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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the meeting 1/2024 of the National Planning Commission yesterday.

## National export strategic plan expects to enjoy fruitful results within two years

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to implement the national export strategic plan in connection with the national plan for enjoying fruitful results within two years.

At the National Planning Commission Meeting 1/2024 held at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is also in the capacity of Chairman of the National Planning Commission, disclosed that although the government is striving for the development of all sectors, success cannot yet be achieved as expected due to terror acts interrupting

### Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General at the National Planning Commission Meeting 1/2024

- The national export strategic plan must be implemented in connection with the national plan to enjoy fruitful results within two years.
- Success in the development of all sectors, as expected, cannot be achieved yet due to terror acts interrupting transport, manufacturing, and commodity flow not to carry out regional development tasks.
- Citizen investors must be urged to invest in the manufacturing sector to develop tasks with local investments.
- Efforts to ensure local food sufficiency can cut spending of US\$500-US\$600 million per year in the import of cooking oil per year.

transport, manufacturing and commodity flow and inability to carry out regional development tasks.

The Senior General stressed that the government creates learning opportunities for all citizens with the provision of teaching aid for the emergence of the highly-qualified education system and for the development of health and sports sectors. Arrangements were made to enable people to buy basic foodstuffs at reduced prices in order to control the cost-push inflation, he added.

He gave guidance that it is necessary to spend the State economic promotion fund efficiently. Citizen investors must be urged to invest in the manufacturing sector for the development of tasks with local investments, adding only when investment amounts increase will a larger volume of products be manufactured.

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#### NATIONAL

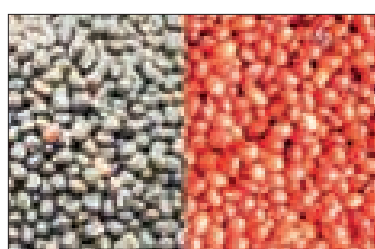
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DICA report: 600 companies fail to file AR in Feb 2024

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar Gazette

### Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Kaung Zaw Thant, Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Affairs and Prevention under Anti-Corruption Commission Office, as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

### Objectives of 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2024

- (A) To safeguard the State with the sacrifice of life by upholding Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy of Tatmadaw;
- (B) To actively participate in implementing the processes of two national visions of the State: the prosperity of the country and food security by Tatmadaw members together with the government and ethnic people in their respective sectors;
- (C) To steadfastly implement enhancement of three capabilities in accord with the work process of Tatmadaw, such as study, practise and obey in building a modern patriotic Tatmadaw with powerful strength and sharpening prowess;
- (D) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw to ensure peace and stability, solidarity and development, which are actual needs of the State and to emerge a Union based on democratic and federal systems.



### 500 monks, 500 nuns to receive donations on Rector Sayadaw's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday

ON the morning of 24 March (the full moon day of Tabaung), donations will be offered to 500 monks and 500 nuns at the Maha Subodhayon Monastery.

This occasion marks the 84<sup>th</sup> birthday of Rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Dr Bhaddanta Nandamala Bhivamsa, who serves as the patron monk of the Maha Subodhayon Monastery and Shwegyin Nikaya Upa Ukkatha Maha Nayaka.

Additionally, the Sayadaw's lay disciples in San Francisco, New York, and Maryland will host a special online gathering for a sermon in honour of Rector Sayadaw Dr Nandamala Bhivamsa's birthday. — ASH/MKKS



The photo shows the invitation to the Rector Sayadaw's birthday occasion.

## National export strategic plan expects to enjoy fruitful results within two years

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In order to ensure local oil sufficiency, the Senior General stressed that efforts to provide regional food sufficiency could cut spending of US\$500-US\$600 million per year on the import of cooking oil per year.

The Senior General outlined that the government and people have to join hands in raising political, economic, and defence sectors, national character and national spirit through perseverance and unity.

He revealed that the government has been expediting efforts for the improvement of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors and expansion of grow-

ing oil crops and industrial crops while encouraging the development of MSME businesses.

He disclosed that as some ministries, regions, and states could not fully implement the projects, they have to expose weaknesses in implementation to achieve success in the national plans in the coming FY.

The Senior General stressed the necessity to fulfil the requirements of agriculture and livestock farming tasks to achieve success, stressing that the implementation of the national plan has to focus on raising the socioeconomic entitlements of the people.

In his speech, Vice-Chairman of the

National Planning Commission SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win said that the national planning law for 2024-25 financial year was drafted for the development of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors, MSME businesses, export promotion, local oil sufficiency, and improvement of all sectors including education, health, transport, electricity and energy. He continued that an emphasis must be placed on fulfilling the basic needs of the people. He stressed the need to complete the implementation of relevant projects in 2024-25 FY in a timely manner with effective management of project expenditure.

Vice-Chairman of the commission

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein reviewed the implementation of the national plan for 2023-24 FY and the national plan (draft) for 2024-25 FY. Secretary Deputy Minister Daw Than Than Lin reported on the national planning law (draft) for 2024-25 FY. Union ministers presented reports on the implementation of the national plan in financial years.

Also present at the meeting were the National Planning Commission members Union Ministers, the Union Auditor-General, the Union Civil Service Board Chairman, the Central Bank of Myanmar Governor, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and officials. — MNA/TTA

**S**enior General Min Aung Hlaing emphasized it is necessary to beef up the manufacturing of domestic products based on agriculture and livestock farms in regions and states to increase job opportunities for local people.

The Financial Commission meeting 1/2024 took place at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Financial Commission Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

In his speech, the Senior General disclosed that budget allocation will be increased for education, health, electricity generation, transport, and industrial, agricultural and livestock high schools in the 2024-25 financial year.

He continued that priority must be given to spending costs on the peace and stability of the State, the rule of law and contribution to economic development.

He stressed that Union ministries have to coordinate with regional and state governments to efficiently spend state finance to achieve success in relevant regions through administrative mechanisms and law enforcement bodies.

The Senior General noted that the Union Budget Law and the Region and State Budget Law have been enacted as the financial policy to ensure the success of the economic objectives of the State and national visions.

It is necessary to manufacture mass products in the agriculture, meat and fish sectors. Successful production of



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 1/2024 of the Financial Commission yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

## Increased production in regions and states to generate jobs for residents: Senior General

### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Financial Commission meeting 1/2024

- It is necessary to beef up the manufacturing of domestic products based on agriculture and livestock farms in regions and states to increase job opportunities for local people.
- Budget allocation will be increased for education, health, electricity generation, transport, and industrial, agricultural and livestock high schools in the 2024-25 financial year.
- Union ministries have to coordinate with state and regional governments to spend state finance to achieve success in relevant regions efficiently.
- The emergency fund will be raised more than the previous financial year depending on climatic conditions in 2024-25 FY.

agriculture and livestock farms will help increase output not only for local consumption but for export purposes,

he added.

According to the climatic condition in 2024-25 FY, the Senior General

revealed that the emergency fund 2024-25 FY will be raised more than the previous financial year, adding the commission allows spending the general return fund-GRF on education, health and construction sectors under the financial rules.

He urged regional and state governments to fully collect revenue as only when they can earn all amounts of income can they spend the budgets and funds entirely.

Financial Commission Vice-Chairman SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win said that the commission especially approved the costs for human resource development, supply of electricity, and State economic promotion fund. Funds have been approved for unexpected natural disasters, rescue and rehabili-

tation, the emergency fund to fulfil basic needs and administration for internally displaced people, and the national disaster management fund in 2024-25 FY, similar to previous financial years.

Secretary of Financial Commission Union Minister U Win Shein, Union Minister for Legal Affairs Dr Thi Da Oo and Union Auditor-General Dr Khin Naing Oo explained the Union Budget for the 2024-25 financial year and the 2024-25 FY Union Budget Bill, the Union supplementary budget, prepared budget and the Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill, and future processes based on findings in auditing the budgets of Union-level organizations, ministries, and region and state governments.

