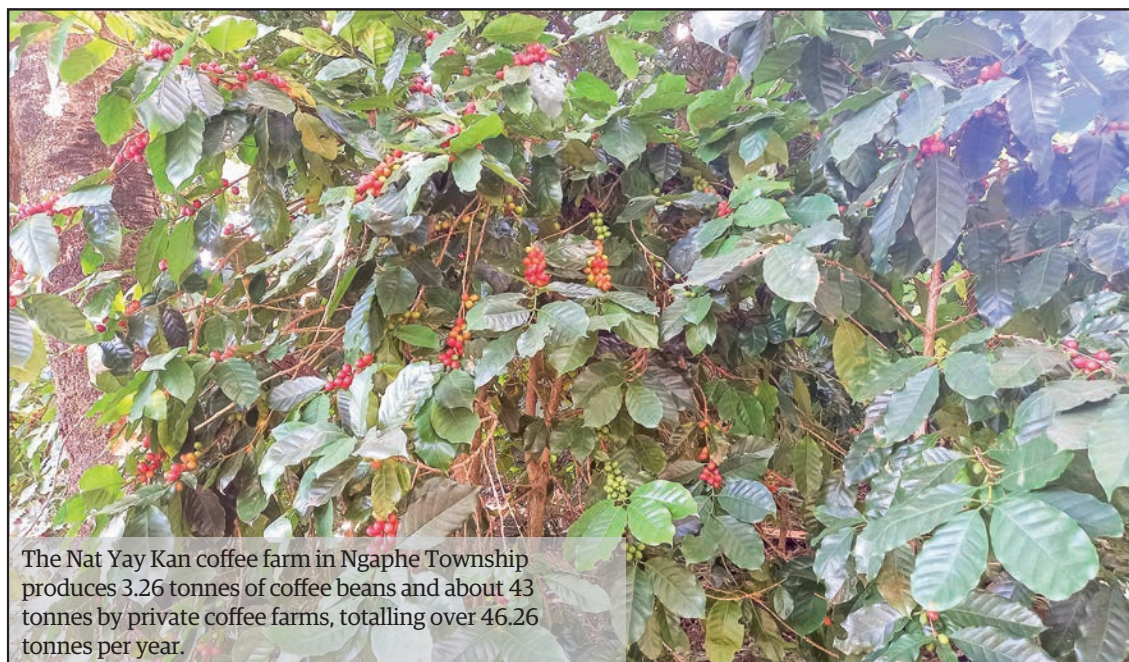
THE Arabica coffee (Viet Nam) is planted in the highland region (Nat Yay Kan) of Ngaphe Township of Minbu District of Magway Region and 1,085 acres of Arabica upland coffee are successfully cultivated to date.

The highland area (Nat Yay Kan) is located on Minbu-An road and the local residents grow coffee, tea leaf, elephant foot yam, avocado, citrus, chili, banana, jackfruit and other perennial trees. There is a total of 1,085 acres of Arabica upland coffee plantation – 29 acres at Nat Yay Kan coffee farm of Crop Division of Ngaphe Township Agriculture Department and 1,056 acres of private farms at 10 village-tracts.

According to the coffee

plantation expansion project, it is estimated to grow 12,500 acres of highland Arabica coffee in five years with 2,500 acres per year on fallow and virgin lands and forest reserves. It will develop on 2,500 acres of land – 850 acres of fallow and virgin lands and 1650 acres of forest reserve while there will be 50 acres in Hlaing village, 125 acres in Gokkyi village, 100 acres in Bonebaw village, 200 acres in Pabway village, 125 acres in Sontet village and 250 acres in Linte village. Officials invited private entrepreneurs and farmers to meet the target plantation.

The Nat Yay Kan coffee farm in Ngaphe Township produces 3.26 tonnes of coffee beans and about 43 tonnes by



The Nat Yay Kan coffee farm in Ngaphe Township produces 3.26 tonnes of coffee beans and about 43 tonnes by private coffee farms, totalling over 46.26 tonnes per year.

private coffee farms, totalling over 46.26 tonnes per year. The coffee beans are transported

to markets of Ywangan, Yenangyaung, Yangon and Pyn Oo Lwin townships fetching

between K3.5 million and K7 million per tonne. – Ma Yu (Ngaphe)/KTZH

## OPINION

### Create happy and smooth trips for travellers

GLOBAL countries are striving for the resumption of tourism industries as infection of Covid-19 declines. As the infection rate of the pandemic declines to less than 1 per cent for many days, it is time for Myanmar to accelerate the implementation of the tourism sector under the restrictions of Covid-19 issued by the Ministry of Health.

The tourism industry creates more than 320 million employments across the world and supports 10 per cent of the world's GDP, according to the records of the World Tourism Organization. As the tourism service contributes much to the development of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises, more than 200 countries including Myanmar are trying to resume operations of tourism industries.

Being an agro-based country, Myanmar should seek new advice and ways for widely designating agri-based tourism, farming-based tourism and educational tourism like the Mount Popa Geo-tourism service. Moreover, it is necessary to shape the potential towns and villages as tourism cities and villages in related regions and states.

As of this open season, the tourism industry has resumed as usual in Myanmar. Hence, the countries with good relations with Myanmar and neighbouring countries will initially be targeted as the tourism market of Myanmar. That is why tourism services are trying hard to introduce Myanmar's significant tourism products and services to the global tourism arena through the digital platform.

