

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SUNDAY EDITION

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Putao icy mountain visitors get time-optimized tour packages



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays observation tours at the university library in Patheingyi yesterday.

Faculty members need to emphasize national causes rather than politics

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said faculty members have to serve their duties for the national cause rather than the politics.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected Patheingyi University in Patheingyi of Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, the Region chief minister and officials reported on functions of Patheingyi University and construction of the library and buildings for academic matters, academic and management measures, and

beautification tasks of the university and environs.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General stressed that 65-year Patheingyi University must be capable of shouldering Yangon and Mandalay universities in academic matters, adding that it is necessary to teach students to have correct attitude and knowledge on relevant subjects.

He noted that faculty members need to uplift their capacity with continuous studies. He added that only when they are well-versed in relevant subjects can they teach students to have a wider scope of knowledge to be outstanding.

A government takes State responsibilities on a temporary term, but faculty members always serve state duties. A government must implement its policies for the development of the country, whereas state service personnel have to dutifully serve their assigned responsibilities for the sake of the nation, he noted. The Senior General also urged all to turn out qualified human resources for the State.

The Senior General viewed round the university library and the university campus and left necessary instructions. — MNA/TTA

Prawn exports bag US\$32 mln last year

FROM 1 April to 31 December 2023, prawn exports generated US\$32 million, leading the chart among marine exports, according to the Fisheries Department (Nay Pyi Taw).

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NATIONAL

Military disciplines, a must-do for Tatmadaw members



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families from Pathein Station of the South-West Command in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

Tatmadaw members have to follow military disciplines and avoid acts harmful to individuals and the organization, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

In a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families from Pathein Station of South-West Command yesterday afternoon, Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted duties and disciplines for Tatmadaw members and families.

As Tatmadaw is primarily responsi-

ble for State defence duty, organizations and individual Tatmadaw members must be ready to serve the defence duty. They must undergo training to be healthy and fit and always be prepared to fight. They have to skillfully handle their arms and take training for health and fitness.

Tatmadaw members and families need to read for the accumulation of knowledge to benefit their lives and to give guidelines to their families and society. They have to encourage the education of families in line with Tatmadaw's activities.

Tatmadaw members have to serve

relevant assignments and orders dutifully. Leaders need to create suitable environments for Tatmadaw members and families with a fair administration. Tatmadaw members and families have to live in unison and dutifully serve the duties assigned by the State and Tatmadaw.

He then asked about the needs of families. The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families through the commander, and the wife of the Senior General gave a cash award to the station maternal and child welfare association through the

commander's wife.

Later, the Senior General and party cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families.

Also present at the meeting were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Zwe Win Myint and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Commander of the South-West Command Brig-Gen Wai Lin and officials. — MNA/TTA

National Objectives of 77th Union Day 2024

- To protect the perpetuity of the Union by the entire ethnic people through the Union spirit
- To join hands in harmony with the government, Tatmadaw, and the entire people to ensure the State stability and rule of law
- To promote all-inclusive livestock breeding-based manufacturing industries and MSMEs, ensuring the socio-economic development of the entire ethnic people
- To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food security which are the two national visions
- To strive to emerge a modern and developing country, as well as a Union based on democratic and federal systems, by all ethnic nationals

Prawn exports bag US\$32 mln last year

FROM PAGE-1

Myanmar exports marine products to more than 40 countries, including Japan, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Australia, and nations in the Middle East and Europe. The department is working together with the Myanmar Fisheries Federation to boost exports.

Director U Nyunt Win of the department said, "Between 1 April and 31 December last year, our country exported 8,432 tonnes of prawn, earning \$32 million. About 7,731 tonnes were shipped via the sea lane, with the remaining quantity passing through border gates."

The department collaborates closely with exporters to fulfil the specific demands of each country. Additionally, they



Freshwater prawns from Myanmar.

prioritize ensuring that the exported products comply with stringent regulations, particularly those related to virus preven-

tion, such as COVID-19, to meet the standards set by countries with strict health measures like China. — ASH/NT

NATIONAL

It is necessary to efficiently manage rail transportation, which can transport a large volume of commodities and passengers at least cost in a short time, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

At a meeting with departmental officials and town elders yesterday morning, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted the essential roles of rail transport and aviation transport.

SAC Member Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo reported on the implementation of the project to upgrade Patheingyi Airport and the runway in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State.

On arrival at Patheingyi Airport, the Senior General said Patheingyi Airport was upgraded with the aim of developing inbound and outbound tourism services, adding an emphasis must be placed on the long-term existence and safety of improving the airport and runway. He continued that in addition to Patheingyi Airport, roads in the region must be improved.



SAC Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets departmental officials and town elders in Patheingyi yesterday.

Ayeyawady Region needs to manage rail transport for passengers and commodities efficiently



The Senior General looks into the upgrade of runway and airport in Patheingyi yesterday.

The Senior General also met regional-level departmental officials and town elders at the Ayeyawady Region government office hall.

The region chief minister and town elders reported on the operation of agriculture and livestock production with the State economic promotion fund, environmental conserva-

tion, supply of electricity, upgrading of transport, transport and tourism industries, and the need to upgrade two Bailey bridges on Patheingyi-Chaungtha and Patheingyi-Ngwehsaung roads, construction of an advanced cargo terminal at the entrance to Patheingyi and upgrading of Yangon-Patheingyi road. Union ministers dis-

cussed matters related to the report.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that upgrading Patheingyi Airport aims to admit aeroplanes landing from international airlines. The Senior General stressed the need to upgrade communication routes for the development of the tourism industry

in the region. Hence, he noted that if domestic manufacturing industries are encouraged, import volume can be reduced, and spending on foreign currency can be cut. Thus, he urged all to strive to succeed in manufacturing for the interests of the region and the country.

in the region.

He underscored that among various types of transport facilities, as rail transport can transport a large volume of commodities and passengers at least cost in a short time, it is necessary to deploy rail transport efficiently.

The Senior General urged all to achieve greater agriculture and livestock farming production, which are developing in Ayeyawady Region.

Local farmers need to apply modern agricultural techniques to succeed in their farms. He pledged to provide necessary assistance for businesspersons; they have actually to work hard on farming tasks.

In the Ayeyawady Region, he stressed the need to encourage fish farming tasks in addition to breeding poultry, pigs, goats, and cattle to meet the country's demand for meat and fish.

The Senior General highlighted that because local manufacturing industries were not encouraged, products were imported, causing trade defi-

ciency. He highlighted that the Ayeyawady Region can successfully manufacture industrial products based on wood, bamboo and rattan. He gave guidance that, conversely, it is necessary to conduct reforestation to extract forest products.

He disclosed that the government assigns health staff for the region as much as possible. Only when individuals are healthy and fit will they work for socioeconomic development measures.

Also present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Mahn Nyein Maung and Dr Ba Shwe, Union ministers, the chief minister of Ayeyawady Region and the commander of South-West Command and officials.

The Senior General viewed round transport facilities, including bridges in Patheingyi Township, urban development, Ayeyawady International Industrial Port and industrial zones. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

SAC member, MoCRD UM visit cooperative accounting school in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region



State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung and Union Minister U Hla Moe meet students from the Cooperative Bookkeeping and Accounting Training School in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

STATE Administration Council member Mahn Nyein Maung and Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe convened a meeting with regional, district, and township-level staff at the Cooperative Bookkeeping and Accounting Training School in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

In his address, the Union minister stressed the impor-

tance of timely procurement of agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, and reiterated support for the One Village One Product (OVOP) mission to advance micro, small, and medium enterprises. He also highlighted the commitment to the welfare of civil servants. Following this, the minister addressed the requirements outlined by the staff.

Subsequently, the principal provided a briefing on the school's needs. The Union minister assured the students that those who completed the two-year training course would have the opportunity to pursue further education at cooperative colleges and universities. Additionally, he promised necessary assistance for those seeking employment. — MNA/NT

NSP Dept needs deputy staff officer positions

THE Department of National Solidarity and Peacemaking is recruiting for vacant deputy staff officer positions.

A total of five persons will be appointed for the position of deputy staff officer. Preference will be given to those with degrees in English, Computer Science, International Relations and Economics.

Similarly, about five persons will be appointed for

the position of lower division clerk, and they need to be graduates from any university.

Applicants must be 18 years of age on 17 January and must not exceed 27 years of age. If they meet the requirements, they can apply for both positions.