Also present at the meeting were the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers and officials. — MNA/TTA

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# NATIONAL



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn receives the YMBA officials in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## Union Information Minister meets YMBA delegation

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn received Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central) Chairman U Ye Tun and party at the Ministry of Information meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed cooperation with YMBA, continued implementation of national issues, MoI collaboration in youth awareness

programmes, for youths to gain knowledge and possess five kinds of strengths – physical, mental, moral, social and financial, the ability to consider and analyze misinformation and fabricated news, and promotion of national spirit.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, and YMBA officials attended the meeting. — MNA/TS

## Myanmar Ambassador to Brazil discusses bilateral cooperation with FUNAG Chairman

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced that U Aung Kyaw Zan, Myanmar's Ambassador to Brazil, held discussions with Marcia Loureiro, Chairman of Fundação Alexandre de Gusmão (FUNAG) of Brazil, regarding the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) and FUNAG, and exploring potential areas for bilateral cooperation.

The meeting took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil on 19 March. During the meeting, they discussed the effective implementation of the foreign policies of both countries, organizing joint seminars and paper-reading sessions, and the compilation and publication of research papers.

FUNAG, established in 1971, plays a crucial role in implementing Brazil's foreign policy. — ASH/TMT



Myanmar Ambassador to Brazil U Aung Kyaw Zan and FUNAG Chairman Mr Marcia Loureiro pose for the documentary photo on 19 March 2024 in Brazil.

## UEC Chair-led delegation arrives back from Russian Federation



The reviewing and exchange of views on the presidential election of the Russian Federation by international election monitoring groups in progress in Moscow.

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko, who made a study tour on the presidential election of the Russian Federation from 12 to 20 March at the invitation of the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, arrived back in Yangon on Wednesday.

During the visit, the Myanmar delegation met Russia's Central Election Commission Chair Ms Ella Pamfilova, openly discussed bilateral cooperation in electoral processes, and joined the conference held by Russia's Central Election Commission at the press release

centre.

The delegates also visited the Moscow election monitoring centre and attended the International Conference held on the topic of electoral sovereignty and international standards on 15 and 16 March.

Moreover, the delegation observed the ballot papers and e-voting system at the polling stations in Moscow and Kolonna District from 15 to 17 March, as well as the voting processes in detail and video surveillance through CCTV.

On 18 March, the delegation also attended the reviewing and exchange of views on the presidential election of the

Russian Federation by international election monitoring groups held at the Central Election Commission.

During the tour, the delegation got a chance to study the condition of elections, electoral management, polling stations, technologies applied for casting votes, counting votes, and culture and traditions in famous sites.

There were 706 election observers from 106 countries for Russia's presidential election. Four candidates were vying for the presidency, and current President Vladimir Putin won with 87.29 per cent of votes. — MNA/KTZH

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# NATIONAL

## Yangon property market sees sales resumption, strong rentals amid price increases

SALES have resumed in the Yangon property market. However, prices have been higher, and almost all available apartments have been rented out due to a brisk rental market, said realtors in the Yangon Region. "Although property prices are getting higher, sales have now resumed. But it is not like the very active periods before. In Kyimyindine, there are more purchases of apartments below K100 million. Condominiums worth K300-K350 million are being sold well. Some are buying detached houses. Expensive properties are also sold depending on their township location. As the gold price rises, so does the price of apartments," said a real estate agent from Kyimyindine township.

The units under K 100 million attract more interest and sell well in the residential market while sales of K300-K350 million condominiums and K500-K600 million detached houses or land have resumed, he added. "Those under K100 million are doing well. There have been deals for land or separate houses worth K500-K600 million. Houses in Kyimyindine have jumped from K500 million to K600-K700 million. If it is on a wide main road, the price can be K1 billion. Sales are just steady. It is not as brisk as the most active periods," he said. Yangon's property market reached its high-price window in 2022-2023, and prices have recently doubled



The photo shows Punhlaing Housing apartments in Kyimyindine Township.

compared to previous rates. "A K30 million apartment is now K70 million. A K30-35 mil-

lion 6<sup>th</sup>-floor flat bought through me was sold back at K70 million. Apartments under K100

million are seeing more active sales," said a real estate agent. With many people coming to Yangon Region from smaller towns to attend various training courses or to migrate, the apartment rental market is doing well, and prices have also gone up. "With the arrival of many people from other towns, there is a shortage of available units for rent. Rents have gone up, too. As soon as there is a vacancy, another tenant takes it in no time. In the past, when there were plenty of rental units available, we used to show a tenant four or five flats to choose from. Now, there are not many units available. Even when available, they are rented out as soon as they're vacant," he said. — MT/ZN

## Efforts to preserve rare Myanmar golden deer at Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary

ACCORDING to Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary, efforts are being made to preserve the Myanmar golden deer, a rare species native to the area, from extinction.

Located in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, Central Myanmar, Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary covers an area of 213.4 square miles. It was established in 1940, and its purpose is to protect and conserve hardwood forests, as well as the Mone and Mann creeks watersheds, including

the grazing areas of golden deer.

The conservation initiative for golden deer began in 2012 with the introduction of five male and seven female deer from Nay Pyi Taw Safari Park and Bagan Lawkananda Park. Currently, there are 19 male and 35 female deer, totaling 54. Members of the pagoda board of trustees carefully look after the deer.

"The star tortoises and golden deer are among the world's most endangered

species. Additionally, the Myanmar golden deer is unique to our country. Therefore, it is imperative to conserve them to prevent extinction and promote population growth. Visitors to well-known tourist areas in Minbu (Sagu), during the Shwesettaw pagoda festival and open season, can also observe the golden deer at Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary," stated U Thein Hlaing, vice-chair of the pagoda board of trustees. — Zeya Htet (Minbu)/TKO



Captivating view of Myanmar's rare golden deer in enclosed herd at Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary.

## Thameehla Island conservation site records historic number of sea turtle nests

RESEARCHERS have recorded 137 sea turtle nests, the highest in the last five years, at the Thameehla Island Sea Turtle Conservation Site in Hainggyikyun, Ayeyawady Region. Alongside preserving nesting spots, the site operates an egg incubation programme for conservation purposes at the Kyakan shore.

Thameehla Island, among the Fisheries Department's turtle conservation zones, hosts the largest marine turtle nesting sites.

U Phone Maw, the officer in charge of the site, stated: "In previous years, we found no more than 60 to 70 nests, mostly belonging to Pyintha turtles (green sea turtles)". The department has conducted educational events on turtle conservation for the public. The officer acknowledged that these efforts have yielded positive results due to the cooperation of locals.

The department not only educates residents about the life and habits of marine turtles and the environmental effects



Sea turtles at the Thameehla Island.

on their survival but also offers rewards to anyone who reports the discovery of turtle nests.

The endangered sea turtle species, Olive Ridley, typically lays 60 to 120 eggs per batch, with approximately 85 per cent successfully hatching. The department has released the second batch of Olive Ridley hatchlings into the sea.

While sea turtles have traditionally come to the Kyakan shore to lay eggs, there was no incubation process in place. This year marks the beginning of efforts, supported by locals, to implement such a process, indicating a positive trend. — ASH/NT

# NATIONAL

## Italian hydrologist joins restoration efforts for Bagan's ancient water reservoirs



Restoration efforts in progress in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture enlisted an Italian hydrologist to assist in retracing water distribution networks from the Bagan era and dredging ancient water res-

ervoirs in the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone.

Dr Massimo Sarti and local experts are collaborating on Phyaukseikpin Reservoirs 1, 2, and 3, as well as Thanbula and

Amana Reservoirs, which the Ministry of Border Affairs commissioned. Additionally, they are involved in Laymyethna and Pyargyiswel Reservoirs, overseen by the Department of Archaeol-

ogy and National Museum, and Zayawari Reservoir, managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation.

The professionals are re-connecting the reservoirs to the original water networks for water supply. Excavating the ancient reservoirs poses challenges due to the presence of unseen debris from ancient structures and walls submerged underwater.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, along with related ministries, launched restoration efforts to prevent flooding in the heritage zone.

The people of ancient Bagan devised systems to channel water from Mya Lake at the foot of the Tuyin Hill into reservoirs, Alanpagan, Mayoe, Latmyethna, Nyunglettaphet,

and Shwenanyin, extending all the way to the royal moat. This expansive water network covered over 200 feet across various geological formations. Experts are now trying to restore this network.

Since 2021, both local and foreign experts have conducted studies on the ancient reservoirs and water channels, which were buried under mud. By acting upon the recommendations of the foreign experts, authorities undertook restoration efforts for three major reservoirs in 2023. Consequently, there was significantly reduced flooding that year.

