

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Setting date for People's Military Service Law to come into force

Notification No 27/2024

1st Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME

10 February 2024

THE People's Military Service Law enacted as Law No 27/2010 of the State Peace and Development Council in 2010 shall come into force starting from 10 February 2024 under Sub-Section (b) of Section 1 of the aforesaid law.

Sd/

Min Aung Hlaing

Senior General

Chairman

State Administration Council

SUNDAY EDITION

NATIONAL

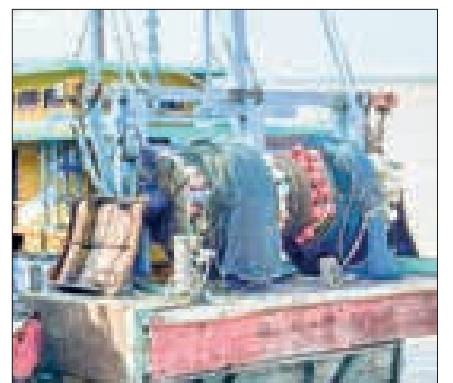
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MGMA to conduct Basic Motorized Sewing Machine Operator Course Batch 233

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win opens MSME Products Show & Traditional Food Fair in Nay Pyi Taw

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State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win views round the exhibition displaying MSME products yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.





Pwe Gauk (BE.FALLS) Waterfalls Resort

Now, Sky Cable car has been just opened, you can see and enjoy the beauty of Pyin Oo Lwin(Flower City) while riding the Sky Cable car.

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 20/2024

1st Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME
10 February 2024

Substitution of Nay Pyi Taw Council member

THE State Administration Council has substituted BC 23767 Colonel Myo Win, appointed as a Nay Pyi Taw Council member, with BC 30413 Colonel Ye Moe under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 22/2024

1st Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME
10 February 2024

Substitution of Nay Pyi Taw Council member and Social Affairs Ministers

THE State Administration Council has substituted a Nay Pyi Taw Council member and Social Affairs Ministers of Region or State governments with the following persons under Section 419 of the Constitution as follows: -

- (1) Nay Pyi Taw Council member
U Aung Khine Swe was substituted with U Han Thu
- (2) Kachin State government
U Thant Zin Ko Ko was substituted with U Moe Min Thein
- (3) Kayin State government
U Kyaw Myint was substituted with U Saw Tun Aung
- (4) Sagaing Region government
U Hsan Aung was substituted with U Nyunt Win Aung
- (5) Taninthayi Region government
U Thant Zin was substituted with U Thet Naing
- (6) Bago Region government
U Aung Win Oo was substituted with U Myo Aung
- (7) Mandalay Region government
U Soe Lwin was substituted with U Aung Kyaw Moe
- (8) Mon State government
U Myat Thwin was substituted with U Saw Kyi Naing
- (9) Yangon Region government
U Maung Maung Than was substituted with U Htay Aung
- (10) Shan State government
U Aye Hlaing was substituted with U Min Min Lwin
- (11) Ayeyawady Region government
U Aung Win Thein was substituted with U Khin Maung Kyi

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 21/2024

1st Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME
10 February 2024

Substitution of Nay Pyi Taw Council member and Transport Ministers

THE State Administration Council has substituted a Nay Pyi Taw Council member and Transport Ministers of Region or State governments with the following persons under Section 419 of the Constitution as follows: -

- (1) Nay Pyi Taw Council member
Police Colonel Ko Ko Lwin was substituted with U Min Oo
- (2) Kachin State government
Police Colonel Kyaw Tun was substituted with U Khin Maung Htwe
- (3) Kayah State government
Police Colonel Maung Maung Oo was substituted with U Aung Myo Than
- (4) Kayin State government
Police Colonel Win Kyaw Naing was substituted with U Nyi Nyi Zaw
- (5) Sagaing Region government
Police Colonel Aung Myint Naing was substituted with U Khin Maung Aye
- (6) Taninthayi Region government
Police Colonel Myint Tun was substituted with U Aung Zaw Hlaing
- (7) Bago Region government
Police Colonel Kyaw Htut was substituted with U Tin Swe
- (8) Magway Region government
Police Colonel Lin Htut was substituted with U Aung Thu Oo
- (9) Mandalay Region government
Police Brig-Gen Sein Lwin was substituted with U Aung Zaw Oo
- (10) Mon State government
Police Colonel Myo Swe was substituted with U Tin San Naing
- (11) Rakhine State government
Police Colonel Thet Lwin was substituted with U Aung Kyaw Moe
- (12) Yangon Region government
Police Brig-Gen Myo Min Htike was substituted with U Kyaw Kyaw Soe
- (13) Shan State government
Police Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko was substituted with U Nay Win Aung
- (14) Ayeyawady Region government
Police Colonel Tin Zaw Tun was substituted with U Nay Myo Aung