In addition, applications should be downloaded from the NSPNC website page (www.nspnc.gov.mm) and

sent to the Director General of the Department of National Solidarity and Peacemaking at Bala Theikdhi Ward, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw by 8 February.

The written exam for these positions will be held on 20 February, and the successful candidates will be announced on the NSPNC website page. Those who passed the exam will be interviewed on 22 February. — TWA/KZL

Counter-argument to false information

Malicious Khit Thit and DVB media intentionally spread fake news

THE Khit Thit and DVB media outlets are intentionally disseminating false information, claiming that the Tatmadaw launched artillery attacks on Painpyit village in Mogok Township, Mandalay Region, resulting in the death of two civilians, including a six-year-old child, as reported by TNLA insurgents.

Contrary to these unfounded claims, the Tatmadaw has not engaged in artillery shelling at Painpyit village. The malicious media outlets are spreading fake information to instil fear amongst the people and damage

the Tatmadaw's reputation, as stated by an officer from the local security forces. — MNA/TKO



Screenshot of misinformation.

Malicious media spreads falsehoods: Allegations of Tatmadaw air bombardment debunked

THE malicious media outlets are orchestrating the spread of fake news on social media platforms, alleging that Tatmadaw's air bombardment resulted in the destruction of over three hundred shops at Myoma Market in Mongmeik on 19 January.

The actual incident unfolded when KIA insurgents and PDF terrorists initiated attacks on the security forces camps responsible for maintaining local security and stability in Mongmeik. They deployed heavy weapons and indiscriminately fired, causing explosions at Myoma Market around 7 pm on 19 January.

These malicious media outlets are attempting to obscure the actions of the terrorists by

intentionally disseminating misinformation on social media platforms and misguiding the public regarding the Tatmadaw. — MNA/TKO



Screenshot of misinformation.

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NATIONAL



The exhibitions of the previous Union Day celebrations.

People's Square in Yangon prepares for 77th Union Day celebrations

PEOPLE'S Square in Yangon Region's Dagon Township will host exhibitions to commemorate the 77th Union Day from 10 to 12 February, as announced by the Yangon Region government.

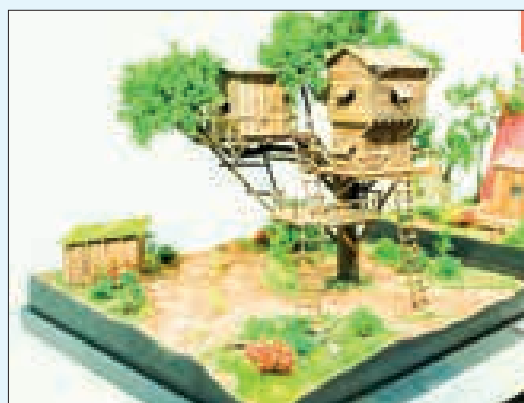
During the event days, the exhibition and market fair will feature booths from various ministries, regions, and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council. Booths will also showcase traditional ethnic culture, clothing, utensils, and foods.

An official from the Yangon Region government stated, "There will also be stalls displaying and selling products from 29 industrial zones in Yangon region, and shops exhibiting and selling MSME products in the region."

Additionally, on Union Day, ethnic dances and performances by modern music groups will entertain nightly from 6 pm to 10 pm, and fireworks will illuminate the night sky.

The 77th Union Day commemoration exhibition will include stalls selling various goods such as medicine, food, cosmetics, consumer goods, electronics, and kitchen appliances from 29 industrial zones in Yangon Region. These items will be displayed and sold from 9 am to 5 pm. — ASH/TKO

Yangon exhibition showcases fusion of Diorama and Miniature Art



THE Diorama and Miniature Art Exhibition took place at The Moment Art Gallery in Kyauktada township, Yangon, on 19 January, as shared by Artist Soe San, who participated in the exhibition.

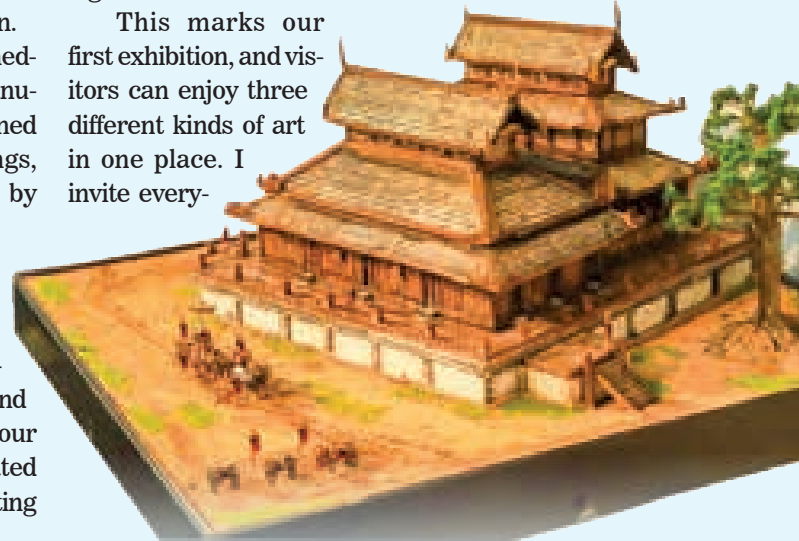
The exhibition was scheduled to run from 19 to 21 January and featured sixty combined artworks, including drawings, sculptures, and portraits by three artists.

Artist Soe San expressed, "This Diorama and Miniature Art display is a unique showcase that combines drawings, sculptures, and portraits, which is rare in our country. I meticulously created my Diorama models, dedicating

three months to each.

Sourcing raw materials for these artworks was challenging; we had to order some from foreign countries.

This marks our first exhibition, and visitors can enjoy three different kinds of art in one place. I invite every-



Diorama & Miniature Art Exhibition

Date: 19-1-2024 to 21-1-2024
Time: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Add: The Moment Art Gallery
No. 181/183, 3rd floor, 34th Street,
(UPPER) Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

Some of the handicrafts seen at the Diorama & Miniature Art Exhibition.

one to come and appreciate our artworks at the exhibition".

The art creations of artists Soe San, Aung Myo Oo, and Zin Linn are displayed at the exhibition. — ASH/TRKM

Myanmar's Consul-General attends Myanmar Cultural Exchange Event at Guangxi Minzu University

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Consul-General of Myanmar in Nanning attended the Myanmar Cultural Exchange Event held at Guangxi Minzu University in Nanning, China, on 17 January.

The Consul-General of Myanmar in Nanning U Kyaw Soe Thein attended the event, organized by Guangxi Minzu University's Myanmar Language Department for first- and second-year students majoring in Myanmar at the university, and discussed Myanmar cultural topics.

Party Committee Deputy Secretary Ms Wei Xuefang and the Consul-General of Myanmar

gave their opening remarks at the event. Daw Wati Thwin, a visiting professor from the Department of Myanmar Language of the university, presented Myanmar language books translated by the department to the Consul-General. Head of the International Relations Department Mr Feng Guanghuo, deputy head of the Department Mr Zhang Yuzhen, Southeast Asian Language and Culture College Party Secretary Mr He Bo and 30 students also attended the event.

The Consul-General of Myanmar also presented Thar Kaung Taman magazine and other books, miniature replicas of



Attendees of the Myanmar Cultural Exchange Event took a commemorative photo.

Myanmar musical instruments such as harps and xylophones, and videos on Myanmar tourism promotion to the department. He

also presented topics on Myanmar culture with slides before answering the questions raised by the students. Myanmar Con-

sulate-General Nanning served the attendees with Myanmar traditional foods of Mohinga and sticky oil-rice. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Pigeon pea price on upward trend

THE price of pigeon peas continued an upward trajectory in the domestic market. The price jumped to K3.655 million per tonne on 20 January 2024 from K3.57 million on 19 January and K3.496 million per tonne on 18 January. The pulse prices stood at K3.008 million per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality) and K3.298 million per tonne of black gram (Special Quality) on 20 January. Meanwhile, the FOB price rose to US\$1,040-1,060 per tonne of

black gram (FAQ) on 20 January 2024 from \$960-980 per tonne at the end of December 2023. The pigeon pea price hit a record high of K4.15 million per tonne on 8 September 2023. The price surged from K1.815 million per tonne in the year's corresponding period. The figure reflected a sharp increase of K1.755 million per tonne. — TWA/ KK

A handful of pigeon peas is shown for quality.