Restoration efforts have reportedly been done with careful consideration of the surrounding geological features. — ASH/NT

## Black gram, pigeon pea prices register three-day decline

THE prices of black grams and pigeon peas have decreased for the three trading days. The figures showed a drastic drop of K143,000 per tonne of black grams and 213,000 per tonne of pigeon peas.

The prices declined to K2.877 million per tonne of black grams and K3.1 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 20 March from K3.02 million per tonne of black grams and K3.863 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 16 March. The price hit the highest of K3.5 million per tonne of black grams and K4.197 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 5 February 2024. The pigeon pea experienced price fluctuations this year. The FOB prices stood at US\$970-990 per tonne of black grams (Fair Average Quality), \$1,050-\$1,070 for black grams (Special Quality) and \$1,220-\$1,240 for pigeon peas on 18-20 March 2024.

The demand by the leading buyer, India, heavily influences Myanmar's pulse prices. Wholesalers buy other profitable crops to store during harvest time. A total of 270 containers (6,480 tonnes) of black grams and 70 pigeon peas (1,680 tonnes) were traded in the 15 trading days this month. — TWA/KK



Pulses seen being neatly organized for sale at the market.

## Myanmar traditional kite flying competitions to be held in April



The opening event of the Myanmar Traditional Kite Flying Competition 2018 seen at the Equestrian Stadium in Yangon.

MYANMAR traditional kite flying competitions will be held for two days in the first week of April.

The competition will be held in Dagon Myothit (Seik-

kan) Township, Yangon Region, on 6 and 7 April as a celebration of the Myanmar Traditional New Year, organized by the Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation.

In the years before the COVID-19 pandemic, kite competitions were held in the country in a variety of categories, including team competitions, distance competitions, and traditional kite and beauty kite competitions.

Now, the Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation is re-organizing the Myanmar traditional kite flying competitions with the aim of identifying Myanmar traditional sports and competing with international traditional sports.

Over 100 professional kite flyers from Tamway, Dagon Myothit (North), Thakayta, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa and Hlinethaya townships compete in the tournament every year. Later, due to the scarcity of kite-making professionals, it became difficult to hold kite competitions. — TWA/KZL

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# DICA report: 600 companies fail to file AR in Feb 2024

A total of 600 companies were struck off the register in February 2024 as they failed to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA notified any registered company that fails to file its AR on the MyCO that it is to be struck off the register from the date of the directive under 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

The DICA's statistics showed that 750 companies did not file the AR in January 2024. A total of 6,400 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2023.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies



The front view of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration office in Yangon.

need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation) under Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in

the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were sus-

pending for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM

## Weak foreign demand pushes down green gram prices

THE price of green gram is on a downward trajectory owing to the sluggish foreign demand, according to the Mandalay market's trade figures.

There is no green gram supply in the market. The market is moving at a slow pace for now. New green gram from central Myanmar regions was valued at K1.633 million per tonne in the third week of March.

Exports raised the price to a record high of K2.04 million per tonne in early February. The fig-

ures indicated a significant drop of over K400,000 per tonne in the past month.

Myanmar exports green gram to China, India, the Netherlands, Ireland, the UK and Germany through maritime and border channels. More than 425,000 tonnes of green gram worth US\$284.957 million have been shipped worldwide as of 8 March of the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April. The Ministry of Commerce stated that Myanmar aims to export 600,000 tonnes of green gram to ex-

ternal markets this FY, with 150,000 tonnes in each batch.

There is a wide range of foreign markets for Myanmar's green gram. More than 8,000 tonnes of green gram are sent to the European Union member countries. Ten companies have proposed green gram export so far this year. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce have agreed to export the green grams to European countries for bean sprouts starting in 2015. — NN/EM

## Pure gold price hits record high of K4.2 mln per tical in grey market

WITH spot gold price rallying to over US\$2,200 per ounce, domestic gold price hit a record high of K4.2 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) on 21 March 2024.

Meanwhile, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) set the reference price at K3.7991 million per tical, showing a large gap of over K400,000 per tical with the actual market value.

The YGEA warned gold traders to halt business unless they make transactions below the YGEA's reference price, according to a notification released on 16 March.

Those unscrupulous dealers are manipulating the market by misleading information. Authorities concerned are inspecting the cause of price fluctuations, and legal proceedings against them are being

undertaken, the notification stated.

As a result of this, the YGEA requested dealers to make gold transactions below the set reference price and avoid the spread of false news and price manipulation on 12 March.

The kyat depreciation to K4,000 against the US dollar drove the gold price up to a record high of K4 million per tical in August 2023. — NN/EM

## CBM revokes three forex licences

THE Central Bank of Myanmar revoked the licences of three money changers again on 19 March as they failed to comply with the rules, guidelines and directives issued by the CBM.

Those three forex companies (Kaung Han Thar Company, Lite Finance Myanmar Company and Wings & Wheels Travel & Tours Company) had their licences revoked starting from 19 March 2024.

CBM notified revocation of eight money changer licences and suspension of seven this month for non-compliance with the CBM's rules and directives.

CBM vowed to conduct surprise inspections at money changers in order to stabilize foreign exchange rates in line with the stipulations of the existing laws, the CBM announced on 11 March.

CBM initiated an online trading market in which exporters/importers and private banks are engaged, with a view to developing the FX market. Additionally, the authorized money changers sell the foreign currency as petty cash to those going abroad, according to the CBM's notification. Moreover, the surprise visits are being undertaken at money changers to ensure they abide by the directive issued by the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

A combined team led by the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market, comprising competent authorities from the CBM, Yangon City Development Committee, the Department of General Administration and law enforcement agencies, has been conducting the surprise inspections. — NN/EM

# OPINION

## Rely on forests to prevent climate change

“FORESTS and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World”, set as a theme for 2024, marking the International Day of Forests, becomes a prominent drive for mitigating environmental degradation based on climate change and global warming.

Currently, the towns of Myanmar and Thailand, which are close to the borderline of both countries, are suffering from the terrible impacts of air pollution to a high degree. So, both countries are seeking the best ways to solve such issues and lessen the threats to the health conditions of the people in time. Similar problems occur across the world.

Innovation and technology have transformed forest monitoring, enabling nations to track and report on their forests with greater precision. Transparent and innovative forest monitoring efforts have resulted in the reporting of 13.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emission reductions or enhancements to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The fight against deforestation necessitates cutting-edge technological solutions. Globally, 10 million hectares of forest are lost annually due to deforestation, with approximately 70 million hectares affected by fires. These innovations are crucial for implementing early warning systems, promoting sustainable commodity production, and empowering ethnic communities through land mapping and access to climate finance.

If so, global countries have to make concerted efforts to directly or indirectly reduce the impacts of climate change. Consequently, relieving climate change will help save the lives of global peoples as well as grant the lives of new generations. As such, global peoples are to disseminate their knowledge about nurturing and protecting forests to new generations with farsightedness to prevent deterioration of the planet Earth as much as possible.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, nearly half of Myanmar's land area is covered by forests. Despite timber extraction, successive governments have prioritized the establishment of forest plantations and commercial teak plantations in collaboration with the private sector.

In line with global efforts, Myanmar is committed to ecosystem restoration, including reforestation, which can significantly contribute to climate

mitigation and enhance food security while promoting sustainable wood products. The vital role of forests in mitigating the impacts of phenomena like El Niño is now widely acknowledged.

Efforts to address environmental challenges require global cooperation and innovative solutions. It is imperative for nations to prioritize forest preservation and restoration efforts to safeguard the well-being of current and future generations. The 2024 International Day of Forests serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of forests in fostering a sustainable and resilient world.

If so, global countries have to make concerted efforts to directly or indirectly reduce the impacts of climate change. Consequently, relieving climate change will help save the lives of global peoples as well as grant the lives of new generations. As such, global peoples are to disseminate their knowledge about nurturing and protecting forests to new generations with farsightedness to prevent deterioration of the planet Earth as much as possible.

### A brief glimpse of two treatises on Myanmar literature by Maung Khin Min (Danubyu)

SAYA Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) turned 84 in January 2024. Saya, certainly, is one of the living doyens of the Myanmar Language, linguistics, and literature. A few years ago, there was a commemoration of the publication of his 100<sup>th</sup> book at the Department of Myanmar at the University of Yangon.