At the same time, tourist attractions and services of Myanmar must be introduced through Myanmar embassies to relevant global countries for international tourists to pay visits to Myanmar in order to improve the tourism industry.

Actually, the tourism industry is not designed to give services to customers by producers similar to that of other businesses but consumers reach the producers for enjoying the services. As such, producers of traditional products and handicrafts in regions and states can take advantage of introducing these products and services to customers. Attracting tourists and travellers with the use of domestic products can create job opportunities in relevant areas.

Micro, small and medium-scale enterprises and various tourism services are relying on each other. Both businesses can contribute much to the socioeconomic status of the people and the nation. Primarily, tourism services must give good services to customers with convenience in all aspects. Hence, all service providers of the tourism industry must assist with the basic needs of local and international travellers along their trips starting from their arrival to their departure to improve Myanmar's tourism industry.

A FEW days ago, I heard the population of the world turned to eight billion meaning there were eight billion mouths to be fed by the earth every day. This information might be frightened the intellectuals who are worrying about the food problems across the world. There might be so many questions that could not be solved instantly. I am not an intellect who can consider such a problem widely but there is just a solution within my reach. It is nothing but a kitchen that every household possesses. The readers also possess a kitchen certainly, I think. I have a query to ask you all "Don't you all encounter any waste of food in your kitchens daily?" If so, you can prohibit it less and less in some ways as much as you can. This is the solution to the query that is given by a non-intellect like me. However, the intellect will explain to my readers the abundant and interesting facts here.

Approximately 9.5 million tonnes of food waste were produced in the UK in 2018, of which, 6.4 million tonnes - roughly 15 billion meals - could have been eaten. In the same year, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the charity that uncovered those figures, and the Institute of Grocery (IGD), launched the Food Waste Reduction Roadmap, a series of milestones for retailers, producers, and hospitality and food service businesses to reduce food waste.

Among the 261 signatories to the roadmap is bakery chain Greggs, a company that has pledged to put an end to food waste and, by 2025, aims to create 25 per cent less waste than in 2018. Ways of achieving this include the company's use of a highly efficient forecasting and ordering system, offering food donations to organizations through its grant-making charity the Greggs Foundation, and opening up more Greggs Outlet shops in areas of social deprivation, where day-old products are offered at bargain prices.

It's also one of 21,579 UK businesses partnering with Too Good to Go, the mobile phone app that connects customers, to cafes, restaurants, and shops with unsold food surplus. Over the course of 2021, Too Good to Go helped Greggs save more than 810 tonnes of food from going to waste.

The app is very easy to use

# Man and Food Waste

By Yin Nwe Ko



Food loss and waste, which the Food and Agriculture Organization estimates is costing US\$1 trillion every year has the potential to create new income streams for local governments and businesses. **ILLUSTRATION: UN TODAY**

and can be downloaded to a mobile phone from Google Play or Apple's App Store. Once installed, users simply search for outlets within 3-30 kilometres of a selected area and, if available, are

or use-by date.

Depending on where one is searching, the outlets include supermarkets, butchers, takeaways, coffee shops, hotels, and pubs. He does not know what he is going

**This opens a window of opportunity to shift our food system to a more resilient, sustainable, and circular path. One where food loss and waste are designed out, food by-products are transformed and used at their highest value, and food production improves rather than damages the environment.**

presented with a list of "Magic Bags in your area". Most of the Magic Bags are priced around £3 to £4 and offer three times the value in food that is still edible, yet approaching its best before

to get until he collects his Magic Bag but it is possible to pick up a selection of hot and cold breakfast items from a hotel at the end of morning service, cooked meats from a carvery on a Sunday af-

ternoon, and even a few pints of ale or lager from a pub that's had to change an almost empty barrel ahead of the peak-time rush.

If one spots a Magic Bag that he fancies, he clicks on it, selects the quantity required - if more than one bag is available - and pays for his order with Google Pay, PayPal, or a credit or debit card. Depending on the outlet, he might find that the Magic Bags are snapped up straight away but there are other times when it's possible to order a "last chance" item shortly before the designated collection time. If he discovers that he is unable to collect his Magic Bag, he can cancel it two hours before the collection time, giving someone else the chance to order it.

The first Magic Bag the writer ordered was from Greggs.

Turning up at the designated collection time of 5 pm, as the store was closing, he was met by one of the staff who asked to see the order on his phone. After swiping the screen to mark the order as "collected" he was presented with a paper bag containing two baguettes, a sausage roll, and four cookies.

For an investment of just £2.95, the writer was walking away with £10.90 worth of food, which was certainly not going to go to waste that evening.

One Sunday evening, the writer picked up a Magic Bag from his local Co-op Food Store. For £4, he was given a box containing two bread rolls, two Belgian buns, two maple pecan plaits, a punnet of plums, a box of chicken poppers, an all-day breakfast sandwich, and a 1.5 kilogrammes

bag of Maris Piper potatoes. All was enjoyed over the following day, except the potatoes that were still in good shape when he cooked with them the following Sunday.

For £6, two Magic Bags ordered from Costa Coffee offered just over £20 worth of food, including two Vegan Bac'n Breakfast Baps, four slices of rocky road, two almond croissants, and a tea-cake. So impressed with this haul, he ordered another two Magic Bags a week later.

It is the luck of the draw as to what one is going to get, as this time both bags contained a Vegan Bac'n Breakfast Bap, a British pork sausage bap, and the Ultimate Breakfast Wrap - containing smoked bacon, Cumberland sausage, and free-range egg. Luckily, there was room in the freezer for the writer's bounty, and he didn't have to eat cereals for the best part of a week.

