

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Correct, accurate and firm research findings to contribute to improvement of health standards

THE following is the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the opening ceremony of the 52nd Myanmar Health Research Congress, held yesterday.

As my greetings, I wish for all officials, internal and international researchers, and guests attending today's 52nd Myanmar Health Research

Congress to be physically and mentally well-being with auspiciousness.

The Ministry of Health holds the Health Research Congress for the 52nd time. This Congress will create chances for health researchers to present their research findings based on endeavours as a platform to exchange their valuable knowledge about health research findings. As such, it can be said that the Congress contributes much to ensuring long lifespan of

everyone and to be free from danger for all set as a vision of the Ministry of Health.

Depending on the firm and precise research findings which came out from the health research process, health policies and guidelines and correct and accurate modern therapies could be exposed and adopted. As such, all research processes must be highly qualified research works. To do so, it is necessary to apply correct research

technologies, and these kinds of research must be conducted in line with research ethics.

In order to highlight such a point, this year's theme of the 52nd Myanmar Health Research Congress was chosen as "Enhancing Research Integrity and Research Ethics". Veteran researchers from the research ethics committees under the Ministry of Health will lead assessments of the research papers.

SEE PAGE-3

Mineral product exports generate US\$210.115 mln in 9 months



A trader evaluating jade stone displayed at the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium held at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

ACCORDING to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce, more than US\$200 million have been earned from the export of mineral products to foreign countries in the nine months of the financial year, which has decreased by more than \$13 million compared to the same period in the past.

In the past nine months of this financial year, the State-owned exports received \$29.517 million, and private exports received \$180.598 million, totalling \$210.115 million.

In the 2023-2024 financial year, Myanmar's trade sector expects to meet a trade value of \$32.5 billion with an export

value of \$16.5 billion and an import value of US\$ 16 billion, according to the budget estimates for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Myanmar exports mineral products such as gold, jade, pearl, diamond, lead, tin, sapphire, silver, copper, zinc, coal and various other metals to foreign countries.

— TWA/TKO

NATIONAL PAGE-2



Arrival of hibernating birds enchants areas surrounding Meiktila Lake

NATIONAL PAGE-7



CBM discusses preventing financial fraud via mobile payments

BUSINESS PAGE-12



Pigeon pea prices resume upward trend in three weeks

NATIONAL

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 rules of law
- To promote all-inclusive livestock breeding-based manufacturing industries and MSMEs, ensuring the socioeconomic 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

Mottos of 77th Union Day 2024

1. Unity is strength,
Power of Union
2. Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float
Ethnic brethren of the land joining hand in hand
3. Marching towards with unity
Ensuring the destination of the Union
4. Let's firmly join hands among ethnic national brethren
of the Union
5. Let's go forward with unity of the ethnic nationals



Captivating images of visitors delighting in elephant rides at conservation camps (above and below photos).

Steps taken to release State-owned elephants for protection enhancement

OUT of more than 6,000 elephants in Myanmar, about 3,200 state-owned elephants are kept in 23 elephant protection camps, and measures are being taken to release them into the wild, according to Dr Zaw Min Oo, Assistant General Manager of Myanma Timber Enterprise.

"In Myanmar, there are two kinds of elephants – domesticated and wild. Over 3,200 domesticated elephants are State-owned, and about 1,500 private-owned. State-owned elephants are kept at 23 tourism-based elephant protection centres across the country.

There are also nearly 2,000 wild elephants living in flocks in the forest," said Dr Zaw Min Oo.

He added that, in the past, there were complaints by the world's elephant conservation groups, saying that the elephants were tied up. Therefore, the elephants are now equipped with electronic devices to walk in the pastures as they are naturally herded and monitored by cameras.

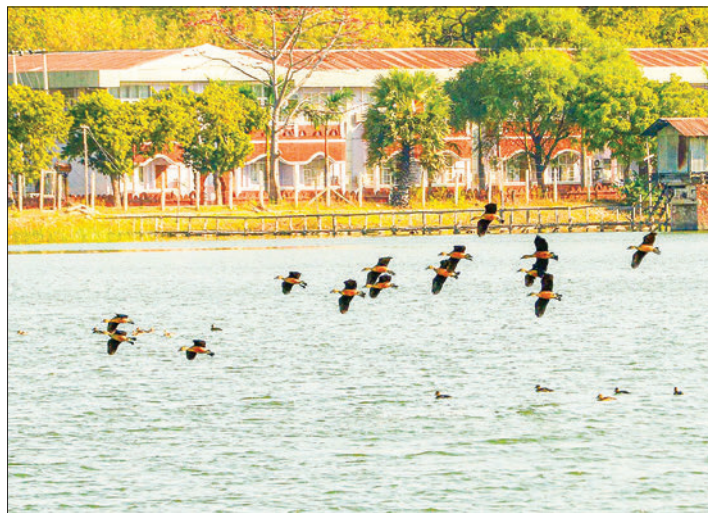
Elephants in Myanmar belong to the category of Asian elephants, and they are protected as they are endangered animals. — ASH/TKO



Six special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Maung, Daw Khin May Yi, Daw Thin Thin Nwet and Daw Pyone Pyone Aye was convened Monday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union, and a total of six special appeal cases — Nos 47/2022 (Magway), 10/2023 (Taninthayi), 25/2023 (Kachin) and 26/2023 (Mandalay) were heard. — MNA

Arrival of hibernating birds enchants areas surrounding Meiktila Lake



(Above & below right) photos show wintering birds enchanting the Meiktila Lake.

A variety of migratory birds that spend the winter in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, have been arriving at Meiktila Lake (North) this year, said U Soe Win Oo, executive of the Myanmar Bird Watchers Association (Upper Myanmar).

"Various hibernating birds have been arriving around Meiktila Lake (North) since last December. This year, I saw only the usual number of birds. They will stay here until February," U Soe Win Oo said.

The migratory birds are

Kyaukpyugon and Ywama villages this year. Some are also seen near Tayokegate and Paukchaung in the southern part of Meiktila Lake.

Nearly 20,000 hibernating birds of 40 species, including Whimbrel, Black-winged stilt, Mandarin Duck, Grey-headed swamphen and Eurasian coot, usually visit areas around Meiktila every year.

Wintering and migratory birds usually roam in the regions of Indawgyi and Moe-



spotted wintering at the wetlands in the northern part of Nandawgon Ward, Kalamak-yun, Oakhneboke, Innpatlet,

Yungyi wetland wildlife sanctuaries and Inlay Lake, Paleik Lake, Taungthaman Lake and Sunye wetlands. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Correct, accurate and firm research findings to contribute ...

FROM PAGE-1

I firmly believe that exchanging research ethics will result in good results, further strengthening the research ethics committees under the Ministry.

Moreover, a seminar titled Prevention of non-communicable Diseases and Lessening outbreak of Diseases will be held with discussions of veteran physicians and medical specialists for future health procedures to prevent and conduct effective treatments for hypertension, diabetes, obesity and cancer diseases. It will contribute to the emergence of correct therapies to prevent incommunicable diseases. Moreover, local and foreign experts will participate in discussions of cancer disease. As the Myanmar National Cancer Control Strategic Action Plan (2023-2027) schemed by experts from the Ministry of Health assessing many research findings on cancer diseases was introduced on 27 December 2023, the critical role of research findings can be seen.

It is necessary to conduct and monitor continuous research on the crucial role of non-communicable diseases and infectious diseases such as COVID-19, drug-resistant TB, Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever and malaria diseases. Moreover, research tasks must be done continuously to produce important basic factors to expose new therapies and vaccines. Establishing the modern molecule research centre's laboratory at the Department of Medical Research (Yangon Head Office) took ten years at the 52nd Myanmar Health Research Congress in 2024. The laboratory was built with the assistance of the Korea International Cooperation Agency in 2014 to strengthen the research capacity over communicable diseases such as malaria, hepatitis and TB using modern tech-



nology and laboratory apparatuses and ensure the betterment of the healthcare system for the Myanmar people against communicable diseases. The laboratory comprises a section with more than biosecurity level 2 using modern laboratory technology for long-term training of researchers and technologists. As such, it was known that the modern molecule research centre played an essential role in the COVID-19 pandemic period in Myanmar.

