

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-point roadmap of State Administration Council

1. An emphasis will be placed on peace and stability and the full prevalence of law and order throughout the Union to ensure the safety of the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. Public-centred development tasks will be undertaken for the development of socioeconomic life to ensure the prosperity and food sufficiency of the country.
3. Efforts will be made to continue cementing the genuine discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system and building the Union based on democracy and the federal system.
4. An emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic general elections will be held in line with the Constitution (2008), and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark 76th Anniversary of Shan State Day

7 February 2023

Esteemed ethnic national brethren, Mingalaba!
I take much pride in grasping the chance to send the message to the ceremony in commemoration of

the 76th Anniversary of Shan State Day which falls on 7 February today. I extend greetings and make the best wishes for all ethnic national people across the Shan

State and the entire country for having physical and mental well-being.

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SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing opens Myanmar's first-ever nuclear technology information centre



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the display while viewing round the Nuclear Technology Information Centre in Hline Township in Yangon on 6 February 2023.

THANKS to the cooperation of Rosatom, Myanmar will have to enhance the human resources related to the construction and running of

a Small Modular Reactor in Myanmar and to produce qualified experts for respective sectors, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Min-

ister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Myanmar's first-ever nuclear technology information centre in Hline Township of Yangon

yesterday morning.

The Senior General and Director-General Mr Alexey Evgenievich Likhachev of Rosatom State Corporations unveiled

the signboard of the Nuclear Technology Information Centre and sprinkled scented water on the plaque.

SEE PAGE-3



National Objectives for 76th Anniversary of Union Day 2023

1. To strive for the perpetual existence of national solidarity and perpetuity of the Union through the internal strength
2. To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to restore perpetual and durable peace
3. To join hands in harmony for ensuring the prosperity and food sufficiency of the nation as two national plans through the Union spirit
4. To help develop all regions and states on equal terms and increase employment opportunities with ensuring the health and fitness of the entire National people
5. To practise the genuine, discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system through fraternity, solidarity and united endeavours of all ethnic national brethren for building the Union based on democratic and federal systems

Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark 76th Anniversary of Shan State Day

FROM PAGE-1

The Shan State is located in the eastern hilly areas of our country on more than 60,000 square miles of area, sharing borders with other countries. As such, the Shan State is an important region for the nation. It is a state blessed with land and forest scenic beauties where Shan tribes such as Shan, Palaung, Pa-O, Wa, Danu, Kokang, Lahu, Arkha and Inntha ethnic people reside together with Kachin, Kayah and Lisu ethnics preserving their own culture and customs in unison. Moreover, the Shan State is endowed with underground and aboveground natural resources such as minerals, gems, teak and forest products. As it shares borders with countries in the east, the Shan State, an important one for the nation, is developing border trade activities.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is home to all ethnic national people who have been residing in successive eras sharing the future through thick and thin with their own monarchs, own cultures and own kinds of literature by standing tall as a sovereign country in the world. However, British colonialists waged three aggressive wars, occupying Myanmar and enslaving the whole country in 1885.

All ethnic national peoples of the Union opposed the occupation of colonialists with utmost effort. During the period under the colonial rule, they all drove out the colonialists in unison to regain their independence holding various kinds of arms. Participation of Saophas, patriots, public leaders and all ethnic national people from the Shan State in fighting against colonialists and in the independence struggles as well as anti-Fascist activities and resistance periods together with political leaders and nationalistic activists across the nation were noble traditions and honourable historical records of the state.

As a vow to participate in all battles as long as genuine independence was not fully regained was the strongest pledge in the hearts of all ethnic national people, ethnic national leaders unitedly strived for regaining the independence of Myanmar.

In the mainland of Myanmar, AFPFL led the fight for independence with violent struggles while all patriotic people, young and old, in the Shan State also participated in the independence struggles for the nation with patriotic spirit.

In the history of Myanmar's independence struggles, national leader General Aung San held meetings with Saophas and representatives of Shan State separately in Taunggyi on his tour of meeting with ethnic national leaders in order to regain the Independence of Myanmar. General Aung San went to London in January 1947 and held meetings with the British government and

demanding the independence of the whole of Myanmar including hilly regions.

A preliminary meeting was held with the participation of Shan Saophas Council executive member Saophas and public leaders of the Shan State on 3 February 1947. All Shan and Kachin delegates held a meeting on 6 February, and one more meeting took place with the participation of Shan, Kachin and Chin representatives on 7 February. They all formed the subcommittee and signed the meeting decisions.

On 7 February 1947, Shan, Kachin and Chin ethnic leaders adopted the decision to regain independence together with the mainland of Myanmar in Panglong of the Shan State. As a gesture of honouring the 7th of February when the decisions were adopted to take the independence of the whole of Myanmar together without dividing the hilly regions and the mainland, the Shan State Day has been celebrated for 76 years. Hence, the Shan State Day is a significant day concerning with the whole Myanmar national as well as all ethnic national people as the pledges of the Panglong Agreement, the basis of the historic Union Day, were adopted.

Colonialists exercised the divide-and-rule policy in ruling the mainland and hilly areas of Myanmar under their laws for their long-term interests. Hence, racism, dogmatism, sectarianism and personal cult among the national ethnic peoples based on the aforesaid divide-and-rule policy triggered the armed insurgency within some months and caused fighting. Everybody knows that the country cannot enjoy the taste of peace and stability till today. Despite regaining independence, it is known to all that all ethnic people cannot fully enjoy the essence of independence as the country is still far from peace and stability as well as development.

National solidarity is the lifeblood for ensuring the peace and stability of a country and the perpetuation of sovereignty as well as a great driving force for the development of a country. Hence, ethnic national brethren are to remove suspicion among themselves so as to restore perpetual peace. Currently, the local people from the areas that cannot restore peace yet run out of patience over unrest and violent attacks harming the interests of the State and the people. Having improvement in socioeconomic life and safety and peaceful living is the same and keen desire of all ethnic national people.

Hence, it is necessary to build solidarity based on mutual understanding and trust among ethnic national brethren. If the country restores peace one day earlier, it will benefit the people one day earlier.

Nowadays, as peace talks can be held thanks to relentless efforts for the restoration of the Union, the

whole nation will enjoy the fruits of the peace process. The government has adopted a five-point roadmap and 12 political, economic and social objectives while making preparations to hold free and fair multiparty democratic general elections in order to ensure peace and stability and realize democratization. As such, I would like to urge the entire national people to participate in the process for the emergence of freedom, safety, peace and tranquillity and development undertakings in Myanmar.

At present, it is delighted that the majority of Shan State is peaceful, prosperous, and free from unrest and violence as well as fighting. If the remaining parts of the northeast region of Shan State still need peace and stability, the whole of Shan State will enjoy the fruits of peace and tranquillity and the socioeconomic life of the ethnic national people will improve.

The government and Tatmadaw are striving for ceasing the armed conflicts with utmost effort as a nationwide ceasefire, perpetual peace and national reconciliation are actual requirements. In accordance with the point included in the five-point roadmap of the State, "An emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreement set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)", the government is continuously striving for the implementation of the peace process. The military operations have been suspended for five years till the end of this year with the anticipation of restoring the perpetual peace, and fighting and battles which are not answers for peace are avoided. The peace door is open for seeking the answer on the peace table. So, I would like to urge all to take the opportune time to restore peace by showing goodwill and open-minded manners while putting the interests of the Union and all ethnic and national people, before the interests of themselves, their regions and their organizations.

