

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Kayin ethnics enjoy 86th Anniversary of Kayin National New Year Day marked at Union National Races Village in Thakayta Township of Yangon Region yesterday. **PHOTO: KANU**

86th Kayin National New Year Day celebrated in Yangon

The 86th Kayin National New Year Festival of the 2763 Kayin Era was held at the Union National Races Village in Thakayta Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

At the ceremony, U Saw Tun Aung Myint, leader of the Central Advisory Body of the State Administration Council, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister U Bo Htay, Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Win Tint and Ethnic Affairs Minister U Saw Jacob Htoo launched

the ceremony by beating the Kayin traditional frog drum.

Speaking at the event, the leader of the Central Advisory Body of the State Administration Council said all the Kayin ethnics residing across the nation celebrate the 86th anniversary of Kayin National New Year Day as a new harvest feast. They also should continuously celebrate the festival with full of essence focusing on the unity.

He also called for preservation of the noble qualifications of the Kayin people, such as honesty, loyalty and so on, pursue education holding moral char-

acteristics, work hard to develop, and keep in mind the fact finding solutions through political means based on Union spirit in implementing the peace and stay in unity with all national brethren in moving forward to a peaceful nation.

He also highlighted the need to preserve their literature, dialects, costumes, traditions and customs with a patriotic spirit and move forward to a modern and developed nation with a union spirit, ensuring the development of the Kayin people and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar joining hands with all the national brethren.

Then, the Yangon Region chief minister and Ethnic Affairs minister made speeches and explained the ceremony.

The ceremony continued with the Kayin Don dance, traditional bamboo dance, rope dance, bamboo pole hitting dance, Mon traditional dance, Rakhine traditional dance, Sakaw Kayin and West Poe Kayin songs, and officials presented awards to the performers.

The Kayin New Year Day festival includes Kayin traditional sports competitions, Kayin songs and Don dance, a DJ and a stage show. The festival ground was crowded with Kayin ethnics and visitors. The Yangon Region government sold food at an affordable price, and the Kayin New Year Festival Organizing Committee led by the Ethnic Affairs minister also donated Kayin traditional food. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL

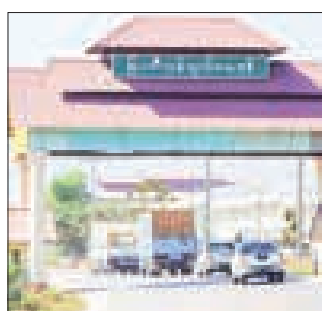
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Shan State welcomes 1.5M visitors in 2023, targets Kalaw development as tourist hub

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Thailand primary source of Myanmar's export in 9 months, accumulating over US\$2.6 bln

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NATIONAL

National Objectives of 77th Union Day 2024

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

Mottos of 77th Union Day 2024

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

Myanmar's Miss to take part in "I Am Model Search International 2023 (Teen)"



Am Model Search International 2023 (Teen)" competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The competition, scheduled to run from 10 to 15 January, will bring together contestants from more than 30 countries, including Myanmar.

Miss Shin May Kha expressed her excitement about the event, mentioning that this marks her inaugural participation in an international competition.

She looks forward to showcasing the traditional attire of a Myanmar village girl and is optimistic about giving her best performance in the competition.

Miss Shin May Kha had previously secured the Miss Myanmar Beauty Paradise (Teen) title in 2019. — ASH/TRKM

MISS Shin May Kha from Myanmar has shared her plans to participate in the upcoming "I



The photo depicts foreign tourists travelling to Inlay Lake.

Shan State welcomes 1.5M visitors in 2023, targets Kalaw development as tourist hub

APPROXIMATELY 1.5 million visitors, including around 60,000 foreign tourists, travelled Shan State from January to December 2023, according to U Htin Aung Naing, Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Shan State).

"Shan State, especially southern Shan State, is a

major tourist destination in Myanmar. Taunggyi, Inlay, Aungban, and Pindaya are the most attractive destinations.

"The second most popular destinations are Tachilek and Kengtung in the east of Shan State," explained U Htin Aung Naing.

Shan State boasts over

400 hotels, motels, and guest-houses. Currently, 337 of them are fully operational in the regional tourism industry. The southern Shan State consistently attracts foreign tourists throughout the year, prompting initiatives to transform Kalaw into a tourist city. — ASH/TMT



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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San, accompanied by SAC members, Union Ministers, the State Chief Minister and the Command Commander, donated rice, cooking oil and cash to monasteries in Myitkyina Township yesterday.

The donation ceremony occurred at Dhamma Rekkhita Wuntho Monastery in North Shansu Ward of Myitkyina.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party first took Five Precepts from State Sangha Nayaka Committee Member Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Candavara Bhivamsa of Khemathiwun Monastery.

They donated 50 bags of rice and 10 jerrycans of cooking oil to nine monasteries in Myitkyina.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party also visited the 1,000-arhat Shinpin Myatswa Hsutaungpyae pagoda in Mongna Village-tract of Waingmaw Township and donated cash to the pagoda's all-round development fund.

During the meeting with leaders of ethnic literature and culture organizations at Manaw house in Manaw compound in Sitarpu Ward, the Deputy Prime Minister said knowledge and proper job opportunities can guarantee the development of socioeconomic status in implementing ethnic affairs-related matters in Kachin State. The collaboration of the government and resident ethnic people in providing vocational training and implementing practical projects will benefit the ethnic people.

Moreover, the continual holding of significant traditional festivals with the participation of national brethren can



SAC member DPM MoD UM Admiral Tin Aung San and dignitaries pose for documentary photo together with Kachin ethnics at Manaw ground in Myitkyina yesterday.

SAC Member DPM MoD UM meets ethnic literature & culture associations in Myitkyina

improve the unity, mutual respect and support among the ethnic people despite the different dialects, literature, fine arts, culture, tradition, customs and religions.

Moreover, the Union spirit will become firm by preserving the literature and culture of ethnic people and protecting their rights to support the five-point roadmap and nine objectives of the State Administration Council. The government now

focuses on the unity of ethnic people, and the national brethren should also work with the government to strengthen a genuine and disciplined multiparty democracy and build a Union founded on democracy and federalism mentioned in the nine objectives of SAC.

Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Kachin State Ethnic Affairs Minister U Kyaw Min Khine

then reported on cooperation with the respective region/state governments, departments, matters related to ethnic tribes and literature and culture associations.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party also provided K1 million each to literature and culture associations of six tribes of Kachin people, five tribes of Shan people, Bamar, Rakhine and Kayin people. — IPRD/KTZH

SAC Member advises women not to distance themselves from politics

STATE Administration Council member Daw Dwe Bu said, in a meeting with the Kachin State Women's Affairs and Maternal and Child Welfare Association (WAMCWA) in Myitkyina yesterday, that women should engage in continuous learning and take part in creating a better country rather than viewing politics as a matter that does not belong to them.

The SAC member also highlighted the importance of capacity building and cultivating the morale of women, as half of Myanmar's population comprises women. She also encouraged the attendees to participate in the efforts to increase income and improve the quality of life for women residing in Kachin State so that they may become good mothers full of capacity

and fulfil their marital duties.

After that, the SAC member presented bouquets of honour to the chairperson, secretary, and three members of Kachin State WAMCWA, who won the awards for Excellence in Social Field for their enthusiastic participation in the activities of the State Women's Affairs and Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Board.

Daw Dwe Bu also presented the Honorary Certificate/Award-Giving Ceremony in commemoration of the 76th Anniversary of Kachin State Day, held on the third day at the gymnasium of Myitkyina.