Myanmar has been steadfastly conducting research and assessments over genes of variant COVID-19 pandemic, and at present, more than 300 tests over variant genes of COVID-19 were conducted at the Department of Medical Research. I take pride in knowing the information that the Ministry of Health disseminated information and data about variant COVID-19 spreading in Myanmar

to the people.

Aimed at keeping records and documents related to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which broke out after a century, researchers from the Ministry of Health and the Defence Services Medical Research Unit jointly conducted research on the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased with the information that findings from the aforesaid research process will be presented in the research papers at this conference.

Research was performed on a new therapy for a communicable disease, namely drug-resistant TB disease, and medical treatments are being based on these findings for the patients. A seminar will take place with the participation of researchers from Myanmar and the Republic of Korea to discuss research findings of drug-resistant TB disease.

The seminar is scheduled for quality

guarantee processes and cooperation in implementing the quality guarantee system at medical universities and schools. This year's 52nd Myanmar Medical Research Congress will be held for five consecutive days from 11 to 26 January 2024, and 58 research papers and 51 research posters will be presented at the Congress. The Ministry of Health and relevant ministries have allocated more than K1.1 billion for implementing 201 research projects of researchers in the 2023-2024 financial year as part of the emergence of good research works in health sectors.

I praise local and international experts for their discussions at seminars, researchers for submitting posters and officials from the leading organizing committee for the Congress, work committee and subcommittees such as research paper supervision, research papers and posters, reception, best paper selection and information for their endeavours in systematically implementing the process of the Congress with relevant duty assignments.

In conclusion, as the 52nd Myanmar Medical Research Congress aims to improve health subjects in conducting health research so as to develop healthcare standards and to enable relevant health experts to know these research findings to be applied in practical fields, I firmly believe that firm research findings can contribute to a social objective of the State Administration Council "to elevate the health and sports sectors crucial for all the people, thus improving the nation's life expectancy and health". I would like to urge researchers with best wishes to constantly conduct qualified research in line with research ethics to stay abreast of the international community.

Thank you all.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 7/2024

12th Waxing of Pyatho 1385 ME
22 January 2024

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Union Minister

The State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Aung Kyaw Hoe to the duties of Union Minister at Ministry 3 of the Chairman's Office of the State Administration Council under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 8/2024

12th Waxing of Pyatho 1385 ME
22 January 2024

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Deputy Minister

The State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Maj-Gen Khun Thant Zaw Htoo to the duties of Deputy Minister at Ministry 4 of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

NATIONAL

Opening ceremony of 52nd Myanmar Health Research Congress convened

THE 52nd Myanmar Health Research Congress opening ceremony was held at the Department of Medical Research, No 5, Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

First, SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech via video message. (The speech of the Senior General is separately reported on page 1).

Then, Union Minister for Health Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win said the theme of this year's congress is Enhancing Research Integrity and Research Ethics, and the event will feature a programme to mark the 10th anniversary of the Advanced Molecular Research Centre (Yangon).

The papers to be submitted at the congress include the research on health awareness campaigns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic faced in Myanmar, prevention and vaccination, communicable MDR TB, prevention of non-communicable diseases and other research



Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win (2R) views round the research poster exhibition at the congress yesterday.

papers of departments under the Ministry of Health and Tatmadaw Medical Research Unit under the Ministry of Defence.

The Ministry of Health also allocated over K1.1 billion for 201 research projects this financial year.

He also highlighted the role of the research congress, which shares considerations and suggestions regarding the research results and findings based on the experiences and knowledge of researchers, medics, and administrators.

He pledged that the ministry will keep supporting to ensure research development as the policy, management, and national health sectors play vital roles.

After the opening ceremony, the Union minister and party

observed the research poster exhibition.

Then, the conference continued with research papers on various topics led by Deputy Minister Prof Dr Aye Tun.

At noon, a programme to honour the 10th anniversary of the Advanced Molecular Research Centre, donated by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), was convened.

At the event, Myanmar and Korean experts held the "Myanmar-Korea Joint Symposium (2024)- Combating Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis".

This year, 23 primary research papers, 22 applied research papers, 13 health system research papers and 51 research posters, totalling 109 papers, will be read.

The paper award selecting subcommittee will present the best paper awards, including Basic Research, Applied Research, Health Systems Research, best poster and young researchers. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation surrounding closure of Pyinsi market in Bago

MISINFORMATION spread by DVB, a malicious news media, alleges that the Pyinsi market in Bago, Bago Region, was abolished as of 21 January. This false information is circulating on social networks.

An administrative official from Bago



Region stated, "A new Pyinsi market has already been constructed, but some vendors have not relocated. Due to the sale of goods on the roadside and the construction of illegal settlements, the original 100-ft-wide road is now only 30 feet wide. Furthermore, the road connects the west and the east detours. The existence of the illegal market damages the city's aesthetic appeal, poses risks to public health, and causes traffic congestion. Therefore, measures are being implemented to restore the road to its original width.

Malicious news media exploit social networking sites to spread misinformation, disrupting the peace and tranquillity of towns and villages and instilling fear among the people. — MNA/KZW

Misinformation alleged Tatmadaw set fire to more than 50 houses in Kawkareik

MISINFORMATION spread on the social network pages that Tatmadaw stole property from some 50 houses of displaced people from Ward 5 of Kawkareik in Kayin State and set fire to these houses on the evening of 21 January when terrorist groups did not station.

According to the clarification of an official from the relevant area and residents, PDF terrorists and KKO insurgents set fire to a two-storey house in Ward 5, three furlongs north of Kawkareik, at about 2 pm on 21 January. Such fire also destroyed some 50 homes.

Malicious media are intentionally



Screenshot validate false claims.

spreading misinformation to cover acts of terrorists, which take public houses and buildings and religious buildings as their covers in committing terror attacks. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Organizations condemn destruction of pagoda at entrance to Namhsam, taking enshrined jewels by TNLA terrorists

TERRORIST groups have been targeting pagodas, stupas, revered Buddha statues, and religious buildings using methods such as bomb attacks, shootings, and heavy weaponry. They have also engaged in actions like demolishing pagodas and establishing defensive camps, actions that are offensive to Buddhism. Cur-

rently, the TNLA operates as a terrorist group in northern Shan State. They smashed a pagoda on a hillock at the entrance to Namhsam using a backhoe and took away the enshrined relics.

The following organizations, including the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) (Central), Myanmar Interfaith

Dialogue Group (Central), Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar), Faith Evangelical Church (Bago), Deliverance Church (Yangon), All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), Thananta Dhamma Palaka

(Hindu) Association, Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar, Pinnaygon Yakhine Jaame Mosque, Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Sports Media Federation, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, Myanmar

Music Association (Central), Myanmar Artists Association (Central), Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), Myanmar Comedians' Association and Myanmar Writers Association issued statements strongly condemning the acts of terrorism that have a severe impact on the religious sector. — MNA/KZW

Strong condemnation of Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) (Central)

22 January 2024

ARMED terrorists destroyed pagodas, temples, stupas and religious buildings sacred to the Buddhists of Myanmar with bombs and heavy weapons. Moreover, TNLA terrorists demolished a pagoda built by Buddhists with the use of a backhoe on the hillock at the entrance to Namhsam, Shan State (North), from 10 to 20 January and took enshrined objects.

It was sorrowful to hear about the acts of armed terrorists insulting Buddhism, and YMBA (Central) issued a statement not accepting the actions of terrorist groups to tarnish the image of Buddhism and strongly condemning such acts.

Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) (Central)

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance Statement

22 January 2024

TERRORISTS open fire and destroy pagodas, stupas, temples, churches and religious buildings in some regions and states and take cover of pagodas and stupas as defensive military camps to commit terror acts.

Acts of these terrorist groups insulting Buddhism cannot be accepted, and the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance strongly condemns their acts.

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) Statement

22 January 2024

IT is sorrowful to hear that pagodas, stupas and temples, as well as Buddha images, are being destroyed. The Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) does not accept such rude and insulting acts of armed terrorists against Buddhism, and it strongly condemns their actions.

Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) Statement

22 January 2024

ARMED terrorists are rudely destroying pagodas, stupas, temples, and Buddha images sacred to the Buddhists. TNLA terrorist group demolished a pagoda with the use of a backhoe on the hillock at the entrance to Namhsam of Shan State (North) and took enshrined objects.

The Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) strongly condemns acts of terrorists insulting religions and Buddhism for the freedom of faith of all Buddhist citizens.

Executive Committee Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

Deliverance Church's (Yangon) Statement

22 January 2024

IT is distressing to learn that TNLA terrorists destroyed a pagoda at the entrance to Namhsam and looted the relics enshrined within. Deliverance Church (Yangon) vehemently condemns such reprehensible acts by terrorists.

Deliverance Church's (Yangon)

Faith Evangelical Church (Bago) Statement

22 January 2024

TERRORISTS open fire on and destroy religious buildings, including pagodas, stupas, temples and Buddha images in Myanmar with bombs and heavy weapons and take cover of these religious monuments as defensive camps to commit terror acts.

Moreover, TNLA terrorists demolished a pagoda with the use of a backhoe on the hillock at the entrance to Namhsam of Shan State (North) this month and took enshrined objects. Thus, the Faith Evangelical Church (Bago) strongly condemns their acts.

Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)

Write for us

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

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



NATIONAL

All Myanmar Hindu Central Council Statement

22 January 2024

1. Terrorists are attacking Buddhist temples, pagodas, stupas, religious buildings, and temples using bombs, gunfire, and heavy weapons. They are also using pagodas as a base for committing acts of terrorism.
2. All Myanmar Hindu Central Council strongly denounces the actions of the terrorists, who are insulting and destroying the religion of the Buddhists.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar Statement

22 January 2024

1. A pagoda situated on a hillock in Namhsam, Shan State(North), was demolished using a backhoe, and the TNLA terrorist group took away the relics enshrined in the pagoda.
2. The Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar strongly condemns the TNLA terrorist group for committing such destructive acts.

Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Statement

22 January 2024

1. It was heard that the TNLA group dismantled a pagoda on the hillock at the entrance to Namhsam in the northern part of Shan State, using a backhoe, and took away the relics enshrined in the pagoda.
2. Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization strongly condemns terrorist groups that destroyed the religious edifices – integral parts of Myanmar's cultural heritage.

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) Statement

22 January 2024

1. Reports indicate the demolition of Buddhist pagodas, the theft of enshrined relics, and attacks on religious buildings.
2. All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) strongly condemns terrorist groups for mocking, insulting, and destroying the religion of Buddhists.

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

Pinnaygon Yakhine Jaame Mosque Statement

22 January 2024

1. Terrorists have been committing diverse violent attacks, targeting Buddhist temples, pagodas, and religious structures across various regions and some states, causing destruction.
2. The Pinnaygon Yakhine Jaame Mosque vehemently denounces terrorist organizations involved in the demolition of pagodas, Buddha statues, and religious buildings that hold significance for Buddhists and are places of worship.

Pinnaygon Yakhine Jaame Mosque

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) Statement

22 January 2024

BUDDHISTS in Myanmar believe in and venerate pagodas, stupas, and other religious structures, including Buddha images. Terrorist groups are also engaging in reprehensible acts of destruction against churches. In Shan State (North), there have been reports that TNLA terrorists demolished a pagoda constructed by Buddhists on a hillock at the entrance to Namhsam this month, and they took away the enshrined relics.

The Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) vehemently condemns the actions of terrorist groups that insult the religion and belief of Buddhists.

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)

Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association Statement

22 January 2024

IN addition to insulting religious buildings and churches, including pagodas, stupas and temples of Buddhists, armed terrorists demolished the pagoda with the use of a backhoe on the hillock at the entrance to Namhsam of Shan State (North) this month and took enshrined objects.

Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association does not totally accept such destruction of armed terrorists over religious buildings, pagodas and stupas, and it strongly condemns such acts.

Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association

Buthidaung-Maungtaw Regional Development Association Statement

22 January 2024

Buddhists believe in the worship of pagodas and stupas. Instances have been discovered where Buddha statues, religious buildings, and the enshrined relics inside the pagoda were destroyed and taken away. The Buthidaung-Maungtaw Regional Development Association strongly opposes and condemns terrorist groups that target religious communities.

*Buthidaung-Maungtaw Regional
Development Association*

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) Statement

22 January 2024

1. The TNLA terrorist group demolished a pagoda built on the hillock at the entrance to Namhsam using a backhoe, and they took away the enshrined relics.
2. The Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) strongly condemns the TNLA terrorist group for not only destroying and insulting religion but also for looting treasured items.

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

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NATIONAL

CBM discusses preventing financial fraud via mobile payments

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) initiated a debate on preventing financial fraud through mobile payments in collaboration with banks and financial services in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo, Governor of CBM Daw Than Than Swe, deputy ministers, deputy governors of CBM, and relevant officials.

At the event, the Union minister talked about the need to be aware of the security of online systems amid the increased use of online via social media for social and economic affairs,



The discussion on the prevention of financial fraud through mobile payments in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

482 online scams between 2021 and 2024 in the country, actions taken against 23 Nigerians, one Thai national and 59 Myanmar citizens involved in online scams and the release of SOPs for obtaining information and taking action to prevent and

protect against financial frauds through a telecommunication network by State Administration Council.

He then urged the participants to conduct awareness campaigns regarding the prevention of mobile payment fraud

and participate in upgrading technologies as the swindlers use online payment systems.

Then, the CBM Governor started the formation of an Action Task Force to prevent and take action against fraud as per the SOPs following the tip-off,

activities of CBM to use mobile cash industries under the law, rules and regulations under the supervision of CBM and the duties of the public to protect themselves and cooperate with the government to prevent from facing cash frauds.

The event featured talks regarding the things for a safe mobile money system.

Then, co-founder of Myanmar Cybersecurity Association, Deputy Director of CBM, Police Colonel Nyunt Wai of the Ministry of Home Affairs and other relevant representatives from KBZ bank, Wave Money, City Mart Holding Limited, and Lady Grace Online Ship Owner participated in the discussion under different topics. — MNA/ KTZH

Myanmar Comedians' Association Statement on condemning terror acts

22 January 2024

ARMED terrorists commit various terror acts, including acts of shooting and dismantling religious edifices such as pagodas, stupas, temples and Buddha images with bombs and heavy weapons in some regions and states. TNLA terrorists demolished a pagoda built by Buddhists with the use of a backhoe on the hillock at the entrance to Namhsam of Shan State (North) from 10 to 20 January and took enshrined objects. Thus, the Myanmar Comedians' Association does not accept such acts and strongly condemns the abovementioned actions.

Myanmar Comedians' Association

Myanmar Press Council Statement

22 January 2024, Monday

1. It was sorrowful to hear that some terrorists demolished and destroyed religious monuments such as pagodas and stupas, which are sacred to the Buddhists.
2. All Buddhists across Myanmar stage rallies on sentiments not accepting such acts of destroying significant non-military religious buildings.
3. The Myanmar Press Council reviewed that destroying religious buildings and monuments sacred to the Buddhists is an act of insulting the faith of religion and does not accept such an act.

Myanmar Press Council

Myanmar War Veterans Organization Statement

22 January 2024

ARMED terrorists intentionally and rudely destroy religious buildings, including pagodas, temples and stupas, which are venerated by the Buddhists. Reportedly, TNLA terrorists demolished an ancient pagoda with the use of a backhoe on the hillock entrance to Namhsam of Shan State (North) and took enshrined objects from the pagoda.

As destroying pagodas, stupas, and temples of Buddhists in Myanmar, which forges peaceful co-existence of all religions, is an act of insulting religious faiths of the people, the Myanmar War Veterans Organization issued this statement, strongly condemning all armed insurgent groups which commit the destructions described above.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization

Myanmar Writers' Association Statement

22 January 2024

1. The armed terrorists are still demolishing the pagodas, stupas and religious buildings of Buddhists despite the opposition of the entire nation. They ruined a pagoda on a hillock in Namhsam Township of Shan State(North) with a backhoe and stole precious religious objects from the reliquary.
2. The demolishing of pagodas, stupas and religious buildings, which are venerated by the Buddhists, insult the Buddhism, and the Myanmar Writers' Association has released this statement strongly condemning such doings.

Myanmar Writers' Association

Myanmar Music Association (Central) Statement

22 January 2024

TERRORISTS currently bomb the pagodas, stupas and religious buildings in regions and states, launch attacks using heavy weapons and also commit terrorist acts, taking shelter at pagodas as defensive bases.