All need to rebuild solidarity and understanding among the ethnic national brethren similar to that built at Panglong in 1947. They all have to strive for showing national unity at present similar to that of Panglong in the last 76 years.

I send a message urging all ethnic national people to join hands with the government in unison based on the Panglong Spirit in order to successfully implement the goal of building the democratic federal Union based on federalism with the full essence of justice, liberty and equality.

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

Tourism revival can drive great progress in State economy

THE tourism sector that contributes to the economy of the country through various ways and means. Business activities and transport operations in a region thanks to domestic and foreign tourists can accelerate money circulation. Foreign tourist arrivals can increase foreign exchange earnings. The government is striving for more arrivals of international tourists to the nation. If inbound and outbound tourism can be enhanced, the State economy will achieve great progress.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 8/2022 of the State Administration Council on 27 September 2022.)

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing ...

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General and the Director-General of Rosatom State Corporations visited the centre. The Senior General viewed the booths on peacefully using nuclear energy in agriculture, health, electricity and energy, and socioeconomic development sectors where the Director-General of Rosatom State Corporations and officials conducted him round the booths.

As opening the centre, an MTV on honourable science and technology song of the Ministry of Science and Technology was presented.



The Senior General and the Rosatom Director-General unveil the Nuclear Technology Information Centre yesterday.



The Senior General and the Rosatom Director-General sprinkle the scented water onto the plaque.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the peaceful use of nuclear energy was initiated in signing the agreement between the Union Minister for Science and Technology of Myanmar and the CEO of Rosatom in St Petersburg on 18 June 2015.

The Ministry of Science and Technology and Rosatom signed two memoranda of understanding in Moscow of the Russian

Federation on 11 July 2022 for cooperation in applying nuclear energy, training and capacity enhancement of human resources, and educating the people to have a positive attitude over nuclear energy.

The Senior General explained that upon completion of opening the nuclear technology information centre, public awareness of nuclear technology will be raised under the

schedules. The centre will help students and youths get nuclear energy information, contributing much to the enhancement of human resources.

The Senior General thanked a delegation from the National Research Nuclear University MEPHI of the Russian Federation for holding discussions on learning opportunities at MEPHI university, scholarship programmes and job opportunities

at basic education high schools and technological universities in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay in order to improve human resources in applying nuclear energy.

At the 7th Eastern Economic Forum-EEF held in Vladivostok in September 2022, the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Science and Technology signed the roadmap on the peaceful application of nuclear energy in 2023 and 2024 with Rosatom. Today, an agreement between both governments will be signed for cooperation in applying nuclear energy in 14 arenas.

Thanks to the cooperation

of Rosatom, Myanmar will have to enhance the human resources related to the construction and running of a Small Modular Reactor in Myanmar and to produce qualified experts for respective sectors.

The director-general of Rosatom State Corporations, in his speech, said that today is an event to open a new sector in the 75th-anniversary diplomatic relations between Russia and Myanmar. He expressed his belief that the construction of the nuclear power plant will benefit the natural environment, businesses and social environment of the local people.

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Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw presents the gift to the Rosatom Director-General.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing ...

FROM PGAE-3

The director general noted that applying nuclear technology would be a powerful drive for the energy, industrial and economic sectors of Myanmar as well as improvement of natural science, education and technology training.

Then, a video clip on Small Modular Reactor sent by Rosatom State Corporations with a Myanmar subtitle was presented.

The Union Minister for Science and Technology presented commemorative gifts of the opening ceremony to the Senior General and the Rus-



The Senior General poses for the documentary group photo with attendees at the event yesterday.



The Senior General views round the centre.



The MoU for further process of the peaceful use of atomic energy is signed in the presence of the Senior General.



Students view the footage on atomic energy at the centre yesterday.

sian director general.

Rosatom State Corporations Director-General Mr Alexey Evgenievich Likhachev and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw signed a memorandum of understanding on the future process between them in the presence of the Senior General.

The delegation led by the Senior General on his visit to the Russian Federation in September 2022 held a meeting with officials of Rosatom State Corporations and reached an

agreement to build the nuclear technology information centre in Myanmar. During the trip, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Electric Power of Myanmar signed two MoUs on future processes with Rosatom State Corporations. Thanks to the centre, people, students and youths will have the chance to observe knowledge on the peaceful use of nuclear energy in education, health, industrial, energy and other development undertakings of the nation. — MNA/TTA

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www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

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Systematic fish farming must be implemented across the nation for all the people to consume fish at reduced prices: Senior General

LIVESTOCK farm contributes much to the development of the nation, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting the work process of Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Co Ltd in Pantanaw Township of Ayeyawady Region yesterday afternoon.

At the briefing hall, Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Co Ltd Chairman U Htay Myint reported on the implementation of fish farming-based industrial business, operation of agriculture and livestock-based industrial businesses, smart hatchery and nursery process, smart grow-out farm, construction of feedstuff factory meeting standards, seafood processing and cold storage plant, installation of machinery, construction of staff housing, offices, roads and



The Senior General views round the fish farm of the Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Co Ltd in Pantanaw Township yesterday.



The Senior General views the biomass power plant.



The Senior General looks into the processing line.



General view of the fish farming in circular tanks.

bridges, biomass power plant, plans to produce fertilizers and pesticides, fish product production, job opportunities and staff capacity building, and needs of extending the project period.

Regarding the clarifications, the Senior General stressed the need to encourage manufacturing and industries based on agriculture and livestock farms. The government adopted two national objectives – the prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency. It is necessary to sufficiently produce meat and fish at fair prices for people from all walks of life. Systematic fish farming must be implemented across the nation for all people to consume fish at reduced prices.

The Senior General underscored that it is necessary to

seek foreign aid at a minimum. Projects must be implemented with local investments to have success. Livestock farm contributes much to the development of the nation. The government grants the businesses for their development.

In the coming academic year, basic education high schools in 50 districts will conduct agriculture, livestock and technological courses for the students. As for one more step, plans are underway to open more schools across the nation so as to turn out skilled trainees for agriculture, livestock and MSME businesses.

Moreover, arrangements are being made for students to pursue the KG+9 learning scheme free of charge.

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SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Rosatom DG

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr Alexey Evgenievich Likhachev, Director General of the Rosatom State Corporations at the parlour of Zeyathiri Beikman in Yangon yesterday. Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Union Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han and officials. The director general of Rosatom State Corporations was accompanied by Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nikolay Listopadov and relevant officials.

At the meeting, both sides frankly exchanged views on the effective use of nuclear energy in health and agricultural sectors including electricity production



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Director-General Mr Alexey Evgenievich Likhachev of the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation yesterday.

and further cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the director general

of Rosatom State Corporations exchanged commemorative gifts

and had documentary photos taken. — MNA/KTZH

Systematic fish farming must be implemented across ...



The Senior General looks into the export fishery products.

FROM PAGE-5

Only when the number of educated persons rises in the entire nation will highly-qualified human resources increase.

The Senior General stressed the need to conduct research on the fish farming process for the whole nation. The export of livestock products can earn foreign exchange for the nation. Capital, human resources and technologies are required to manufacture value-added products. These requirements must be fulfilled and basic resources must be applied for manufacturing so as to devel-

op the nation.