New monsoon paddy price climbs in January

FARMERS from delta regions said the actual market price of monsoon paddy produced in 2023 is higher than the reference price released by the institution concerned. The paddy-related non-governmental organization issued the reference prices on 9 September 2023, with K1.3-K1.5 million per 100 baskets of monsoon paddy, K1.6 to K1.8 million for Ayeyawady Pawsan paddy, Ayeya Padaytha and Ayeyamin, K1.8 to K2 million for Shwebo Pawsan paddy.

The floor price for summer paddy issued by the leading body protecting farmers' rights was K750,000 per 100 baskets (a basket equals 46 pounds). Yet, the market value was way higher than that price. The paddy fetches K1.8 mill per 100 baskets of low-grade paddy (Nan-



A farmer is seen showing paddy quality from his farm.

ka), K2.5 million for Pawkywe and K2.8-K3 million for Pawsan paddy in mid-January 2024, U Soe Tint, a farmer who owns 20 acres of land in Bogale Township told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Following the surge in rice prices, reasonable rice prices for January were higher than that of December. Subsequently, paddy prices increased in

January 2024. At present, except for the monsoon paddy farmers who handle a large number of acres, there is a low stock in farmers' hands. Those who keep the paddy stocks in their hands expect a high price. Paddy and rice prices will likely go up in H1 2024. Consumers call for law enforcement on those manipulators who raised the prices too high. — TWA/KK

Extended term for COVID loans granted when used as planned

ACCORDING to the meeting 1/2024 of the Working Committee addressing the impact of COVID-19 on the national economy, the loan term will be extended by one year if the COVID-19 loans are utilized as planned.

If it is confirmed that the government loan is used effectively for the intended purpose, the loan period will be extended

by one year from when the loan term expires.

The committee also discussed the status of the conditions of correctness in the repayment of principal and interest, including the ability to extend the term of the loan, loan repayment conditions of entrepreneurs who have completed three years of the loan term, and repayment of loans

lent by the State's fund.

The meeting also discussed the principal recovery process conducted by region and state inspection and supervision groups. A total of 879 businesses, including film and media sectors, paid the COVID-19 loan on the due date. The COVID loans have been provided to entrepreneurs at a low-interest rate since the 2019-2020 financial year, so some business sectors cannot repay the loans even after the specified period. — TWA/MKKS

News in Brief

Producers invited to Lancang-Mekong joint film project

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization has invited Myanmar film producers to participate in "The Great Oriental River", a joint film project primarily supported by China. Each film produced under this initiative will depict a 20-minute story representing one of the Lancang-Mekong region countries, including Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The cost of filming and production for each 20-minute segment will be determined and supported. While the storyline is open to creativity, it must incorporate a specific theme and scenes portraying friendship with China.

Consult newspapers & websites for accurate news

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn urged the public to read newspapers and websites published by the Ministry of Information to acquire authentic news. He highlighted the prevalence of fake news and misinformation on certain media platforms, particularly Facebook pages, aimed at misleading the public and undermining peace and stability in the country. This call was made during a discussion on State-building and the role of the media, held at the convocation hall of the Yezin Agricultural University in Nay Pyi Taw.

Six out of 18 solar power projects already signed

THE Ministry of Electricity has successfully signed contracts for six of the 18 proposed solar power projects. These projects aim to enhance electricity production and distribution by incorporating LNG and solar power in specific regions and states.

Action against unauthorized farmland construction

DURING a coordination meeting on 19 January, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Min Naung, emphasized that action will be taken against unauthorized construction on agricultural land, which violates existing agricultural land laws.

Registration required for retail rice stores exceeding 50 tonnes

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) announced on 12 January that retail rice stores, shopping centres, rice shops, and supermarkets storing more than 50 tonnes or 5,000 baskets of rice must register with Myanmar Rice Online-MyRO.

Normal border trade in Shan (North), and Myawady

THE transport of goods from Shan State (East) and Shan State (South) to Thailand and China remains unaffected, ensuring regular border trade in Shan (North), and Myawady. However, accessibility to the Myanmar-China border trade route in Shan State (North) and the Myanmar-Thailand border trade in Myawady is still pending. — Htun Htun/MKKS

Corn price dips as demand cools down

WITH domestic and foreign demand slowing down, the corn prices declined to K1,180 per viss on 19 January from K1,200 on 13 January.

Myanmar exports corn to China and Thailand through the border. Also, it delivers it to China, India, Viet Nam, and the Philippines by sea at the present time, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Thailand nodded corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

China has been purchasing Myanmar's corn through



A thriving corn plantation. Myanmar exports corn to China and Thailand through the border.

cross-border trade under the opium substitution programme. Legitimate

corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced

at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been

permitted for corn exports.

Myanmar shipped 934,883 tonnes of corn worldwide as of 29 December in the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, bagging US\$279.042 million, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar exported more than 2 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2022 corn season. Most of them were sent to Thailand, and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons- winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM

Iran Beauty & Clean 2024 attracts Myanmar businesspersons

IRAN Beauty & Clean 2024: the 31st Exhibition of Detergent, Cosmetics, Hygienic, Cellulose Products and Related Machinery that will take place in Tehran, the capital of Iran, from 17 to 20 April, invites Myanmar businesspersons with common interest to feature their products, services, technologies and business ideas, according to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The exhibition will cover accommodation for a three-night stay and domestic travel costs to those government officials and businesspersons who submit the list through the Embassy of Iran. For expo information, please visit spn-co.net/en.

Those enthusiastic can contact the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization by phone at 067 408622-23 by the end of January or via email at event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/EM

Sugar price on upward movement

THE high price of sugar persists because of the lack of imports and low stocks in the market.

Additionally, the upward spiral of the global sugar price is another contributing factor to the price rise. The sugar fetched US\$590 per tonne in early January, and the price jumped to \$630 per tonne. The local sugar price stands at K3,930 per viss at present.

The sugarcane harvest season arrives. The sugar mills notified sugarcane growers that they raised the price of sugarcane to K150,000 per tonne for the 2023-2024 sugarcane season.

The company set the sugarcane floor price at K90,000-K100,000 per tonne last season. Sugarcane and sugar traders emphasized that the rise in the offering price is aimed at covering the high input cost of the growers amid the increase in sugar prices.

Additionally, sugar mills encouraged the growers to ramp up per-acre yield and expand the cultivation acres.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar had



The photo depicts two types of sugar that are sold in the market.

earlier sent sugar to China and Vietnam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is delivered to Viet Nam only, Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Association stated.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in

the western and eastern Bago, Yangon, and Mandalay regions.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/EM

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OPINION

Address waste issue: A call for environmental responsibility

THE global accumulation of waste continues to surge at an alarming rate, posing a significant threat to our planet's health. However, this waste is not merely a problem; it holds potential as a valuable resource for reuse, recycling, and reproduction, playing a crucial role in reducing environmental pollution and bolstering conservation efforts.

Scientists advocate for repurposing waste into new raw materials, emphasizing the potential to save energy, money, and natural resources. By embracing waste reuse, we can significantly diminish air pollution stemming from fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas. Despite a staggering annual disposal of over two billion tonnes of waste by the global population, a disconcerting 33 per cent is not safely discarded, leading to hazardous waste disposal and subsequent soil and air pollution.

That is why Myanmar, like many other nations, must learn from the dangers of improper waste disposal, aligning its efforts with national strategic plans to swiftly create environments free from pollution's perils. It is imperative for everyone to prioritize the health of our planet and take collective action to ensure a sustainable and pollution-free future.