TNLA terrorists reportedly demolished a pagoda, which is sacred to Buddhists, on the hill in Namhsam Township of Shan State (North) and stole the invaluable religious objects from the shrine.

Such unacceptable actions are considered to insult the Buddhist religion, and the Myanmar Music Association (Central) released this statement strongly condemning their wrong doings.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

Myanmar Sports Media Federation Statement

22 January 2024

AS demolishing significant non-military religious monuments venerated by the Buddhists by some terrorists is an act of insulting the faith of religion, the Myanmar Sports Media Federation strongly condemns such acts.

Myanmar Sports Media Federation

OPINION

Promote progress through education: A cornerstone for nation-building

EDUCATION stands as the bedrock upon which a modern nation is built, a collaborative effort involving intellectuals and the intelligentsia. Pursuing a higher education standard is imperative for all citizens, encapsulating knowledge, technology, expertise, skills, and values cultivated through comprehensive learning across various domains.

From infancy, individuals embark on a lifelong journey of acquiring knowledge, equipping themselves to confront survival challenges. Those who grasp a broad spectrum of knowledge and skills can not only carve successful lives for themselves but also contribute to the socioeconomic development of their society.

The significance of investing in the education sector cannot be overstated, as it plays a pivotal role in the overall development

of a nation. Governmental commitment to education is reflected in the consistent increase in budget allocations. In the 2023-24 financial year, an impressive K3,146.149 billion was earmarked for the Ministry of Education and related departments, underscoring the commitment to shaping the nation's future through education.

Nationwide, universities and colleges catering to arts and science, livestock and breeding, agriculture, fishery, science and technology, and teaching are being established to produce an educated citizenry. Faculty members play a crucial role, possessing high skills and capacity to impart advanced knowledge to students. Continuous enhancement of their expertise through learning, studies, and research is imperative, and the government duly recognizes and rewards their contributions.

Government-led initiatives further bolster the education sector through activities like school family festivals, paper-reading sessions, training courses, and competitions aimed at enhancing teachers' and students' physical and mental capacities. Orientation courses for educational staff are conducted to ensure optimal results in the education sector.

The tripartite synergy involving students, parents, and teachers is integral to shaping the education sector's standards in any country. Qualified teachers with expertise in relevant subjects are indispensable for nurturing well-rounded individuals. Recognizing their pivotal role in nation-building, the academic community is cognizant of the need for continuous improvement to contribute to the nation's ongoing progress.

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A relentless commitment to education is the linchpin for the advancement of any modern nation. As the government channels substantial resources into this sector, it remains an ongoing collective endeavour of educators, students, and parents to ensure that the nation's educational foundations are robust, fostering a society of enlightened and empowered individuals.

IN the quiet town where I spent my childhood, there exists a memory that still echoes through the corridors of time. Sixty years ago, when I was just a 10-year-old, an incident unfolded that left an indelible mark on my young heart. It was a day of unexpected punishment, where the winds of family discord blew fiercely, and I, like a leaf caught in a storm, found myself at the mercy of the tempest.

In the innocence of youth, I committed an act that would unwittingly thrust me into the centre of my parents' tumultuous relationship. Little did I know that accepting a 3 Kyats note from my aunt, the younger sister of my mom, would become the catalyst for an unforeseen storm in my tranquil world.

At that time, my parents were no longer together. Their separation cast a shadow over our home, creating an atmosphere thick with tension and bitterness. As a child, I struggled to grasp the complexities of their decision to go their separate ways, but I sensed an unspoken animosity that permeated the air.

One fateful day, my father, driven by emotions I could not comprehend, decided to punish me. It was a moment that marked both the beginning and end of his disciplinary actions. The severity of the beating left me bewildered, and I couldn't fathom why he, for

the first time, had chosen to express his anger in such a physical manner.

Under the trees in front of our house, I sat, an unwitting target of my father's frustration. Bamboo sticks became the instruments of his discontent, breaking with each forceful strike. The pain was not just physical but symbolic of the fractures within our family. As the bamboo sticks shattered, so did any hope of a harmonious household.

Amidst the chaos, my grandmother emerged as a voice of reason. She implored my father to cease the beating, recognizing the destructive path we were on. The broken bamboo sticks lay as remnants of a futile attempt to mend not only my behaviour but the strained relationships that lingered in the air.

As I stood, punished and confused, I pondered whether accepting the pocket money from my aunt was truly a wrongdoing. In the simplicity of a child's mind, I couldn't comprehend the depth of my parents' animosity. Was it my fault, or was I merely a casualty of the hatred that had taken root between my mom and dad?

Looking back, it becomes apparent that my seemingly innocent misstep was merely a spark that ignited the long-standing animosity between my parents. The hatred they harboured for each other manifested in the severity of my



Photo Credit: Google

punishment, turning me into an unwitting pawn in their troubled relationship.

In the aftermath of that tumultuous day, my physical wounds healed, but the emotional scars lingered. As a child, I navigated the turbulent waters of my par-

ents' discord, learning to cope with the aftershocks of that pivotal moment. The broken bonds within my family took time to mend, and I became a silent observer of the ebb and flow of their strained relationship.

Echoes of Hatred

By Yin Nwe Ko

contemplation is about the hatred of my dad and mom. I happen to guess the hatred as follows:-

Hatred is a strong negative emotion that can profoundly affect individuals and communities. In this essay, we will explore what hatred is and how it can impact people's lives. It is also a powerful feeling of intense dislike or hostility towards someone or something. It goes beyond simple disagreements or differences and can lead to harmful actions and behaviours.

Hatred can have a significant impact on individuals emotionally. When someone harbours hatred, it often consumes their thoughts and feelings, creating a constant state of negativity. This emotional burden can lead to stress, anxiety, and even physical health issues.

Hatred can strain relationships between individuals and within communities. When people hold onto strong negative feelings, it becomes challenging to build understanding and empathy. Friendships, family bonds, and even entire communities can be fractured by the corrosive effects of hatred.

Hatred can influence people's

behaviour in harmful ways. It may lead to acts of aggression, discrimination, and even violence. When individuals are fuelled by hatred, they are more likely to engage in destructive actions, causing harm to themselves and those around them.

One of the most significant impacts of hatred is its ability to prevent understanding. When people harbour strong negative feelings, they are less inclined to listen to differing perspectives or seek common ground. This lack of understanding can hinder social harmony and cooperation.

I remember a time when my parents were filled with hatred toward each other due to their differences. The atmosphere at home became tense, and it affected everyone in the family. Simple conversations turned into arguments, and the once warm and loving home became a place filled with negativity.

Hatred is not limited to individual relationships; it can extend to entire communities. When groups of people harbour hatred towards each other based on differences such as race, religion, or nationality, it can lead to conflicts and divisions that persist for generations.

In the face of hatred, cultivating compassion becomes crucial. Compassion involves understanding others' perspectives, even when they differ from our own.

By promoting compassion, we can work towards building bridges instead of walls, fostering unity and understanding.

In addition, hatred is a destructive force that can have far-reaching effects on individuals and communities. Recognizing the emotional toll, strained relationships, behavioural impact, and the prevention of understanding are essential steps in addressing and overcoming hatred. By fostering compassion and promoting understanding, we can work towards creating a more harmonious and inclusive world.

Thinking about all these memories and the article I am currently mentioning, it becomes clear that hatred is like a heavy cloud that brings darkness into people's lives. I can see now that my parents' hatred had a big impact on our family, just like the essay says.

Hatred is not just a feeling between individuals; it can spread like wildfire, affecting entire communities. Looking back on my parents' disagreements, I see how it turned our once warm home into a place filled with tension and arguments. Simple talks turned into fights, and it made everyone feel unhappy.

The article also talks about how hatred can hurt not only our feelings but also our health. It made me think about the stress and anxiety I felt as a child, caught

in the middle of my parents' struggles. Those feelings stayed with me even as I grew older.

But, as I reflect on my own story, I realize that there's a way to make things better. The essay suggests that compassion, which means understanding others even when they are different, is an essential tool against hatred. By being kind and trying to understand one another, we can create a world where everyone feels happy and accepted.

So, let's learn from the past and work towards a future filled with warmth and friendship. As I am now 70, I hope for a world where people choose understanding over hatred, creating a place where families and communities can thrive in harmony. In the end, love and compassion can heal the wounds of the past and lead us to a brighter and happier tomorrow.