The Senior General grew a Gangaw (*Mesua ferrea*) plant whereas the joint secretary of the council, the SAC member, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) cultivated other commemorative plants.

The Senior General viewed the display of Myanmar species fingerlings and responded to the discussions of officials. At the Smart Hatchery & Nursery, the Senior General viewed the work process. Fish eggs will be turned into fingerlings within 24

hours and then they will be bred at relevant tanks in procedures.

The Senior General and party viewed round construction of a biomass power plant, generating electricity in the nation, construction of the feedstuff factory, farming of fish in circular tanks and earthen farms, feeding in modern technology, solar-power pumping process, fish netting, marine product unit, display of advanced fish products, and construction of the cold storage.

Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Co., Ltd is implementing the project comprising the construction of a smart hatchery and nursery and the largest fish farm, manufacturing of finished goods, fish meal and

feedstuff production in Mogok Deedok field in Pantanaw Township of Ayeyawady Region. It breeds 120,000 river catfish at the farm and produces more than 4 million fingerlings on a daily basis. Currently, the farm breeds some 25 million fingerlings and 25 million breeding fish. Upon completion, the project will contribute to the development of the marine product business of Myanmar and increase of per capita income of the local people. It will help reduce spending of foreign exchange on the import of marine products and improve Myanmar's economic sector. The project will create job opportunities for the local people. — MNA/TTA



An aerial view of the fish farm.

Knowledge-dissemination talk on nuclear technology held in Yangon



Talk on atomic technology in progress yesterday.

THE knowledge-dissemination talk on nuclear technology co-organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology and Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation of Russia was held at the Nuclear Technology Information Centre in Hline Township, Yangon, yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein

Kyaw and officials, Director-General Mr Alexey Likhachev of Rosatom and officials, students from technological universities, computer universities and medical universities attended the ceremony.

After Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw gave an opening remark, Rosatom Director-General Mr Alexey

Likhachev explained the knowhow about nuclear technology. He also replied to queries raised by attendee students.

A press briefing then followed regarding the opening of the Nuclear Technology Information Centre and the Rosatom director-general answered questions put forward by correspondents. —MNA/TS

Ethnic cultural troupes visit prominent landmarks in Nay Pyi Taw

ETHNIC cultural troupes from regions and states who will present traditional performances at the 76th Union Day celebrations visited prominent landmarks in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During their visit to Nay Pyi Taw, the cultural troupes visited the place of preparation to build the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri township in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Officials explained the construction and carving of the Buddha image and its purpose. Afterwards, cultural troupes visited the pagodas where Tri



Pitakat treatises were carved in Pali and Romanize languages.

Cultural troupes also visited Junction Centre, Gems Museum, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building,

Nay Pyi Taw Bodh Gaya, Up-patasanti Pagoda and Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Park.

There are 137 members from Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State and Chin State in ethnic cultural troupe 1 and there are 145 from Mandalay Region, Mon State, Rakhine State and Shan State in ethnic cultural troupe 2.

For the second day of study tour, they will visit National Landmarks Garden, Defence Services Museum, National Museum, Zoological Garden, Planetarium and Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market. — Aung Ye Thwin and Gyaing Law/MKKS



PHOTO- KO KO HTEIN AND KO KO AYE

One special criminal appeal case, 7 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 2 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Khin Maung Gyi, U Thaug Naing, U Thein Ko Ko and Daw Thin Thin Nwet was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court and passed judgements of one special criminal appeal case No 11/2022 (Mandalay) and seven special civil appeal cases Nos 9/2022 (Mandalay), 10/2022 (Mandalay), 11/2022 (Mandalay), 12/2022 (Mandalay), 13/2022 (Mandalay), 14/2022 (Mandalay), and 15/2022 (Mandalay).

In addition, two special civil appeal cases Nos 22/2022 (Bago) and 24/2022 (Mandalay) were heard following COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

Union Electric Power Minister receives Russian delegation



Union Minister U Thaug Han receives the Russian delegation.

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Thaug Han received the delegation led by Rusatom International Network President Mr Vadim Titov from the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom and Director-General Mr Andrey Rozhdestvin of Rosatom Energy Projects at 4:00 pm yesterday at Yangon Electric Power Corporation (head office) in Ahlon Township, Yangon.

The Union minister extensively discussed the pre-fea-

sibility study process for the thermal power plant project, the investment for its construction, loan procurement for the project and further plans, MoU signed between Rosatom and local companies, and matters related to duration, potentiality and technology for the construction of the wind power projects.

The Union minister then gave commemorative gifts and took the documentary group photo with the Russian delegation. — MNA/TS

No new case of COVID-19 reported on 6 February, total figure records 633,842

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases recorded **633,842** after **no** new case was reported on 6 February 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,314**, including **one** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,490** on 6-2-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — MNA

OPINION

Build a peaceful and prosperous Union including Shan State

HENCE, the Shan State Day is a significant day concerned with the whole Myanmar national as well as all ethnic national people as the pledges of the Panglong Agreement, the basis of the historic Union Day, were adopted.

The Shan State is a state blessed with land and forest scenic beauties where Shan tribes such as Shan, Palaung, Pa-O, Wa, Danu, Kokang, Lahu, Arkha, and Inntha ethnics reside together with Kachin, Kayah, and Lisu ethnics preserving own culture and customs in unison.

Participation of Saophas, patriots, public leaders, and all ethnic national people from the Shan State in fighting against colonial-

ists and in the independence struggles as well as anti-Fascist activities and resistance periods together with political leaders and nationalistic activists across the nation were noble traditions and honorable historical records of the state.

In the history of Myanmar's independence struggles, national leader General Aung San held meetings with Saophas and representatives of Shan State separately in Taunggyi on his tour of meeting with ethnic national leaders in order to regain the Independence of Myanmar. General Aung San went to London in January 1947 and held meetings with the British government and demanded the independence of the whole of Myanmar including hilly regions.

A preliminary meeting was held with the participation of Shan Saophas Council executive member Saophas and public leaders of the Shan State on 3 February 1947. All Shan and Kachin delegates held a meeting on 6 February, and one more meeting took place

with the participation of Shan, Kachin, and Chin representatives on 7 February. They all formed the subcommittee and signed the meeting decisions.

On 7 February 1947, Shan, Kachin, and Chin ethnic leaders adopted the decision to take independence together with the mainland of Myanmar in Panglong of the Shan State. As a gesture of honouring 7th February when the decisions were adopted to take the independence of the whole of Myanmar together without dividing the hilly regions and the mainland, the Shan State Day has been celebrated for 76 years.

All need to rebuild solidarity and understanding among the ethnic national brethren similar to that built at Panglong in 1947. They all have to strive for showing national unity at present similar to that of Panglong in the last 76 years.

All in all, all ethnic national brethren are to join hands in marching towards the goal of building the democratic federalism Union including the whole Shan State to enable the people to enjoy peace and prosperity.

■

All need to rebuild solidarity and understanding among the ethnic national brethren similar to that built at Panglong in 1947. They all have to strive for showing national unity at present similar to that of Panglong in the last 76 years.

Grey Areas Management Perspective

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

NAVIGATING the Grey Areas – If you're the person who's doing a task that is not clearly defined, your initial reaction might be confusion, frustration, and even blaming someone else.