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 23/2024

1st Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME
10 February 2024

Appointment and Duty-assignment to Advocate-General of Yangon Region

THE State Administration Council has appointed Daw Phyu Mar Wai as Advocate-General of Yangon Region under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win opens MSME Products Show & Traditional Food Fair in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE-1

In his capacity as Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 77th Anniversary of Union Day 2024, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the opening ceremony of the MSME Products Show and Traditional Food Fair in Tabaung Ground near Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The MSME Products Show and Traditional Food Fair are held to hail the 77th Anniversary of Union Day.

First, the Vice-Senior General cut the ribbon to start the event together with Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn, U Min Naung, U Hla Moe, Dr Nyunt Pe, Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo.

Then, the Vice-Senior General and party enjoyed the performance of ethnic traditional dance troupes.

They also observed the MSME products and traditional food at the event.

The MSME Products Show and Traditional Food Fair are held with the aim of exploring cooperation among ethnic entrepreneurs in seeking foreign markets for value-added MSME products from Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states, OROP and locally-produced products, promoting quality product production, exchanging information with ethnic entrepreneurs from Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states for export sector, uplifting the national prestige and integrity, providing chances to introduce the cultural heritage of respective regions and distributing the traditional food from regions and states to the entire people with the whole essence of Union.

The show included 19 booths of ministries concerned, MEC and Myanma Economic Public Holdings Company Limited and 19 traditional food stalls of different regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council.

The show will be from 8 am to 10 pm, featuring entertainment programmes from 10 to 14 February. — MNA/KTZH



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win greets members of ethnic dance troupes from regions and states in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects preparations for successful holding of 77th Anniversary Union Day

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected preparations for successfully holding the 77th Anniversary Union Day yesterday.

First, the Vice-Senior General, who is also the Chairman of the Central Committee on Organizing 77th Anniversary of Union Day and relevant officials met

with members of ethnic dance troupes from regions and states, who will perform at the ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw Sports Village.

The Vice-Senior General and party also looked into the preparations for the dinner event at Nay Pyi Taw City Square in the same evening.

Then, the Vice-Senior General watched the full-dressed rehearsal of

ethnic dance troupes for entertainment at the open-air theatre during the dinner.

Present were Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, central committee members Union Ministers, deputy ministers who are chairpersons of respective subcommittees, and other relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH

Date set for People's Military Service Law to come into force

THE State Administration Council issued an announcement that set the date for the People's Military Service Law to come into force, which is 10 February 2024. The People's Military Service Law was enacted as Law No 27/2010 of the State Peace and Development Council on 4 November 2010, and the law came into force under Sub-Section (b) of Section 1 of the aforesaid law. The Ministry of Defence will issue necessary bylaws, procedures, notifications, orders and directives. Section 385 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stipulates, "Every citizen has the duty to safeguard independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Union

of Myanmar." Section 386 mentions, "Every citizen has the duty to undergo military training in accord with the provisions of the law and to serve in the Armed Forces to defend the Union." Reportedly, the People's Military Service Law came into force in accord with the prescribed provisions, similar to the preamble of the law, which mentioned that "as every citizen is under a duty to safeguard the Our Three Main National Causes such as non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, every citizen should undergo military training and to serve in the armed forces to defend the State." — MNA/TTA

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

MoTC Union Minister inspects loading of rice at Sule port, warehouses, commissioned vessels



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Transport & Communications Minister General Mya Tun Oo inspects the Sule Port yesterday.

MEMBER of State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo inspected MV VTC

Phoenix, which will transport 18,000 tonnes of rice to Indonesia at Sule No 7 wharf and loading rice and rice products on vessels at Sule port No 2 and No 5 for ex-

port purpose to Spain and Poland.

Exporting rice, pulses, corn, and other agricultural produce to Europe, Africa, and Asia helps earn foreign currency for

the country. According to the official data, 1,081,388 tonnes of rice, 1,135,816 tonnes of pulses and 525,566 tonnes of corn were exported during the 2023-2024 financial year. He also inspected functions of warehouses at Sule wharves.