The story of my childhood serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, even in the face of familial discord. In the simplicity of a child's perspective, I grappled with the fallout of my parents' separation, becoming a bystander caught in the crossfire of their unresolved emotions. As we reflect on the journey through family challenges, may we find compassion for the children who, like me, navigate the complexities of fractured relationships, striving to make sense of a world overshadowed by adult discord?

Global economic recovery needs closer cooperation

The global economic outlook for 2024 is uncertain, with over half of chief economists expecting a weakening, as reported by the World Economic Forum's Chief Economists Outlook

POLICYMAKERS and business leaders attending the 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) here pin high hope on cooperation based on mutual trust and respect to drive global economic growth.

At the grand party of the world economy, themed "Rebuilding Trust," participants held their faith that China, as the world's second-largest economy, plays a pivotal role in global economic growth and will continue to make its important contribution in a turbulent time.

The outlook for the global economy in 2024 remains foggy. According to the latest Chief Economists Outlook released by the WEF, more than half of chief economists expect the global economy to weaken in the coming year.

The world economy is impeded by factors such as debt crises, high inflation and interest rates, and sluggish trade performance. Instabilities, uncertainties, and unpredictable factors further exacerbate the challenges.

Noting that the forum took place against one of the most

complex geopolitical and economic backdrops, WEF President Borge Brende said: "We are seeing a very complicated and quite a fragile economic outlook."

"Without growth, you don't have jobs, you don't have prosperity, and very often without growth you don't have peace," said Ajay Banga, president of the World Bank Group. He warned that the global economy is on track for the worst half-decade of growth in three decades while stressing the critical role of economic growth in shaping the global landscape.

According to the World Economic Outlook released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last October, global growth is expected to average 3.1 per cent over the five years between 2024 and 2028, which marks the slowest rate in decades, compared with a historical GDP growth rate of 3.8 per cent achieved between 2000 and 2019.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva anticipates a further decline in interest rates throughout 2024 and cautioned that there is no room for policy error.

Policymakers and business leaders are concerned about the aggravation of geopolitical tensions. Persistent conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, coupled with the escalating Red Sea crisis, have provoked worries about rising input costs and potential inflation.

World Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said that "the forecast we had of 3.3 per cent is a little too optimistic for this year," due to the tensions in the Red Sea and the downgrade of global growth.

Source: Xinhua



This photo taken on 15 January 2024 shows a welcoming banner outside the Congress Centre for the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2024 in Davos, Switzerland. PHOTO: LIAN YI/XINHUA

NATIONAL

Preparations for 2023 Myanmar Film Academy Award event inspected

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Steering Committee on Myanmar Film Academy Award Ceremony, yesterday inspected the preparations for the academy event at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw together with Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Chairman U Kyi Soe Tun and relevant officials.

The Union minister and party first observed the archway, gold brooch-wearing site, fashion booth, photo booth, interview booth, red carpet, stage construction at Jade

Hall, LED signboard installation, stage for entertainment, completed sound and lighting installations, seating plans, media zones, interview booth for academy award recipients and designated places for judges to pick out fashion awards and for receptionists who get to carry the academy statues.

At the meeting hall, the Union minister discussed the installation of LED boards, sound and lighting system, seating plan and reception, invitation, accommodation, transport, event plan, health and security issues and other matters.

The 2023 Myanmar Film



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the preparatory work for the 2023 Myanmar Film Academy Award Ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Academy Award event is set to be celebrated on a grand scale

on 3 February at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw. The fashion awards will

also be presented at the event. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar donates 1.98 mln yen to earthquake victims in Japan



The Myanmar ambassador to Japan meets the mayor of Nanao in Ishikawa yesterday.

THE Myanmar Ambassador to Japan offered a total contribution of 1.98 million yen to Nanao Mayor for Japan's quake-affected people, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on 22 January.

A powerful earthquake, which has 7.5 magnitude, hit Japan's Ishikawa prefecture on 1 January, left more than

232 people dead and heavily affected many people. Myanmar nationals living in the quake-affected area also had to take refuge in rescue centres.

This donation was jointly contributed by Myanmar embassy staff and their families, Myanmar nationals in Japan, civil servant scholars in Japan, Japanese companies investing

in Myanmar, honorary consulates to Myanmar, Myanmar companies operating in Japan and donors.

Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Han went to Nanao in Ishikawa on 20 January and met Mayor Mr Yoshitaka Chatani to offer the donated money.

During the meeting, the ambassador said that he was very sad that Japan, a friendly nation of Myanmar, had encountered this disaster and also thanked him for assisting Myanmar citizens in quake-affected areas. He added that the Myanmar Embassy would continue cooperating in all necessary works.

Mayor Mr Yoshitaka Chatani said he heartily thanked the ambassador's assistance by personally visiting the affected area to contribute. — MT/ZS

Myanmar delegation led by DPM MoFA Union Minister arrives back

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe arrived back in Myanmar on the evening of 22 January 2024 after attending the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, which was held on 17 and 18 January 2024 and the 19th Summit of the Non-

aligned Movement held on 19 and 20 January 2024 respectively in Kampala, Uganda, at the official invitation of the Republic of Uganda, the host and upcoming chair of the Non-Aligned Movement. Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials welcomed back the delegation at Yangon International Airport. — MNA



Union Minister U Than Swe (C) seen on his arrival back from Uganda yesterday.

COVID-19 report, 22 January 2024

NEW TESTS

15,117

NEW CASES

64

CASUALTIES

Nil

NATIONAL

Cutting rubber trees leads to arrests in Mon State

ACCORDING to the Mon State government, individuals involved in illegally cutting rubber trees in Mon State will be subject to arrest and subsequent punishment. The right to cultivate rubber and cut and transport rubber trees requires approval from relevant departments. However, exceeding the specified

amount will be scrutinized. The government is actively working to establish policies for the arrest, prosecution, and inspection of individuals found transporting excessive amounts.

In Mon State, which boasts one of the largest rubber plantation areas in Myanmar, 504,988 acres were

cultivated in 2022-2023, constituting 30.19 per cent of the country's total cultivated area. The private sector holds 97 per cent of rubber production capacity, while the state-owned sector contributes only three per cent. Therefore, the involvement of the private sector is deemed crucial. — TWA/KZW



The photo shows rubber trees at the rubber plantation in Mon State.



The photo depicts blood donors happily contributing at NBC.

NBC Myanmar distributes 90,000+ blood units to hospitals in 2023

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win stated that during the 45th ceremony to honour blood donors, the 90,000 units of blood donated at the National Blood Centre Myanmar were distributed to the hospitals.

The ceremony took place on 20 January, and the Union minister mentioned that a total of 93,385 units of blood were collected in 2023. Patients could receive treatments without worrying about finding blood donors, and the process did not incur significant expenses. When a patient requires a blood transfusion

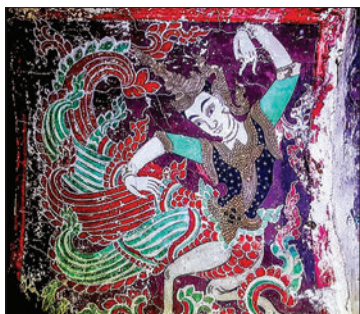
to recover from an illness, it is the only viable solution, added the minister, underscoring the crucial role of blood donors.

In the country, seven blood banks are attached to public hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Mawlamyine, Myitkyina, Taunggyi, and Patheingyi, including the National Blood Centre Myanmar. Furthermore, the blood banks associated with laboratories in hospitals with 200- and 100-bed have been expanded. The Blood Management System (BMS) software is also installed and utilized. — TWA/TRKM

Preserving Thai mural paintings at Inwa Monastery in Mandalay Region

ACCORDING to Inwa Monastery Presiding Patron Sayadaw Bhaddanta Acriya, the traditional mural paintings of northern Thailand can be found at Thaso village in Natogyi township, Mandalay region. These paintings are preserved in the Inwa Monastery (Phayathonzu) in Thaso village.