As we enter the second wave of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, the strength of our food supply chains is being put to the test. Again. How many of us, perhaps for the first time, have had to carefully budget food for a period of several months? The pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of all those along the food supply chain, from farmers to processors and households.

This opens a window of opportunity to shift our food system to a more resilient, sustainable, and circular path. One where food loss and waste are designed out, food by-products are transformed and used at their highest value, and food production improves rather than damages the environment.

This shift is urgent. Cities will be home to 66 per cent of the global population and consume over 80 per cent of the world's food by 2050. In the meantime, one-third of the food produced for human consumption is being lost or wasted, the equivalent of 1.3 billion tonnes per year. This waste does not include the land, water, and energy that went into producing it. And yet cities hold the key to unlocking the potential to not only satisfy this increased demand but also improve livelihoods, citizens' health, and the natural environment.

There are several high-dividend actions that countries can take under the Paris Agreement to fight food loss and waste through circular action. Here, we

would like to share some ideas.

Cities can increase their resilience to external shocks and help strengthen food security by relying on a mix of local, regional and global producers. Shorter food supply chains help reduce unnecessary food loss due to storage and transportation inefficiencies, not to mention the associated distribution costs and emissions and excess plastic packaging. People will benefit as well. Locally sourced, fresh, and nutritious food will help contribute to healthy diets and well-being. Many of the world's major cities are already trying to improve their urban food systems under the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, an international pact covering 210 cities and more than 450 million people.

Cities can be advocates and

agricultural, natural fertilizers, or other high-value products. Several cities in the United States pulverize food scraps through in-sink garbage disposals, then turn the slurry into fertilizers and biogas to power buses and water treatment facilities. Sweet Benin, an innovative example from Benin, is working with Techno Serve to turn waste from cashew harvests into a new beverage industry and help cashew farmers supplement their off-season incomes. This large waste stream can be upcycled into safe, tasty, and healthy products and ingredients that can work at large-scale distribution.

Better data can help us understand our food's journey or "waste" streams to determine how they can be captured and upcycled into other value-generating processes. During the pandemic,

**Food loss and waste, which the Food and Agriculture Organization estimates is costing US\$1 trillion every year has the potential to create new income streams for local governments and businesses. A part of this economic loss could be recaptured by converting waste into sustainable agricultural, natural fertilizers, or other high-value products.**

enablers, making vacant city-owned lots available for farm leases, passing zoning laws, and launching programmes to promote urban agriculture. Paris and Singapore have launched initiatives to take advantage of rooftops for food production and include urban farms in new developments. In poorer countries, the agricultural heritage of many rural-urban migrants is helping cities improve food security. In Lusaka, over half of urban residents grow their food, while in Kampala and Yaoundé many urban households raise livestock, including poultry, dairy cattle, and pigs. However, in many countries in Africa urban agriculture is not part of official urban planning policies, and land tenure remains a major challenge.

The current intersection of ongoing crises; public health, climate, and economy, provide us with an incentive to seek transformational change. This is an opportunity that should not be missed. Our current food system is no longer fit for the society and planetary needs of the 21st century. It is ripe for disruption and cities can lead the way.

To summarize my account, I have already informed you of one of the ways to support sufficient food for eight billion mouths across the world.

**Reference:**  
-Best of British (Aug 2022)  
-UNDP Report (Nov 2020)



# Statements released on inhumane mine attack of PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG, CRPH on Pansodan-Dala Cherry 2 ferry

A total of 17 innocent passengers were wounded on 18 December when a mine explosion of PDF terrorists, subordinates of NUG and CRPH occurred on the Cherry 2 ferry heading to Dala from Pansodan jetty. Myanmar Theatrical Association and Myanmar Motion Picture Organization released statements strongly condemning the attack respectively. — MNA

## Condemnation

A total of 17 passengers were wounded in a bomb explosion committed by terrorists on the Cherry 2 ferry heading to Dala from Yangon jetty on 18 December 2022.

Myanmar Theatrical Association expressed condemnation of this inhumane act of terrorist groups targeting innocent civilians.

*Myanmar Theatrical Association*

## Statement of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

MYANMAR Motion Picture Organization has learnt that some terrorists exploded a homemade mine on Pansodan-Dala Cherry 2 ferry on the evening 18 December. A total of 17 innocent passengers were injured in the mine blast.

The organization strongly condemns and opposes such act of terror targeting innocent passengers.

*Myanmar Motion Picture Organization*

## 10 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 December, total figure rises to 633,585

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,585** after **ten** new cases were reported on 21 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **608,182** including **35** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,489** on 21 December with no new deaths reported from the pandemic.

According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and unlikely to die. If they have received booster shot, the death rates can be reduced more.

As such, the people need to follow the new normal way in living with COVID. Hence, all the people above five have to fully receive COVID-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail.

Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds.

People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid the crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. —MNA

## CRIME NEWS

# Illegal timbers, crude oil, foodstuffs, consumer goods and vehicle confiscated



THE on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections on 19 December.