The Oxford's dictionary's definition of a grey area is: "an ill-defined situation or field not readily conforming to a category or to an existing set of rules."

When dealing with the grey areas, here are 3 steps to help you sort it out: **Step One:** Analyze whether the statement you are making is always true or whether there are different rules or societal rules/norms. **Step Two:** Consider whether there are house rules or personal rules based on where the person lives or their past experiences. **Step Three:** Create an "okay, not okay" grid and list those different rules. Make the grey area, black and white. Use a grid to teach these concepts and create less confusion.

There are numerous and

subtle grey areas in our society and it can be difficult to catch all of them. These 3 steps will help you think through the grey areas and turn them into black and white. Turning the grey to black and white makes your teaching more effective and the learner better equipped for a world full of many shades of grey.

How to deal with Grey Areas in the workplace – An important skill in the workplace is figuring out what to do in situations that aren't clear-cut. In corporate speak, we call this "navigating the grey areas." What does it mean? It means there's not just one way to get things done, not every situation at your work is black and white. There might be times when it's not crystal clear what the steps are in a process, or there may be a few ways to do those steps, and it's not clear which one is correct.

What Grey Areas Look Like; Example 1: The Company made changes to the organizational structure and certain

roles were changed or eliminated, which left responsibilities and tasks in the grey area. Example 2: There was a new marketing campaign with techniques and content that had never been used previously. Because it didn't follow the exact process of all the other projects, it left a lot of questions about how to get it done. Who was going to do what? Who was going to delegate tasks?

What you can do instead: **Be curious** – Is there something to learn from this situation, **suggest solutions** – Do you have a new way to do it, Great. Put that idea out there, but be ready to listen to other ideas as well, and **consider picking up the slack** – Can you do more and **know that the responsibility is a team effort when there is a grey area** – Can you solicit the help of others and be open to their way of doing things.

Instead of perceiving grey

zones as a cause for alarm, top executives should try to understand why they exist. The top management should make the effort to watch grey zones for serious abuses of time and resources — but with the awareness that, more often than not, grey zones signal a higher aspiration among employees that immediate supervisors believe worthy of pursuit.

Paradoxically, grey zones can also provide a measure of professionalism or engagement. Though senior executives might not see grey-zone activity right away, direct supervisors are quick to notice it. It's worth thinking about bringing grey zones out into the open by finding official ways for employees to engage their occupational identities.

Managing the Grey Areas breaks fresh ground. An amalgam of philosophy, science, art, medicine, business and history – 'Managing' delves into such

topics as values, ethics, decision-making, incentives, staffing, critical thinking, communication and more. In *Managing the Grey Areas*, Jerry Manas explores the most challenging dilemmas that leaders struggle with, offering guidelines, principles and tools to help managers navigate these murky waters. He addresses challenges and issues regarding the management of grey areas such as **ensuring** accountability without micromanagement, **implementing** the right level of internal processes, **balancing** individual needs with organizational goals, **communicating** with simplicity and context, **assembling** teams with the right mix of people, **creating** positive images for organizations, teams and products and **building** flexible, yet integrated organizations. Managing the Grey Areas is about understanding and managing complexity, rather than

taking black & white approaches, ultimately toward leading with grace and humanity – as well as improved morale, productivity and the many other benefits such leadership brings.

The power of embracing the grey areas – Learning how to live in grey areas can have a bigger impact on your life than you might realize. In fact, it can help you: **Experience less anxiety** – Black-or-white thinking feeds anxiety, worry, doubt, and fear. If there are only two options, you'll feel like your chances of happiness or success are much slimmer. **Accept imperfections** – Perfectionism is dangerous and unhealthy. Because it's impossible to be perfect, setting standards of perfection will always leave us feeling like we come up short. Grey areas allow you to see that even if "perfect" is not achievable, "good" is an acceptable alternative. **Devel-**

op healthier habits – People who think in black or white tend to try to avoid grey areas at all costs. This often leads to unhealthy habits — alcoholism, drug use, numbing behaviours, etc. Embracing the grey can help you be more comfortable with the uncertainty of the middle ground, so these unhealthy behaviours don't feel as necessary. **Be more positive** – The negativity bias states that negative things tend to affect us more profoundly than positive things. That is if your day is filled with five good things and one bad thing, you'll probably still focus on the bad thing. When you have black-or-white thinking, which effectively makes everything either "good" or "bad", with no room in between, you're more likely to let the negative have more of an impact on your mood and your life. Grey areas can help you see that most things are somewhere between "good" and "bad", and you don't have to see everything as one or the other.

Remember, a job descrip-

tion is never just black and white. A workplace is full of grey areas. Even though it can feel a little unnerving when you can't control what's happening, remember that you can control what you do in those situations.

Furthermore, in order to make gray area management more effective and efficient, not only we may find it useful to adapt, use, and adopt the experiences that have been documented and actions but also, we need to conduct collective thinking, a collaborative approach, respecting each other and competency attitude.

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Tuberculosis vaccine does not protect elderly against COVID-19: Research

THE tuberculosis vaccine (also known as the BCG vaccine) does not protect the elderly with co-morbidities against illness symptoms induced by a coronavirus infection. This was documented in the BCG-PRIME research, which began during the early days of the corona pandemic when there were no vaccinations against the virus.

The study was conceived and carried out in a very short period of time in 20 Dutch institutions led by UMC Utrecht as a collaborative effort. The full results of the study were published this week in *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* after the primary findings were disclosed in 2021.

A major medical and societal need

In the early phase of the corona pandemic, there was a major medical and societal need for a vaccine that could protect against (the consequences of) corona infection. This applied in particular to elderly people with comor-

bidities because it had quickly become clear that they were at increased risk of a severe course of infection. One candidate drug to bridge the period to effective corona vaccines and antivirals was the Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine.

This vaccine – the most widely administered vaccine in the world – has been used in many countries for decades to prevent tuberculosis (TB). The BCG vaccine has the additional advantage of inducing a defence through the innate immune system that is broader than just against TB. Moreover, a few small studies had indicated that this vaccine could potentially protect elderly people from respiratory infections – particularly infections of viral origin.

The hypothesis that the BCG vaccine might protect against severe COVID-19 led Dutch researchers guided by UMC Utrecht to urgently set up a large, well-controlled study that could provide a definitive answer to the question of whether the BCG vac-

cine protects elderly people with co-morbidities against COVID-19. The study was conducted from September 2020 onwards at 20 Dutch hospitals, including all UMCs and the Santeon top clinical hospitals, with help from an

EU 8.5 million grant from ZonMW. **BCG vaccine offers no protection**

Investigator and first author of the article Eva Koekenbier MD (Program Epidemiology of

Infectious Diseases, UMC Utrecht) summarizes the results of the study: "The main outcome of the BCG-PRIME study was the occurrence of COVID-19. The analysis showed that disease manifestations of COVID-19

occurred as frequently (hazard ratio 1.12; 95 per cent confidence interval 0.87-1.44) in elderly people with co-morbidities who had received the BCG vaccine (129 out of 3,058 participants) as in those who had received placebo

(115 out of 3,054 participants). We also found no difference between the two groups in terms of the number of hospitalizations due to COVID-19, the number of respiratory infections requiring medical treatment, the number of serious adverse events and mortality." Study lead Prof. Marc Bonten MD PhD (Programme on Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases, UMC Utrecht) added: "Despite the fact that the outcome of our study was disappointing, we can be proud of the fact that we were able to successfully design and conduct the study – the largest to date on this topic – in a very short time and under great pressure. After only four months, we were able to conclude from a preliminary analysis that there was no major protective effect, which is certainly of interest for future studies. Furthermore, this study is an excellent example of a special collaboration in which the clinical trial infrastructure at the UMCs, the SANTEON hospitals and a number of other hospitals

were efficiently used in order to scale up quickly, allowing us to vaccinate the required number of participants in the shortest possible time."