“King Hsinbyushin of the Konbaung dynasty — the second son of the dynasty's founder, Alaungphaya — brought the artisans of ten well-known traditional arts and crafts from Ayutthaya, Thailand, after winning battles. The painting styles prevalent in the Langna area of Thailand, created during the expansion of construction in the realm of his son King Singu, have been retained at the Ananda Monastery in Bagan, the Kyauktawgyi Pagoda in Taungthaman, and Phayahnitzu in Taungbi village. We have preserved these art-



The mural painting is preserved at the Inwa Monastery (Phayathonzu).

works created by Thai nationals who have resided in Myanmar for generations. This information was provided by field research professionals in 2015,” Sayadaw Bhaddanta Acriya stated.

The research experts of Yadanabon University Archaeology and National Museum Department (Mandalay Branch) approved these mural paintings created by the tribal people from the Langna area, Thailand, in 1790-1810. — ASH/MKKS

MoPF eyes proximity-based border trade posts in line with intl norms

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance aims to establish border trade posts and zones near the boundary lines, aligning with international norms. The evaluating committee, assigned with this objective, presented its findings during its second meeting held on Saturday.

At the meeting, Committee Chairman Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win emphasized that the projects should proceed as per the specifications of existing border posts, considering their potential for expansion, import and export volumes for the financial year 2022-23, the necessity of land surveys, the availability of allocated land, associated costs, proximity to trade posts in neighbouring countries, and



The Myawady border trade zone.

security considerations.

During its inaugural meeting, the committee decided that state and regional working committees must assess whether the projects conform to international norms and procedures, local laws, regulations, and codes of conduct established by relevant governmental bodies. The projects should also adhere to international laws and

effectively address the issue of contraband.

The country must implement the ASEAN Customs Transit System, Single Window Inspection, and Single Stop Customs Inspection in line with the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit and the Greater Mekong Sub-Region Cross Border Transport Agreement. — TWA/NT

NATIONAL BUSINESS



The photo depicts pigeon peas transported to the market by an agricultural produce trading company.

Pigeon pea prices resume upward trend in three weeks

THE pigeon pea price on 22 January was K3,650,000 per tonne, compared to K3,235,000 per tonne on 1 January. Therefore, according to information from the beans and pulses market, the pigeon pea price increased by K425,000 per tonne within three weeks.

The rise in pigeon pea prices results from high turnovers in the market. The pigeon pea price set a record on 8 September 2023, reaching K4,150,000 per tonne in the beans and pulses market.

Myanmar exports three central beans and pulses: black gram, green gram, and pigeon peas. Black gram and pigeon

peas are mainly exported to India, while China and European countries primarily purchase pigeon peas.

India, Myanmar's primary buyer of black grams and pigeon peas, has a high demand for beans and pulses. Thus, Myanmar and India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in trading black gram and pigeon peas with a government-to-government (G2G) agreement on 18 June 2021.

According to the MoU, India expects to buy 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas from Myanmar annually through the private

trade channel for five financial years (from 2021-22 FY to 2025-26 FY). Additionally, Myanmar bean exporters will be included in the annual quota of black bean imports as notified by India following the G2G agreement.

Myanmar exported over 1.1 million tonnes of various beans and pulses within nine months of the 2023-24 FY, generating more than US\$978 million, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce. In the 2022-23 FY, Myanmar earned US\$1,470 million from exporting over 1,900,000 tonnes of various beans and pulses. — NN/TMT

Rising palm oil prices in Yangon Market prompt authorities to implement control measures

THE wholesale reference rate for palm oil in the Yangon market this week (from 22 to 28 January) has seen a slight increase, reaching K5,275 per viss compared to K5,250 last week (from 15 to 21 January), as reported by the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution. This reflects a rise of K25 per viss from the previous week.

Currently, the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution is actively monitoring the domestic palm oil price, aligning it with global prices. The committee determines the introductory wholesale reference rate for palm oil in the domestic market by comprehensively monitoring daily FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, the major palm oil producers. This involves meticulous calculations considering all costs, including transport, banking, and other taxes and charges.

The Department of Consumer Affairs collaborates with edible oil traders, the



The photo shows a retail outlet selling the palm oil.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association, and edible oil importers and companies to facilitate the transport and distribution of palm oil at a reasonable price. This initiative is crucial as retail prices for imported palm oil are currently soaring.

Despite the reference rate set by the committee, palm oil is being sold in the market at higher prices. Therefore, under the Ministry of Commerce, the Department of Consumer Affairs is implementing meas-

ures to reduce palm oil prices. The department urges the public not to purchase palm oil at inflated prices and encourages reporting to the department if high-priced palm oil is observed in the retail market.

Myanmar's annual palm oil consumption is one million tonnes, while the country's production is only 400,000 tonnes per year. Consequently, approximately 700,000 tonnes of palm oil must be imported annually from Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/TMT



Some pure gold seen in the market.

Pure gold price per tical reaches K3.8 mln in market

ACCORDING to information from the gold market, the price of pure gold has surged to K3,800,000 per tical, despite both the reference rate for pure gold set by the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) and global gold prices currently experiencing a downward trend.

The global gold price is US\$2022 per ounce, while the YGEA reference rate for pure gold is K3,638,500 per tical. This results in a discrepancy of over K100,000 between the market price (K3,800,000) and the YGEA reference price (K3,638,500).

The YGEA established the reference gold price by calculating based on the interbank online forex rate set by the Central Bank of Myanmar before 5 December 2023. At that time,

the market price and the YGEA reference price had a gap of at least K400,000/500,000 per tical.

On 5 December 2023, the Central Bank of Myanmar transitioned online forex trading to a floating market, allowing Authorized Dealers to trade based on demand and supply without the Central Bank of Myanmar's direct involvement in setting the forex rate.

The updated exchange rate in the market is K3,450 for a dollar. Market price records show that the price of pure gold reached its maximum in the domestic market in late August 2023, coinciding with a soaring forex rate of K4,000 for a dollar. During that period, the price of gold even approached K4 million in the gold market. — NN/TMT

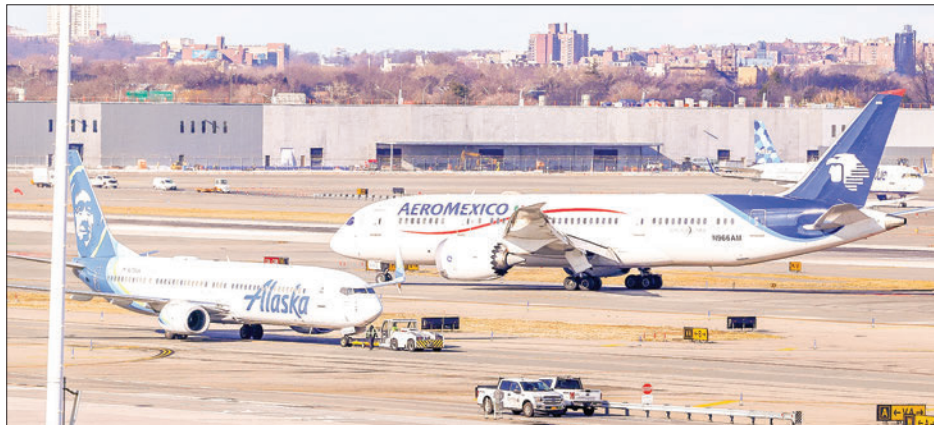
Tokyo stocks close higher on firm tech shares

TOKYO stocks ended higher on Monday with the Nikkei benchmark hitting a fresh 34-year intraday high, supported by high-value semiconductor-related shares.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei stock index, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average, ended up 583.68 points, or 1.62 per cent, from Friday to 36,546.95, its highest close since February 1990. The broader Topix index, meanwhile, finished 34.89 points, or 1.39 per cent, higher at 2,544.92, also its highest finish since February 1990.

A wide range of issues were bought as the Nikkei index briefly gained over 600 points, as semiconductor-related stocks such as Tokyo Electron and Advantest were particularly high following sharp gains on a key US semiconductor index late last week, analysts said. Meanwhile, market watchers here were focused on the two-day Bank of Japan policy meeting starting later Monday. — Xinhua

FAA recommends inspections for more Boeing models



A Boeing 737-900ER passenger aircraft of Alaska Airlines on its way to San Francisco is seen before take-off at John F Kennedy Airport on 8 January 2024. Shares of Boeing plunged early Monday after an airplane panel blew out mid-flight, reviving safety questions at a time when the company hoped to recover its reputation. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE US Federal Aviation Administration has recommended that airlines inspect door plugs on Boeing 737-900ER jets after a blowout on another type of aircraft with a similar mid-cabin exit earlier this month.