Officials confiscated K3 million worth of cosmetics without official documents at the Yangon International Airport and 540 litres of duty-free edible oil worth K1.86 million at the bypass road on the Yangon-Myawady Pyidaungsu highway. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a combined team captured K4.32 million worth of foodstuffs without official documents from a Toyota HiAce car (approximately K45 million) at a bus station compound in Kengtung township. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined team led by Myanmar Police Force seized an unregistered Lifan 125 motorbike worth K200,000 in Taze township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

The MaU combined checkpoint in Monywa township nabbed K20,495,500 worth of foodstuffs and consumer goods without official documents from two vehicles (approximately K19.6 million). The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a combined team captured 90 gallons of illegal crude oil in Minbu township and the action was taken under the Public Property Protection Law.

On 20 December, a total of ownerless 50 cartons of duty-free cigarette worth K75 million was confiscated near 21/2 Milepost on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin road and the action was taken under Customs Procedures.

A total of 38.2068 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K3,066,300 was seized in Ingapu and Yekyi townships and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 17 arrests (estimated value of K172,811,800) were made on 19 and 20 December, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Officials check confiscated illegal timbers.



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Sugar bags are loaded onto the ship

## Myanmar to export 50,000 tonnes of sugar to Viet Nam in upcoming season

MYANMAR has reached an agreement with Viet Nam to export 50,000 tonnes of sugar in the upcoming season under an advanced purchase system, according to the Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Products Association.

The sugar export to Viet Nam is scheduled for January and February. The FOB prices are estimated at US\$600 per tonne.

The prices hit K2,500 per viss at maximum in the domestic markets. Beyond self-sufficiency, new sugar mills will

emerge and production is likely to increase more than in previous years. Myanmar bagged over \$66 million from sugar and related products exported in 2021.

There are about 30 sugar mills across the country and two new ones each in northern Shan State and Sagaing Region will be established soon.

The local sugar mills offer K90,000 per tonne of sugarcane, which soared from K60,000 in 2020. Sugar fetched only K1,500 per viss then. —TWA/EMM

## Trade valued at US\$166.741 mln on Myawady border in Nov

ACCORDING to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce, the value of trade volume from the Myawady Border Trade Zone was US\$166.741 million in November of the 2022-2023 Financial Year.

Out of the total trade volume, the Myawady Border Trade Zone has earned \$40.352 million from exports and \$126.389 million from imports, indicating that 79.024 per cent of the trade target was achieved.

Compared to the same period of the previous financial year, the export value decreased by \$35.441 million and the import value by \$3.558 million. Therefore, the total trade value dropped by 38.999 million US dollars.

The downturn in exports compared to the same period is due to the decrease in exports of agricultural products, mining products, animal products, fishery products, industrial finished goods and others.

Compared to the recent period, the export value decreased by \$ 0.349 million and the import value exceeded \$4.819 million.

It is reported that most of the exported items this month are various kinds of nuts, and imported items are machines and equipment, building materials, petroleum products, chemical products, fertilizers, plastic raw materials, cotton fabrics, pharmaceutical products and other materials. — TWA/CT



People celebrated the Kayin New Year Festival 2016 at the Kayin Yard of Ahlon Township, Yangon Region.

## Yangon to celebrate Kayin New Year Festival at National Races Village

THE Kayin New Year Festival of Yangon Region will be held at the National Races Village on 22 December, according to the organizing committee.

The New Year festival used to be held every year in the compound of the Arlein Ngarsint Pagoda.

The Regional-level Kayin New Year Festival will be grandly observed with four programmes

— the Kayin National Flag Hoisting Ceremony, the Kayin New Year commemorative talks, the Kayin traditional dance performance and the traditional food festival.

The Kayin New Year Festival will also be celebrated as usual at Hmawby, Taikkyi, Kawhmu, Htantabin and Dala townships where most of the Kayin nationals live. — TWA/CT

## Weekly market update of Bayintnaung Market

DURING the week from 14 to 20 December 2022, onion, palm oil and chilli pepper prices decreased and Kyukok garlic, Shan garlic and chickpea went up in price.

### Onion

Due to the high price, the bulk of monsoon onions was imported to regional markets and Yangon markets. A total of 150,000 visses of monsoon onions arrived at the Yangon market on 20 December. Onions from the Myingyan area and Myittha were priced at K1,700-K2,700 and K2,300-K3,200 per viss depending on varieties. It is reported that the highest record prices of Myittha onion on 20 December were K2,800 per viss in the Mandalay market and K1,750 per viss in the Pakokku market respectively.

### Garlic

The price of garlic from Kyukok and Shan State soared on 20 December 2022. The wholesale price of garlic fetched K3,700-K4,900 per viss of garlic from Aungban, Shan State and

K3,450 per viss of Kyukok garlic.

### Potato

The Yangon potato market received a supply of 54,000 visses of potatoes on 20 December. Old Chinese potatoes, new Chinese potatoes and Shan potatoes were valued at K2,150, K1,650 and K1,700-K2,100 per viss.

### Chilli pepper

Long chilli pepper from Shan State hit K18,000 per viss on 20 December, as the price hike goes on. Prices of Panye long chilli pepper from the Salin area and the Thaeday area were valued at K18,000 and K16,000 per viss. The prices of monsoon chilli pepper were K16,000 per viss for Shan chilli pepper and K12,500-K13,000 per viss for various regions.

Prices of new bell pepper from the Sinphyukyun area, Kyauksaung bell pepper, Zee bell pepper and Shan bell pepper stood at K18,000, K13,000, K12,500 and K13,500 per viss. Although cold storage bell peppers from delta regions have



Some chilli pepper varieties are displayed for sale at the Bayintnaung brokerage house.

risen to K31,000 per viss in the market, new bell pepper is sold at a reduced price because there is no stock left.

### Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region between 19 and 25 December was down by K100 per viss compared to the last week's price. On 20 December, the DO price of palm oil was set

as K5,250 per viss in the external markets. The retail price of palm oil in the Nyaungpinlay market fetched only K5,350 per viss.

### Rice

High-priced glutinous rice has come down in price since it is imported from various areas. A bag of glutinous rice was only K85,000, and some glutinous rice was K80,000 per bag.

Exported broken rice, monsoon low-grade rice, and old low-grade rice is grown under the intercropping system, and 90 days rice were priced at K38,500, K41,800, K47,000 and K51,000 per bag. High-grade new Pawsan rice from the Pyapon area, old Pawsan rice, new Pawsan rice from the Patheingyi/Myaungmya area and old Pawsan rice from those areas were valued at K65,000, K72,000, 66,000 and K74,000 respectively. The wholesale price for new and old Shwebo Pawsan stood at K70,000-K73,000 and K90,000-K98,000 per bag.

### Pulses

The prices of various pulses stood at K1,749,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K1,939,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K1,745,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K2,830-3,000 per viss of green gram and K4,050-K4,250 per viss of chickpea in Yangon markets on 20 December. — TWA/CT

# ECONOMY WORLD

## 14 Indo-Pacific nations vow to expedite efforts for rule-based trade



In this picture taken on 15 August 2002, a long-tail water taxi zips across Bangkok's industrial and commercial port. **PHOTO: STHEPHEN SHAVER/AFP/FILE**

MINISTERS of 14 Indo-Pacific nations affirmed Tuesday they will accelerate US-led negotiations to set rules on their economic cooperation in the region to counter China's growing clout, the Japanese government said.

In the virtual ministerial meeting hosted by US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, participants "held discussions on tangible benefits" expected from the Indo-Pacific

Economic Framework, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

From Japan, Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura attended the meeting.

The discussions followed a six-day, in-person negotiation round that concluded last week in Brisbane, during which US officials shared their proposals on trade, supply chains and anti-corruption efforts with the

other countries. The members also expressed support for Canada's bid to join the framework.

The framework centres on four pillars — fair trade, supply chain resilience, infrastructure and clean energy, and tax and anti-corruption. It does not involve the removal of tariffs or market access improvement.

The current IPEF members are the United States, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. They represent around 40 per cent of global gross domestic product.

At the latest online meeting, Japan expressed its willingness to offer support and cooperation in areas such as investment expansion, supply chain resiliency, transition to clean energy and human resources development, Nishimura said in a press conference.

The members discussed what they could offer and expect from cooperation under the framework, he added.—Kyodo

## Apple fined one million euros in France over apps

A French court on Monday ordered Apple to pay one million euros (\$1.06 million) for imposing unfair conditions on app developers and to bring its practices in line with new EU regulations.

The ruling stems from a case launched in 2017 by French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, who accused the US tech giant of imposing prices on French startups who want to sell their apps on the company's platform.

The complaint also said that Apple took data from developers and could unilaterally modify contracts.

According to the ruling, seen by AFP, the Paris commercial court considered there was a "significant disequilibrium" and "considerable legal and economic insecurity" due to the impossibility of developers to renegotiate the terms of their contract or contest a suspension of their app.

However, the court rejected five of 11 complaints, including on the requirement to exclusively use Apple's payment system or the 30 per cent commission, which the judge said was not excessive and was common in both in physical and online commerce.

The court did not order modifications in certain contested clauses, but did point Apple

to the EU's news digital market regulations which will force the company to modify its contracts throughout Europe to the benefit of app developers.

Apple told AFP that it would examine the ruling in detail and would continue to support developers while offering a safe platform for consumers.—AFP



People walk past an Apple retail store in New York City. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## France and Germany urge US to expand green energy exemptions

FRANCE and Germany called Monday on the United States to expand exemptions to domestic production requirements under its massive programme to encourage a green energy transition.

Washington's landmark Inflation Reduction Act contains around \$370 billion in subsidies for green energy, as well as tax cuts for US-made electric cars and batteries, to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

EU countries have poured criticism on the IRA, seeing the domestic production requirement as a threat to European jobs, especially in the energy and auto sectors.

The IRA has exemptions for products from its trade bloc partners Canada and Mexico, and France and Germany called Monday for such exemptions to be expanded to EU nations.

"It is in our mutual interest to rapidly find common ground" on the issue when Europe and the United States are "cooperating to face Russia's war against Ukraine," France's finance minister Bruno Le Maire and his German counterpart Robert Habeck said in joint statement.—AFP



The assembly line for the Volkswagen ID 4 electric car, in Emden, northern Germany. **PHOTO: DAVID HECKER/AFP**

## Japan central bank tweaks monetary policy, yen strengthens

JAPAN'S central bank tweaked its longstanding monetary easing programme on Tuesday, in a surprise move that saw the yen strengthen quickly against the dollar while Tokyo stock markets fell.

The change marks a rare shift of gears for the dovish central bank, which has largely left its policy intact even as counterparts in other major economies hike rates to tackle inflation.

After a two-day policy meeting, the bank said it would widen the band in which it would allow rates for 10-year Japan government bonds to move, saying it would "improve market functioning".

"The Bank will expand the range of 10-year JGB yield fluctuations from the target level: from between around plus and minus 0.25 percentage points to between around plus and minus 0.5 percentage points," it said in a statement.