In the just-finished inaugural Grade XII *Myanmar Sar* exam, there were a few questions regarding Saya Maung Khin Min's work, which are reproduced in the text. In the Grade XII textbook on *Myanmar Sar*; there are excerpts from eight articles on linguistics and language use written by Maung Khin Min! Not only students and their teachers but other interested persons can read these articles with benefit (and not only for exam purposes).

I understand that the most recent book by Saya Maung Khin Min is about his teachers, senior colleagues and contemporaries. These 'vignettes' are written in the colloquial style (အပြေစကားပြောစကားပြောသလိုရေး). Yours truly has not had the chance to read his latest book but has read at least nine books (out of around 120?) that Maung Khin Min had published, including his magisterial *မြန်မာစာပေခရီး*

*Myanmar Sarpay Khayee* (Journey of Myanmar Literature) and *ကိုလိုနီခေတ်မြန်မာစာပေသမိုင်း* *Koloni Khit Myanmar Sar-*

*pay Thamaing* ('History of Myanmar literature during the colonial period').

The late Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin (1888-1973) published his classic *မြန်မာစာပေသမိုင်း Myanmar Sarpay Thamaing* ('History of Myanmar Literature') in 1938 and it has been republished at least ten times. Saya Maung Khin Min's *မြန်မာစာပေခရီး* is not a rehash (so to speak) of his own Sayagyi's (U Pe Maung Tin's) work but viewed the development of Myanmar literature from a fresh perspective.

While Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin's treatise, first published in 1938, ends with the advent of the colonial era in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Maung Khin Min's book on Myanmar literature during the colonial period continues the developments in the genre from the start of the colonial era (for Lower Myanmar) in 1826 to the time of Independence in 1948. While U Pe Maung Tin's 1938 treatise encapsulates concisely aspects of Myanmar literature, Maung Khin Min's *မြန်မာစာပေခရီး* published in 2014 seventy-six years after U Pe Maung Tin's book provides a panoramic view of the 'journey' of Myanmar literature throughout the ages going back to around 900 years.

The remainder of this article will discuss a comment on a contemporary Myanmar usage that Saya Maung Khin Min critiqued a few months ago- the use of the term *သူမ*

### Usage of the Myanmar phrase *thu ma* သူမ

# Saya Maung Khin Min's significant contributions to *Myanmar Sar* and a query regarding the usage of သူမ

By Dr Myint Zan

In an article published in the 12 September 2023 issue of *Sandaou Chain* ('Standard Time') newspaper, Maung Khin Min wrote that the phrase သူမ (roughly translatable as a third person singular referring to a female) was not a proper Myanmar usage. Maung Khin Min stated that in Myanmar usage(s), whether the third person who is being referred to is a male or a female, as a rule, the gender of the person being referred to is not specifically stated by putting the affix *မ ma* (when persons referred to are females). This writer would provisionally add that, in a certain sense, what Maung Khin Min wrote is correct. If the gender of the person referred to is male, it does not make sense: it sounds both awkward and preposterous indeed, and it is unacceptable to refer to as သူမ: *thu hti* (a 'third person' male). But is it that awkward — for now and for a while, let's put in abeyance whether it is

a proper or 'traditional' Myanmar usage — to refer to a female as a third person by adding the affix *မ ma*?

It might have been the late writer and poet Saya Dagon Taya (Tarya) (1919-2013) who might have first used the phrase. Even if Dagon Tarya was not the 'pioneer' of the phrase သူမ, which, according to Maung Khin Min, did not exist in traditional Myanmar language and usage, he might well have first used the (to me and to others as well) the elegant phrase လေးနဲ့အေး (gentle and cool breeze) as well as the (shall we say) less exquisite ဝတ်လစ်လစ်လမ်းမကြီး (the 'scantly clad' major road). One supposes that Saya Maung Khin Min has not commented on these usages 'devised' by Saya Dagon Tarya). One realizes, though, that unlike *thu ma* can be classified as Myanmar syntactical usage, and the above two examples deal with the devising of new phrases by

adding affix လေးနဲ့အေး and prefix ဝတ်လစ်လစ်လမ်းမကြီး. Arguably, the two phrases devised by Dagon Tarya did not affect or 'subvert' traditional Myanmar usages?

### Abandoning tradition if necessary to do so: an exhortation of Thakin Ba Thaug

But is strict, if you will, 'conservative' adherence to tradition always necessary or advisable? In the early to mid-1930s, Sayagyi Thakin Ba Thaug (1901-1981) wrote in one of his essays that, in certain circumstances, tradition need not always be followed. Reversing or 'subverting' the usage ရှေးထုံးကိုလည်း မပယ်နှင့်။ ရှေးသုံးကိုလည်း မကြွယ်နှင့် (Do not forsake tradition, do not be a spendthrift in the market) Thakin Ba Thaug asserted that on certain occasions if needs be, tradition should be abandoned. ရှေးထုံးကိုလည်း ပယ်သင့်က ပယ်ရမည်. Likewise, 'do be a spend drift if you must in the

market' ရှေးသုံးကိုလည်း ကြွယ်သင့်က ကြွယ်ရမည် Thakin Ba Thaug wrote. He was writing an article in which he advocated 'abandoning' the traditional method of farming and the industrialization of Burmese farming. What farming one submits should perhaps be applicable to the usage of Myanmar words and phrases. In the history of the Myanmar language, going back centuries, there have been changes in spelling, syntax, and grammar, as well as the addition, deletion, revision, and innovation of phrases, words, and usages. Saya himself stated this in one of his excerpts in Grade XII Myanmar Sar text (on page 140) when comparing the Myanmar Sar of the Bagan era and modern Myanmar Sar in syntax, grammar, vocabulary and style.

To give one modern (that is less than 100 years old) example: I have quoted Thakin Ba Thaug's statement in an essay titled ဝိဇ္ဇာနှင့်

လယ်ယာ ('Science and Farming' or 'Scientific farming') reproduced in the Myanmar textbook အထက်တန်း ပင်ရှင်းစကားပြောလက်ရွေးစင် used for high school students throughout the academic years 1968-69 to 1985-86. In a brief comment, the compilers of the text wrote at the end of Thakin Ba Thaug's article that, in the 1920s and 1930s, the term ဝိဇ္ဇာ (contemporary definition is 'arts subjects' not 'art') denoted 'science' which in contemporary usage is သိပ္ပံ. I submit that if the usage of arts and science is reversed in Myanmar terminology in less than a century, then it is not inadvisable, indeed not inappropriate, to use the phrase သူမ.

### Two Myanmar phrases in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century royal orders of King Anaukphetlun

Let's briefly go back over four hundred years: to the year 1607. On 23 June 1607, King Anaukphetlun of Ava/Inwa issued five Royal Orders *ah meint daw* on the same day. These Royal Orders are reproduced in typed Myanmar script with skeletal English translations in Volume I of Dr Than Tun's *Royal Orders of Burma* (1598-1885). In two of the Royal Orders, the words ရှင်းကွာ (in context 'divorce') and မြစ်တား (in context 'prohibit'/'block') appear. For well over a hundred years, probably since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the modern usages for those words were ကွာရှင်း and တားမြစ်. Still, we moderns understand when Anaukphetlun used what can then be described as official usage. If မြစ်တား becomes တားမြစ်

and ရှင်းကွာ becomes ကွာရှင်း 'breaking tradition' is it un-sacrosanct to use သူမ?