The aviation regulator said in a statement

late Sunday that operators "are encouraged to conduct a visual inspection to ensure the door plug is restrained from any movements."

The move follows the near-catastrophic mid-flight loss of a cabin door on an Alaska Airlines-operated 737 MAX on 5 Jan-

uary.

In response, US regulators grounded 171 jets from the 737 MAX 9 fleet with the same configuration as the plane involved in the incident. The FAA said it would return the 737-9 MAX to service once safety was established. — AFP

French air traffic back to pre-Covid levels

AIR passenger traffic in France last month matched its level in December 2019 for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, the country's aviation authority said Monday.

Over the whole of 2023, passenger numbers in France amounted to 94.5 per cent of the pre-crisis level, at just under 170 million, the DGAC authority said in its monthly statistics release. The devastating impact of Covid-19 con-

tainment measures on air travel slashed French passenger traffic in 2020 to 30 per cent of 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

It clambered back to 39 per cent in 2021 and 80 per cent the year after.

Last year's figure was boosted by international travel, with trips to the United States and other European Union countries around 2019 levels, while links with Africa were up 13 per cent on four years before. — AFP

Sydney Airport sees strong monthly passenger traffic in December 2023



This picture taken on 6 December 2023 shows the Sydney central business district (CBD) behind Qantas Airways passenger aircraft parked at the Sydney domestic airport. **PHOTO: AFP**

SYDNEY Airport saw 3.58 million passengers passing through the terminals in December 2023, up 15.8 per cent from the passenger traffic in same month of 2022, said an airport report.

The figure represents the strongest monthly passenger traffic since 2019 and a 90.6 per cent recovery of the passenger traffic compared to December 2019, the airport said in a report released on Monday.

The airport's international terminal scored 1.5 million passengers in December 2023, an increase of 29.4 per cent from December 2022 and representing a 93.3-per-

cent recovery compared to December 2019.

Meanwhile, domestic and regional passenger traffic was up 7.6 per cent in December 2023 from a year ago to reach 2.08 million.

Top 10 nationalities travelling through Sydney Airport in December 2023 included Australia, China, New Zealand, the United States, Britain, India and South Korea.

For the whole year of 2023, Sydney Airport recorded more than 38.65 million passenger traffic, jumping 32.7 per cent from that in 2022 but still 13 per cent less than the annual record of 44.4 million set in 2019. — Xinhua

Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – Agro Power Co.,Ltd. to Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. has been changed for the following pesticide manufactured by UPL Limited, India.

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

No.	Brand Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Vajra	Lambda – cyhalothrin 2.5 EC	F 2017 – 1271

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd.
Suite #09 – 02, Crystal Tower, Kyun Taw Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon.
01 – 933 93 59, 933 93 60

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (808N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (808N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-1-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0313-762N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0313-762N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-1-2024** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE.,LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Israeli PM rejects ceasefire plan as army continues strike in Gaza

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday rejected a proposal of a ceasefire deal reportedly being advanced by Qatar, the United States, and Egypt, while the Israeli army continued to pound the Palestinian enclave.

Citing Egyptian officials, a report on Sunday by the Wall Street Journal said the mediators have proposed a 90-day plan for the ceasefire. In the first phase, the fighting will stop, and Hamas will release all Israeli civilian hostages, while Israel releases Palestinian prisoners and increases aid. The plan also includes the rebuilding of Gaza and talks for a permanent ceasefire and the relaunch of a process to establish a Palestinian state.

Netanyahu rejected the key elements of the plan, including the prospect of establishing a Palestinian state. "I will not compromise on full Israeli security control of all territory west of the Jordan River," he said in a video address to the nation, referring to the West Bank, a territory Israel captured along with the Gaza



Israeli troops are seen near the border with Gaza Strip, in southern Israel, 21 January 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

Strip in the 1967 Middle East war.

"As prime minister of Israel, I have strongly upheld this position in the face of great international and domestic pressure," he said. "As long as I am prime minister, I will continue to strongly insist on this," he added.

He said that Palestinian statehood would pose "an existential danger" to Israel, without elaborating on the reasons.

The remarks were an outright public rejection of calls for Palestinian sovereignty following talks with US President Joe Bid-

en on post-war Gaza. Netanyahu said he talked with Biden on the phone over the weekend and "emphasized our determination to achieve all the goals of the war," including the elimination of Hamas.

Netanyahu rejected Hamas'

demand for an end to the war and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza as prerequisites for releasing about 130 hostages still held in Gaza. "If we agree to that, our fighters have fallen in vain, and we couldn't guarantee the security of our citizens," he said.

After a flight over Gaza, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Galant stated that the operation in Khan Younis, previously considered a safe zone, "will soon expand. Smoke will continue to cover Gaza's skies until our goals are achieved — the collapse of Hamas and the return of hostages."

On Sunday, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) released footage of a kilometre-long, booby-trapped tunnel it uncovered in Khan Younis, showing narrow rooms with metal bar doors, where, according to the army, hostages were held. No hostages were found. The army said that ground, air, and naval forces have continued to strike across Gaza. A soldier was killed in fighting in the southern Gaza Strip. — Xinhua

Florida Governor DeSantis suspends presidential race, endorses Trump

FLORIDA Governor Ron DeSantis on Sunday dropped out of the 2024 presidential race just two days before the New Hampshire primary, and endorsed former President Donald Trump.

"We don't have a clear path to victory," DeSantis said in a video posted on X, formerly Twitter.

In the video, DeSantis said he was endorsing Trump because it had "become clear" that "a majority of Republican primary voters want to give Donald Trump another chance".

DeSantis' announcement came just a few days after a 30-percentage-point loss to Trump in the Iowa caucuses. Trump was leading with 51 per cent, and DeSantis came in second with 21 per cent.

Former South Carolina Governor and UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, who just won 19 per cent of votes in the Iowa caucuses, looks to build momentum in the New Hampshire primary.

"May the best woman win," Haley said in response to DeSantis's withdrawal at a campaign stop in New Hampshire.

According to a new CNN poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire, Trump holds 50 per cent support among likely Republican primary voters in the state, while Haley stands at 39 per cent. DeSantis stands at just six per cent in the poll.

While acknowledging disagreements with Trump, DeSantis said, "Trump is superior to the current incumbent, Joe Biden." — Xinhua

Storm Isha causes mass power cuts, travel disruption in UK

TENS of thousands of homes were left in blackouts and trains were cancelled on Monday as Storm Isha brought gusts and heavy rainfall across the United Kingdom (UK).

An unusual wind warning for almost the entire country issued by the UK's Met Office ahead of the storm is still in force and expected to last until Wednesday.

According to the national meteorological service, strong gusts of 99 miles per hour (159 kilometres per hour) were recorded at Brizlee Wood, Northumberland.

About 45,000 people in Northern Ireland, along with thousands more in England and Wales, were left without power overnight.

On Monday morning, Northern Ireland Electricity Networks said that "the severity and prolonged duration of



Floodwater surrounds a flooded car abandoned by the side of a road, after the River Eden burst its banks during Storm Isha, near Warwick Bridge, north west England on 22 January 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Storm Isha has caused widespread damage to the electricity network" across the region and they were still working to restore power.

All passenger and freight train services in Scotland were suspended for safety reasons following the storm.

Network Rail, which owns and maintains the UK's train infrastructure, said reopening Scotland's Railway would be "a challenge" due to damages, including fallen trees and overhead wire damage in "at least 20 separate locations." — Xinhua

SPORTS



MGF Cup Golf Tourney featuring Tour Pro & Senior Pro events

THE MGF Cup Golf Tournament organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation will be held in February.

The tour Pro and Senior Pro level will be held at Ngwe Thawda Golf Club from 6 to 9 February, and the Junior level will be held at the 9th Mile Myanmar Golf Club from 15 to 16 February. The Amateur Level men's and women's events will be conducted at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) from 19 to 22 February.

The Junior Level will feature Boys' U-12, U-14, and U-18 events and Girls' U-18 events, while Amateur Level Boys' event includes (H'cap 0-12) and Amateur Level Women's event will feature (H'cap 0-18). The tournament will be held as per the R&A Rule Limited & USGA 2 Rule of Golf 2023 Rules of Golf and Local Rules.