The move saw the yen strengthen rapidly against the dollar, with the greenback falling from a daily high of 137 yen to 133 yen within minutes of the decision.

The announcement came during the morning break in Tokyo trade, but the key Nikkei 225 index plunged as it reopened, falling as much as three per cent before recovering slightly.—AFP

## Sake plant in NY seeks to make new cuisine trend brew in US

THE major Japanese sake firm known for its signature product Dassai will begin brewing at a plant in New York next spring, seeking consumers in the already crowded market in the United States. As the first major Japanese company to set up a sake production facility on the US east coast, Asahi Shuzo Co. is looking to promote sake as a go-to beverage served not only with Japanese foods but a variety of global cuisines.

The company's CEO Kazuhiro Sakurai said its new seven billion yen (\$53 million) facility in Hyde Park, over 100 kilometres north of Manhattan, should be an outpost for his bid to develop new markets in the United States.

"The sake market

has been growing in the United States, but a large portion of it is served as an accompaniment to Japanese food such as sushi and tempura," Sakurai told Kyodo News.

"We are going to step into areas other than Japanese cuisine" he said, noting that his brewery created Dassai Blue, a new high-end sake of the "junmai ginjo" type, for Manhattan's choosy foodies as well as other consumers across the United States and Canada. Sake has gained a large following in the American market. The beverage's exports to the United States in the January-October period rose some 25 per cent from a year earlier to about 9.6 billion yen, according to the National Tax Agency of Japan.—Kyodo



Asahi Shuzo Co CEO Kazuhiro Sakurai (L) examines one of the tanks to be used to brew sake at his company's new plant in Hyde Park, New York, on 19 Oct 2022.

PHOTO: KYODO

## TikTok under pressure as US lawmakers push government ban

THE US Congress is on the cusp of approving a nationwide ban on using TikTok on government devices because of perceived security risks — thrusting the hugely popular video-sharing platform into a delicate position over Washington's ties to China.

After a Senate vote last week, the US House of Representatives could this week adopt a law prohibiting the use of TikTok on the professional phones of civil servants.

The measure would follow bans in nearly 20 US states, where Republicans



TikTok is a hugely popular video-sharing platform but some in the United States see it as a threat to national security.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

have led the attack against TikTok, arguing that its

ownership by Chinese firm ByteDance makes the app

unsafe for Americans.

"The fundamental problem is this...TikTok is owned by ByteDance which is effectively controlled by the Chinese Communist Party," Republican congressman Mike Gallagher explained to CNN on Sunday.

But what has long been a rallying cry for conservatives is becoming increasingly widespread among their Democratic colleagues, to the point that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Friday she was in favour of putting the draft to a vote this week.—AFP

## Prepay meters worsen energy inequality in UK

A bitter cold descends on snow-topped terraced houses in the north London suburb of Arnos Grove, as Samantha Pierre-Joseph warms her living room with a small whirring fan

heater.

The home, bedecked with snowflake decorations and a Christmas tree, has the central heating switched off to save cash as energy bills rocket but

temperatures plunge.

Pierre-Joseph, 40, who lives with her grown-up daughter, was recently switched to a prepayment meter by her supplier following a debt dispute.

She now pays more for electricity and gas than the old direct-debit payment system, worsening the cost-of-living crisis as prices of food and other essentials also soar.—AFP

## US agency orders Wells Fargo to pay \$3.7 bln for shoddy banking practices

US officials announced Tuesday a \$3.7 billion settlement with Wells Fargo over an array of "illegal activity" that burdened customers with wrongful home foreclosures and

other problems.

Wells Fargo will pay \$2 billion to compensate customers and \$1.7 billion in civil fines under a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau set-

tlement that the agency said pertained to some 16 million consumer accounts. Wells Fargo called the agreement an "important milestone" in the bank's progress af-

ter a series of scandals. Shares edged higher early Tuesday in hopes that the bank could be near the end of a years-long regulatory crackdown.—AFP

### The Global New Light of Myanmar

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### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V LUDWIG SCHULTE VOY.NO. (249W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LUDWIG SCHULTE VOY.NO. (249W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S SEALAND MAERSK AISA PTE LTD.**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V WAN HE V.2216

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WAN HE VOY. NO. (2216)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## 6 dead, 23 missing after Thai warship sinks



Search and rescue efforts are continuing by air and sea, with rescue workers sent off the coast of Prachuap Khiri Khan Province in central Thailand. **PHOTO: ROYAL THAI NAVY/ TWITTER**

THE Royal Thai Navy said Tuesday that six bodies have been recovered and 23 other crew members remain missing after one of its ships sank in the Gulf

of Thailand amid rough seas on Sunday. So far, more than 70 crew members of the Sukhothai corvette have been rescued. Search and rescue efforts are continuing

by air and sea, with rescue workers sent off the coast of Prachuap Khiri Khan Province in central Thailand. “We are confident that there is still hope,” Adm. Chongchai Chomchoengpaet, the navy’s commander-in-chief, said at a news conference, adding that the search mission will continue until all who are missing are found.

The warship, built in the United States, was carrying 105 personnel when strong winds and high waves rushed water into the engine room, causing the boat to sink from the stern about 37 kilometres off the provincial coast, according to the navy.