The ceremony presented awards for Excellence in Management Affairs (first, second and third class) to 135, awards for Excellence in Business Af-



SAC member Daw Dwe Bu and party visit departmental booths and WAMCWA at 76th Kachin State Day celebration yesterday.

fairs (first, second and third class) to 29, awards for Excellence in Social Affairs (first, second and third class) to 153,

certificates of honour to 262 and 25 winners for higher and basic education level essay and poem competitions. A total of

604 people were presented with respective awards and certificates of honor on 9-11 January. — Kachin State IPRD/TH

NATIONAL



SAC member Mahn Nyein Maung cuts the ribbon to open "Htoochin Phoosan Myaseinyaung Showroom" in Myaungmya on Kayin New Year Day, yesterday.

SAC member joins 86th Kayin New Year Day in Myaungmya

THE 86th Kayin National New Year's Day (Kayin Era 2763) flag-raising ceremony was held at Myaseinyaung Mountain in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region, at 5 am yesterday.

State Administration Council member Mahn Nyein Maung opened the ceremony by playing the Kayin traditional frog drum, and the chairman of the Kayin Ethnic Literature and Culture Association raised the Kayin national flag by singing. Next, they saluted the flags of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kayin national flag.

The State Administration Council member greeted the guests and enjoyed the Kayin national dances.

Afterwards, the SAC member and officials attended and opened the "Htoochin Phoosan Myaseinyaung Showroom" with a ceremony on the Myaseinyaung Mountain. During the ceremony, they looked around the utensils, including silver-

ware, brassware accessories, and antiques.

They also attended the ceremony to open new roads within the Myaseinyaung religious area.

The newly opened road has a total length of two miles and 4.22 furlongs, and during two years, donors contributed to the construction.

The 86th Kayin National New Year's Day (Kayin Era 2763) ceremony was then held at the Myaseinyaung Mountain, Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region, joined by State Administration Council member Mahn Nyein Maung and officials.

SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung opened the ceremony by playing the Kayin traditional drum, followed by the Kayin national dances. He then read a message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing for the Kayin Na-

tional Day.

At the event, the Kayin State chief minister said that his region is striving to achieve the two national visions of the State Administration Council, namely the country's prosperity and food security, and is working to make the region a model agricultural region.

The commander of the South-west Command also gave a speech of greetings for the New Year, saying that everyone should work together in a friendly manner to ensure the success of the region's agricultural and livestock industries.

Ngu-aing Sayadaw Bhaddanta Setthila and Catholic Priest Father Wilfred Mahn Myint Soe then delivered New Year greetings and prayed for the well-being of all.

The Kayin New Year message sent by the Union minister for Ethnic Affairs was also read by the Ethnic Affairs minister for the Ayeyawady Region government. — MNA/KZL

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation: More than 10 houses burnt down by security forces in Saukchonpauk Village

MALICIOUS news media are spreading false information on social networking sites that more than 10 houses in Saukchonpauk Village, Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, were destroyed by fire due to the security forces entering the village on 9 January and burning them down.

According to a security official from the area, security forces did not go to the vicinity of the village and there were no security operations in the area on 9 January. Malicious news media are creating misinformation, poisoning the news to scare the public, and spread propaganda to incite terrorists to carry out terrorist acts. — MNA/KZL



Fake news: Security forces shot three civilians in MraukU



SECURITY forces shot dead three civilians who were taken as human shields in MraukU, Rakhine State, on 9 January.

Security forces said that they were acting under the law of war established to protect the peace and stability of the region, the rule of law, and the people's lives property.

Malicious news media are creating false news to scare the public, misrepresent the security forces and blame them on the security forces. — MNA/KZL

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December draws numerous visitors to **Gawringyi** Island

TOUR guides said that the destination of Gawringyi island in Patheingyi district, Ayeyawady region, attracted many visitors during December.

Due to transport difficulties, not many travellers came to this destination. Still, many interested local visitors from Yangon region and others came to the island during the December holidays, said tour guide Ko Kway Kar.

“People came from various areas. My clients were from Kachin State, Mogoke, Shan State, Muse and Lashio,” he said.

Although not as many as before, he said the return of tourists to the island is a good thing.

“There are not as many travellers as in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, but it regained people’s interest. Due to various circumstances, there were just a few visitors in 2021 and 2022. Transport difficulties were one of them. Now, the roads have improved a little, and some people come in their private cars. As there are three-day consecutive holidays in February, people might come,” he said. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Bagan sand painting gains in popularity among locals

BAGAN sand painting, 100 per cent handmade art, has caught much attention in the local market and demand has also risen, according to sand painting sellers from Bagan.

“It has gained quite a lot of popularity in the domestic market these years compared to previous times. It could attract local visitors in the past, though no one bought it. However, foreign-made printed elephant or dragon pictures even cost US\$10-US\$15, so more people would like to buy this 100 per cent handmade art, sand painting, when they visit Bagan,” said a sand painting shop owner in Bagan.

Over previous years, sand painting attracted foreign tourists, and its demand also increased.

“We had to rely on foreigners in Bagan at the beginning. Later, when the arrival of foreign visitors was low, we changed fo-



cus towards the local market. The arrival of foreign visitors always gets high every September, October, November and December in Bagan,” said another sand painting shop owner in Bagan.

Depending on design and category, sand painting costs range from K25,000 to K65,000 at present, and the price varies depending on customized orders. — Thit Taw/ZS

Myanmar’s traditional woven textiles draw local market, sales steady

MYANMAR’S traditional woven textiles have gained in popularity in the local market, and sales have been normal, according to sources from the weaving cottonwear industry.

“Weaving products have gained domestic interest. There are orders from Myanmar in Thailand. Sale of some items has increased,” said a weaving cottonwear trader.

The majority of weaving workshops have been found in Myitkyina, Shwebo, Mandalay and Kanbalu, and from these

places, a wide variety of woven textiles such as male and female Sarongs, Myanmar cotton wears, Anyarsaung (blanket) and Kachin longyi are distributed.

He said a market for woven wear in Yangon can also attract foreigners.

“Foreigners call Myanmar’s woven textiles handmade. They value and use them in making decorations for their houses. For example, they use tablecloths and scarves in decorating their living rooms,” he added. — MT/ZS



Leatherback turtle nesting sites in Rakhine protected with fencing, warning posts

AN official from the Kyeintali Inshore Fisheries Co-Management Association (KIFCA) said that a nearly extinct leatherback turtle had come ashore twice to lay eggs in Kyeintali, Thandwe district, Rakhine state and that these two nesting sites were being protected by fencing and warning signs.

It came ashore to nest near Zone 3 of the Kyeintali coastal co-management area on 30 December, and he said another leatherback turtle also laid eggs in Zone 2 on 9 January 2024.

One such turtle had laid eggs three years ago, but no hatchlings hatched because seawater touched the nesting site. Learning from this, he said the current two sites are under close observation for seawater intrusion, and it is under arrangement to construct a small fence similar



Fencing the nesting area of sea turtles.

to an embankment.

“Although they are sea turtles, if their nesting sites are covered with or touched by seawater, their eggs will not hatch. As they are a rare species, we care for them to avoid what happened three years ago. Since this is normally a high tide area, we must consider whether seawater can reach these sites. If it can, we have instructed the monitoring groups

to build an embankment-like structure to prevent the water from entering,” he explained. In addition to the fencing, warning signs have been posted at each site stating, “Do not dig turtle nesting site. Do not touch it”.

“We went to nesting sites to put up. Do not dig. Do not touch. We want to remind people that it is an offence under the Fisheries Law,” he added. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL



The Embassy of Myanmar in London.

Myanmar expats in 4 European countries face 2% income tax requirement

MIGRANT workers in the UK are exempt from income tax if they can show a P60 statement.

Myanmar expatriates in Sweden, Denmark, Ireland and the UK are subject to a two per cent income tax, the Myanmar Embassy in London notified on 10 January 2024.

Myanmar nationals are required to pay income tax on their total salary starting from 1 October 2023.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance issued the rules and instructions regarding income tax levy as per Notification 79/2023 dated 22 November 2023.