Golfers who will compete in the tourney can register by calling 09-421002259 along with the tournament fee at 30,000 kyats per professional level by 2:00 pm on 3 February.

Details regarding registration for the rest of the competition will be announced later. — TWA/KZL

A female golfer competing in the MGC 18th Junior Golf Open Championship 2023. PHOTO:

Stimac looks to late show in must-win Asian Cup clash

IGOR Stimac said his goal-shy India will try and wear down Syria and look to hit them late on in a must-win Asian Cup clash on Tuesday.

India face Syria in Qatar with the knockout rounds still a possibility for both teams despite neither yet winning a match or even scoring a goal after two games.

Australia have sealed one of the spots out of Group B but with the top two and possibly even third place also qualifying, it is all to play for. Uzbekistan are second, ahead of Syria and India.

India were beaten 2-0 by Australia and 3-0 by Uzbekistan, but their Croatian coach sees a chance against a "physical" Syria who have relied so far on a small core of players.

"What is interesting about Syria is that they have a short bench, making only two or three changes and are obviously limited from the bench," said Stimac on Monday.

"We will try to exhaust them and take them to the last 30 minutes and see how fresh they are," added the coach, who has a full squad to choose from for the first time in Qatar.

If India are to pull off a win and sneak into the last 16, they will need veteran talisman Sunil Chhetri to start firing.

The striker has 93 international goals, behind only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo among active players.

"Come the Syria game I hope we can fix this problem," the 39-year-old told reporters of India's lack of goals.

"And the next time I see you, I can say we did fix this problem."

Syria sit third in the group with one point from a 0-0 stalemate with Uzbekistan and are hoping to make the knockouts for the first time.

Their veteran Argentine coach Hector Cuper told his men to seize the moment.

"Qualifying for the last 16 will be historic for the Syria national team and we hope to bring joy to the Syrian people through qualifying," he said.

But he warned his players against wilting under the pressure of expectations.

"All the players and coaching team know the importance of this match and the pressure on the players," he said. — AFP

Awesome Alcaraz storms into Australian Open quarter-final against Zverev

CARLOS Alcaraz raced into an Australian Open quarter-final against Alexander Zverev on Monday, producing a fearsome display in a straight-sets win over unseeded Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic.

The second seed — seen as the biggest threat to defending champion Novak Djokovic — did not face a single break point in a dominant performance, rolling over his opponent 6-4, 6-4, 6-0 in one hour 49 minutes.

The Spaniard, who chose not to play any competitive tennis in the build-up to the first Grand Slam of the year, said he "did everything perfectly".

"I pushed him to the limit in every ball, every point," he said. "He has played a lot



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz hits a return against Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic during their men's singles match on day nine of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 22 January 2024. PHOTO: AFP

of tough matches before this one, so probably physically he wasn't 100 per cent.

"I could take my chances in every set and it was a pretty good match for myself.

"I'm feeling better and better every day. Every match I play here on Rod Laver (Arena) I feel more comfortable. Pleasure to play here, amazing court."

Making his first appearance in the last 16 at Melbourne Park, the 20-year-old was quickly into his stride, breaking in the third game.

The second set went with serve until the seventh game, when Alcaraz broke again, which proved enough for a two-set lead. The third set became a procession as the Spaniard stepped up a gear — a deft drop shot set up match point and a thunderous serve sealed the deal. Alcaraz has yet to be fully tested but has shown glimpses of his best form in Melbourne.

In Monday's match he won 83 per cent of first-serve points, took advantage of five of his nine break points and hammered 43 winners. — AFP

Repeat show as Celta, Real Sociedad set ball rolling in Copa del Rey quarters

CELTA Vigo hosts Real Sociedad for the second time in four days as the two sides follow their meeting in La Liga on Saturday, with a quarterfinal Copa del Rey tie on Tuesday night.

A goal by former Celta midfielder Brais Mendez gave Real Sociedad a 1-0 win on Saturday, and the side coached by Imanol Alguacil remained in Vigo,

rather than flying back to San Sebastian to prepare for Tuesday.

"Let's quickly try to forget what we did wrong. We will look at the game to try and correct what we didn't do well, and continue insisting on what we did well. I'm left with the fact that the game was close and the cup can be totally different," commented Celta

coach Rafa Benitez after the final whistle. Alguacil rested key players, such as Mikel Oyarzabal and Mikel Merino on Saturday, but lost defender Aihen Munoz, who suffered a cruciate knee ligament injury and will miss the rest of the season, with Kieran Tierney taking his place in the starting 11. — Xinhua

Israeli PM rejects ceasefire plan as army continues strike in Gaza

PAGE-14



WORLD



Heads of State and Government representatives attend the opening session of the Third South Summit of the Group of 77 and China (G77+China) in Kampala on 21 January 2024. The G77+China is a coalition of developing countries designed to promote its member states economic interest and create negotiating capacity in the United Nations. **PHOTO: AFP**

China calls for more efforts in advancing South-South cooperation

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's special representative Liu Guozhong attended the 3rd South Summit held Sunday in the Ugandan capital of Kampala and delivered a speech, calling for the advancement of South-South cooperation and reform of the global governance system.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Group of 77, and over the past six decades, the Global South has followed the right path of equality, mutual trust, mutual benefit, solidarity and mutual assistance, said Liu, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice-premier of the State Council.

Independence is the defining political feature of the Global South, seeking strength through unity is the glorious tradition of the Global South, development and revitalization are the histor-

ical mission of the Global South, and fairness and justice are the common propositions of the Global South, Liu noted.

Transformations of the world unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace, and the Global South is faced with a complex external environment, he said, calling for more efforts in exploring a path to modernization, promoting South-South cooperation at a higher level, actively participating in the reform of the global governance system, and deepening a global partnership for development that is united, equal, balanced and beneficial to all.

Liu said that the Chinese president has put forward the important vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, as well as the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, and advocates the

high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, aiming to mobilize global resources, promote the common development of human society, long-term stability and mutual learning among civilizations, and push the world toward a bright future of peace, security, prosperity and progress.

As a developing country and a member of the Global South, China has always shared a common destiny with other developing countries, and will continue to take South-South cooperation as a priority in its foreign cooperation and contribute to the common development of developing countries in the Global South, Liu said.

The South Summit is the supreme decision-making body of the Group of 77. High-level representatives of nearly 100 countries and heads of United Nations agencies attended the meeting. — Xinhua

Cameroon launches historic large-scale malaria jab campaign: AFP

CAMEROON on Monday launched the first malaria vaccination programme to be offered nationwide and as a matter of routine, AFP journalists saw, in a step the WHO has described as "historic".

The mosquito-borne disease kills more than 600,000 people a year, mainly in Africa, according to the World Health Organization.

Children under five years old account for more than 80 per cent of deaths on the continent. Following a pilot phase, the RTS,S vaccine is being rolled out at scale across Africa starting in Cameroon.

At a hospital in the town of Soa, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the capital Yaounde, six-month-old Noah Ngah became the first to receive the injection at the facility.

It is one of many vaccine centres in 42 priority districts across the vast central African nation of some 28 million people.

The jab will be offered free of charge, according to the government, and systematically to all children under six months old at the same time as other obligatory or recommended vaccinations. — AFP



Noah Ngah (L), the first baby to receive the malaria vaccine, and his twin sister, Judith Ndzie, is held for a photograph after receiving vaccines at a hospital in Soa, Cameroon, on 22 January 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Viet Nam to launch 1st homemade weather satellite next year

VIET Nam will launch its first-ever indigenous weather satellite early next year to provide early warnings against natural disasters, local media reported Monday, citing the Viet Nam National Space Centre.

The LOTUSat-1 satellite is being built

with assistance from Japanese engineers and is expected to be completed in March 2025, the newspaper VnExpress quoted Le Xuan Huy, the centre's deputy general director, as saying.

The satellite will use a sensor with radio waves to observe the Earth, and

thus function independently of a light source. Radar satellites can take pictures in all weather conditions, cloudy, foggy or low-light, he said.

The satellite will weigh 600 kilograms and have an image resolution of one metre. It will gather information

about storms and other phenomena that affect Viet Nam every year, he added.

According to the centre, the satellite will cover the whole of the Vietnamese land mass and help reduce the damage caused by natural disasters by 10 per cent. — Xinhua