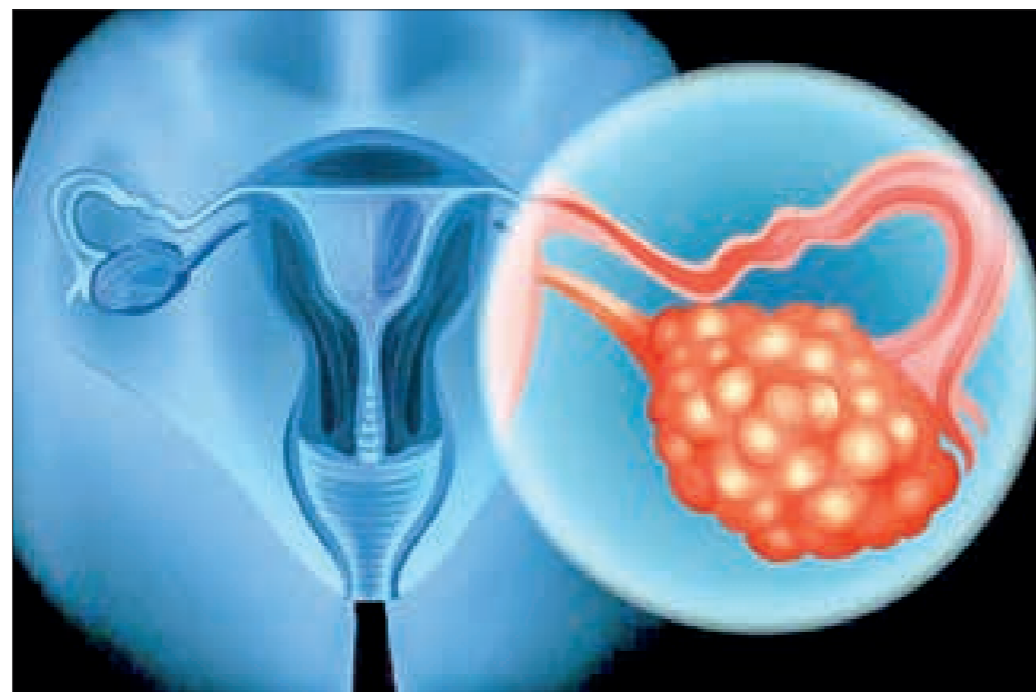
### 'Not that sort of boy': juxtaposing the traditional versus the now dominant meaning of 'gay'

In the English language, too, the usages and meanings of particular words change, expand, and perhaps 'metamorphose'. Yours truly does not know when and how the (traditional?) meaning of the word 'gay' ('happy') changed to the now more prevalent connotation 'lover of or being infatuated with persons from the same sex (mainly by males)'. When I used the phrase When I see a child at play ... reminds me of the time when I was joyful and gay' in my poem in English 'When I see a Child at Play' first published in the 24 September 1972 issue of the Sunday Supplement of the now defunct *The Guardian* newspaper in Rangoon I do not mean I was that kind of boy! Only about two decades later, I realized the 'other' perhaps now predominant meaning of the word 'gay'!

Reverting to သူမ - what I discern from Saya Maung Khin Min's article is that he did not - quite specifically state the phrase should not be used - only that it is not traditional usage. I have learned a lot from Saya's books and articles and would again like to record my appreciation for his notable contributions to the Myanmar language and literature.

# Researchers find ways to reduce side effects of breast, ovarian cancer treatment

While maintaining their harmful effect on cancer cells, healthy cells are protected.



PARP inhibitors mitigate this risk by targeting specific cancer cells while sparing healthy ones. ILLUSTRATION: IMAGE FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ GLOBAL MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCE

CERTAIN anti-cancer medications also target healthy cells in addition to malignant cells. Their use may become restricted if their effects on the latter are excessively powerful.

The mechanism of action of PARP inhibitors, which are specifically used for treating breast and ovarian cancer in individuals with the BRCA gene mutation, has been determined by a team from the University of Geneva (UNIGE) in cooperation with Basel-based F0Rx Therapeutics.

These inhibitors prevent the PARP pro-

teins from engaging in two distinct functions. Healthy cells are protected while the harmful effect on cancer cells is maintained by inhibiting one of them. The effectiveness of these treatments will be enhanced by this research, which was published in the journal Nature.

Despite the thousands of lesions that damage our DNA every day, the genome of our cells is particularly stable thanks to a highly efficient repair system. Among the genes coding for repair proteins are BRCA1 and BRCA2 (for BRest CAncer 1 and 2), which are particularly involved in DNA double helix

breaks. The presence of mutations in these genes (in around two out of every 1,000 women) can result in non-repair of damaged DNA, and greatly increase the risk of developing breast or ovarian cancer (or prostate cancer in men).

PARP inhibitors have been used to treat this type of cancer for around 15 years. PARP proteins can detect breaks or abnormal structures in the DNA double helix. PARPs then temporarily stick to the DNA, synthesizing a chain of sugars which acts as an alarm signal to recruit the proteins involved in DNA repair.

Treatments based on PARP inhibitors

block these activities and trap the PARP protein on the DNA. There is then no alarm signal to trigger DNA repair.

This treatment proves toxic for fast-growing cells such as cancer cells, which generate too many mutations without having time to repair them and are thus doomed to die. But our bodies are also home to fast-growing healthy cells. This is the case, for example, of hematopoietic cells - the source of red and white blood cells - which, as collateral victims, are also massively destroyed by anti-PARP treatments.

SOURCE: ANI



# NATIONAL

## Why does Myanmar need the People's Military Service Law?

**MIN KHANT**

**D**IFFERENT conscription laws across the globe enable nations to assemble defence forces in order to safeguard their national sovereignty. The amount that will be matched is typically verified in cases where this practice is required for his country. **The true essence of enacting such conscription laws, however, is to raise awareness of the following points: every citizen is duty-bound to defend their country, they must serve in the military if needed, and they must acquire the necessary skills for national defence.** The State's spending budget,

to it as the combinations model.

Neighbouring countries like Thailand have been using conscription systems. In addition, Laos and India have applied a voluntary service system, but they have enacted laws allowing them to call up their citizens if necessary.

One could say that China employs a de jure or combinations model like the United States. Russia, a powerful nation, has passed and put into effect laws requiring military service. Several countries in the region, including South Korea, North Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, and Cambodia, have passed and

the sake of national security. Although it was enacted in November 2010, this law has come into force now. All citizens will not be required to serve in the military even if the People's Military Service Law is enforced. Rather, a restricted quantity will be needed to be served. **The officials state that no man or woman who is eligible for military service in Myanmar will be required to enlist at the same time. To reduce the burden on the state, only a small number of individuals within the designated age range will be identified and called up. Therefore, only eligible men will be chosen; calling up women has not yet been planned.** All individuals chosen for military service will also get the same ration, pay, and allowances as other military personnel.

The People's Military Service Law went into effect recently, and the government of Myanmar has only recently begun recruiting military personnel formally. But since Myanmar regained its independence, insurgents and ethnic armed groups have been forcibly recruiting people. The KIA insurgent group has been accusing people in Kachin State and the northern Sagaing region of being at fault for a variety of reasons in recent times. As a result, the victims have been made to join the KIA group as punishment. They enforce it on new recruits by family and

from the village by the rebels. So do the armed groups of Wa group, Mongla group, Wang Hai group, Yawd Serk's group, NMSF group, and KNU group. The entire populace hates PDF terrorists because they murder people and claim to be "informant/Dalan" if they do not join them. **It is surprising to learn that certain nations and organizations condemn the application of laws enacted by independent states on the grounds of necessity and the actions of a government that complies with the law while ignoring the coerced enlistment of armed insurgents who are not authorized by law.**

Every law-abiding young person does not need to serve in combat battalions or units under the People's Military Service Law; instead, they can select other corps, as their assignments will be based on their skill sets. The fact that the chosen youths will serve in the designated battalions or units and that other citizens will have the opportunity to observe the People's Military Service system makes me believe that the said law should be enforced. Those details will undoubtedly be included as soon as the pertinent bylaws are formally published.

Therefore, it is necessary for people not to pay attention and believe the false

**The true essence of enacting such conscription laws, however, is to raise awareness of the following points: every citizen is duty-bound to defend their country, they must serve in the military if needed, and they must acquire the necessary skills for national defence.**

the political and security landscape, and the methods and quantity of selection and verification for enlistment.

This article aims to elucidate the details surrounding military service laws that are governed by foreign nations worldwide and the necessity of Myanmar's People's Military Service Law. When looking at military service laws governed by foreign nations generally, two types of laws can be identified: Mandatory conscription combinations, which require men and women to serve in the military unconditionally and combinations system which exercises both the de jure system and the voluntary military service system.

The mandatory conscription system, which entails requiring eligible male and female citizens to serve in the military based on age and health requirements, is typically implemented in small, one-party states with sparse populations. Certain nations mandate that all citizens are required to register for military service; however, the de jure or combinations model is only available to those who voluntarily choose to serve and those who are required to serve.

During the world wars, the liberal democratic United States implemented a conscription system. Today, known as Selective Service, it is a mandatory registration system for military service that is put into place when a citizen turns 18 years old. Put differently, we can refer

implemented laws requiring military service. The de jure model has also been used in Indonesia. According to the World Population Review website, 86 nations have enacted and implemented various forms of military service laws.