The ship was carrying out a patrol at the time of the accident and had fewer life jackets prepared than the number of crew members on board.—Kyodo

## Peru lawmakers move up general elections to April 2024

PERU’S Congress on Tuesday voted to move up general elections from 2026 to April 2024 in a bid to ease tensions and head off deadly protests sparked by the ouster and arrest of president Pedro Castillo.

The political maelstrom has also touched off a diplomatic row with Mexico, which has voiced its support for Castillo, a leftist onetime schoolteacher. Lawmakers voted 93-30 with one abstention to approve the change in the electoral calendar. The measure also stipulated that current President Dina Boluarte hand power to the winner of those elections in July 2024. The leader of the legislature, Jose Williams, said for the measure

to take effect, it would need to be ratified in another vote in the coming months.

Castillo was removed from office and detained earlier this month after seeking to dissolve Congress to rule by decree. His ousting was criticized by his leftist Latin American allies including Mexico, and brought thousands of his supporters into the streets.

A subsequent security clampdown, including the deployment of armed soldiers during a state of emergency declared under Boluarte, followed. Officials say at least 21 people have died in the unrest. More than 650 others have been injured.—AFP



Protesters have taken to the streets in support of Peru’s ousted president Pedro Castillo. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Trump’s tax returns to be released by US Congress

US lawmakers voted Tuesday to make public Donald Trump’s tax returns, ending a years-long battle by the former president to keep the filings private as his cloudy financial past continues to stoke controversy.

The Republican leader — who is running for the White House again after losing the

2020 election — broke with presidential tradition by refusing to release the records, triggering feverish speculation about what they might contain.

The Democratic-led House Ways and Means Committee voted along party lines, 24-16, to release six years of the billionaire’s filings — one of its

last actions before the reins are handed to the Republicans in January. Democratic congressman Lloyd Doggett told CNN a summary report would be sent to the full House of Representatives with analysis from the US Congress Joint Committee on Taxation — along with the raw returns.—AFP

### RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

## Ukrainian President Zelensky to visit US: White House

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky will visit the United States on Wednesday, during which he will meet with US President Joe Biden and then address a joint session of Congress, a senior US official said Tuesday.

Zelensky’s trip was so carefully arranged that even though reported by multiple US media outlets earlier on Tuesday, it was said to still have the potential of failing to materialize at the last minute due to heightened security concerns — until the senior administration official formally made the



As temperatures drop, Ukraine faces a major crisis with Russia targeting vital infrastructure. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ UKRAINIAN GUARD FORCES /AFP**

announcement at a briefing with reporters.—Xinhua

## UK orders oligarch-linked fund to sell internet firm

LONDON has ordered investment fund LetterOne (L1), which was founded by Russian oligarchs targeted by Western sanctions, to sell UK regional internet provider Upp for national security reasons.

Business minister Grant Shapps said that the measure was “necessary and proportionate to prevent, remedy, or mitigate the risk to national security”, according to the decision published on Monday.

London said the risks related to the “ultimate beneficial owners” of the fund and Upp’s “expanding full fibre broadband network” in the UK.

Russian oligarchs Mikhail Fridman and Petr Aven, whom the UK targeted with sanctions in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, announced in March that they were stepping down from the investment fund they co-founded in 2013.

The two men, who deny having any financial or political relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, resigned from the board of directors.—AFP

# Panama mourns US invasion 33 years ago



US soldiers run for cover following their arrival at a military command post loyal to General Manuel Antonio Noriega in Santiago, Panama in this 23 Dec 1989 file photo. **PHOTO: MANOCHER DEGHATI/AFP**

PANAMA on Tuesday observed a day of national mourning for the first time ever to mark the anniversary of the US invasion in 1989 to oust dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

“We pray for the fallen, looking upward and moving forward together,” President Laurentino Cortizo said at a ceremony attended by some 300 relatives of victims, government officials, diplomats, soldiers and activists.

The national flag flew at half-mast between rows of marble plaques in the Peace Garden Cemetery in Panama City that

holds the remains of dozens who died on 20 December 1989 when 27,000 US soldiers invaded the country with the backing of fighter planes, tanks and heavy artillery.

They came to depose Noriega, wanted by a Miami court to face accusations of drug trafficking. Officially, 500 people died but rights groups claim the true number was in the thousands. Among the dead buried in the Peace Garden are children such as Tomas Palacios, who was just 10 when he died.

At least 200 of the fallen were

civilians. “Time has not finished healing this wound,” said Trinidad Ayola, a representative of families who lost loved ones.

Noriega, who ruled from 1983 to 1989, surrendered in January 1990 and was jailed for drug-trafficking and the disappearance of opponents in the United States, France and Panama. After prison stints abroad, he died in Panama in 2017. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2018 found the United States guilty of “human rights violations” and ordered it to “provide full reparation.”—AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Greece seeks US ‘judicial cooperation’ in wiretap probe: source

GREEK prosecutors probing a wire-tapping scandal that has piled pressure on the government have requested judicial cooperation from the United States, a legal source said Tuesday.

The assistance has been requested because “suspicious SMS (text messages on mobile phones of people surveilled) are suspected to have been sent from the United States”, the source said.

The Greek supreme court opened the investigation several days after Nikos Androulakis — a European Parliament lawmaker and leader of the Greek Socialist party (Pasok/Kinal) — filed a legal complaint alleging there had been attempts to tap his mobile phone using illegal spyware known as Predator.

Within days, it emerged that Androulakis had also been under surveillance, separately, from the Greek intelligence service before he became leader of Pasok, Greece’s third largest party.