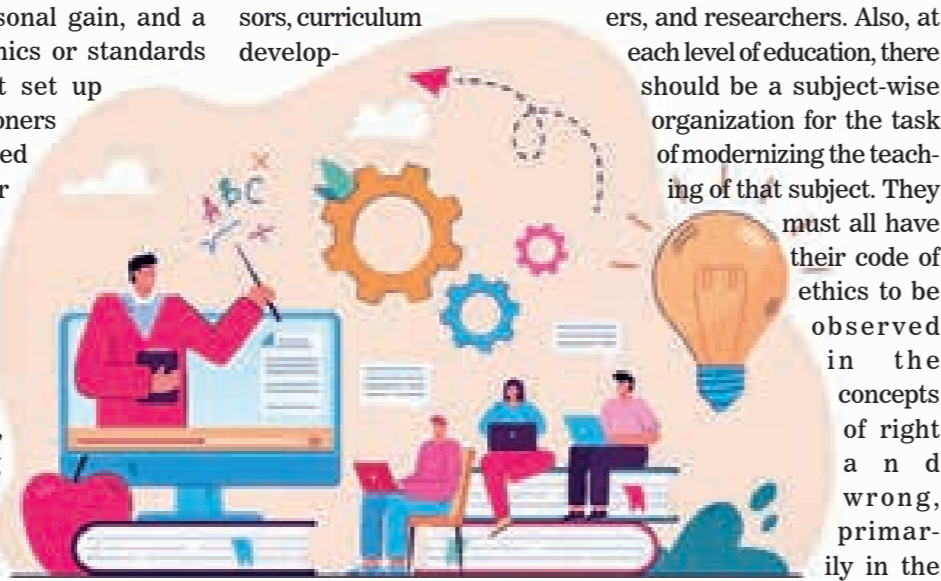
Improper waste management contributes to water pollution in oceans and seas, resulting in blocked drains, flooding, communicable diseases, social issues, respiratory problems due to waste incineration, and harm to animals ingesting waste inadvertently. Furthermore, emissions from landfill waste contribute to air pollution, releasing gases such as carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

With many nations heavily reliant on fossil fuels, the global atmosphere is saturated with carbon and some other gases and dioxide, contributing to the emission of 1,700 tonnes of greenhouse gases per second. Global countries must urgently seek alternative solutions to fossil fuels to escape the clutches of air, water, and soil pollution and different situations based on unsystematic waste disposal.

Pollution, mainly from fossil fuel particles, exacerbates climate change and global warming, hindering progress due to the business-oriented activities of certain developed nations. Millions of lives are claimed annually due to air pollution, costing the global economy a staggering \$8 billion daily.

That is why Myanmar, like many other nations, must learn from the dangers of improper waste disposal, aligning its efforts with national strategic plans to swiftly create environments free from pollution's perils. It is imperative for everyone to prioritize the health of our planet and take collective action to ensure a sustainable and pollution-free future.

IT is an undeniable fact that there are found professional ethics in any job. A profession has three characteristics: extended training before admission to practice, a strong organization which is recognized as being able to speak for itself as a whole or which emphasizes ideals of service above personal gain, and a code of ethics or standards of conduct set up by practitioners and enforced by their representatives. Hence, teachers must be well-trained, including administrators, supervisors, curriculum developers, and researchers. Also, at each level of education, there should be a subject-wise organization for the task of modernizing the teaching of that subject. They must all have their code of ethics to be observed in the concepts of right and wrong, primarily in the



The foundation of professional ethics in education may encompass five precepts, outlining the duties and responsibilities of teachers. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIKBEST**

Professional Ethics Every Teacher Should Have Known

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

ers, and researchers. Also, at each level of education, there should be a subject-wise organization for the task of modernizing the teaching of that subject. They must all have their code of ethics to be observed in the concepts of right and wrong, primarily in the

moral rather than the legal sense. After all, educators need to be thoroughly familiar with their codes of ethics. Professional ethics will likely comprise five precepts of education, duties and responsibilities of the teacher.

By the first precept, the absolute obligation of the teaching profession is to guide students in pursuit of knowledge or skills to prepare them in line with the needs of society and help them become happy, useful, self-supporting citizens now that the ultimate strength of a nation lies in the social responsibility, economic competence and moral strength

of its citizens. In fulfilling this precept, the teacher shall deal justly and impartially with students regardless of their physical, mental, emotional, political, economic, social, racial, or religious characteristics; encourage students to work for high goals in the development of their physical, intellectual, creative, and spiritual endowments; aid students to develop an understanding and appreciation not only of the opportunities and benefits from their freedom but also of their obligation to it; and accept no remuneration for tutoring except in accordance with approved policies of the

government.

By the second precept, the members of the teaching profession share with parents the task of shaping each student's purposes and acting towards socially acceptable ends, such that the effectiveness of many teaching methods depends upon cooperative relationships with the home. In fulfilling this precept, the teacher shall respect the basic responsibilities of parents for their children; seek to establish friendly relationships with the home; help to improve students' confidence in their own homes and avoid disparaging remarks which might undermine that confidence; provide parents with the information that should serve the best interest of their children and be discreet with the information received from the parents; and keep parents informed about the progress of their children as interpreted in terms of school purposes.

By the third precept, the teaching profession occupies a position of public trust involving not only the individual teacher's personal conduct but also the interaction between the school and the community because education is most effective when these relationships operate in a friendly, cooperative and constructive manner. In fulfilling this precept, the teacher shall adhere to any reasonable pattern of behaviour accepted by the community for a professional person; perform civic duties and participate in community activities with due consideration to the obligation to his students, family and himself; discuss controversial issues from an objective point of view; recognize that schools belong to the working people, encourage lay participation in school purposes, and strive to keep the public informed of the educational programme which is being provided;

SEE PAGE-12

ARTICLE BOOKRACK



A True-Blue Friend

By Chit Ko Pe

To shield from the summer heat, high a leafy twig assists with its shade.

To blow away the rain-water wet a leafy twig is put on the head.

To resist the winter coldness with fire-warmth a leafy twig is dried and burnt.

Like a twig that sets a noble instance, altruism shall be instilled in us.

A person with such empathy is worth calling a true-blue friend on this earth!



Book Title - Bagyiyayyar Keiksa
Writer - Yangon Ba Swe
Publishing House - Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date - January 2024 (1st Edition)
Price - K8,000

Bagyiyayyar Keiksa

ALTHOUGH thousands upon thousands of books have been published in Myanmar literary world, books dealing with the art of painting are rarely published. As books on painting do not sell well, the publishers would naturally not be willing to print such books. Nonetheless, Seikku Cho Cho is an exception. This publisher has already published many books on the art of painting. Additionally, they sell their books at a lower price when compared to the prices fixed by other publishing houses. This year again, Seikku Cho Cho published a book on painting in January under the

title Bagyiyayyar Keiksa. The writer of this book is Yangon Ba Swe, who is widely known across Myanmar. He is well known not only in literature but also in the arts, theatre and film industry. Furthermore, he is famous among the politicians. He is engaged in politics having close contact with army officials. Saya Yangon Ba Swe was the publisher of Dee Doke Newspapers.

Besides, he was the chairman of the Myanmar Ngan Writers' Association. As a writer, he has contributed articles to Kay Thi Pan, Kawza Thit, Journal Bya, Ngwe Taryee,

Sanay Nagani, Sar Pan Chi, Son Htauk, Nagani, Nawaday, Pay Phoo Hlwar, Bagyi, Meedoke, Myawady, Yokeshin Chit Thu, Shwe Wut Hmon, Shumawa, Wuthmon, Thutaythi, Thek Saunt and Thway Thauk among other things.

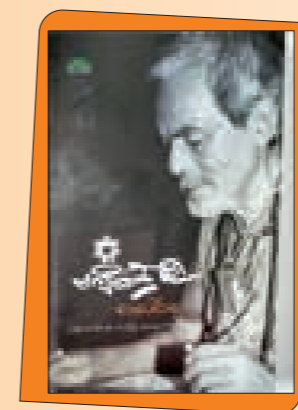
This book under review is a collection of articles published in Yoke Shin Chit Thu Magazine between 1971 and 1972. These articles are all concerned with the art of painting. There are eight articles in toto: Thayoke Hman Bagyi; Khit Haung Ahmyin Htai Thoe Khit Thit Ahmyin Ga Toe Wun Ya Thaw Ahkhar; Ah-shaikh Bagyi Pya

Bwe Gyi; Bagyi Yayyar Keiksa; Pyadaik Yangon Khan Hnit Bagyi Kyar Pyatthana; Bamar BImpression Bagyi Thit. agyi Dwe Bai Lo Yay Gya Ma Lai; Ahnauktai Impression Bagyi Sanit; and Neo-impression Khaw Khit Thit Bagyi Sanit.

Concerning Thayoke Hman Bagyi article, he deals with the movement of painting system: Hsan Thit Lar Thaw San Htaik Bagyi Sanit [Neo-classicism]; Dazar Hsin Yay Swe Thaw Ahlinkar Bagyi Sanit [Romanticism]; Ahsit Ah-hman Bagyi Sanit [Realism]; Yoke Chee Ahmyin Yay Bagyi Sanit (Impressionism); and Hnhsai Yarzu Khit Thit Bagyi [Twentieth-Century Modern Painting].