The General addressed the ceremony to commission eight vessels at Myanma Port Authority yesterday.

In his remark, the General emphasized Myanmar's strategic position as a maritime state with a coastline of 1,260 nautical miles. He stressed the pivotal role of maritime trade in global development, citing statistics from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's Review of Maritime Transport, indicating that 70 per cent of the international trade value and 80 per cent of trade volume traverse

the seas.

The General said that Myanmar also traded US\$34 billion worth of goods in the financial year 2022-23, and 75 per cent of them were done through shipping.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications spent \$20.6 million on a 60-metre multipurpose buoy handling vessel, two pairs of dredgers, and three harbour launches to provide better port industry and navigation services. Subsequently, the managing director of Myanma Port Authority reported to the General on the operations of the Theinbyu, Arntgyi, and Satsan dockyards and monetization progress.

In the afternoon, the General inspected the status of Dala Dorkyard and berths and the maintenance of ships. — MNA/TRKM/NT

SAC member meets representatives from Ethnic Literature & Culture Association

DR Ba Shwe, a member of the State Administration Council paid homage to the monks along with Union Minister for Sport and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan, members of regional government and departmental officials in Sittway Township and offered alms. After a visit, Dr Ba Shwe received representatives from Ethnic Literature and Culture Associations.

Firstly, SAC member Dr Ba Shwe visited the Nadayama Buddhist Learning Centre, paying homage to Agga Maha Pan-

ditia Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Nandasi-ri, and offered alms since the Sayadaw accepted Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru. In addition, the visitors supplicated the current situation of armed conflict in Rakhine State, regional stability and law enforcement operations.

Then, Dr Ba Shwe and party continued visiting Pyinnya Lingara Shwe Zayti Monastery in Sittway Township, offering donations to the monks supplicating the situation of current conflicts in Rakhine State.

In the afternoon, they received a meeting with representatives from Ethnic Literature and Culture Associations at the Rakhine State govern-

ment guest house.

During the meeting, Dr Ba Shwe made a speech that stability and peace are necessary for the development of the region, that the SAC always welcomes activities to forge peace, that the political means should be applied to solve political problem, that the people are suffering armed conflicts, that they should meet in order to end the disputes, that they are holding meeting with organizations and authorities for peace processes. In addition, he urged the representatives of the ethnic, literary, and cultural associations to explain their experiences and present their views on the current conflict situation so that the Head of

State make decisions after reviewing their opinions.

Therefore, the representatives discussed the experiences and struggles of rights to education, medical care, business, transport and increasing price of commodities and consumer goods occurring from the consequences of current armed conflicts that the residents face.

Next, Union Minister U Min Thein Zan explained a plan to peacefully develop the state's socioeconomic conditions for all residents.

Afterwards, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, explained the instruction of the National Disaster Management Committee, fuel and food are being delivered from Yangon

to Sittway, arrangements for students to attend the schools as usual, the process of regional developments, activities of ethnic people, assisting in the celebration of culture and traditional commemorations. In addition, Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan presented the rights of ethnic people and facts to regain peace again. Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung clarified the assigning duties to the ministers of Ethnic Affairs for the rights of ethnic people, assisting in the ethnic groups and peace process.

Then, Dr Ba Shwe said he would report to the SAC for ending the conflict as much as he can. — Tin Htun (IPRD)/TKO

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
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NATIONAL

Visitors flock to MSME Products Show & Traditional Food Fair marking 77th Union Day

IN celebration of the 77th Union Day, the MSME product exhibition and traditional food display and sale was held at Tabaung Ground near Uppatasanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

Ethnic groups explained to the visitors about traditional cultural knowledge, local poly-cultures, regional and state landmarks, local socio-economic life development activities, regional traditional foods and MSME products during the event.

In addition, MSME products and traditional food galleries from various regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council, are displayed in detail for the visitors to know about traditional foods produced by regions, local MSME businesses, and products that



The opening ceremony of the MSME Products Show & Traditional Food Fair in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: KO GYI HTEIN**

are exported through One Region-One Product scheme.

In these galleries, traditional cultural dances and songs highlighting the beauty of tra-

ditional culture and traditions of their respective regions and states, and songs that invigorate patriotism were performed. Similarly, MSME products pro-

duced by regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council, and traditional foods, ethnic souvenirs, and traditional costumes are being sold at low

prices so people can buy them according to their preferences.