According to the Double Taxation Agreement, Myanmar expats in the UK are granted exemption if they can present a P60 statement, the Myanmar Embassy stated. Those white-collar workers must pay two per cent of their monthly salary if they cannot show the P60 or their earnings are less than the taxable income.

The Myanmar expatriates in Sweden, Denmark, and Ireland must also pay two per cent of the set tax rates depending on the income bracket, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance's Notification 165/2023

dated 3 November.

Additionally, a tax receipt is obligatory for Myanmar nationals working overseas to proceed to ordinary passport renewal and consular procedures, including applying for a Certificate of Identity for lost or damaged passports.

The Myanmar Embassy will issue taxpayers a tax payment certificate bearing a QR code. They can pay income tax quarterly or biannually as they like. For ordinary passport renewal, income tax must be paid when renewal is allowed. — TWA/EM

Yangon Region dredges Ngamoeyeik Creek to alleviate flooding

IN collaboration with the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR), is enhancing water flow in Ngamoeyeik Creek using state-owned dredgers and heavy machinery.

Severe rains in early October 2023 resulted in flooding in Hlegu, Dagon Myothit (East and North), North Okkalapa, and South Okkalapa townships in the Yangon Region.

Ngamoeyeik Creek, a lengthy stream stretching from

Hlegu township to a bridge in North Okkalapa township, will undergo dredging, covering 25,000 feet long and a bottom width of 100 feet.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and his team inspected the work site where Ngamoeyeik Creek was dredged on 8 January.

Additionally, the Yangon Region chief minister and officials supervised the dredging work using ten amphibious excavators and seven Anm backhoes to ensure completion within the specified timeframe. — TWA/MKKS

YCDC implements advanced training for garbage collection vehicle drivers

THE Yangon City Development Committee is implementing a training programme for garbage collection vehicle drivers using a computer simulation system.

The training spans four weeks, with 30 participants enrolled each week. The comprehensive course includes theoretical and practical instruction on conducting ground cleaning activities, vehicle essentials, maintenance procedures, adherence to traffic rules and

regulations, and engine maintenance for the garbage trucks in use.

In Yangon, the Final Disposal Site (FDS) receives approximately 2,500 tonnes of waste daily. The city is committed to achieving zero waste, aligning with international standards. Initiatives such as waste composting, generation of gas from garbage, and material recycling are being actively pursued to fulfil this goal. — TWA/KZW

Onion, garlic prices plunge in Yangon market

YANGON market witnessed a decrease in onion and garlic prices in the Yangon's market. Kyukok garlic price dropped below K9,000 per viss.

The price of garlic from Shan State moved between K14,000 and K16,000 per viss on 10 January, while Kyukok garlic fetched K8,700 per viss.

Sellers involved in Yangon's markets rush to sell garlic from Shan State as the cold weather causes weight loss of bulbs.

Kyukok's garlic price is about K7,000 lower than the Shan garlic. Onion traders are expecting foreign demand.

Nonetheless, monsoon onion prices dipped in the Yangon market amid the transport disruption at the eastern and western borders.

The new onion wholesale prices were K1,750-K4,700 per viss depending on the producing areas (Myingyan, Seikphyu, Myittha) on 10 January.

Shan garlic and summer onion are to be harvested in the coming months. The opening prices of garlic and onion at the beginning of the harvest season are forecast to rise compared to those of the previous years. — TWA/EM

Pet Fair Myanmar 2024: International grooming certification event in Feb

THE 12th International Pet Fair, organized by the SuperGroom organization based in Malaysia, known as the 2024 International Grooming Certification & Pet Fair Myanmar 2024, will debut in Myanmar on 3-4 February.

The Pet Fair will take place at the Zawana Stadium in Thuwunna Township, Yangon Region, from 10 am to 6 pm over two days. The Pet Fair's opening ceremony, scheduled for 3 February, will feature a Grooming Free Show, pet fashions, a Pet Fashion Show, a Meet and Greet with guests (pet celebrities), a Fashion Show prize event, and a commemorative



An advertisement of the International Grooming Certification & Pet Fair Myanmar.

photo-taking event.

On 4 February, the opening ceremony of the Interna-

tional Grooming Certification, Grooming Exam, and Award ceremonies will take place.

Individuals interested in attending the fair are encouraged to register by 15 January, as per the festival organizing committee's request. Only dogs and cats are allowed to attend the festival. The committee has set up an emergency vet corner to provide necessary care. For groomers participating in the International Grooming Certification, the exam topics are accessible on the International Grooming Certification & Pet Fair Myanmar Facebook Page. — TWA/MKKS

Thailand primary source of Myanmar's export in 9 months, accumulating over US\$2.6 bln

THAILAND ranked first among Myanmar's leading ten export partners with US\$2.6 billion over the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

China is the second largest export partner, with \$2.205 billion between 1 and 29 December. In terms of export market share, the remaining are Japan with \$862.232 million, India with \$627 million, the US with \$442.47 million, Germany with \$403 million, Poland with \$368 million, Spain with \$333 million, the Republic of Korea with \$293.6 million and Italy with \$238.242 million.

Garment exports earned the highest of the top 10 export commodities this FY, at \$3.25 billion. The export values



Cargo trucks in a queue at Myawady border.

stood at \$2.49 billion from natural gas export, \$529.67 million from black gram, \$478.26 million from rice and broken rice, \$279 million from corn, \$258.7 million from fish, \$213 million from green gram, \$144 million from raw rubber, \$105 million from pigeon pea and \$85.56 million

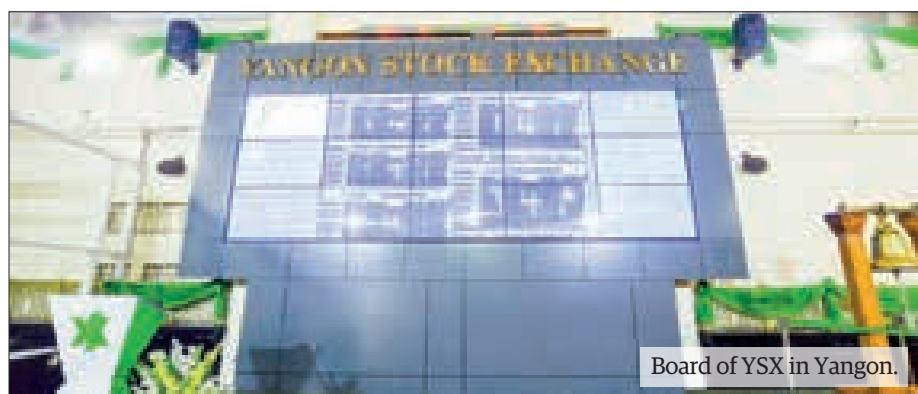
from metal and ores.

Myanmar exports black gram, rice and broken rice, corn, green gram, rubber, pigeon pea, sesame, onion, turmeric, tamarind, dried ginger, konjac, castor oil seed, coffee bean, cashew nuts, cotton, cassava, watermelon, muskmelon, mango, tissue-culture banana, agricultural produce, various fish, shrimp, eel, crab and dried fish to external markets.

Additionally, Myanmar has been exerting efforts to enhance manufacturing exports, and veneer and plywood, finished forest products, clothes, sugar and other manufacturing products are also sent to foreign markets.

Myanmar exports goods by sea and land but also by air. — NN/EM

YSX 2023 Annual Report: Stock market ends year with gain



YANGON Stock Exchange (YSX) closed out 2023 with an unexpected high of K9.833 billion from 3.575 million shares of the eight listed companies, according to the annual report released by the exchange.

Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) was listed on 3 July 2023. Both continuous trading and block trading charts on YSX climbed in 2023 compared to 2022. The stock trading by seven listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in 2022 accumulated K7.424 billion from 1,667,434 shares, which soared from 887,969 shares worth K4.63 billion in 2021, according to the annual report released by the exchange.