The study

A total of 6,112 elderly with co-morbidities aged 60 years and older participated in the placebo-controlled BCG-PRIME study between September 2020 and December 2021. Participants were recruited through hospital wards, outpatient clinics and anticoagulation services. Patients were monitored for 6 months after vaccination via their own hospital. The study had two primary endpoints: (a) the number of cases of proven COVID-19, or (b) the number of cases of respiratory tract infections for which medical treatment took place. The study was designed by UMC Utrecht, with support from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. Interim results were released through a press release in January 2021.

SOURCE: ANI



An elderly Moroccan man receives a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/AFP/FILE

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Myanmar ships over 13,000 tonnes of shrimp to external markets in past ten months

MORE than 13,000 tonnes of shrimps were conveyed to foreign countries in the past ten months (April 2022-January 2023) of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the statistics released by the Department of Fisheries.

Myanmar's seaborne trade saw shrimp exports of 12,268.366 tonnes worth US\$43.257 million while 991.963 tonnes of shrimp worth \$4.398 million were sent to the neigh-

bouring countries via land borders, totalling 13,260.329 tonnes valued at \$47.655 million

In the corresponding period in FY2021-2022, Myanmar exported 9,091.21 tonnes of shrimp (\$42.91 million) by sea and 2,554.975 tonnes (\$8.707 million) via land borders, accumulating \$51.617 million from 11,646.185 tonnes.

The agriculture sector accounts for 30 per cent of Myanmar's Gross Domestic Product



Workers are seen at shrimp processing of cold storage in Dawarawady new town of Thandwe.

and the income of 68 per cent of the rural community depends on it, according to the Ministry

of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Efforts are being undertaken to improve packag-

ing efficiency for fish, shrimp and fishery products.— TWA/EM

Price of rice from delta regions rises again

THE price of rice has increased by K150,000 per hundred baskets for Pawsan rice and about K200,000 per hundred baskets for low-grade rice since the beginning of February this year.



According to a rice mill in Wakema Township of the delta region on 5 February 2023, its purchase prices for rice on 18 November 2022 were K1.6 million per 100 52-lb baskets for Pawsan rice variety, K1.33 million per 100 50-pound baskets for low-grade Thukha rice variety, K1.26 million for Hnanka rice variety and K1.32 million for Latemalay rice variety. After three months, in early February, the price per 100 baskets went up to K1.9 million for the Pawsan rice variety, K1.55 million for the Thukha rice variety, K1.42 million for the Hnanka rice variety and K1.57 million for the Latemalay rice variety.

In the Yangon rice market on 4 February, the price per bag of rice rose to K60,000 for the low-grade Pakan rice variety, K52,000 for the new low-grade Manaw Thukha rice variety and K54,000 for rice grown under multiple

cropping. Similarly, a bag of new Shwebo Pawsan rice variety has been priced at K88,000 and new Pathein-Myaungmya Pawsan rice variety at K74,000, the Pyapon rice variety at K70,000 and the Mawgyun rice variety at K68,000, said Ko Tin, a rice dealer at the Bayintnaung market.

In two weeks, the price shot up by K6,000 for a new bag of low-grade rice and around K8,000 for a bag of new Pawsan rice variety in the Yangon rice market. The new Shwebo Pawsan rice variety hit the record price of K1.6 million per 100 baskets on 2 January 2023 and K2.2 million per 100 baskets on 18 January.

When the price of rice goes up like this, so do most other kitchen goods in the market, affecting both high-income and low-income consumers. — TWA/CT



Some bags of rice are displayed for sale in a shopping mall.



Tamarind and potatoes are seen in the market.

Price of potatoes up, price of tamarind down in commodity market

THE price of Chinese potatoes rose in the Yangon market on 6 February. The wholesale price of Bhamo potatoes was K2,100 per viss and that of new and old Chinese potatoes was K2,300-2,400.

Potatoes from Heho and black-skinned potatoes from Bhamo entered the market with the price rate of K2,100 per viss on 2 February. Sinphyukyun potatoes also entered the market and the wholesale price of medium size was K1,700 per viss and the price of A1/OK/S1/S2 sizes was K2,000 per viss.

The price of tamarind rose to K2,500-3,300 in the last week of January, but the price has

now come down. The wholesale price of the new Darsin variety is K1,700, that of the new Pwintkat variety is K1,900 and that of new flesh is K2,000/2,800 respectively. Although local tamarind producers expected prices to rise in 2022, all three tamarind varieties were still at low prices at the beginning of the year.

In the year 2022, the prices of most kitchen goods reached a record high. At the beginning of 2023, they were higher than usual but the price of tamarind was still low.

The price of Shan Aungban garlic has been rising since the end of 2022. — TWA/CT

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Watermelon, muskmelon persist in China's demand

THE trucks of watermelon and muskmelons are entering China's border and the demand is escalating, traders involved in Muse border said.

Inspections by the Customs of China hindered watermelon and muskmelon exports in the past few days. Only 20 to 30 trucks were allowed to pass the border checkpoint amid the delay in tight security. More than 500 trucks of watermelon and muskmelon queued in line on Myanmar's side and there was out of stock at China's depot.

After traffic congestion was eased on 5 February, about 100 trucks of watermelon and muskmelons were sent to China. Those trucks struck on the Myanmar side will be given the go-ahead in rotation for exports depending on demand.

"Watermelon and muskmelon are doing a roaring trade in the morning market. The delay takes five days. The authorities from both sides made a concerted effort to ease the traffic. The prices stand at 3.2-3.8 Yuan per kilogramme for watermelon and 4.5-



Lorries laden with watermelons and muskmelons are pictured on the Sino-Myanmar border.

5.7 Yuan per kilo for muskmelon. About 400 are still in the queue yet the trade is steadily going well," Sai Khin Maung elaborated.

More than 100 trucks left for China on 6 February. Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon are heavily reliant on the Chinese market. The traders grappled with China's strict virus policy.

Last year, the COVID-19 re-

strictions hindered Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality watermelons.

The traders are observing delivery time, price and profita-

bility as they are perishable fruit, while they are trying to explore new markets besides China.

On 1 April, Nantaw and Siphu borders were suspended in the wake of COVID-19 impacts. China has closed down the major border crossing Mang Wein from 30 March 2021 following the COVID-19 cases in Myanmar.

On 8 July 2021, the two-re-

maining cross-border posts – Kyinsankyawt and Panseng – were suspended. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted.

Among the Sino-Myanmar border, the Kyinsankyawt post resumed operations on 26 November 2022.