It is also crowded with people who buy with love and affection, and it is also a scene that encourages the development of MSME businesses in the region.

In the evening, entertainment programmes were performed, and the people enjoy the celebration. In addition, to prevent visitors from causing any harm, security, safety and health are taken care of, and health clinics are also open.

Afterwards, the products of regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council, will be displayed and sold from 10 to 14 February with 34 MSME product sales booths and 19 traditional food booths to sell local products to the ethnic people to gain market access. — Aung Ye Thwin & Aye Aye Thant/KZL

Tatmadaw, Security Forces wipe out KIA, PDFs in Kawlin of Sagaing, conduct mine clearing, rehabilitation tasks

THE KIA and PDF terrorists launched the attack in Kawlin Township of Sagaing Region on 3 November 2023 with the use of excessive power. They opened fire on the security unit and police station. Also, they killed the locals, asked for money, launched arson attacks on departmental buildings, planted mines to undermine the government administrative mechanism and also destroyed and broke into the houses.

Kawlin Township is the main point for communication from south to north of the Sagaing Region. It is a proper location to control the illegal gold mining and oil exploring blocks near Thaphanseik dam. Therefore, they launched the attack with the use of excessive power.

When the local Tatmadaw base and a column conducted a counterattack, they had to send reinforcement to Htigyaing at the same time not to fall into the terrorists, and Tatmadaw and the Police Force blocked Kaw-



Members of security forces are seen in front of the Kawlin Police Station after conducting a counter-terrorism operation against KIA and PDF terrorists in Kawlin.



Members of security forces seen being welcomed warmly in Kanbalu.

lin Township with appropriate power.

At the same time, the youths and middle-aged men from Kawlin Township cooperated with the Security Forces and asked for help to conduct security measures in the township and villages. Therefore, the security units were organized, and Tatmadaw provided necessary things from the fourth week of December 2023 to the third week of Janu-

ary 2024.

Tatmadaw columns then marched to Kanbalu on 27 January to conduct a Counter-Terrorism Operation against KIA and PDF terrorists in Kawlin and its vicinity areas. Then, Tatmadaw columns systematically conducted operations, and there were 18 armed engagements with the terrorists. Afterwards, Tatmadaw fully controlled Kawlin yesterday. Terrorists conducted de-

structive actions in Kawlin Township, and so the Security Forces had to follow the Rules of Engagement-ROE.

During the systematic counterattack of Security Forces, the terrorists retreated after torching the houses and departmental buildings and planting bombs.

Some Security Forces members faced casualties in the clashes, and the dead bodies of terrorists and their arms and

ammunition were seized.

The Security Forces systematically conduct mine clearance operations in respective locations for the public.

The Security Forces removed the debris after the terrorist attacks and detected the mines for the Kawlin residents to be able to return to their places, and also arranged to conduct rehabilitation plans together with the locals. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

MRF strives to stabilize rice prices

U Ye Min Aung, President of the Myanmar Rice Federation, emphasized their efforts to stabilize the escalating rice prices. He attributed the price surge to increasing expenditures, the global rise in paddy and rice prices, and stockpiling. Currently, merchants are focusing on exporting broken rice and parboiled rice, which have lower domestic demand, to mitigate the price escalation. Additionally, they are actively promoting the sale of rice stockpiled in warehouses. With the country holding nearly six million tonnes of rice, there is no immediate concern about depletion.

Rupee-kyat direct exchange begins

Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe announced at a meeting between the Indian ambassador to Myanmar and the India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce that merchants can now directly exchange rupees for kyats in trading between India and Myanmar. The Central Bank of Myanmar facilitated negotiations with the Indian Embassy and the Reserve Bank of India regarding the currency exchange process. The India-based Punjab National Bank is also partnering with CB Bank and UAB Bank of Myanmar. India stands as Myanmar's fourth-largest export destination and sixth-largest importer.

YR govt provides 100+ seeders for farmers

The Yangon Region Government held a ceremony to hand over over 100 seeders to farmers in Yintaikkwin Village, located in Taikkyi Township.

Rubber exports expected to fall below initial estimates

According to the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, despite the pilot project's relaxation, rubber exports are forecasted to miss the target in the financial year 2023-24. The pilot project was agreed upon between December 2023 and March 2024.