At present, shares of eight listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB),

TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd. (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are traded in the security market.

The total trading volumes were registered at 250,094 shares of FMI worth K2.1 billion, 1.036 million shares of MTSH worth K3.056 billion, 95,278 shares of MCB worth K700 million, 983,467 shares of FPB worth over K1.63 billion, 22,218 shares of TMH worth K55.545 million, 243,149 shares of EFR worth over K498 million, 29,492 shares of AMATA worth K143 million and 915,033 shares of MAEX worth K1.63 billion respectively last year.

The equity market showed the highest trading value of K2.068 billion from 958,368 shares in July. The trading values plunged into the lowest of K222.9 million

88,392 shares in December 2023.

The closing share prices per unit were K8,700 for FMI, K2,850 for MTSH, K7,900 for MCB, K1,600 for FPB, K2,500 for TMH, K2,000 for EFR and K4,800 for AMATA and K1,750 for MAEX in December 2023.

Additionally, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX.

Furthermore, block trading of YSX can be done with the minimum order quantity (10,000 stocks) or with the stocks with a trading value of K30 million starting from 1 September 2022.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market since 20 March 2020.

The YSX conducts stock investment webinars and training courses to disseminate rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading among the public. YSX Investment Virtual Series also offers insight talks with listed companies' executives and investment presentations by security companies every weekend at 4 pm on YouTube, Facebook, Viber and Telegram platforms of the YSX, along with panel discussions with experts. — KK

Myanmar-Thailand border trade values cross US\$3.5 bln in 9 months

MYANMAR'S border trade with neighbouring Thailand amounted to US\$3.566 billion in the past nine months (April-December) of the current financial year 2023-2024.

The figures plunged from \$3.95 billion in the year-ago period, indicating a sharp drop of \$385.35 million.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with Thailand via the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee and Mawtaung borders. The Hteekhee border performed the largest trade worth \$2.2 billion in the past nine months. Moreover, the trade values stood at \$997.4 million at Myawady border post, \$115.9 million at Tachilek, \$93 million at Myeik, \$136.23 million at Kawthoung and \$15 million at Mawtaung.

Myanmar carries out border trade with the neighbouring countries — China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. It exports agricultural produce, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods. At the same time, it brings in capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer goods and raw materials by the CMP enterprises. — NN/EM

OPINION

ARTICLE POEM

Follow traffic rules to save lives of families

ENFORCEMENT measures of traffic rules play a crucial role in preserving the lives of families navigating the roads, striving to prevent casualties in traffic accidents. It is imperative for all road users to comprehensively understand the primary objectives of traffic rules and adhere to them rigorously.

Countries enact traffic rules tailored to their unique circumstances, aiming to safeguard people from potential dangers on the roads. Some nations prioritize public awareness campaigns on traffic rules and establish dedicated traffic police forces to enforce regulations and alleviate traffic congestion comprehensively.

Official annual statistics for 2023 revealed a distressing reality, with over 2,000 lives lost in traffic accidents nationwide, including incidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. Reflecting on this figure, it is essential to recognize that those injured not only endure physical and mental suffering but also grapple with the financial burden of medical expenses, potentially altering the course of their lives.

These alarming figures underscore Myanmar's challenges in adhering to traffic rules, necessitating heightened efforts from traffic enforcement bodies. A collaborative approach involving the public and authorities is essential to mitigate traffic problems and reduce casualties. These amounts of deaths and injuries highlighted the weakness of Myanmar people in following the traffic rules in driving vehicles and using roads, whereas relevant traffic rules enforcement bodies need to beef up their restrictions over supervising traffic activities. As such, people and authorities strive to reduce traffic problems and casualties so as to wipe the tears of victims' families in traffic accidents and not to be orphanage life of children.

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Reading People According to BODY LANGUAGE EXPERTS

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

This article will outline common signs, as interpreted by body language experts, for reading and understanding people through their non-verbal cues.

WE human beings use not only spoken and written language but also body language very often. The reasons for using body language will not be the same between us, for sure. Anyway, to put it simply, we are given to use body language when we dare not speak to anyone straight, when we would like to make our listeners pay more attention to us, or even when we do not want to talk in words. However, body language usually talks about its user's inner self or personality to a certain extent. This article is going to describe some common signs of reading people according to body language experts.

Some people listen to anyone else or anything else quite actively just because they are absolutely interesting, whereas others do just so naturally for no apparent reason. Meanwhile, they tend to give an expression of a tilted head, which means active listening. Of course, active listening alone is even better than breaking off if it is probably necessary. As listen-

ing is the combination process of hearing and attention, the more attention we show to someone speaking, the more eager he or she will be to speak. In fact, the manner of the tilted head referring to active listening creates mutual respect between speaker and listener.

Some do not like to speak to others face to face. This may be due to the fact that they are shy of, furiously angry with, fear, or look down their nose at the others. Whatever is said, someone should have a serious talk about important matters with someone else head-to-head for the simple reason that eyes speak pretty louder than words as regards one's very feelings or thoughts while saying something. Hence, body language experts state that direct eye contact creates a desire for a potential close connection with one another or communicative dominance over others. That eye contact still lets us know whether others are interested in our words.

Self-consciousness can be defined as the state of becoming aware of oneself - to be said better, the state of being able to use one's senses and mental powers to understand what is happening to him or her. Most people are most likely to see self-consciousness simply by the time they do wrong rather than right, especially careless mistakes. However, I am satisfied that self-consciousness is not more advanced in intelligent order than self-reflection or self-actualization. It is also merely a temporary mental state. If a person gains such self-consciousness or finds himself guilty, the behaviour of a covered mouth will almost certainly be shown by him.

According to Oxford, discomfort has three definitions: 1) a feeling of slight pain or of being physically uncomfortable, 2) a feeling of worry or embarrassment, and 3) something that makes us feel uncomfortable or causes us a slight feeling of pain. From these definitions, it can be seen that we may experience dis-

comfort if we are wearing short-sleeved shirts only in the cold. In such a context, folded arms or crossed limbs will be found out. Thus, crossed limbs turn out to be a sign of discomfort. Sometimes, some minor discomfort does not appear considerably on the face but in the above-mentioned sign.

Those who are easily worried, frightened or weak and easily hurt physically or emotionally try to hide their nervousness or vulnerability as usual. Despite this, there is always something that cannot be controlled by them at all. It is nothing but their high-pitched voice. Speaking in a high-pitched voice will have easily frightened off their listeners, they should think. Not only that, raising voices is a form of lying by means of human lie detectors. This form also involves responding slowly to questions, avoiding the question, not denying the accusation, turning down the corner of their mouth, mismatching words and expressions, going on too many tangents, including irrelevant details, and not using personal pronouns.

In some cases, safety is required first, for instance, at construction sites and schools. As the saying goes, the most dangerous area is the safest place, too. Be that as it may, many people cannot put up with their insecurity physiologically or psychologically any longer. At such time, they are increasingly taking their curled-in stance. This also means they are too vulnerable to face their insecurity.

Not all of the above-shown body language is the same in any situation. They might well go differently from field to field and from culture to culture. Suffice it to say that body language is a sort of sign language as well as can be used in the character appraisal of people as an effective and efficient tool. So, let's read people. Right now!