Trade activity at the Muse-Mang Wein crossing, which performed the majority of trade between Myanmar and China, resumed on 14 January 2023. Additionally, other goods except for agricultural products (watermelon, muskmelon), minerals and fisheries products are allowed to be sent to China through that border.

Additionally, the Nantaw and Siphu borders where the majority of border crossing happens were reopened on 25 January 2023.

At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt by over 100 trucks. — NN/EM

Yangon market sees uptick in palm oil wholesale reference price this week ending 12 Feb



The reference price stood at K4,430 per viss in the week from 30 January to 5 February. For the week ending 12 February, the price was set higher at K4,480 per viss.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market slightly increased compared to that of the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price stood at K4,430 per viss in the week from 30 January to 5 February. For the week ending 12 February, the price was set higher at K4,480 per viss. The figures showed a small increase of K50 per viss.

The Supervisory Committee

on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil every week.

Regardless of the reference price, the market price was exorbitantly high at over K6,000 per viss.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found

overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Essential Supplies and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They sell palm oil at K4,700 per viss to consumers directly. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 6 February 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,130
Octane 95	K2,195
Diesel	K2,270
Premium Diesel	K2,350

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,210,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,845,000 per tical

Dollar Price

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,840 to K2,855

The above prices may change from time to time.

ECONOMY WORLD

Laos actively preparing for return of Chinese tourists



This aerial photo taken on 2 January 2023 shows a Lane Xang EMU train running on the Lao section of the China-Laos Railway. **PHOTO: YANG YONGQUAN/XINHUA**

THE Lao government and private sectors are actively preparing for the arrival of Chinese tour groups.

“We are working in partnership with travel agencies, hotels and other tourism-related businesses to improve facilities and services in readiness for the return of Chinese tour groups,” local Lao daily Vientiane Times quoted Darany Phommavongsa, director-general of the Tourism-Management

Department of the Lao Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, as saying.

“We held a meeting with private companies to discuss ways to improve facilities and design activities to entice more Chinese visitors to Laos. Those activities will soon be finalized,” the official told the daily on Friday.

Tourism experts predict that millions of Chinese tourists will visit ASEAN countries

and many of them will travel on the China-Laos Railway, which runs from Kunming, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan province, to Vientiane.

During the Visit Laos-China Year in 2019, more than a million Chinese nationals visited Laos, Darany noted, adding that “our ministry is in the process of reviewing and re-certifying hotels in Vientiane, awarding them different stars.”—Xinhua

China ready to restart economic, trade exchange mechanism with Australia

CHINA is ready to restart the economic and trade exchanges mechanism with Australia, Commerce Minister Wang Wentao said Monday.

During his talks via video link with Australian Trade Minister Don Farrell, Wang said China is also willing to expand cooperation in emerging areas, such as climate change and new energy, and promote high-quality development of bilateral economic and trade relations.

China and Australia are each other’s important economic and trade partners, with highly complementary economic structures and mu-

tually beneficial and win-win bilateral economic and trade cooperation, said Wang.

He added that bilateral trade and economic relations are facing an important window of opportunity, and that the two sides should make joint efforts to inject more positive factors into their economic and trade cooperation. The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China stressed that China would unswervingly open wider to the outside world, and a developing and open China would bring more opportunities to Australia and other countries, Wang said.—Xinhua

Mitsubishi Heavy set to terminate passenger jet project

MITSUBISHI Heavy Industries Ltd plans to terminate the development of a domestically manufactured jet, sources familiar with the matter said Monday.

The company had invested about 1 trillion (\$7.6 billion) into the SpaceJet project, officially launched in 2008, but suspended it in October 2020 after it was hit by repeated delays due to a lack of expertise.

Public and private sectors in Japan had been working together to develop the country’s first domestically manufactured passenger jet. However, lack of prospects for commercialization has forced Mitsubishi to withdraw.



File photo shows a Mitsubishi SpaceJet test plane travelling along a runway at Nagoya airport in Toyoyama in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 18 March 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The company has been gradually ramping down development since freezing the pro-

ject, including closing down its flight testing base in the United States.—Kyodo

Renault and Nissan hail ‘rebalanced’ alliance to bury tensions

FRENCH automaker Renault and Japanese partner Nissan said on Monday they were opening a “new chapter” in their tension-marred alliance as they signed a deal to reboot their 24-year relationship.

The “rebalanced” partnership approved by their boards will end Renault’s dominant position, reducing its stake in the Japanese firm from 43.4 per cent to 15 per cent, the same size as Nissan’s share in its French counterpart.

The agreement includes Nissan taking a stake of up to 15 per cent in Renault’s new electric vehicle venture Ampere, the companies said in a joint statement.

They also announced joint projects in Latin America, India and Europe for the production

of vehicles ranging from pickup trucks to SUVs and electric cargo vans.—AFP



(L-R) Nissan chief executive officer Makoto Uchida, Renault chairperson Jean-Dominique Senard, Mitsubishi Motors chief executive officer Takao Kato and Renault chief executive officer Luca de Meo pose at the end of a press conference in London on 6 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Australian company saves bankrupt UK car battery firm

AUSTRALIAN company Recharge Industries is to take over Britishvolt, a bankrupt startup planning a gigafactory for electric vehicle batteries in the UK, administrators overseeing a rescue deal said Monday.

Financial group EY said in a statement that it had chosen Recharge as preferred bidder for Britishvolt, which collapsed last month, and expects the purchase to be completed this week.

EY said it had entered into agreement with Recharge and its US parent Scale Facilitation Partners for the takeover.

“This follows a process conducted by EY that involved the consideration of multiple approaches from interested

parties and numerous offers received,” the statement added.

David Collard, chief executive of Scale Facilitation and founder of Recharge Industries, said the deal would allow them to build the UK’s first gigafactory. “We’re confident our proposal will deliver a strong outcome for all involved,” he added in a separate statement.

Recharge is in the process also of establishing a large-scale lithium-ion battery cell production and research capability in Australia.

“Using world leading artificial intelligence and multinational research partnerships, we are finding ways to make batteries better, safer, and longer lasting.”—AFP

German factory orders rebound in December

GERMAN industrial orders rebounded strongly in December, official data showed on Monday, the latest sign Europe's top economy is proving resilient in the face of shocks from the Ukraine war.

New orders, which provide a foretaste of industrial output, rose 3.2 per cent compared to the previous month, federal statistics agency Destatis said.

It represents a turnaround from November, when orders fell sharply to their weakest level since mid-2020, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine took its toll.

Responding to the latest figures, the economy ministry said that

demand in the manufacturing sector had "stabilized" at the end of 2022.

"The latest industrial order data — as well as the improvement in the business climate in recent months — indicate the economic slowdown in winter is likely to be milder," it said in a statement.

Compared to the previous month, both domestic and foreign orders increased, the ministry said, with orders from the eurozone rising 9.8 per cent.

There were strong increases of orders in sectors including electrical equipment and metal products. —AFP

S Korea's int'l flights return to 60% of pre-pandemic level in January

SOUTH Korea's international flights returned to about 60 per cent of the pre-pandemic level in January due to growing travels to Japan and other Southeast Asian countries, the transport ministry said Monday.

In January, the number of international flights in the country stood at 27,206, or 60.4 per cent of the 45,046 flights tallied in January 2019, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

The number of passengers on international

routes reached 4,611,370, or 57.5 per cent of the figure posted in January 2019.