Since gaining independence on 4 January 1948, only voluntary enlistment has been practised in Myanmar. But after all this time, people have come to believe that the military handles national defence and that it is not their responsibility. However, it should be mentioned that the majority of armed insurgent groups recruit new members forcibly on the basis of ethnicity.

It is true that each and every citizen bears responsibility for the defence of their country. Every citizen is obligated to serve in the nation's official armed forces if needed, a principle that has been stated by national leader General Aung San since 1947.

**Every citizen must possess a strong understanding of national defence issues. Given Myanmar's strategic location among powerful nations and its strategic position spanning South and Southeast Asia, all citizens ought to be aware of national defence issues.**

From this, I learned that the People's Military Service Law enforcement in Myanmar, which came into force on 10 February 2024, is an excellent procedure that needs to be carried out regularly for

**The officials state that no man or woman who is eligible for military service in Myanmar will be required to enlist at the same time. To reduce the burden on the State, only a small number of individuals within the designated age range will be identified and called up. Therefore, only eligible men will be chosen; calling up women has not yet been planned.**

by village. Similar to KIA, MNDA and TNLA groups also extort huge sums of money from residents who choose not to join them. Young people in the Palaung region have recently fled the hands of the aforementioned groups, who are forcing the IDPs to join them, despite the fact that children and monks are being asked to forgo wearing religious-ordered clothing.

In Rakhine State, the armed insurgent group AA is forcing ten people to enlist from each village. Those who decline to join the insurgents are expelled

information spread by terrorists and insurgents. They fear that the citizens will enrol in lawful military service and study national defence education.

**The People's Military Service Law allows responsible young people to serve in the military with honour, allowing them to stand tall in their community. Improvement of self-control, enhancement of current skills, and increased maturity during military**

**SEE PAGE 11**

# NATIONAL

## FROM PAGE -10

service will increase self-assurance, perseverance and physical fitness.

The knowledge and experience that come from serving in the military will help the young people in their future endeavours, and they will also develop the mental toughness necessary to overcome obstacles in the workforce.

Since the majority of people or communities will proportionately serve in the military, it is also crucial that mutual trust and understanding be developed between the civilian and military communities. For this reason, conscription programmes are known across the globe as the “Civil-Military

Social Bridge,” connecting the civilian and military communities. With regard to the People’s Military Service Law, Myanmar’s existence and sovereignty can be ensured because a greater number of its citizens will be aware of defence and security. Therefore, the harsh criticism of Myanmar’s Military Service Law from certain nations that are attempting to destroy Myanmar through all means is indicative of their true goals.

In actuality, the People’s Military Service Law is being exercised in both the powerful nations of the world and the neighbouring countries, as well as in numerous other countries in the region.

After serving in the armed forces for the required amount of time, young men and women can think rationally, have a disciplined system, be willing to work with others, develop high personal capability, and increase trust and understanding of Tatmadaw.

Overall, in the midst of global power competition, the People’s Military Service Law, passed in 2010, came into force on 10 February 2024. This was made possible by the need for a strong defence, harmonious integration with the People’s Militia Strategy, the growth of the people’s spirit for the Union and patriotism, and the chance for every citizen to fulfil their

obligation to defend their country.

The People’s Military Service Law, which went into force in Myanmar, is not comparable to forced recruitment tactics used by terrorists and insurgents, nor is it comparable to some foreign countries’ Mandatory Conscription, which requires all men and women to serve in the military without exception.

I write this article to explain that the aforementioned law is a type of de jure or combinations that mandate that only a sufficient number of people serve in the military in accordance with the security and defence needs of their own nation.



## Crackdown on fraudulent agencies exploiting overseas job seekers

THE Ministry of Labour has announced that it will take action against agencies found to be fraudulently collecting money from those seeking to go and work abroad.

Genuine demand letters submitted to the Department of Labour will lead to the prompt issuance of overseas worker identity cards (OWIC).

However, certain agencies have been presenting fake demand letters to the department, deceiving individuals seeking employment abroad and unlawfully demanding money from them.

Consequently, the ministry has stated its intention to take punitive measures against any agencies engaged in such fraudulent activities. — TWA/TRKM

## Student delegation from PES Maastricht visits Myanmar Embassy in Brussels

STUDENT representatives from the Political Economy Society (PES) Maastricht in the Netherlands visited and studied at the Myanmar Embassy in Brussels on 12 March, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Lin Han received the student delegation in Brussels. During the meeting, the ambassador provided insights into Myanmar’s progress, highlighting aspects not covered by the international media. He also discussed Myanmar’s strategic geopolitical position, its relationships with neighbouring countries, current political



Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Lin Han receives the student delegation in the Netherlands on 12 March 2024.

developments and challenges, and EU-Myanmar relations.

Students acknowledged Myanmar’s role as a strategic bridge between Southeast

Asia and South Asia. Additionally, they posed questions regarding Myanmar’s ethnic groups. — ASH/TMT

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09 454 237 515

## Pheegyan and Rakhine banana sales active, Theemhwe sales sluggish



Two workers carrying banana bunches from a boat to Bagaya banana market.

IN the banana market, Pheegyan and Rakhine bananas have been selling well, but Theemhwe banana, which previously gained active sales, has been slow now, according to banana traders.

“At present, Theemhwe has lost market share. Pheegyan and Rakhine banana sales are better. Previously, Theemhwe was the best seller about two years ago. Pheegyan and Theemhwe sales relatively surged about two or three months ago, but they have been quiet recently. It is anticipated that Theemhwe sales will climb up again in the next months. There are not many red banana plantations here, and there is no market,” said Ko Myo Min Aye, a banana farmer in the Toungoo township of the Bago Region.

Depending on the market situation, there is no extension on Theemhwe banana plantation, and farmers have just maintained their old plan-

tations. Due to having no market, red banana sales have been dulled.

Banana farmers should plant about 3,000 banana trees at a plantation, and if there are many trees, banana branches can’t be produced neatly. If so, they can’t offer a good price in the market.

“In my opinion, you shouldn’t grow many bananas. A plantation should have about 3,000 plants so that the trees can produce high quality. Farmers should grow small quantities so that the quality will be great. If trees are enormous, banana branches can’t be produced beautifully. If so, they can’t get good prices in the market,” said Ko Myo Min Aye.

Pheegyan and Rakhine bananas, which currently have good sales, are likely to return to their average sales and fall prices in the following months, he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

# NATIONAL

## Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs, industrial materials and vehicles



Photos show seized illegal goods in different states and regions.

ON 18 March, the Customs team confiscated various items valued at K17.626 million from four containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. These included 912.69

kilogrammes of Superkings brand engine oil, exceeding the declared quantity. Additionally, at Yangon International Airport, goods worth K2.7 million were seized from

luggage, including 200 China-made mobile covers. Enforcement was conducted under Customs procedures.

On 19 March, combined teams seized goods valued at K6.735 million near Bhamo detour, including 250 bed sheets and two Yang Fond vehicles carrying Ammonium Nitrate without official documents in Hopin township. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On the same day, illegal timber weighing 1.079 tonnes worth K146,824 was impounded in Magway township, and 70 gallons of smuggled crude oil worth K245,000 were seized near Htaukshabin oilfield in Minbu township. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Public Property Protection Law.

Additionally, goods worth K12.944 million, including 940 backpacks, were seized from a Mitsubishi Fuso truck worth

approximately K30 million, travelling from Mandalay to Yangon at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

During inspections from 18 to 20 March, the joint teams impounded two vehicles worth approximately K70 million, heading to Yangon from Ye, carrying ten kinds of goods valued at K20.712 million. These included 140 bottles of Two-Shrimp brand palm oil at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station and illegal teak and hardwood in Toungoo district. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law. On 19 and 20 March, illegal teak weighing 9.021 tonnes and illegal other timbers weighing 0.452 tonne were captured in Lewe township. The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 24 arrests over the three days, with an estimated value of K229.242 million. — MNA/MKKS

### Counter-argument to false information

## Misinformation: Man dissatisfied with people's military law died within hours of being arrested in Kyangin



The screenshot validates false reports.