The agreement outlines that exporters must utilize up to 70 per cent of their export income in dollars to import chemical fertilizers. Of the remaining 30 per cent, they are required to sell 65 per cent to authorized dealer banks at market rates and the remaining 35 per cent to the Central Bank of Myanmar at a rate of K2,100 per dollar.

YR govt donates biryani to 5,000 people

During the market fair at People's Square commemorating the 77th Union Day, the Yangon Region Government donated chicken biryani to 5,000 people on 10 February.

Visitors and civil servants enjoyed the donated meals. Local micro, small, and medium enterprises promote their products at the fair. The donation will reportedly take place every day.

Prioritize 'Made in Myanmar' branding: MoNRECUM

During a meeting at the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi encouraged entrepreneurs to concentrate on products worthy of proudly bearing the Made-in-Myanmar label. He recommended focusing on wood and bamboo-based products, non-timber forest products, finished cane products, and salt. He expressed optimism for the "one-region-one-product" initiative. Additionally, he advised business owners to prioritize meeting local demand before considering exports. — Htun Htun/NT

Bagan hotels fully booked during three-day holiday



Ananda Temple in Bagan.

AS many people will visit the world heritage listed Bagan during the three-day holidays from 10 to 12 February, most hotel rooms have been occupied, said director U Kyaw Myo Win from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Bagan branch.

"There are a lot of visitors, and most of the hotels are fully booked now. Visitors are always here. It just declines a little, even on weekdays. Hotels have been fully booked since Friday

because there is a three-day holiday," he said.

Flocks of visitors around Myanmar come to visit Bagan, but most of those who come during holidays are from the Yangon and Mandalay regions.

"Visitors from Yangon and Mandalay usually come during holidays. Most visitors who tour Bagan on similar long holidays are from Yangon and Mandalay," said residents.

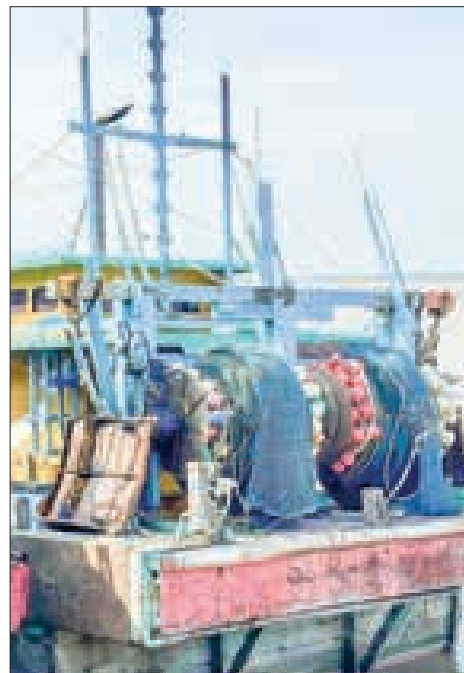
In addition to Bagan, many people visit other local tourist

destinations such as Kyaiktiyo, Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung, Kalaw and Inlay.

The number of local visitor arrivals was 8.85 million, while the number of foreign visitors was more than one million until November 2023.

It grew again compared to the previous year, and the number of tourist arrivals is expected to continue mounting this year, too, said an official from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. — MT/ZS

Intensive search underway for missing Myanmar fisherman in Malaysia



A Myanmar fishery worker from the Taninthayi Region reportedly died after he fell into the sea in Malaysia, and searches have been carried out with massive rescue forces to find his body, said an official from the Myanmar social relief association (Malaysia).

The middle-aged fishery worker is Ko Nyi Nyi, a native of Shat Pone village in Taninthayi Region's Palaw township dropped into the sea after being hit by a wave while he was working onboard in Pahang province on the early morning of 8 January.

"At dawn on 8 January, he was working onboard when the ship was going to approach the dock and a wave hit unexpectedly from the back, and he dropped into the sea. Both Malaysian rescue teams and boats of our friends have been searching for his body. We haven't found it yet. Ten vessels have been used in searches of the body," he said.

The victim had a wife and three children and was reportedly known that he had been working in Malaysia for ten years. Information about his death was conveyed to his family. — Thit Taw/ZS

Over 450 gem trading licences to expire in April

A total of 458 gem trading licences are due to expire in April 2024, Myanmar Gems Enterprise notified.

Under the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, those holding available licences (gems and jewellery trading licence, manufacturing licence for jewellery items and figurines and rough gemstone and finished products trading licence) issued by Myanmar Gems Enterprise need to proceed to the renewal process three months before the expiry date. They must renew them at least one month before the expiry.