Body language often reveals aspects of one's inner self or personality. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PIXABAY



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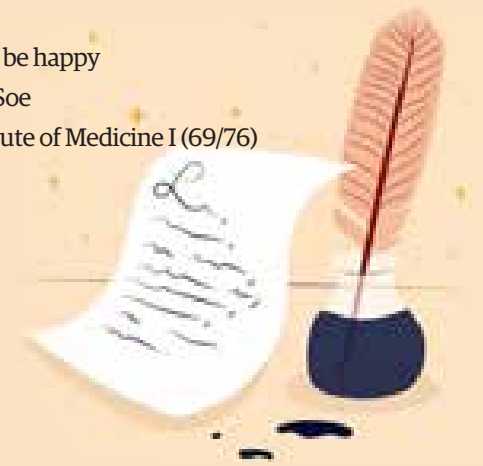
Poetic Inspiration but (lack of) poetic gift

By Dr Myat Soe, Translated by Myint Zan

This bloke
who is a lover of poetry
pondered, tried to write poems

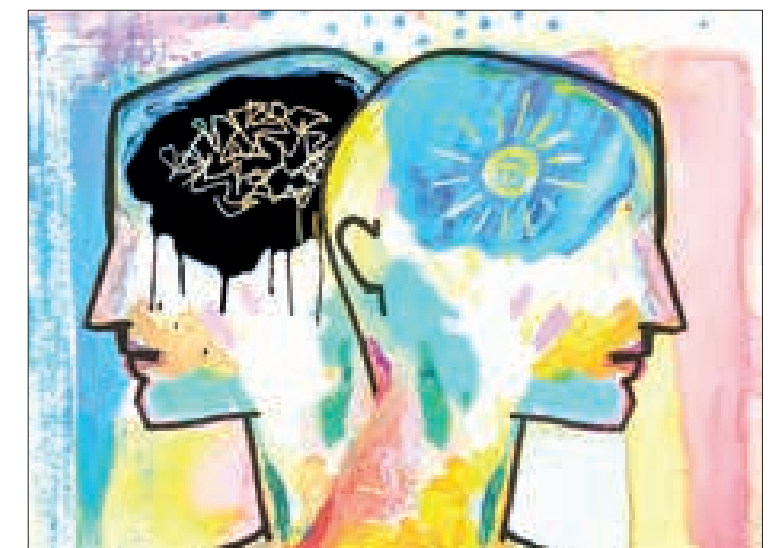
He pondered the causes (topics)
to write poems but
the opportunity to do so
does not arise
'tis my mind is not at ease
when confronted with difficulties
in composing poems

May all be happy
Myat Soe
Institute of Medicine I (69/76)



Bipolar disorder linked to early death: Research

Living with bipolar disorder, a challenging mental condition characterized by mood swings, carries a higher risk of early death, according to a study that compared two groups, revealing individuals with bipolar disorder were four to six times more likely to die prematurely than those without the condition.



LIVING with bipolar disorder, a serious mental condition that can produce both manic and depressive mood swings, can be difficult. It also comes with a higher risk of dying early. Now, a study puts into perspective just how large that risk is, and how it compares with other factors that can shorten life. In two different groups, people with bipolar disorder were four to six times more likely as people without the condition to die prematurely, the study finds.

By contrast, people who had ever smoked were about twice as likely to die prematurely than those who had never smoked - whether or not they had bipolar disorder. A team from the University of Michigan, home to one

of the world's largest longterm studies of people with bipolar disorder, reports their findings in the journal *Psychiatry Research*. **Health and lifestyle**

The stark difference in mortality, and the differences in health and lifestyle that likely contributed to it, should prompt more efforts at preventing early deaths, say the researchers.

"Bipolar disorder has long been seen as a risk factor for mortality, but always through a lens of other common causes of death," said Anastasia Yocum, Ph.D., lead author of the study and data manager of the research programme at the Heinz C.

Prechter Bipolar Research Program. "We wanted to look at it by itself in comparison with

Large study shows having bipolar disorder is associated with a four- to six-fold risk of dying prematurely, suggesting more preventive efforts needed. PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

conditions and lifestyle behaviors that are also linked to higher rates of premature death." Two large data sources yield similar findings Yocum and her colleagues, including Prechter Program director Melvin McInnis, M.D., started by looking at deaths and related factors among 1,128 people who had volunteered for the programme's longterm study of people with and without bipolar disorder.

They found that all but two of the 56 deaths since the study began in 2006 were from the group of 847 people in the study who had bipolar disorder. With statistical adjustments, their analysis shows that having a diagnosis of bipolar disorder made someone six times more likely to die during a 10-year period than people taking part in the same study who did not have bipolar disorder.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

Restoration of ancient lakes in Bagan's World Heritage Site to mitigate flooding



Excavation and renovation processes of ancient lakes.

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch), eleven ancient lakes in the World Heritage Site in Bagan, part of the Bagan era's water supply system, are set to undergo excavation and renovation.

The excavation and renovation of Alan Bagan Lake, Mayoe Lake, and Nyaunglaphat Lake have been completed with the Mandalay Region government funding.

These three lakes will now store 458 acre-feet of water, helping prevent flooding and water accumulation within the walls of ancient buildings and surrounding areas.

Furthermore, plans include

excavating and renovating 11 additional ancient lakes to prevent flooding of the ancient religious edifices during heavy rains.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch), in collaboration with experts from the University of Marche in Italy, is conducting research on the water supply system and the inflow and outflow channels of water in the heritage zone.

The Myanmar-Italian joint team is currently engaged in field recording and research activities on the irrigation and drainage systems of Wetkyee-in Creek, Viewing Mound, and Myakan (Emerald Lake). — ASH/TKO

CRIME NEWS

Stimulant tablets worth over K1.7 bln nabbed in Kyaikto

A total of 856,000 stimulant tablets, valued at over K1.7 billion, were seized in Kyaikto township of Mon State, as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, searched a Land Cruiser Prado car heading from Bago to Kawthoung. The vehicle was driven by Thura Win, accompanied by his wife, Ma Aye Thanda Aung, and Ma Phu Phu Wai, near Ma-yanchaung village in Kyaikto township at 10 am on 3 January. Police confiscated stimulant tablets with a street value of over K1.7 billion, totalling 856,000 tablets, from the car. As part of the

investigation, the Police Force arrested Ko Shay (aka) Kyaw Htet and Khin Zaw Myint, who were involved in drug trafficking in Kawthoung township on 4 January. The Police Force also seized a Toyota FJ Cruiser vehicle, two motorcycles, K798,500, 6,000 baht, and various gold ornaments valued at K93.4 million from the residence of Thura Win and his wife in Dawei township. The arrestees admitted that the drugs were intended to be transported from Taunggyi to Kawthoung. Legal action has been initiated against the offenders, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend other individuals involved. — MNA/MKKS



Seized motorcycle and gold ornaments.



Offenders seen along with seized drugs.

Massive seizure of 1.45 tonnes of methamphetamine in Myanmar waters by Tatmadaw (Navy)

A total of 1.45 tonnes of Ice (methamphetamine), valued at K36.25 billion, was seized in Myanmar's waters by the Tatmadaw (Navy), as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.

The Tatmadaw (Navy) conducted a search on a Yanlinkyaw-4 wooden motorboat in the sea, approximately 135 miles southeast of Hainggyikyun town in Ayeyawady Region, at 3:30 pm on 4 January. Aung Thein (aka) Watoke, Tu Naing, Maung Zaw, and Phoe Lapyae were apprehended by Tatmadaw (Navy), along with the confiscated 1.45 tonnes of Ice (methamphetamine) valued at

K36.25 billion.

After some interrogation, authorities arrested Soe Kyaw (aka) Soe Soe Kyaw at the inshore Tadato jetty in Kawthoung township at 11:30 pm on 7 January. The offenders admitted that the seized drugs were intended to be transported from the sea, approximately 135 miles southeast from Hainggyikyun town, to the waters in Kawthoung township and subsequently overseas. Legal action has been taken against the offenders, and an ongoing investigation aims to apprehend other perpetrators involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



Beijing issues guideline for protecting historical buildings

BEIJING authorities on Monday issued a trial guideline for the protection and utilization of over 1,000 historical buildings in the capital city.

From 2019 to 2021, Beijing released a list of a total of 1,056 historical buildings in three batches. These buildings, which span some 700 years, spread across 11 districts within the city. With diverse functions and architectural styles, they constitute an important part of Beijing's rich historical and cultural heritage.