He provided example paintings for the five categories mentioned above: the Mona Lisa painting drawn by artist Leonardo for Neo-classicism; a painting by artist William Hugart, which is quite popular in England for Romanticism; the painting called Pearl and the Woman for Realism, etc.

In the article "Ah Hsai Khan Bagyi Pyapwe," the writer mentioned the painting Boulevard des Capucines and the Impression Sunrise painting.



Book Title - Bagyi Aung Soe Sar Baung Zu (Published in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary Birthday of Bagyi Aung Soe)
Writer - Bagyi Aung Soe
Publishing House - Text River
Publication Date - December 2023 [1st Edition]
Price - K9,000

Bagyi Aung Soe Sar Baung Zu

Published in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary Birthday of Bagyi Aung Soe

WITH the advancement of technology, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged. Thanks to this new technology called AI, people no longer need to produce short stories, novels, articles, poems, movie scripts, songs, paintings, designs, etc., to everybody's surprise. Nonetheless, what is more surprising is the prediction made decades ago by Saya Bagyi Aung Soe, who said that people will be able to draw paintings with the aid of technology someday. You may not believe it, but we have proof of this prediction. One of his disciples has

a handwritten letter that mentions this prediction. In this letter, he said, "When you become the artist, your ability to draw a painting is not enough. At that time, the people produced the paintings with technology. The robots will draw the paintings. So, you need to learn not only the art of drawing and painting but also the advanced science and technology. That's why I have sent you to school. Try hard, my boys." Sayagi Bagyi Aung Soe is writing the book under review. This book is published to commemorate the 100th An-

niversary Birthday of Sayagi Bagyi Aung Soe, who would have turned 100 on 9th December of 2023 if he were alive now. This book includes 40 Sayagi Bagyi Aung Soe articles published in newspapers, journals, and magazines.

In the article "Myanmar Bagyi", Sayagi emphasizes the importance of maintaining the Myanmar painting style irrespective of the painting category. He also writes that localization of foreign culture cannot be said to be the act of true patriots.

In the article titled "World

famous poet laureate Dr Rabindranath Tagore, a Bengali poet," He writes about the paintings drawn by Tagore. He believes the paintings are drawn from a mind bent more on philosophical thoughts than the artist's ideas. As a matter of fact, his paintings are not of a high standard of art because Tagore just made sketches in all directions. From the point of view of art, his paintings are of no artistic value. Still, those who have love and admiration for Dr Rabindranath Tagore can accept his paintings from a different perspective, i.e. from the aspect of philosophy, not using the yardstick of art. Nevertheless, his paintings are dramatically interesting because of his different tastes.

At this juncture, it is worth mentioning cleverness in hand versus cleverness in mind. Learning how to draw a painting is not difficult because it is a matter of practice. The more you practice, the better painting you can draw. You will definitely have a clever hand if you practice hard. But your paintings may not attract people if you do not have an innovative mind, i.e. if you have no talent for art.

NATIONAL Entertainment

Kyi Thar (Pwe Kyite Khin)

ACTOR and singer Kyi Thar (Pwe Kyite Khin), son of the great musician Sayagyi Saung (harp) U Ba Than, talked about the release of "morning relaxing songs" of the late singer Daw Mar Mar Aye. He recorded four tracks at May studio with the music performance of Saing Sein Bo Tint and Sandaya Htate Tin Win. He also mentioned the efforts of Daw Mar Mar Aye regarding her passion for music. The "Morning Relaxing Songs" album grabbed better sales than Pwe Kyite Khin and Gandawin Chitthumyar albums.



"York Kyar Kaung Ataung Hnasal" movie to be screened in Jan

THE movie "York Kyar Kaung Ataung Hnasal" of Bhone Yaung Hlan Production will be screened nationwide in January, according to the production.

The movie reflects social living styles and the loving-kindness of people from the Zat (theatrical) field, including new faces.

"We filmed the scene of Ko Gyi Kyaw dance at Bo Bo Gyi Nat shrine while celebrating Nat Pwe. At that time, the actor was likely to fall into a trance and embody the character of Ko Gyi Kyaw Nat. The movements were also alive. According to our tradition, if the event proceeds well, the film will gain success. All the processes proceed well since the start of the movie. All the people from production, acting, director and mechanic members tried hard in it. I hope it will succeed due to the support of supernatural



Artistes who performed in the film "York Kyar Kaung Ataung Hnasal".

Thazin Htoo Myint

COLLEAGUES of comedian (aka) artiste Khin Hlaing want him to win an Academy Award. His daughter, Thazin Htoo Myint, expressed her willingness for her father to grab the Academy Award as his milestone. Moreover, Khin Hlaing also talked about the academy that he could not expect, the strange fact of presenting academy awards, especially for drama, and the need to set specific rules to give academy awards to outstanding artistes regardless of their roles.



Makeup
Lone Lone, ToneTone
Dress
Designer Nolan
N-Your Designer
Photo
Ko Nhoung
(Bliss Studio Rental)

Celebrity Brief

well-being and fans," producer Ko Aung Kyaw Zaw (Ko Jet) said.

Academy Zaw Myint Oo scripted the novel of writer Tin Than Oo and directed by director Shu Mawa Maung Tin Nyein. The new artistes Min Set, Honey, Thet Myat Noe, Nan Pyo Wathan Oo, Zu Zu Htet Myat and other supporting characters participate in it. — ASH/KTZH

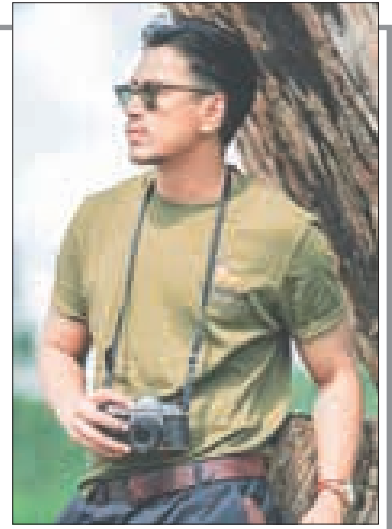


May Khalar

THE great singer urged the media to make interviews that convey positive effects to the people.

Aung Ye Lin

WITH 20 years of experience in the film industry, the actor is now leading the nominations to win an Academy Award for 2023. "The Alphabet I Hate" film, in which he took the leading role, is shortlisted in the academy list. Director Nyunt Myanmar Nyi Nyi Aung directed it, and many well-known artistes joined him. The actor also won fashion awards with Yan Aung, Soe Myat Thuzar and Moe Hay Ko at previous academy events.



Aung Thu

MYANMAR football player Aung Thu and actress Poe Ei Ei Khant, who celebrated a wedding reception at Western Park RUBY in Yangon on 26 March 2019, will soon mark their fifth marriage anniversary. Player Aung Thu currently plays for Uthai Thani FC of the Thai league club and has lived happily with his family after the league's first season.

Paing Takhon

The actor strangely nominated an animal that should win an Academy Award. It is none other than the pet that starred in "The Lucky", screened in 2023, with him. There is no movie similar to "The Lucky" in the Myanmar movie industry, and the pet also tried for his role. — Htun Htun/KTZH



NATIONAL

Putao icy mountain visitors get time-optimized tour packages

FOR the convenience of the travellers to Putao, Kachin State, with its snow-capped mountains, tour packages are being arranged to suit their available time, said Ko Moe Min Thein (Putao), a tour operator for the trips, including snow-capped mountain climbing journeys. "We have to rely on airlines to visit Putao. Now, there is only one flight from Yangon on Saturday. The Yangon-Mandalay-Myitkina-Putao flight only runs once a week. There is another flight from Mandalay on Wednesday. As the visitors are mostly from

Yangon, there is a problem of flight availability, and the actual arrivals are not as many as expected despite the growing interest among travellers," he said. Therefore, they must organize icy mountain climbing trips just in time with the flight departure date for travellers' convenience. "We plan the trip based on the flight departure date. If the guests arrive on Saturday, they can climb from Putao on Sunday and return to Putao on Friday to catch the Saturday flight. If it is a day late, they will have to wait the whole week for the next Saturday



Adventurous travellers scaling the snow-capped peaks of Putao.

flight, which is inconvenient. So, we have to make tight schedules within a week," he said.