MALICIOUS new media are spreading false information on social media that a man who expressed dissatisfaction with the People's Military Service Law died within hours of his arrest in Shwetaungsu Ward, Kyangin. The true incident is that a group of administrative officials was collecting population censuses on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in

the ward at 9 am on 20 March, when U Than Tun Aye, a resident of that street, thought that the census was being taken for the people's military service law, he insulted the members of the administration and behaved rudely.

As a result, the officials reported to the relevant authorities step by step and explained the matter to him in a meeting at the ward administration office, but he did not accept it.

Therefore, an official from the police station came to pick him up but he said that he could not follow him and that he would come to the police station by himself, and arrived at the police station in his rickshaw. Meanwhile, a man who lived in the same neighbourhood and his sister arrived at the police station and was being questioned by a female sub-police inspector, who was on duty at the police station, when U Than Tun Aye, who originally suffered from

epilepsy, had a seizure. The duty officer allowed the elder sister and her companion to take U Than Tun Aye back, and the sister expressed her gratitude and said that she would apologize to the relevant officials and arrived at the General Hospital at 9:30 am in the accompanying rickshaw.

Unluckily, U Than Tun Aye died at around 11:30 am due to a seizure while receiving medical treatment. Malicious news media is intentionally circulating fabricated stories to destroy what the Union government is doing to train its citizens under the law and regulations and to serve in the military for the defence of the country.

Citizens can access information about people's military service through national media's news and broadcasts about militia service and at the website named <https://mod.gov.mm/node/74>. — MNA/KZL

## Malicious media misleads public on Military Service Law



The screenshot validates misinformation.

SUBVERSIVE media outlets are circulating false information and propaganda, aiming to mislead the public regarding the military service law. They claim that village and ward administrators in Kyonpyaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, have convened meetings with young people and their parents, demanding extortion money from those unwilling to serve in the military. These malicious elements, along with terrorists, seek to obstruct various initiatives, fearing the public's compliance with military training and national defence obligations.

In reality, authorities in Kyonpyaw Township held meetings with young people and their parents to address the misinformation circulating on social media about the People's Military Service Law. An official from the conscription team confirmed this educational effort. It has become evident that subversive media groups are fabricating and spreading propaganda to misinform villages and townships about people's military service measures. — MNA/TKO

## Ben & Jerry's owner Unilever to spin off ice cream arm

Unilever revealed its plan to spin off its ice cream unit, home to popular brands like Ben & Jerry's and Magnum, into a separate business.

BRITISH consumer goods giant Unilever announced Tuesday that it will separate its ice cream unit, whose top-selling products include Ben & Jerry's and Magnum, as a standalone business.

The company also unveiled a major overhaul which it said would "impact" around 7,500 mainly office-based jobs worldwide and save 800

million euros (\$870 million) over the next three years.

"The separation of Unilever and Ice Cream in combination with the productivity programme will ensure that Unilever's financial and management resources are focused on its strongest, global or scalable brands," Unilever said in a statement. — AFP

## Deals totalling US\$8.54 bln inked at China-France forum

At the 7<sup>th</sup> China-France Forum on Urban Sustainable Development in Wuhan, 58 projects worth \$8.54 billion were signed, totalling 60.6 billion yuan.

DEALS worth 60.6 billion yuan (about 8.54 billion US dollars) covering 58 projects were signed at the 7<sup>th</sup> China-France Forum on Urban Sustainable Development held in Wuhan, capital city of central China's Hubei Province, on Wednesday.

The forum was hosted to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China and France's signing the joint agreement to build the Sino-French Wuhan Eco-



An aerial drone photo taken on 19 March 2024 shows the permanent venue of the 7<sup>th</sup> China-France Forum on Urban Sustainable Development in the Sino-French Wuhan Ecological Demonstration City, in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province. PHOTO: XINHUA/WU ZHIZUN

logical Demonstration City. The project, covering an area of 39 square kilometres, has integrated Chinese and French ecological urban construction concepts and is rising as a popular spot for residents and companies.

The deals signed on Wednesday cover the fields of ecosystem protection, green economy and urban construction, and involve 11 France-invested projects. — Xinhua

## Germany's largest airport operator posts record profits

GERMAN airport operator Fraport announced Tuesday that it has concluded the 2023 fiscal year with record revenue and operating result due to a "continued recovery in passenger numbers".

The company's net profit more than doubled to 430.5 million euros (about 467.1 million US dollars). Its annual revenue rose by 25.2 per cent to around four billion euros,

resulting in an operating profit of 1.2 billion euros.

"Traffic continued to develop dynamically throughout 2023," said Stefan Schulte, CEO of Fraport AG, adding that the company "benefited from this trend particularly because of its broad international portfolio".

Passenger numbers continued to rise in 2023, with its home-base, the Frankfurt Airport, the

country's largest, seeing a total of 59.4 million passengers and a year-on-year increase of 21.3 per cent.

However, cargo volumes in Frankfurt declined by 3.9 per cent year on year to around 1.9 million metric tons during 2023. This was due to "general market-based factors, such as restrictions in European airspace and weak economic growth," Fraport said. — Xinhua

### STEPHENSON HARWOOD MYANMAR LIMITED

Call for proof of debts or claims  
(Pursuant to Insolvency Rule 9)

Following the approval of the company's voluntary winding-up and the appointment of U Maung Maung Min Khaung as liquidator, all persons claiming to be creditors of the above named company are hereby requested to submit details of their claims together with any documentary evidence in their possession to the liquidator at the address given below not later than 05 April 2024.

**U Maung Maung Min Khaung**  
LL.B., D.B.L (Advocate) (No. 16234)  
Liquidator

Liquidator's Office: Uniteam Marine Office Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Unit#1, No. 84, Pan Hlaing Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, 11111

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2404S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2404S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2024** 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 MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (409W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (409W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB410A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB410A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2024** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## India criticizes 'Uniting for Consensus' Model at UN for opposing reforms to Security Council

*India's Permanent Representative to the UN criticized the UfC model, stating it contradicts the idea supported by most UN member states for expanding both permanent and non-permanent categories of the Security Council.*

INDIA has criticized the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) model at the United Nations for opposing reforms to the Security Council, citing a lack of African, Global South representation and no change in permanent seat membership.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj slammed the UfC model and stated that it stands against the idea advocated by a majority of the UN member states which is an expansion in the permanent and non-permanent categories of an expanded



India criticized the UfC group, which is opposed to creation of new permanent members of UNSC **PHOTO: ANI**

security council. "The UfC, which comprises 12 countries and 2 observers including a P5 country and, which stands against the idea advocated by a majority of the UN member states which is an expansion in the permanent and non-permanent categories of an expanded security council," Kamboj said in a response to the UfC model presented by Italy at the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) meeting on UNSC reforms on Monday. Kamboj asserted that UfC is just vetoing the whole process and suggesting a my way or the highway approach. She said the UfC group has not provided any information regarding text-based negotiations within a set time frame. "First, how does the model represent Africa, Latin America and Asia? Africa – a

54-member group, which calls for expansion in both categories of an expanded United Nations Security Council. Without representation, without a mandate, without a seat, without a voice, which representation entails, members of the global south would just come and go. Isn't the UfC just vetoing the whole process and suggesting a my way or the highway approach? Why then? Why then has the UfC model not taken this into consideration? My question is, why is the UfC not ready to give and take on its proposal?... When Africa itself is asking for an expansion in both categories of membership, isn't it uncalled for to do just what Africa was subjected to in perpetuating the past, which is deciding on their behalf? — ANI

## Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto wins presidential election

*Defence Minister Prabowo and his vice-presidential running mate, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, secured over 96 million votes, or 59 per cent, in the first round of the 14 February elections.*



Prabowo Subianto attends a gathering with media and his supporters in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 March 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

PRABOWO Subianto has been elected as the President of Indonesia, after a decisive win against two rivals who have vowed to file a legal complaint about the voting.

Defence Minister Prabowo and his vice-presidential running mate, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, received a majority of votes in the 14 February first round, winning 59 per cent, or more than 96 million votes, General Elections Commission, Chairperson Hasyim Asy'ari said on Wednesday.

Anies Baswedan secured nearly 41 million votes, or 25 per cent of the total count, while Ganjar Pranowo received 27 million votes, more than 16 per cent.