According to the guideline, historical buildings are divided into five categories — daily maintenance, maintenance and

repair, on-site reconstruction, relocation, and demolition — based on the different levels of intervention in the protection and utilization process. The move aims to avoid damage to the buildings during repair and reconstruction.

Targeted protective measures will also be adopted in regard to different conditions of these historical buildings. Authorities will distinguish between the preservation and renewal aspects of a historical building in order to avoid the one-size-fits-all measures and ensure better revitalization and utilization of the buildings. — Xinhua

Visitors enjoy snow scenery at the Palace Museum in Beijing, capital of China, 14 December 2023.
PHOTO: LUO XIAOGUANG/XINHUA

Baby Yoda gets his own 'Star Wars' movie

Fan-favorite Baby Yoda is set to co-star in the upcoming Star Wars movie, "The Mandalorian & Grogu", directed by Jon Favreau.

COMING to the big screen, he is.

Fan favorite Baby Yoda will co-star in a new Star Wars movie entitled "The Mandalorian & Grogu," Lucasfilm announced Tuesday.

The film will be directed by Jon Favreau, who created the hit Disney+ streaming show "The Mandalorian", in which the character was first introduced.

That series followed mysterious bounty hunter Din Djarin (Pedro Pascal), aka The Mandalorian, as he was tasked with delivering an adorable, tiny green creature called Grogu to a sinister client.

Instead he formed a close bond with the creature — who appeared to be the same alien



Grogu, better known as Baby Yoda, has become a fan favorite since first appearing in "The Mandalorian". PHOTO: AFP/FILE

species as Yoda in the original Star Wars movies, earning him his nickname among fans.

"I have loved telling stories set in the rich world that George Lucas created," said

Favreau in a statement.

"The prospect of bringing the Mandalorian and his apprentice Grogu to the big screen is extremely exciting." — AFP

Australia police swoop on alleged plot to kill rappers

AUSTRALIAN police swooped Thursday on an organised crime gang allegedly plotting to murder four rappers in ONEFOUR, a hip-hop group that featured on Netflix.

The crime ring had been taking on contracts to carry out

"serious crimes including murders and kidnappings", New South Wales state police told a news conference in Sydney.

The cell had accepted a contract to murder four "high-profile men" from Mount Druitt, a gritty western Sydney

suburb, said Detective Superintendent Peter Faux.

The intended victims were identified in Australian media as members of ONEFOUR, a drill rap group whose members are from Mount Druitt. — AFP

Disney debuts deaf Native superhero as 'woke' debate swirls

Disney's Marvel Universe ventures into new territory with the streaming series "Echo", introducing a deaf, Native American superhero with a prosthetic leg.

DISNEY'S Marvel Universe explores uncharted territory with "Echo", a streaming series featuring a deaf, Native American superhero with a prosthetic leg, igniting fresh hope for the franchise.

Can a deaf, Native American superhero with a prosthetic leg reinvent Disney's Marvel franchise, just weeks after its CEO appeared to criticize his filmmakers for prioritizing messaging over storytelling?

Streaming series "Echo",

which launches on Disney+ and Hulu on Tuesday, tells the story of Maya Lopez, a tough former villain who returns from a life of criminality in New York to rediscover her Indigenous roots in her Oklahoma hometown.

Much of the dialogue takes place through sign language, with subtitles, and filmmakers worked closely with Choctaw Nation leaders to create authentic scenes, including a flashback to a sporting festival in pre-European contact America. — AFP



Native American actress Alaqua Cox arrives to celebrate the upcoming launch of Marvel Studios' 'Echo'. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Global food prices index fell 10% in 2023: FAO

In December, sugar prices experienced the most significant decline, dropping by 16.6 per cent from November to their lowest point in nine months.

GLOBAL food prices declined again in December, falling by 1.5 per cent from the previous month and ending the year 10.1 per cent below its year-earlier level, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said on Friday.

The FAO said that in December, prices rose for dairy products and grains and cereals, but were more than compensated for by lower prices for sugar, vegetable oils and meat. Grains and cereals, the largest component in the index, saw their prices rise 1.5 per cent. However, they still ended the year 16.6 per cent below levels from December 2022, according to the FAO.

Dairy prices gained 1.6 per cent in December but were down by 16.1 per cent for the year. The FAO said the gains for the month were due to higher demand for butter, whole milk powder and cheese. The other sub-indexes all lost ground for the month.

The biggest declines were in sugar prices, which slipped 16.6 per cent compared to that in November, falling to their lowest level in nine months. Prices fell due to strong production levels in Brazil. Nevertheless, despite the sharp fall in December, the sugar sub-index was still up for the year, with prices 14.9 per cent above levels from December 2022. — Xinhua



The decrease was attributed to robust sugar production in Brazil. PHOTO: TRILUX/WENDERSON ARAUJO/WORLD BANK

EU officials rally behind ex-Italian PM for European Council presidency

THE race for one of the EU's top jobs is on as the 27 member states must find a successor by mid-July 2024. Central and eastern European nations have voiced discontent about

the dominance of their western counterparts in securing these positions.

European Council President Charles Michel's early resignation announcement has



European Council President Charles Michel's early resignation sparks speculation about potential successors, including former Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. Draghi speaks at a press conference in Rome, Italy, on 12 July 2022. PHOTO: STR/XINHUA/FILE

prompted speculation about potential successors — including former Italian prime minister Mario Draghi.

Draghi's tenure from 1991 to 2001 as director general of the Italian treasury was characterized by significant financial reforms.

He led efforts to reduce Italy's public debt, balance annual budgets, and stabilize both interest and currency exchange rates, paving the way for Italy's integration into the European Monetary Union in 1999. While serving as the president of the European Central Bank, Draghi is widely recognized for bolstering the Euro's stability. — SPUTNIK

UK unveils plans for 'biggest nuclear power expansion in 70 years'

THE UK government on Thursday announced plans for what it said was the country's "biggest expansion of nuclear power for 70 years" to bolster its energy independence and meet carbon emission targets.

The Civil Nuclear Roadmap includes exploring the con-

struction of a major new power station, £300 million (\$382 million) of investment to produce an advanced uranium fuel and "smarter regulation".

Taken together, the measures would quadruple UK nuclear power by 2050 to 24 gigawatts, enough to provide a

quarter of the UK's electricity needs.

"Nuclear is the perfect antidote to the energy challenges facing Britain — it's green, cheaper in the long-term and will ensure the UK's energy security," said Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. — AFP

Norway emphasizes circular economy and renewable energy at VGGGS 2024

Norwegian Ambassador to India, May-Elin Stener stated that the main focus is on circular economy and renewable energy, with various companies also engaged in maritime cooperation.

THE second day of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit saw Norway's Ambassador to India, May-Elin Stener, shed light on the significant focus of Norwegian companies on circular economy initiatives and renewable energy projects in Gujarat.

Addressing the summit, Ambassador Stener emphasised, "The main focus of Norwegian companies here is circular economy and energy, particularly renewable energy. We also have

different companies focusing on different aspects of maritime cooperation. We are currently negotiating a free trade agreement with India within the framework of EFTA". She added, "Companies here at the summit are particularly looking at Gujarat, particularly in the coastal side and maritime domain, looking at the ports, finding opportunities for investing, especially in renewable energy, floating solar energy and floating wind energy." — ANI



Norwegian Ambassador to India, May-Elin Stener, highlighted the emphasis of Norwegian companies on circular economy initiatives and renewable energy projects in Gujarat during the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI

China, US companies partner up on consumer electronics show

During the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, industry leaders, government officials, and tech experts from China and the United States gathered for the "China Night" Forum on Consumer Electronics Development.



A sign welcomes attendees to CES 2024, an annual consumer electronics trade show, in Las Vegas, Nevada, US 9 January 2024. PHOTO: CHINA DAILY

INDUSTRY leaders, government officials, and tech experts from China and the United States converged Tuesday night in Las Vegas, moving to foster closer ties between the two countries in the fast-growing consumer electronics sector.