Additionally, they can inform Myanmar Gems Enterprise of winding down a business with one month's notice before ceasing the operation.



Gem merchants observe the quality of gems and jade stones at Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw.

Moreover, Myanmar Gems Enterprise gave the green light to the renewal of the expired

gem trading licence in the past three years with a three-year fine until 31 March 2024, follow-

ing rules and bylaws stipulated by the Myanmar Gemstone Law, under the approval of the

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Gem merchants mostly have chances to showcase gems and jewellery items at Myanmar Gems Emporiums and Mid-year Gems Emporiums. Last emporium was held in October 2023. The first ever gems emporium was held in 1964. Those emporiums aim to earn foreign exchanges not only for business persons but for the government.

Licence renewal applications can be processed at Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Nay Pyi Taw), Gems Museum, Yangon Mandalay Office, mining departments in Mogok, Lonkhin/Phakant, Mongshu and Myitkyina areas, in line with the rules and regulations. — NN/EM

MGMA to conduct Basic Motorized Sewing Machine Operator Course Batch 233

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will offer the Basic Motorized Sewing Machine Operator Training Course (Batch 233) from 13 February to 1 March 2024 at Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Centre (MGHRDC).

The course will provide practical approaches and technical know-how of motorized sewing

machines, different sewing methods, labour laws and practices.

This training will also help those hunting jobs from regions outside Yangon connect with the garment factories to create job opportunities.

Those who wish to attend the training can enrol through 09 940858350, 09 450723262, 09 9403912570, 09 784085794 and 09 969865024. — NN/EM



Female workers seen in manufacturing garment products using motorized sewing machines.

Myanmar earns US\$1.123 bln from over 1.3M tonnes of pulse exports in ten months

MYANMAR shipped over US\$1.123 billion worth of pulses weighing over 1.3 million tonnes to foreign trade partners in the past ten months of the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar bagged \$1 billion from pulses exports of over 1.18 million tonnes through sea-borne trade. In contrast, around 139,132 tonnes of pulses worth \$119.73 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders as of 2 February 2023, totalling \$1.123 billion from exports of 1,319,203.97 tonnes.

The value of Myanmar's pulses exports totalled over US\$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.



Bags of various pulses and beans seen in the depot of domestic markets.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are entitled to deliver the pulses to

India under that yearly quota.

The prevailing market prices are K3.3 million per tonne of black gram (urad), K4.027 million per tonne of pigeon pea (tur) and K2.04 million per tonne of green gram. Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM

OPINION

Focusing on robust State economy with equitable commodity prices

THE economic vitality of any nation is crucial for the effective functioning of the state machinery. The responsibility of bolstering the national economy lies not only with the government but also with the private sector, which must actively contribute to the growth by increasing export volumes and reducing imports. To achieve this, it becomes imperative to elevate the production of value-added goods for import substitution and local consumption.

The State economy witnessed a decline starting in late 2017, exacerbated by mismanagement in the economic sector and a disproportionate emphasis on imports without fostering domestic production. With the assumption of State responsibilities by the Tatmadaw, the State economy plummeted to a concerning -5.9 per cent in terms of economic development. The government has prioritized State economic promotion plans to rectify these economic setbacks and recover from the losses.

Through concerted efforts of the government and the citizens, the country managed to achieve a 2.4 per cent economic

development amid the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and political crises during the 2021-22 financial year. Notably, despite facing political turmoil and economic sanctions, the State economy made significant progress, reaching 3.4 per cent in the 2022-23 FY and maintaining a 3.3 per cent development by December 2023 of the 2023-24 FY. Remarkably, all regions and states, except for Kachin, Kayah, and Rakhine states, demonstrated economic progress.

The parallel rise in economic progress and commodity prices can be attributed to a disparity between manufacturing and market demand coupled with an increase in production costs. To address

this issue, businesspersons must source appropriate raw materials locally, thereby reducing manufacturing costs and subsequently lowering commodity prices.

The accumulation of fewer foreign currencies is closely tied to commodity trade. Instances of non-compliance with trading regulations and the mismanagement of non-trade incomes by some businesspersons result in diminished income flowing into the country, leading to a higher US\$-kyat forex rate. Additionally, high prices of imported inputs contribute to the inflation of domestic commodity prices.