Despite many enquiries from people interested in Putao's icy mountain climbing trip, he added

that the number of actual visitors is moderate due to the flight difficulty. — MT/ZN

Yangon-Don Mueang flight for convenient MoU worker transport

YANGON-DON Mueang flight will be used to send MoU workers to Thailand for the convenience of the workers, according to the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF).

The director-level video conferencing meeting between Thailand and Myanmar on 3 January 2024 agreed to use Yangon and Don Mueang airports when they dispatch workers under the MoU.

"Yes, workers are going to be sent from Don Mueang airport. There are only two options for sending MoU workers: Myawady and Kawthoung routes. Myawady route has been blocked, so our workers are in trouble. Kawthoung route has been unblocked, but

roads can't be used, and air ticket fees cost from K150,000 to 450,000. That is why MOEAF suggested that the Ministry of Labour consider using Yangon-Don Mueang airport because it is still cheap. The two countries' officials discussed it, and both sides accepted," said an MOEAF official.

Yangon-Don Mueang flight is expected to begin sending workers in February, and all necessary arrangements are nearly complete.

Agencies can also send workers through commercial or charter flights. They don't need to report to the Thailand Aviation Authority if commercial flights send them. However, a written notice to the Thailand Aviation Authority and the Min-

istry of Transport and Communications via the Ministry of Labour is necessary if charter flights are used.

When workers arrive at Don Mueang airport, the Thailand immigration authority grants a two-year residence permit. The employer or employer's agent picks them up at Don Mueang airport, and they undergo medical checkups in their work areas. After the checkup, reporting to the employment department is necessary.

Certification of medical checkups and visa completion would be issued at respective working avenues, and work permits would be given when they complete training. — MT/ZS

Phoe Chit Thabin troupe introduces 3D hologram for stage performance

MYO Shwe Manthar Phoe Chit Zat Ahla Thabin troupe has planned to use 3D hologram technology for its stage performance of Myanmar's traditional dramatic art (theatrical art), and it is the first time for the theatrical industry, according to an official from the group.

Myanmar Zat Thabin or theatrical art has been developing its performance stage by stage, starting with Myay Wine Thabin (performance on the ground), and now it has taken the first step to using a 3D hologram.

"Now, we have tested hologram technology in installing 3D light bulbs for stage front lighting," said the official.

Using this technology and LED lighting, they will give a beautiful spectacle of the stage with 3D images.

"We will make the stage lighting with an LED that we have previously used and now added hologram," he said.

Phoe Chit Thabin has received nationwide support in Myanmar and is also planning to entertain audiences online and on stage. — Thit Taw/ZS



Rising demand and prices boost ginger growers

FARMERS have chosen to grow more ginger due to the rising demand and the excellent price, according to the ginger trade market. They said that with higher demand, the local price of ginger can go up. "The price of Myayni brand ginger is K 2,800, K 2,900 or K3,000 per viss. The demand

is high. We can't say about the price. It varies from year to year. We mainly grow ginger. We expect the price of ginger to rise in the next three or four months," said a ginger farmer from Aungban township. Farmers suffered losses when the ginger price was just around K 500 a viss in 2022 summer, but the price rose

again in early 2023, and more farmers opted to grow ginger. Myanmar exports ginger to China, Thailand, India, Bangladesh, Yemen, Indonesia, Pakistan, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates, according to the records from the Department of Trade, under the Ministry of Commerce. — Thit Taw/ZN

ARTICLE/ENVIRON: WORLD

Professional Ethics Every Teacher Should Have Known

FROM PAGE-9

respect the community where he is employed and be loyal to the school, the community and the nation; and work to improve education in the community and strengthen the moral, spiritual and intellectual life of the community.

By the fourth precept, the members of the teaching profession have inescapable obligations with respect to employment. In fulfilling this precept, the teacher shall conduct professional business through proper channels; refrain from discussing confidential and official information with unauthorized persons; apply for employment on the basis of competence only and avoid asking for a specific position known to be filled by another teacher; professionally seek employment, avoiding such practices as the indiscriminate distribution of applications; refuse to accept a position when the vacancy has been created through unprofessional activity or the application of unjust professional practices and procedures; give and expect due notice before a change of position is to be made; be fair in

all recommendations that are given concerning the work of other teachers; and engage in no gainful employment outside of his main duty in which the employment affects adversely his professional status or impairs his standing with students, associates and the community.

By the fifth precept, seeing that the teaching profession is distinguished from many other occupations by the uniqueness and quality of professional relationships among all teachers, community support and respect are influenced by teachers' standards and their attitudes towards teaching and other teachings. In fulfilling this precept, the teacher shall deal with other members of the profession in the same manner as he himself wishes to be treated; stand by other teachers who have acted on his behalf and at his request; speak constructively of other teachers but report honestly to a responsible person in matters involving the welfare of students, the education system and the profession; seek to make professional growth continuous with such procedures as study, research, conferences

and attendance at professional meetings; and make the teaching profession so attractive in ideals and practices that sincere and able young people will want to enter it.

To a teacher, there are still some other duties left towards the State, the education department, the school, the headmaster, the inspectors, students, fellow teachers, parents, local administrative authorities and other departments. The teacher must devote his time and creative power to the course of educational progress, be enthusiastic about correcting the defects according to the instruction, train his students to be able to appreciate the aesthetic value of literature, music, or art and use their leisure time profitably in educational, health and social affairs; try to improve instruction effectively by studying educational literature and be helpful in block teaching and research work; know intimately the parents who are capable of contributing to the development of the school; and give local administrative authorities and other departments as much help as he can as well as take from them

what is needed for the school.

What is more, a teacher's responsibilities concerning school plants, facilities, class management, instructional activities, examination, financial matters, school council, PTA (Parent-Teacher Association), and auxiliary services may be varied and many. The teacher is responsible for maintaining school plants and facilities and making the best use of school properties. Only when permission from the headmaster is obtained may the school compound, school building, and school furniture be used outside school hours. One attendance register is to be kept by every class teacher, being properly marked on the spot. It is best if the teacher attends his duty punctually and regularly, reporting the absentee list to the school office without fail. Smoking in the classroom or drunken attending is strictly prohibited. Regular checking is necessary for cleanliness, student welfare, and ordered classroom maintenance. The teacher has to make wider use of teaching aids produced through concerted efforts as well. He must be a member of

the subject committee to be fully acquainted with the syllabus. If he is given the assignment to serve as a substitute teacher, he ought to teach students efficiently. He should keep examination matters strictly confidential. As per financial matters, the teacher must adhere to them strictly. It is too unethical for a teacher to borrow money from parents or guardians. Finally, teachers in charge of educational organizations must actively participate in successfully performing the prescribed function.

The above-mentioned professional ethics are applicable as a guide for the teaching profession. Of course, composing a code of ethics is not quite an easy task. A code should cover all the essentials and also guide all phases of professional conduct. Educators must be the ethical ones who practice patience, courage, and sincerity and accept constructive criticism graciously. Obviously enough, every one of them ought to attempt to maintain high professional and ethical standards to make a more positive contribution to improving education in the school.

UN chief calls for urgent action on climate change and AI

Despite attention, Guterres highlights a lack of effective global strategies due to geopolitical divides, emphasizing the urgency of addressing record-breaking climate impacts.

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged leaders to tackle the existential threats posed by climate change, the unchecked development of artificial intelligence (AI) and international governance reforms.

"Despite climate change and AI garnering significant attention, we have no effective global strategy to deal with either, geopolitical divides are preventing us from coming together around global solutions" he said.

In a special address at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024, Guterres sounded the alarm that 2023 was the hottest year on record, with droughts, storms, fires and floods wreaking havoc on

countries and communities, and that the planet is heading for a scorching 3°C increase in global temperatures.

"Let me be very clear," he stressed, "the phase-out of fossil fuels is essential and inevitable. We must act now to ensure a just and equitable transition to renewable energy."

Guterres also went on to mention the Israel-Hamas crisis and reiterated his call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.

He said, "The world is standing by as civilians, mostly women and children, are killed, maimed, bombarded, forced from their homes and denied access to humanitarian aid."