The "China Night" Forum on Consumer Electronics Development was co-hosted by the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco and the China Chamber of Commerce for Import

and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products (CCCME) during the Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the world's largest tech show, which runs from Tuesday to Friday here. "This year, we resume hosting 'China Night' after the pandemic," said Chinese Deputy Consul General in San Francisco Zou Yonghong at the event. "It's a platform to showcase cutting-edge technology and capture the global trend of the industry."

Zou emphasized the extensive common ground between the two countries, particularly in the lucrative consumer electronics market.

The rapid integration of AI and other emerging technologies is fueling the evolution of consumer electronics, with consumers increasingly seeking intelligent lifestyles, said Zou, expressing the belief that this trend would further boost cooperation between Chinese and US companies. — Xinhua

India, UAE aspire to expand bilateral trade to \$100 billion: Piyush Goyal

Goyal emphasized the diverse nature of the India-UAE partnership, covering areas such as space exploration, security, education, and climate action.

UNION Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said that India and UAE aspire to expand their bilateral trade to \$100 billion.

While addressing the 'UAE India Business Summit' held at the 10th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, the Minister underscored the multifaceted nature of the India-UAE partnership, encompassing collaborations in space exploration, security, education, and climate action.



Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India and the UAE aim to boost their bilateral trade to \$100 billion. PHOTO: ADANI/ANI

Goyal said that both countries are looking for newer propositions from industry and business to further enhance their partnership. — ANI

BMW sets new sales record of 2.56 mln cars in 2023

THE BMW Group increased its global sales of BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce cars by 6.5 per cent year-on-year to a record number of 2.56 million in 2023, the German car manufacturer said on Tuesday.

The company said that deliveries of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) jumped by 74.4 per cent year-on-year, to more than 376,000 units, meeting the full-year target for all-electric vehicles in total sales

of 15 per cent.

"With our new, highly attractive and technologically outstanding vehicles, we were able to ramp up

electromobility even more dynamically in 2023," said Jochen Goller, member of the board of management of BMW AG. — Xinhua



A BMW i5 electric car is displayed during the press preview of the 2023 International Motor Show (IAA) in Munich, Germany, 4 Sept 2023. PHOTO: REN PENGFEI/XINHUA

Boeing, US aviation authority under scrutiny after major safety lapse

US aviation giant Boeing is facing heightened scrutiny following a recent major incident that has ignited calls in Washington for a comprehensive investigation, casting a shadow on the effectiveness of US aviation regulations.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Saturday ordered the

temporary grounding of some Boeing 737 MAX 9 aircraft operated by US airlines or in US territory.

The order was issued following a serious mid-air incident on Friday when a part of a Boeing 737 MAX 9 fuselage blew out on an Alaska Airlines flight out of Portland, in the US state of Oregon. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (807N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (807N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-1-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (014N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (014N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-1-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

China, Maldives upgrade ties as presidents hold talks

President Xi highlighted the historical connections between the two nations through the ancient Maritime Silk Road and commended their fruitful cooperation in recent years, particularly in the construction of the Belt and Road initiative.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with President of the Republic of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu in Beijing on Wednesday.

The two heads of state announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

Xi said that the people of

the two countries established friendly ties through the ancient Maritime Silk Road, undertook productive cooperation in the construction of the Belt and Road and other areas in recent years, and set a good example of equality, mutual assistance and mutual benefit between countries big and small over the past 52 years of

diplomatic ties.

“Under the new circumstances, China-Maldives relations face a historic opportunity to build on past achievements and forge ahead,” Xi said, noting that the elevation of ties is necessary alongside the growth of bilateral relations and meets the expectations of the two peoples. — Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcoming ceremony for President of the Republic of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu in the Northern Hall of the Great Hall of the People prior to their talks in Beijing, capital of China, 10 January 2024. **PHOTO: DING HAITAO/XINHUA**

The Aussie set to become Queen of Denmark

DENMARK'S popular Australian-born Crown Princess Mary will cap a real-life fairytale Sunday when she becomes queen

after her husband Crown Prince Frederik accedes to the throne.

The glamorous 51-year-old is credited with helping mod-

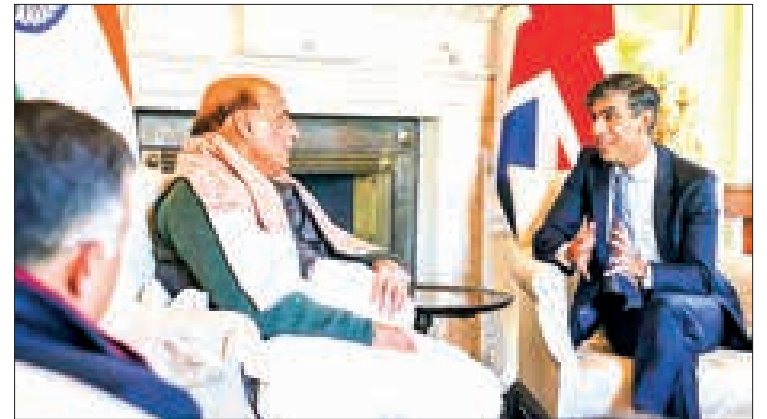
ernise the Danish monarchy over the years, and is one of its most popular members.

Queen Margrethe II shocked Danes when she announced her plans to abdicate after 52 years on the throne in her annual New Year's Eve speech, citing her age — 83 — and health issues.

The future queen, born Mary Donaldson, brought a breath of fresh air to the monarchy and dazzled Danes when she married into the royal family. “Some people think my husband is a bit in my shadow because I'm very much in the spotlight and I have a lot of engagements,” she said in a 2017 authorized biography of Prince Frederik. — AFP



The final leg of Mary's journey, from Tasmania to the Danish throne, received an unexpected catalyst on New Year's Eve with the surprise abdication announcement by Queen Margrethe II. **PHOTO: ANI**



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meets UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in London. **PHOTO: ANI**

India-UK FTA could be brought to successful conclusion soon: UK PM

The Ministry of Defence revealed that Singh and Sunak agreed on the importance of collaboration in trade, defence, and technology sectors.

UNION Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called on UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at 10, Downing Street in London on Wednesday. During the meeting, Sunak expressed hope that the ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) could be brought to a successful conclusion soon.

Rajnath Singh and Rishi Sunak agreed on the need for the two nations to work together in trade, defence and technology sectors, Ministry of Defence said in a press release. He expressed the keenness of the UK government to strengthen defence and security pillars of the bilateral partnership.

Notably, India and the UK are negotiating a Free Trade

Agreement (FTA). Talks for FTA between India and the UK started in 2022. The thirteenth round of negotiations for the UK-India Free Trade Agreement concluded in December, with both sides resolving that they would continue to negotiate towards a comprehensive and ambitious trade pact.

“Prime Minister Sunak fully agreed with the Raksha Mantri on the need for UK and India to work in the domains of trade, defence and technology. In particular, he expressed hope that the ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations could be brought to a successful conclusion soon,” Ministry of Defence said in a press release. — ANI

Israel presses offensive in Khan Yunis

ISRAEL pressed its Gaza offensive with overnight military operations in southern and central Gaza, the Israel Defence Forces said on Thursday morning. In the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis, soldiers identified three armed terrorists emerging from a building and directed an air strike, eliminating the terror squad.

Elsewhere in Khan Yunis, Israeli soldiers directed an air strike that killed two terrorists by placing a bomb on the ground. The same soldiers then

detected two more terrorists entering a building, and one went to the roof to observe the Israeli forces. An airstrike on the building was called in, killing the terrorists.