The ministry said local demand has surged for travels to Japan, Viet Nam, Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries since October last year, noting that more South Korean people went abroad during the Lunar New Year holiday last month. The number of passengers on domestic routes came in at 2,644,941 in January, 3.7 per cent higher than the reading recorded in the same month of 2019. — Xinhua

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For Zespri Group Limited
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Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower,
No.3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Dated: 7 February 2023

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0286-741N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-2-2023** 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.

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

UK faces biggest round of health service strikes

NURSES and ambulances staff stepped up their demands for better pay Monday to combat the UK's cost of living crisis with their biggest round of health service strikes.

The stoppages — part of a wave of industrial action across the UK economy — will see nurses and paramedics take action on the same day for the first time.

Nurses say their wages have failed to keep up with inflation over the past decade, leaving them unable to pay their bills amid spiralling fuel, food



Healthcare workers hold placards at a picket line outside The Walton Centre in Liverpool, north-west England, on 6 February 2023 as the UK faced the biggest round of health service strikes. **PHOTO: AFP**

and housing costs.

They warn that qualified nurses are quitting in droves due to the financial pressures resulting in understaffing that endangers patient care.

"We're run off our feet 24/7, breaking our backs doing the jobs of three people," said trainee nursing associate Victoria Busk who works on a trauma ward at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, central England.

"I love my job, I love the work I do, making a difference to patients. But I can't imagine doing this until I'm in my 60s,"

she said.

Last week, half a million people including teachers, transport workers and Border Force staff at UK air and seaports also stopped work over pay.

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) union said Monday's strike would affect nurses in around a third of hospital trusts in England and most of Wales.

The ambulance staff strike would only affect England, however, after paramedics in Wales called off their planned action following an improved pay offer.—AFP

Iran says informed IAEA of 60% uranium enrichment at Fordow last Nov

THE Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Sunday that Tehran had informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its decision to start enriching uranium to the purity level of 60 per cent at Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP) in November 2022.

Nasser Kanaani made the remark in response to a joint statement by the United States, Britain, France and Germany on Friday, which accused Iran of being "inconsistent in meeting its nuclear obligations as shown by a recent IAEA report".

In a statement published on the ministry's website, Kanaani said Iran informed the UN watchdog of its uranium enrichment to 60 per cent purity at the Fordow facility on 17 November 2022, and all modes of enrichment had been mentioned in the design information questionnaire (DIQ) submitted to the agency.

Turning to the IAEA's recent inspection of the facility in January 2023, he said no new or contradictory measure has been implemented at the facility compared with November's DIQ.—Xinhua

North Korea ruling party to hold key meeting on agriculture

NORTH Korea's ruling party will hold a key meeting this month to discuss agricultural development, citing the need for "radical change", state media reported Monday.

The isolated, nuclear-armed nation — which is under multiple sets of sanctions over its weapons programmes — has long struggled to feed itself.

It is highly vulnerable to natural disasters including flood and drought due to a chronic lack of infrastructure, deforestation and decades of state mismanagement.

"It is a very important and urgent task to establish

the correct strategy for the development of agriculture," read a resolution of the political bureau of the Workers' Party of Korea, published by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Recognizing the need for "a turning point" and "radical change" in agriculture, the bureau decided to convene a plenary meeting of the WPK's central committee in late February, KCNA said.

Typically such meetings are convened only once or twice a year, and the latest announcement came just two months after a meeting of the country's top leadership.

North Korea has a fragile economy and it has long been criticized for prioritizing its military and banned nuclear weapons programmes over adequately providing for its people.

The country has periodically been hit by famines, one of which in the 1990s killed hundreds of thousands of people — some estimates range into millions.

North Korea has also been under a rigid self-imposed coronavirus blockade since early 2020 to protect itself from the Covid-19 pandemic, only resuming some trade with China last year.—AFP

Beyonce breaks all-time Grammy record, Styles wins for best album

POP queen Beyonce on Sunday reigned supreme at the Grammys, breaking the all-time record for wins with her 32nd prize and fourth of the night — but the Album of the Year prize that's long eluded her slipped from her fingers once again, going instead to Brit Harry Styles.

All of the top contenders including Adele, Taylor Swift and Lizzo went home with an award — but it was surprise after surprise in the top four categories.

Beyonce entered the ceremony with the most chances at Grammy gold with nine, following the release of "Renaissance", her rich, sprawling ode to club music.

She clinched the all-time Grammy record by winning the prize for Best Dance/Electronic Music Album for her smash "Renaissance", thus surpassing the late classical conductor Georg Solti, who had 31 awards.

"I'm trying not to be too emotional. And I'm trying to just receive this night," Queen Bey said, wearing a shimmering, curve-hugging gown, her hair in mermaid waves as her peers witnessed the history-making moment.

Beyonce thanked her family, and paid special tribute to the queer community, who she credited with inventing the genre she celebrated in her historically



US musician Beyonce accepts the award for Best Dance/Electronic Music Album for "Renaissance". during the 65th Annual Grammy Awards at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles on 5 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

layered record that pays homage to pioneers of funk, soul, rap, house and disco.

But while her album was considered a likely candidate for best album, it was Styles who

snagged that prestigious award.

"On nights like tonight, it's obviously so important for us to remember that there is no such thing as bests in music," said Styles.

His win over Queen Bey was sure to draw obvious comparisons to 2017, when Adele swept the top prizes at the glitzy music biz gala, shutting out Beyonce's culture-shaking "Lemonade".

The Grammys' winningest artist still remains on the outside looking in at the top prizes: Beyonce has never won Album or Record of the Year, which this time around went to Lizzo for "About Damn Time". —AFP

Quake kills over 2,300 in Türkiye, Syria

THE most powerful earthquake to strike Türkiye and Syria in nearly a century killed over 2,300 people on Monday, sparked frantic rescues and was felt as far away as Greenland.

The 7.8-magnitude early morning quake, followed by dozens of aftershocks, wiped out entire sections of major Turkish cities in a region filled with millions who have fled Syria's civil war and other conflicts.

Rescuers used heavy equipment and their bare hands to peel back rubble in search of survivors, who they could in some cases hear beg-

ging for help under the debris. "Since I live in an earthquake zone, I am used to being shaken," said Melisa Salman, a reporter in the Turkish city of Kahramanmaraş.

"But that was the first time we have ever experienced anything like that," the 23-year-old told AFP. "We thought it was the apocalypse."

The head of Syria's National Earthquake Centre, Raed Ahmed, called it "the biggest earthquake recorded in the history of the centre".

At least 810 people died in rebel and government-controlled parts of Syria, state media and medical sources said,

while Turkish officials reported another 1,498 fatalities.

The initial quake was followed by dozens of aftershocks, including a 7.5-magnitude tremor that jolted the region in the middle of search and rescue work on Monday afternoon.

Shocked survivors in Türkiye rushed out into the snow-covered streets in their pyjamas, watching rescuers dig through the debris of damaged homes with their hands.

"Seven members of my family are under the debris," Muhittin Orakci, a stunned survivor in Türkiye's mostly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir, told AFP.

"My sister and her three children are there. And also her husband, her father-in-law and her mother-in-law."

The rescue was being hampered by a winter blizzard that covered major roads in ice and snow. Officials said the quake made three major airports in the area inoperable, further complicating deliveries of vital aid.