To effectively manage commodity prices and manufacturing, the government is poised to provide businesspersons with opportunities to produce goods at a minimal cost. This strategic move aims to control commodity prices somewhat, benefiting consumers. Furthermore, efforts are underway to reduce fuel and electricity prices, thus mitigating production charges. This dual approach is anticipated to spur the nation's economic sector development while ensuring fair and reasonable commodity prices for the populace.

Letter to the Editor,
The Global New Light of Myanmar, Yangon

Relocate the UN

THE League of Nations was transformed into the United Nations Organization to maintain world peace. To prevent wars and to resolve all disputes through diplomatic and peaceful dialogues.

The supreme duties and responsibilities of the super-powers are to honour the sacred

chapter of the UNO.

In about 75 years, UNO's respect faded because of the selfish interests of certain superpower blocks. Instead of preventing wars, they instigate wars and commit aggression against weaker countries. Instead of fighting the so-called terrorists, they themselves become super-state terrorists.

Once, they supported local opposition political parties to topple democratically elected governments and install their chosen leaders. They termed all such rebels as freedom fighters. They changed their policy. Now, they call all the National Patriot Resistance Forces - Terrorists.

A new idea to reform the UNO has been floated. How reforms could be made without eliminating the Veto Power? As UNO is on American soil, the USA expects organizations to serve their interests.

The UNO is far in the west across the Atlantic Ocean. Diplomats from other parts of the world must travel a long distance to attend meetings. Therefore, the UNO should be relocated from New York to Geneva, in the middle of the world.

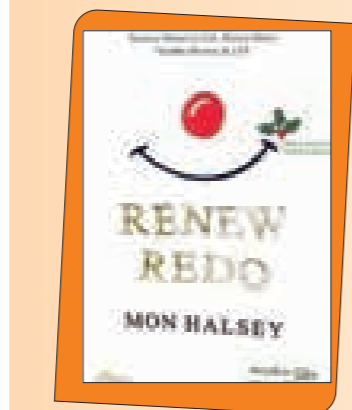
Let us save world peace, humanity, democracy, and freedom. Let us be happy forever.

Hanthawady Thar



Everybody is responsible for initiating fraternity among the people. Only when they can forge a fraternity of humans can they enjoy the fruits of peace and prosperity, dedicating themselves to ending conflicts in all arenas. Individuals must not abuse their capabilities and strengths in conflicts and hostilities but must apply their abilities to improve society and themselves. If so, they can see a fraternal society they have been awaiting in successive eras.

To address this issue, businesspersons must source appropriate raw materials locally, thereby reducing manufacturing costs and subsequently lowering commodity prices. The accumulation of fewer foreign currencies is closely tied to commodity trade. Instances of non-compliance with trading regulations and the mismanagement of non-trade incomes by some businesspersons result in diminished income flowing into the country, leading to a higher US\$-kyat forex rate. Additionally, high prices of imported inputs contribute to the inflation of domestic commodity prices. To effectively manage commodity prices and manufacturing, the government is poised to provide businesspersons with opportunities to produce goods at a minimal cost. This strategic move aims to control commodity prices somewhat, benefiting consumers. Furthermore, efforts are underway to reduce fuel and electricity prices, thus mitigating production charges. This dual approach is anticipated to spur the nation's economic sector development while ensuring fair and reasonable commodity prices for the populace.



Book Title	-	Ahthit Ka Pyansa Ahsa Ka Pyan Lote (Renew, Redo)
Writer	-	Mon Halsey
Publishing House	-	Pann Set Lann
Publication Date	-	February 2023 (5 th Edition)
Price	-	K6,000

Ahthit Ka Pyansa Ahsa Ka Pyan Lote (Renew, Redo)

THE aim of writing this book under review is to enable the youth to reach their goals. In other words, this book can guide those who want to cultivate good habits to change their lives. This book underlines the attitude and mindset people should have if they want to succeed. This book is recommended as a guidebook, which contains 30 tips. If you read one tip a day and follow the advice, you can turn into a new leaf after 30 days of exercise.

The writer of this book said that if the readers perform an action for 28 successive days, the action will be wired in their

brain, with that particular action developing into a habit. People with new habits can have new thoughts, it is said. If you follow the writer's advice, your life can be changed: a change for the better. The new habits and the new thoughts can yield positive impacts.

With the year coming to an end, people are used to passing New Year resolutions. However, the tips provided in this book can be followed at the beginning of a new month. If you observe the advice strictly, you will turn into a new leaf at the end of a month.