A separate Israeli combat team in Khan Yunis attacked terror infrastructure, from which Hamas fired anti-tank missiles. Khan Yunis is Gaza's second-largest city and is regarded as a personal stronghold of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, whose family lives there. — ANI

SPORTS

Slogan, Mascots, emblem of Asian Winter Games unveiled

The 9th Asian Winter Games organizers unveiled the official slogan "Dream of Winter, Love among Asia", along with the adorable tiger mascots "Binbin" and "Nini" and the official emblem, which combines a short track speed skater figure, a lilac flower, and dancing ribbons, one year before the opening of the Games.

THE slogan, emblem, and mascots for the 9th Asian Winter Games have been officially unveiled here on Thursday. The 2025 Asian Winter Games organizers launched

the official slogan "Dream of Winter, Love among Asia" around one year away from the opening of the Games. At the launching ceremony, the organizers also presented the

adorable tiger mascots "Binbin" and "Nini" and the official emblem which is the fusion of a short track speed skater figure, a lilac flower and dancing ribbons — Xinhua



Emblem for 9th Asian Winter Games in northeast China's Harbin was unveiled on 11 January 2024. PHOTO:ASIAN WINTER GAMES ORGANIZERS/XINHUA

Real Madrid reach Spanish Super Cup final after epic win over Atletico

The match featured significant opportunities for both teams, and Real Madrid's Brahim Diaz sealed the win with a counter-attack during a last-minute corner.

A Stefan Savic own goal during the second period of extra time ensured Real Madrid's progression to the final of the Spanish Super Cup, following a captivating 5-3 win over Atletico Madrid in Riyadh on Wednesday night.

Savic's ill-fated attempt to clear Joselu's missed connection with Dani Carvajal's

cross resulted in the ball unexpectedly bouncing over Atletico keeper Jan Oblak and into the net, determining the outcome of a match that saw both teams have significant opportunities to win.

With Atletico desperately advancing everyone forward for a last-minute corner, Real Madrid's substitute Brahim

Diaz clinched the win on a counter-attack, exploiting Oblak's advanced position.

The game ignited early, with Atletico winger Samuel Lino drawing a spectacular save from Kepa Arrizabalaga within the first six minutes with a curling shot, orchestrated by Rodrigo de Paul and Antoine Griezmann. — Xinhua



Real Madrid's Spanish forward Joselu celebrates scoring his team's fourth goal during the Spanish Super Cup semi-final football match between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid at the Al-Awwal Park Stadium in Riyadh, on 10 January 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Nearly one million tickets sold for upcoming AFC Asian Cup in Qatar

With just one day away from the opening of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup in Qatar, nearly one million tickets have already been sold.



Official match ball of the 2023 Asian Cup. PHOTO: THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

NEARLY one million tickets have been sold so far for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup which will kick off on Friday in Doha, Qatar, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) revealed on Wednesday.

"Qatar is ready to welcome the best teams from Asia to what we hope will be the best ever edition of the AFC Asian Cup. Our stadiums and sporting infrastructure are set to deliver a

memorable tournament to players and fans," Hassan Al Kuwari, marketing and communications executive director of the organizing committee, said at the press conference. The 18th edition of the AFC Asian Cup, which will be held from 12 January to 10 February, marks the first time that Qatar hosts a major football event after the 2022 FIFA World Cup. — Xinhua

Ex-England manager Eriksson says has cancer, 'a year' to live

EX-ENGLAND football manager Sven-Goran Eriksson has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and has at best "maybe a year" to live, he said Thursday.

The 75-year-old Swede, who has managed a slew of high-profile teams and took England to World Cup quarter-finals in 2002 and 2006, announced in February last year that he was stepping back from public appearances "due to health issues".

"Everyone understands that I have a disease that is not good. Everyone guesses that it's cancer, and it is. But I have to put up a fight as long as I can," Eriksson told public broadcaster

Sveriges Radio in an interview.

Eriksson said that in his doctor's assessment he had "at best maybe a year (to live), at worst a little less".

"You have to trick your brain," he added.

"I could think about it all the time, and sit home and mope, feel unlucky and so on. I think it's easy to end up like that," he told the broadcaster.

"See the positive in things," he said.

"Don't bury yourself due to adversity. This is the biggest adversity of course, but try to make something good out of it." — AFP



Jordan, Palestine, Egypt stress rejection of any Israeli plans to displace Palestinians

During a trilateral summit in Jordan's Aqaba, leaders from Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine, including King Abdullah II, President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, and President Mahmoud Abbas, expressed strong opposition to any Israeli plans to displace Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



King Abdullah II (R) of Jordan meets with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Aqaba, Jordan, on 10 January 2024. Jordan, Egypt and Palestine stressed Wednesday their rejection of any Israeli plans to displace Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. **PHOTO: ROYAL HASHEMITE COURT/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

JORDAN, Egypt and Palestine stressed Wednesday their rejection of any Israeli plans to displace Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The rejection was reiterated during a trilateral summit held in Jordan's Aqaba, where King Abdullah II of Jordan, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, and

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas also called for international condemnation of and actions against such plans.

They stressed the need for continuing pressure on Israel to stop its aggression on Gaza and protect the innocent civilians in the strip, according to a statement by Jordan's Royal Hashemite Court.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian president called for "a decisive stance" from the international community to push for a ceasefire in the besieged enclave and explained the efforts made by Egypt to open dialogue with all concerned parties to reach a truce agreement in Gaza.

The leaders also expressed complete rejection of any attempts to liquidate the

Palestine issue and to separate Gaza and the West Bank, both of which are integral parts of the Palestinian state, the statement added.

At the summit, the three leaders reiterated the importance of ensuring sufficient delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation in the enclave. — Xinhua

Russia-Brazil trade turnover almost doubles in December

By the end of 2023, Brazil recorded its highest-ever imports from Russia, totaling \$1.5 billion, with petroleum purchases contributing significantly at \$1.14 billion. In December 2023 alone, Russia-Brazil trade reached a historic high of \$1.6 billion.

BY the close of 2023, Brazil registered its highest imports from Russia in the modern era, reaching \$1.5 billion. That surge was largely propelled by petroleum

purchases, which accounted for \$1.14 billion.

Russia-Brazil trade saw a remarkable increase in December 2023, soaring to \$1.6 billion,

marking a historic high, according to Brazil's Secretariat of Foreign Trade.

Brazil's imports from Russia surged to a record \$1.5 billion by the end of 2023 — the highest in modern history, primarily driven by 1.5 million tons of petroleum, which amounted to \$1.14 billion.

The official data shows that between January and August 2023, Russia accounted for 35.6 per cent of Brazil's diesel imports by value and 40.6 per cent by volume.

During this period, Brazil's diesel imports from Russia grew to \$2.11 billion, marking a significant rise from the prior year's \$18 million and outpacing the \$1.83 billion from the US. — SPUTNIK



Almaz Fertilizers is the only producer of water-soluble mineral fertilizers in Stavropol Region. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

THE SHARED OBJECTIVES OF BRICS

India congratulates UAE for joining BRICS group on 1 January

THE United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Wednesday acknowledged the praise from India for joining the BRICS group on 1 January, this year.

The development came on the day India and the UAE released a joint statement over UAE President Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan's official visit to the country to attend the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Ahmedabad. The UAE also reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with India and other member states and realising the shared objectives of BRICS.

"Both sides committed to continue working together within BRICS and other international and multilateral fora to deliver significant outcomes. The UAE stressed that becoming a member of an extended BRICS grouping reflects the country's keenness to champion the value of multilateralism in supporting peace, and development for the benefit and wellbeing of peoples and nations across the world," the joint statement read.

The BRICS group includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

On 1 January, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates officially joined the bloc. The UAE President is visiting India at the invitation of PM Modi to the ongoing 10th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 as the chief guest.

During the visit, both leaders held constructive talks, reaffirming the strength of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and close ties between their countries and their commitment to continue collaborating to reinforce the longstanding and robust strategic partnership. — ANI