— ANI



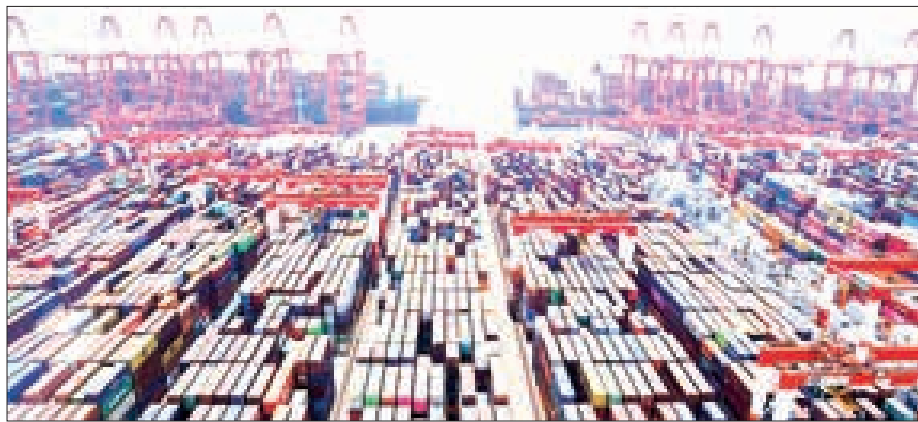
Guterres asserts the essential and inevitable need to phase out fossil fuels, urging immediate action for a just transition to renewable energy. **PHOTO: ANI**

China's Shanghai reports foreign trade growth in 2023

The city's exports rose by 1.6 per cent to 1.74 trillion yuan, while imports increased by 0.1 per cent to 2.47 trillion yuan.

SHANGHAI'S imports and exports climbed to 4.21 trillion yuan (about 591.57 billion US dollars) in 2023, up 0.7 per cent year on year, according to Shanghai Customs. Last year, Shanghai's exports rose 1.6 per cent year on year to 1.74 trillion yuan, and its imports increased 0.1 per cent to 2.47

trillion yuan, data shows. Shanghai's trade with the European Union amounted to 844.57 billion yuan, up 2.7 per cent year on year and accounting for 20.1 per cent of the city's total foreign trade volume during the period. In 2023, Shanghai exported 167.79 billion yuan of emerging products such as electric passenger cars, lithium-ion batteries and solar cells, a year-on-year increase of 42.2 per cent and accounting for 9.7 per cent of the city's total export value. — Xinhua



Trade with the European Union amounted to 844.57 billion yuan, contributing 20.1 per cent to the city's total foreign trade volume. PHOTO: XINHUA

BASF earnings disappoint in 2023

BASF, the German chemicals giant, reported lower-than-expected 2023 earnings on Friday, with a net profit of 225 million euros, significantly below analysts' forecasts of 2.25 billion euros.

GERMANY'S beleaguered chemicals giant BASF reported worse-than-expected 2023 earnings on Friday, as cost-cutting efforts failed to compensate for a slump in sales.

The Ludwigshafen-based group booked a net profit of 225 million euros (\$245 million) last year, according to preliminary figures, well below analyst forecasts of 2.25 billion euros.

Sales came in at 68.9 billion euros, a more than 20-per-cent drop on the year before and short of the group's targeted range of 73 to 76 billion euros.

BASF — which supplies chemicals for the automobile, agriculture and construction sectors

— said the disappointing performance was “due to sales-related lower margins, which could not be offset by the achieved fixed cost reduction”.

Earnings were also hurt by impairments totalling 1.1 billion euros that mainly affected the surface technologies, agricultural solutions and materials segments, BASF added.

Like other companies in energy-intensive sectors, BASF has been hit hard by surging energy costs in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. An industrial slowdown in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, and weaker foreign demand have added to the group's woes. — AFP



File photo of a BASF plant in Germany. PHOTO: AFP

S&P 500 reaches new record as US stocks surge

WALL Street stocks rallied Friday, boosted by the tech sector, with the S&P 500 and Dow hitting fresh records.

The broad-based S&P 500 advanced 1.2 per cent to close at 4,839.81, surpassing its last all-time high set in 2022.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 1.1 per cent at 37,863.80, also reaching new

heights, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index surged 1.7 per cent to end at 15,310.97.

“The tech stocks are continuing to lead the market higher,” said Adam Sarhan of 50 Park Investments. “You have explosive action in SMCI, in Nvidia, in Broadcom, in semiconductors in general, and that remains bullish for the market,” he said. — AFP


GM China joint venture posts soaring NEV export in 2023

SAIC - GM - WULING (SGMW), a joint venture between SAIC Motor, General Motors and Liuzhou Wuling Motors, saw its exports of new energy vehicle (NEV) in 2023 exceed 24,000 units, up 165 per cent year on year.

SGMW, based in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, registered a total vehicle export of 211,500

units last year, up nine per cent year on year, said the company. During the period, the company raked in more than 10 billion yuan (about 1.4 billion US dollars) in export revenue, up five per cent year on year.

SGMW now produces several NEV models including the Hongguang MINI EV, the Baojun KiWi EV, and the Wuling Nano EV. — Xinhua



**Yangon Sailing Club
Annual General Meeting**

All members of Yangon Sailing Club are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held as follows:

Date : 28 January 2024 (Sunday)
Place : Yangon Sailing Club
Time : 10:30 hrs

**Hon. Secretary
Yangon Sailing Club**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2322S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2322S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-1-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:
M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (214N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (214N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-1-2024** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Shenzhou-16 taikonauts meet press after return from space

Commander Jing highlighted the diversity of their crew, with members from varied career backgrounds such as aircraft pilot, flight engineer, and payload specialist, adorned with four badges of honour from successful spaceflights.



Taikonauts from China's Shenzhou-16 crewed mission meet the press in Beijing, capital of China, 19 January 2024. **PHOTO: HAN HAIDAN/XINHUA**

THE three taikonauts from China's Shenzhou-16 crewed mission made their first public appearance in Beijing on Friday, 80 days subsequent to their return from space.

The Shenzhou-16 spaceship was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre on 30

May 2023, carrying three crew members: Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu, and Gui Haichao. They stayed in orbit for 154 days, during which they conducted one extravehicular activity and delivered the fourth live class from the Tiangong space station.

Wearing four badges of honour from his successful spaceflights on his chest, commander Jing said his crew, for the first time, comprised a diverse trio of taikonauts from different career backgrounds, including aircraft pilot, flight engineer, and payload specialist. — Xinhua

Japan PM Kishida vows to disband LDP faction amid funds scandal

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged Friday to disband the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's fourth-largest faction that he led until last month, in order to restore public trust amid a deepening political funds scandal.

In a sign of a possible larger impending shake-up of the party's system of factions, former LDP Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai, who heads the fifth-biggest intraparty force, said shortly afterwards at a press conference that he intends to dissolve his group and that the proposal was accepted by its members.

In the party's largest faction formerly led by the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, several junior members told Ryu Shionoya,



Ryu Shionoya (L) bows in apology at a news conference held at the headquarters of the Liberal Democratic Party on 19 January 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

who is the de facto head, that the group with nearly 100 members should be disbanded as soon as possible. The faction once led by Abe has played a crucial role

in decision-making processes within the party, including the selection of the party's leader, who typically becomes prime minister. — Kyodo

Marching contingent, band from France participate in Republic Day parade rehearsal

Preparations for the Republic Day parade in India saw the participation of a 95-member marching contingent and a 33-member band contingent from France at Vijay Chowk.

A 95-member marching contingent and a 33-member band contingent from France participated in the Republic Day parade rehearsal at Vijay Chowk on Saturday as preparations continue in full swing.

According to defence officials, French Air Force Rafale fighter jets and multirole tanker transport aircraft will participate in the Republic Day parade, where President of France Emmanuel Macron is the chief guest this year.

Some Indian personnel,

including Squadron Leader Sumita Yadav, who took part in France's Bastille Day parade this year with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the chief guest there, are also taking part in the Republic Day parade here.

French President Emmanuel Macron will be the chief guest on 26 January this year at the invitation of PM Modi. It will be the 6th occasion when a French leader will be the chief guest at Republic Day celebrations. — ANI



Rehearsals were underway at the national capital's Kartavya Path early in the morning on Friday for the 75th Republic Day parade. Armed forces contingents were seen marching to drumbeats during the dress rehearsals. **PHOTO: ANI**

TOP NEWS

Biden signs stopgap measure to extend government funding until March

US President Joe Biden on Friday signed a stopgap funding bill that will keep the government open into early March, avoiding a partial shutdown that would have taken effect in just a few hours.