Two Greek journalists had also claimed to have been under surveillance. The Greek government of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has admitted that state intelligence monitored Androulakis, without disclosing the reason.

But the government has flatly denied using illegal surveillance software.—AFP

# Tanzania signs US\$2.2 bln railway deal with China

TANZANIA on Tuesday signed a US\$2.2-billion contract with a Chinese company to build the final section of a railway line aimed at linking the country’s main port with its neighbours.

The 2,561-kilometre (1,600-mile) line will link the Indian Ocean port of Dar es Salaam to Mwanza on Lake Victoria, with eventual spurs to Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who witnessed the signing, said the construction of the final section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Tabora to Kigoma in western Tanzania would be completed in 2026, nine years after it began.



Rendering of one of the stages of Phase 5 of Tanzania’s Standard Gauge Railway. **PHOTO: CHINESE EMBASSY IN TANZANIA/ TWITTER ACCOUNT /AFP**

“Upon completion of the SGR, Tanzania will be in a better position to utilize its strategic geographical positioning to facilitate cross-border trade,”

she said. Hassan said Tanzania’s investment in the SGR had now reached \$10.04 billion, including the latest contract.—AFP



Girls leave their school following order of closure just hours after reopening in Kabul on 23 March 2022. The Taliban ordered girls’ secondary schools in Afghanistan to shut just hours after they reopened, an official confirmed, sparking confusion and heartbreak over the policy reversal by the hardline Islamist group. **PHOTO: AHMAD SAHEL ARMAN / AFP**

# Taliban bans university education for Afghan girls

THE Taliban authorities on Tuesday ordered a nationwide ban on university education for females, as the hardline Islamists continue to crush Afghan women’s right to education and freedom.

Despite promising a softer rule when they seized power last year, the Taliban have ratcheted up restrictions on all aspects of women’s lives, ignoring international outrage.

“You all are informed to

immediately implement the mentioned order of suspending education of females until further notice,” said a letter issued to all government and private universities, signed by the Minister for Higher Education, Neda Mohammad Nadeem.

The spokesman for the ministry, Ziaullah Hashimi, who tweeted the letter, confirmed the order in a text message to AFP.

The ban on higher education comes less than three

months after thousands of girls and women sat university entrance exams across the country, with many aspiring to choose teaching and medicine as future careers.

After the takeover of the country by the Taliban, universities were forced to implement new rules including gender segregated classrooms and entrances, while women were only permitted to be taught by women professors or old men.—AFP



## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

### 1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

### 2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

### 3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

## Myanmar suffer 0-1 defeat to Malaysia in AFF Cup 2022 opener

MYANMAR national football team faced a 0-1 loss against Malaysia team in the opening match of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 Group B played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. Myanmar head coach Antione Hey used his reliable players: Hein Htet Aung, Aung Kaung Mahn and Maung Maung Lwin while Malaysian team head coach

Kim Pan-gon responded the team Myanmar's attack with a strong squad.

In the first half of the game, the Myanmar team played well, but Malaysian defenders blocked the attacks of Hein Htet Aung and Aung Kaung Mahn.

The Malaysian team also put pressure on the Myanmar team with the penetrations of the number 7 striker Mohamed Heisa. In

the 40<sup>th</sup> minute of the game, Myanmar captain Maung Maung Lwin was injured and had to be replaced by Ye Yint Aung.

In the second half, both teams played against each other, and in the 51<sup>st</sup> minute of the game, striker Mohamed Haisa scored the leading goal for the Malaysian team.

After that, the Myanmar team added four new players, increased the attack speed, and played all the way to score an equalizer, but the Malaysian team's goalkeeper and the protectors were able to defend the best.

In the 89<sup>th</sup> minute of the game, a Malaysian team player was fouled for a handball in the penalty area. Win Naing Tun took the penalty, but the Malaysian team's goalkeeper was able to save it, and the Myanmar team lost the opportunity to score an equalizer, and at the end of the game, they lost by 0-1.

Myanmar will play against Singapore as their second group match on 24 December 2022. — KZL

Myanmar striker Nanda Kyaw (red) attempts to get the ball against the Malaysian player during their opener of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 Group B at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 21 December 2022. PHOTO: MFF

## Brighton boss De Zerbi hails World Cup hero Mac Allister

BRIGHTON manager Roberto De Zerbi spoke of his pride in Alexis Mac Allister after he helped Argentina win the World Cup, saying the Seagulls midfielder was one of the best players at the tournament.

Argentina lifted the trophy for the first time since 1986 following a dramatic final win over France on penalties on Sunday.

De Zerbi has no plans to pitch Mac Allister straight back into first-team action at the Premier League club, with the 23-year-old granted a two-week break.

"Yes we are very proud for him," said De Zerbi ahead of Wednesday's fourth-round League Cup tie against third-tier Charlton.

"I think he was one of the best players in the World Cup

competition, his style of play was clear, he didn't make mistakes, he understood (what to do) before the play."

Mac Allister started all six of Argentina's matches in Qatar after being an unused substitute in the shock opening defeat by Saudi Arabia.

"I wrote many message to him. I am very happy for him and for us, for him now there are two weeks of holiday and we wait for him to continue in our competition," added De Zerbi.

"After one month of the World Cup where he has had to be strong because of the pressure and emotion, he needs a break.

"We will use other players while he is away."—AFP



Brighton player Alexis MacAllister (right) won the 2022 World Cup with Argentina. PHOTO: ELSA / AFP