Prabowo, a former special forces commander, is expected to take over from outgoing President Joko Widodo, Gibran's father, in October after a transition period. — ANI

## Evacuations ordered from northern Australia amid major flood warnings

EVACUATIONS have been ordered from a remote region of Australia's Northern Territory (NT) amid warnings of a "one-in-a-hundred-year" flood.

Authorities in the NT on Wednesday night began evacuating hundreds of residents from the town of Borroloola, more than 700 Kilometres southeast of Darwin, and its

surrounding areas with the assistance of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

The evacuations were ordered by the NT government after updated modelling predicted water levels in the McArthur River could rise to 18 metres at Borroloola following heavy rainfall brought by ex-tropical cyclone Megan.

A peak of 18 metres would be the highest water level in recorded history for the river, surpassing the 15 metres that caused significant flooding in 2001. NT Police Commissioner Michael Murphy said at a press conference that previous modelling had underestimated the impact of the rainfall, predicting a 15.3 metre peak. — Xinhua



Royal Australian Navy personnel work with civilian emergency services to evacuate members of the public in Cairns, Australia, 18 December 2023. **PHOTO: AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE DEPT**

# SPORTS



## Myanmar to play friendly matches against Afghanistan this month

THE Myanmar National Futsal Team and the Afghanistan National Futsal Team, who are preparing for the final stage of the 2024 Asian Cup Futsal Tournament, will play a friendly match on 30 and 31 March.

The warm-up match will be held at the National Indoor Stadium 1 (Thuwunna) in Yangon at 3 pm. The Myanmar national futsal team will play the first international friendly match at home for two consecutive days. The Myanmar national futsal team is preparing for the final

stage of the Asia Cup futsal tournament on 18 March, and the international warm-up match will be held more than a week later. In addition, team Myanmar will travel to Thailand before the Asian Cup futsal tournament and will play more international friendly matches. The current lineup includes star players, including goalkeeper Nyi Nyi Thant, as well as players named Myo Myint Soe and Thaw Htet Aung. Thai head coach Mr Bunlert Charongwong is currently handling the team. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Team Myanmar is taking training ahead of the international friendly match against Afghanistan. PHOTO: MFF

## Murray beats dizzy Berrettini, Stephens, Osaka advance

Andy Murray secured a hard-fought victory against Matteo Berrettini in the first round of the Miami Open, winning 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 at the Hard Rock Stadium.

TWO-TIME Miami Open champion Andy Murray fought back for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over struggling Italian Matteo Berrettini in the first round at Hard Rock Stadium on Wednesday.

Berrettini needed medical attention near the end of the second set after appearing to almost faint on court but he battled on.

The Italian recently returned to the tour after an injury-plagued 2023, reaching the final of a Challenger event in Phoenix.

He broke Murray's serve in the first game of the match and was in firm control of the opening set.

But he faded badly

in the second and called a medical timeout when 5-2 down after walking off the court looking dizzy.

The weather in Miami was not particularly hot or humid and more pleasantly mild than has often been the case at the tournament

in past years.

The 27-year-old former world number six, put up a better fight in the third, but a solid-looking Murray saw the match out in two hours and 47 minutes.

Murray made just 20 unforced errors while Berrettini committed 44, as the Scot clinched his fourth consecutive first-round win. "There is life in the old dog yet," wrote Murray on the television camera lens at the end of the game and he was pleased with the manner of his win. — AFP



The Spanish football federation's headquarters at Las Rozas was searched by police as part of a corruption investigation. PHOTO: AFP

## Police search Spanish football federation offices over alleged corruption

SPANISH police searched the Spanish football federation (RFEF) headquarters and its former president Luis Rubiales' house among other locations as part of an investigation into alleged corruption and other crimes, judicial sources said Wednesday.

According to Spanish media the operation is part of a court investigation into contracts signed by former federation chief Rubiales to take the Spanish Super Cup to Saudi Arabia. The contracts signed are worth 40 million euros a year (\$43.3 million) and were arranged with former

*The operation is reportedly linked to a judicial probe examining contracts signed by former federation chief Rubiales concerning the relocation of the Spanish Super Cup to Saudi Arabia, as reported by Spanish media.*

footballer Gerard Pique's company Kosmos acting as an intermediary.

The operation involved searches of various locations across Spain as well as the RFEF's base in Las Rozas, on the edge of Madrid, and Rubiales' property in Granada, although the 46-year-old is currently outside of Spain.

"I am absolutely surprised by all this," Rubiales told a journalist from Spanish television channel Telecinco.

"I have been working here for months in the Dominican Republic, I've been here for over a month straight, and in fact, my family was going to come and spend Easter with me". — AFP

Andy Murray beat Italian Matteo Berrettini in the first round of the Miami Open on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP



# WORLD



Bulky bovine Ko Muang Phet, who recently sold for about \$500,000, was welcomed to Thailand's Government House. **PHOTO: LILLIAN SUWANRUMPHA / AFP**

*Thai PM Thavisin welcomed Ko Muang Phet, a \$500,000 white buffalo, to his office. Thai Buffalo Breeding Association urged govt to promote buffaloes as "soft power", backed by owner Limtongkul.*

"Are there more like this?"

Water buffalo are ubiquitous in the Thai countryside, prized as sturdy and reliable farm animals, and albino specimens are particularly valuable because of their rarity. And big bulls are big business — last year a farmer in northern Phitsanulok province reportedly sold his 1.4-tonne bull for more than \$1.45 million.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, Srettha said the Thai Buffalo Breeding Association had asked the government to promote the animals as a tool of "soft power".

"I want people to get the know buffalo more. Thai people used to be close to agriculture and buffalo, but our lifestyle nowadays has distanced us," he told reporters at Government House.

He pledged to bring four giant buffalo to meet tourists at Bangkok's backpacker hotspot of Khao San Road next month for Songkran — the Thai new year festival which sees thousands of revellers soak one another in the streets in a mass water fight. — AFP

## Thai PM meets \$500,000 albino buffalo in 'soft power' push

**T**HAI Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin took the bull by the horns Wednesday as he welcomed an unusual visitor to his offices — an enormous white buffalo that recently sold for \$500,000.

The bulky bovine, named Ko Muang Phet, was renowned in Thai farming circles as a stud animal but hit the mainstream last week with its big-ticket sale,

and earned a trip to Government House to meet Srettha.

Standing 1.8 metres (six feet) tall, the four-year-old albino from western Phetchaburi province weighs 1.4 tonnes — almost three times more than the average buffalo.

Ko Muang Phet has already become a minor TV star, featuring in an episode of the hugely popular "Sound From The

Field Of Love" soap opera.

Srettha — no shorty himself at 1.92 metres tall — went nose-to-nose with the horned celebrity in front of Government House.

"I had no idea we had such beautiful buffalo," Srettha told gathered reporters, gingerly patting one of the creature's huge curved horns.

### THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) MEETING

#### Vo Thi Anh Xuan named as Vietnamese acting president

VIETNAMESE Vice-President Vo Thi Anh Xuan was named as the acting president of the country on Thursday, a day after former President Vo Van Thuong resigned, local media reported.

The decision was made at an extraordinary session of the Vietnamese National Assembly (NA), Vietnam News Agency reported.

Xuan will serve as the acting president until a new president is elected, said the NA Standing Committee. The NA meeting also relieved Thuong from his duties as president of the 2021-2026 term and a 15<sup>th</sup> tenure's NA deputy. — Xinhua

## EU still hooked on Russian LNG despite bloc's hardline rhetoric

DESPITE EU efforts to reduce reliance on Russian gas in the wake of the anti-Russian sanctions, recent data shows a surge in Russian LNG imports by France and Spain, suggesting that business is practically proceeding as usual.

Russian liquified natural gas (LNG) exports to France surged to an all-time high in 14 months (from November 2022 to late January 2024), amounting to €293 million, according to Eurostat data obtained by Sputnik.

Last December, French imports of Russian LNG exports were estimated to be €244 million, marking an increase of almost €50 million over the month. Spain's LNG from Russia amounted to €274 million, 1.7 times higher than in



The vessel Clean Ocean LNG Tanker is currently sailing under the flag of Marshall Islands. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

December 2023, and a 12-month-high.

Additionally, other EU countries such as Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and

Sweden have also purchased Russian LNG. By the end of January, EU nations had collectively spent €684.3 million on Russian LNG. — SPUTNIK