Türkiye's last 7.8-magnitude tremor was in 1939, when 33,000 died in the eastern Erzincan province.

'Ran for the door'

Monday's first quake



People search for survivors in Diyarbakir on 6 February 2023 after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the country's south-east. PHOTO: AFP

struck at 4:17 am (0117 GMT) at a depth of about 18 kilometres (11 miles) near the Turkish city of Gaziantep, which is home to around two million people, the US Geological Survey said.

Denmark's geological institute said tremors from the main quake reached the east coast of Greenland about eight minutes after the tremor struck Türkiye.

Osama Abdel Hamid, a quake survivor in Syria, said his family was sleeping when the shaking began.

"I woke up my wife and my children and we ran towards the door," he said. "We opened it and suddenly all the building collapsed."

A spokesman for Syria's civil defence said teams were scrambling to rescue trapped people.

"Many buildings in different cities and villages in north-western Syria collapsed... Even now, many families are under the rubble," said Ismail Alabdallah.

The United States, the European Union and Russia all immediately sent condolences and offers of help.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky offered to provide "the necessary assistance" to Türkiye, whose combat drones are helping Kyiv fight the Russian invasion. —AFP



Residents walk along a collapsed building following an earthquake in the town of Jandaris, in the countryside of Syria's northwestern city of Afrin in the rebel-held part of Aleppo province, on 6 February 2023. PHOTO: AFP

India says will send rescue, medical teams to Türkiye

INDIA said Monday it would immediately send rescue and medical teams as well as relief material to Türkiye following the 7.8-magnitude earthquake there.

"It was decided that Search & Rescue Teams of NDRF and Medical Teams along with relief material would be dispatched immediately in coordination with (Türkiye)," the Indian foreign ministry said, referring to the National Disaster Response Force.

Two NDRF teams comprising 100 personnel with dog squads and equipment were ready to be flown to the affect-

ed area, it said, with teams of trained doctors and paramedics with essential medicines also being readied.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences on Monday, saying he was "anguished" and "deeply pained" by the more than 1,200 people killed by the quake in Türkiye — with whom India has frosty relations — and Syria.

"My sincere condolences to the families of the victims. We share the grief of (the) Syrian people and remain committed to provide assistance and support in this difficult time," Modi tweeted. —AFP

Putin offers condolences, aid to Türkiye, Syria after quake

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin on Monday expressed condolences and offered Russian aid to Türkiye and Syria after the earthquake that killed hundreds of people in both countries, the Kremlin said.

"We share the sadness and the pain of those who lost their loved ones and we hope for a speedy recovery for all the in-

jured, and are ready to provide the assistance needed to overcome the impact of this natural disaster," Putin said in a message to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad.

In a separate message to Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Putin asked him to "convey words of sincere sympa-

thy and support" to the families of the victims and said Russia was "ready to provide required assistance".

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said separately he had spoken with his Turkish counterpart Hulusi Akar by telephone and offered condolences and support. —AFP

EU sends rescue teams to Türkiye after deadly quake

THE European Union is sending rescue teams and preparing further help for Türkiye after a major earthquake hit Türkiye and Syria, the bloc's crisis management commissioner said Monday.

"Teams from the Netherlands and Romania are already on their way," with the EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre overseeing their

deployment, commissioner Janez Lenarcic tweeted.

He said that the bloc's Civil Protection Mechanism had been activated to respond to the quake, which hit Türkiye and Syria, causing deaths and destruction in both countries.

His office said that Türkiye had requested EU assistance.

Several governments in the EU pledged help, including

French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Belgium, Poland, Spain and Finland also said they stood ready to deploy teams and help.

The 7.8-magnitude quake struck early on Monday near the Turkish city of Gaziantep, which is home to around two million people and on the border with Syria. —AFP

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SPORT

MNL teams to play pre-season friendly matches



Myanmar National League clubs' players take their special training ahead of friendlies and the new season of the domestic league. PHOTO: MNL

MYANMAR National League football clubs will play pre-season friendly matches this month, according to the domestic league's organizers.

Ahead of the friendlies and new season, head coaches have expressed confidence plus feeling about their teams.

"We have to play friendly matches against Shan United on 11 February and Mahar United on 15 February," Hantawady United Head Coach U Myo Min Tun.

"The fact that foreign play-

ers are not used is mainly because we want to give priority to local players. It is also because of the goal of producing elite players, which is the direction of the team.

"This year, unlike last year, every team made preparations. I see that all the teams are really preparing. It will be more intense," he added.

Mahar United head coach U Zaw Lin Tun said, "The main thing is to keep the current players from moving to other teams. Now, if the combination

of former players and foreigners such as Friday, I believe that my team will be in a good situation."

Ayeyawady United head coach U Myo Hlaing Win said, "As far as I learn, there are many teams that are better than us. Every team make their best preparations. As for the promoted teams, foreign players are preparing with good coaches, so I think every game of this year will be more difficult than last year." —KZL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council 12 Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To encourage micro, small and medium-scale enterprises based on domestic raw materials in order to substitute import goods and enhance export products to have long-term guarantees and create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.
- (d) To develop the socioeconomic life of the people to ensure prosperity and food sufficiency of the country.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all national peoples and preserve and safeguard their faiths, culture and national characteristics based on national spirit.
- (c) To further strengthen basic healthcare services of the nation and to emerge the health system for enhancement of longevity and health of the entire National people.
- (d) To promote multiple education systems in order to produce the necessary human resources for building a modern developed democratic nation.

Premier League announces charges of breach of financial rules against Manchester City

PREMIER League champions Manchester City have been charged by the Premier League with a series of breaches of the competition's financial rules.

The Premier League issued a statement on Monday morning confirming it had "referred a number of alleged breaches of the Premier League Rules by Manchester City Football Club to a commission under Premier League Rule W.3.4."

The Premier League explains the commission is "independent of the Premier League and member clubs" and that the members of the commission will be appointed by the independent chair of

the Premier League judicial panel, in accordance with Premier League rules.

"The proceedings before the commission will, in accordance with Premier League rule W.82, be confidential and heard in private. Under Premier League rule W.82.2, the commission's final award will be published on the Premier League's website."

"This confirmation is made in accordance with Premier League rule W.82.1. The Premier League will be making no further comment in respect of this matter until further notice," reads the statement. —Xinhua

Kane eyes Premier League history after breaking Spurs goal record

HARRY Kane has set his sights on breaking the Premier League's all-time goals record after becoming the leading scorer in Tottenham's history.

Kane's first-half strike in Sunday's 1-0 win against defending champions Manchester City took him past Jimmy Greaves to a record 267 goals for the north London club.

The 29-year-old's predatory finish also made him only the third player to reach 200 goals in the Premier League, behind record holder Alan Shearer (260)

and Wayne Rooney (208).

Now his place in Tottenham history is secured, Kane admitted he would love to break Shearer's record as well.

"I'm sure you guys will be talking about that," he said. "It's always there in the back of my mind but I just take it game-by-game, season-by-season."

"It's definitely there to be broken and I'm feeling good and feeling fit so we'll see what happens."

Kane's remarkable goal feats are all the more incredible given he was regarded as unlikely to make it at the highest level at the start of his career.—AFP



Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane celebrates after scoring his team first goal during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, on 5 February 2023. PHOTO: AFP