The bill, which was approved by Congress on Thursday, buys lawmakers more time to finish the formal appropriations process for fiscal year 2024, which began on 1 October 2023.

The stopgap bill cleared the Senate by a tally of 77 to 18. The House passed the measure by a vote of 314-108 amid opposition from hard-line House Republicans, who had attempted to cut federal spending and add border security provisions in the "clean" stopgap measure. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Democrats are not willing to pass a border security bill before passing funding for Ukraine. "We have to do both together," he said.

Some conservative Republicans, however, don't want to provide further aid for the war-torn country. Texas Congressman Keith Self said his constituents have made it clear that "our own border must be secured first before even talking about further funding to Ukraine." — Xinhua

SPORTS

AFC Asian Cup: Iraq upsets Japan, Indonesia revives hope

IRAQ beat the tournament favorite Japan 2-1 on Friday to book their place in the last 16 at the AFC Asian Cup.

In front of the thunderous cheering crowds at the Education City Stadium, Aymen Hussein's two first-half goals stunned the four-time champions and propelled Iraq to top

Group D after two rounds with six points.

Asnawi Mangkualam's first half penalty helped Indonesia edge Viet Nam 1-0 late on Friday.

Indonesia, level on three points with Japan ahead of their meeting on Wednesday, keeps hope alive to qualify for

the knockout stage.

Backed by a majority of 38,663 fans at the Education City stadium, Iraq, the 2007 champion of the continental football tournament, started the match stronger with intensity and pace. Japan was pressed back and took time to find their rhythm. — Xinhua



Team Iraq celebrate with supporters after winning the Group D match between Japan and Iraq at AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 in Doha, Qatar, 19 January 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA/JIANG HAN

Germany's Pietschmann wins first gold of Winter Youth Olympics in S Korea

GERMAN luger Antonia Pietschmann won the first gold medal of the 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games on Saturday in South Korea's eastern Gangwon province.

The 17-year-old finished her opening run with 47.985 seconds, leading the women's singles luge event at the Al-

pensia Sliding Center that also hosted the luge event at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in 2018.

Pietschmann went faster in the second run with 47.789 seconds, becoming the only athlete to cross the finish line under 48 seconds.

She claimed the gold with

an overall time of one minute and 35.774 seconds, making it to the 10th luge medal at the Winter Youth Olympics for Germany. Alexandra Oberstolz of Italy secured the silver with a total time of one minute and 36.326 seconds, and the bronze medal went to Marie Riedl of Austria. — Xinhua



Thway Thit Win Hlaing to take on Kyaw Swar Win in TGL-6 Lethwei Fight

MYANMAR champion Thway Thit Win Hlaing will fight against first class Lethwei fighter Kyaw Swar Win in The Great Lethwei (TGL) tournament as an international level Myanmar traditional Lethwei challenge. The Great Lethwei (TGL) tournament will be held at 3:30 pm on 28 January and will be broadcast live on Canal+ Sports 1 channel and Canal+ App.

The two of them met for the first time in November 2023, and they fought to a draw in five rounds.

Thway Thit Win Hlaing knocked out Shu Kalein Min in the first round of the TGL-5

Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Challenge, while Kyaw Swar Min beat Thai Lethwei fighter Fon Siri in the second round of the Independence Day Thai-Myanmar Lethwei Challenge Fight held on 4 January 2024.

Next, bouts of Sein Lonchaw vs Moe Htet Aung, Saw John versus Min Kyaw Za, Saw Ba Hein versus Asian Tiger, Saw Kedo versus Saw Than Soe, Nyo Hlaing Win versus Thura, Salei Htan Kwee Shein versus Thaing Kyaw and Kyat Yine versus Soe Lin Aung will continue during the TGL-6 Lethwei Tournament. — Bala Soe/KZL

4th Winter Youth Olympic Games open in S Korea



Lee Jeong-min of South Korea lights the cauldron during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Gangwon Winter Youth Olympic Games in Gangneung, South Korea, 19 January 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI MING

THE fourth Winter Youth Olympic Games officially opened on Friday night with a grand opening ceremony in South Korea's eastern Gangwon Province. The opening ceremony was held concurrently in the Gangneung Oval and the PyeongChang Dome under the theme of "The Universe." The theme symbolized the infinite possibility of youth by describing an imaginative journey of Woori, the ceremony's heroine and a high school girl growing up in the province, to discover a forgotten dream and create her own universe. Woori in Korean can be translated into "being together", representing those who have turned their dream into reality.

Athletes paraded into the venue in alphabetical order of their national or regional names in the Korean language, with China's national flag carried by ice hockey player Zhang Jingyue. It marked the first time that China had formed a delegation to take part in an international multi-sport winter event since the Beijing Winter Olympics. "You are following in the footsteps of sporting icons who made Olympic history right here at the Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang 2018," International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach said at the ceremony. — Xinhua

Intl tourism to reach pre-pandemic levels in 2024: UNWTO

INTERNATIONAL tourism numbers are set to recover to pre-pandemic levels in 2024, according to data published by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on Friday.

The first UNWTO World Tourism Barometer of the year shows there were an estimated 1.3 billion international travellers in 2023, representing 88 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.

The report explains that a “stronger recovery of Asian markets” and a corresponding rise in the number of airline connections are “expected to underpin a full recovery by the end of 2024”.

“The latest UNWTO data underscores tourism’s resilience and rapid recovery, with pre-pandemic numbers expected by the end of 2024,” said UNWTO Secretary General Zurab Pololikashvili.

“The rebound is already having a significant impact on economies, jobs, growth and opportunities for communities everywhere. These numbers also recall the critical task of progressing sustainability and inclusion in tourism development,” he said.

The Madrid-based organization explained that “Chinese outbound and inbound tourism is expected to accelerate in 2024, due to visa facilitation and improved air capacity.” — Xinhua

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This photo taken on 10 December 2023 shows people walking on a street in Zermatt, Switzerland. **PHOTO: LIAN YI/XINHUA**



Julia Evelyn Morley CBE with Current Miss World Karolina Bielawska of Poland. **PHOTO: X**

India to host Miss World pageant after 28 years

Miss World, chaired by Julia Morley, announced India as the host for its 71st pageant, highlighting it as a celebration of beauty, diversity, and empowerment, with global streaming and telecast.

INDIA is set to host the 71st Miss World pageant after a gap of 28 years, according to the organizers of the event, which will be streamed and telecast worldwide.

The official page of Miss World took to X and wrote, “Chairman of Miss World, Julia Morley CBE stated, “Excitement fills the air as we proudly announce India as the host country for Miss World. A celebration of beauty, diversity, and empowerment awaits.”

Chairman of Miss World, Julia Morley CBE stated “Excitement fills the air as we proudly announce India as the host country for Miss World. A celebration of beauty, diversity, and empowerment awaits.”

Reita Faria Powell became the first Indian woman to win the Miss World crown in the year 1966.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan brought home the Miss World crown in 1994 while Diana Hayden was crowned the title in 1997. Yukta Mookhey became India’s fourth Miss World in 1999 and Priyanka Chopra Jonas won the Miss World title in the year 2000. Manushi Chhillar was crowned Miss World crown in 2017. — ANI

Eiffel Tower topped pre-Covid visitor numbers in 2023

THE Eiffel Tower in Paris welcomed 6.3 million visitors last year, its management company said Friday, more than came in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Last year’s visitor numbers — up eight per cent year-on-year — were juiced by events to honour its designer Gustave Eiffel 100 years after his death, the SETE operating company said in a statement.

The tower also

added guided res-

new offerings such as tours and celebrity chef-cooked meals in its luxury restaurant.

France’s “Iron Lady” boasted up to seven million visits in 2014 and 6.2 million five years later.

It was closed during the country’s first pandemic lockdown from March to June 2020 and

again from October 2020 to July 2021.

The largest contingent of Eiffel Tower visitors, at 18.9 per cent of the total, came from France, followed by North Americans at 18 per cent — with 13.2 per cent coming from the United States alone.

Non-French Europeans accounted for 44 per cent, with the largest numbers coming from Germany, Britain and Spain. — AFP



The Eiffel Tower in Paris welcomed 6.3 million visitors last year, its management company said Friday, more than came in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**