The writer said that most

people are absorbed in their daily routine activities, scarcely thinking of making a change. Naturally, people would resist change. Matter-of-factly, routine works are really dull. So, people need a change; however, what counts is that it ought to be a change for the better. We should take care that our change should not be a change for the worse.

In this regard, it is worth reminding the readers that we are required to be optimistic, for people living with pessimism can get in trouble someday. The book is titled, "Ahthit Ka Pyansa Ahsa Ka Pyan Lote". This has

been translated into English by the writer "Renew, Redo". It is easier said than done, goes as a saying. In fact, people will have difficulty changing their mindset and mentality because they hate to change; they are quite reluctant to change. Naturally, people resist change. This is the reason why a management discipline called change management has emerged.

The writer provides the following quote in the introduction: "When your intention is clear, so is the way. (Alan Cohen)"; "If you want to find happiness, find gratitude. (Steve Maraboli)"; and "Don't get lost in other people", etc. To make her suggestions not boring, the writer has used the question-and-answer format in certain places. For example, Who's going to give you everything you want? Answer: Yourself.

The book was written by a lady writer called Mon Halsey. She is not only a writer but also an artist. Additionally, she is advocating for environmental preservation. According to Sayama Khin Than Phyu, a writer and artist, this book is useful both for the younger and for older generations.

Unity

Chit Ko Pe

The thumb is proud of the most muscular force, getting the objects firmly pressed down at the source.

The index finger is proud of the finest movement, getting the objects precisely aimed and pointed at.

The middle finger is proud of the tallest axis, getting a hand rotated round to form a disc.

The ring finger is proud of the symbol of love, getting a ring put on to show loyalty unreservedly.

The little finger is proud of the farthest frontier, getting closer to the altar while saying prayers.

Each has its own might and means, but they are limited. Against any harm for self-defence and act, it is enough for all fingers to be a fist, in fact.



စည်းလုံးမှု

“လက်မ”ဆိုသည် အားရှည်မြို့မြို့ မရွေ့လွင့်အောင် ဖိဆင့်နိုင်တတ် ဂုဏ်ယူ၏။

“လက်ညှိုး”ဆိုသည် ရွယ်ရည်မှန်းရာ၊ သိမ်မွေ့စွာဖြင့် သေချာညွှန်းထိ ဂုဏ်ယူ၏။

“လက်ခလယ်”သည် ရပ်ရည်မြင့်စွာ၊ ဗဟိုပြုလျက် ဝိုင်းစုညီ ဂုဏ်ယူ၏။

“လက်သွကြွယ်”သည် ဆိုတည်သစ္စာ၊ လက်စွပ်သာဖြင့် မေတ္တာကတိ ဂုဏ်ယူ၏။

“လက်သန်း”ဆိုသည် ဖြစ်တည်စွန့်ဖြား၊ အနီးနားမှာ ဘုရားဝတ်ရုံ ဂုဏ်ယူ၏။

လက်ချောင်းကိုယ်စီ ဂုဏ်ရည်စွမ်းမြတ်၊ အကန့်သတ်ဖြင့် ကြိုတင်ဆုံးမာနံ၊ အပြင်ရန်ကို ကိုယ်ခံတားဆီး၊ အားအင်ကြီးစွဲ လက်သီးဆုပ်လို့ ပေါင်းစုစွဲ။

Always in my heart

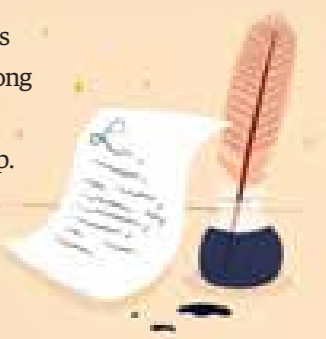
By Mya Thae (Research)

I liked you when I was a child
You are my idol and good style

You come to my sweet dream.
You overwhelmed in my mind screen.
Oh! Who are you?
You are my favourite vocalist and writer,
Mar Mar Aye.

She can sing any kind of songs
Her audience still loves and long

Her songs are sweet and sharp.
My idol is always in my heart.



Book Title	-	The BRAND in YOU
Writer	-	Htet Yie
Publishing House	-	Nga Doe Sarpay
Publication Date	-	May 2023 (2 nd Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

The BRAND in YOU

THE book's writer under review is the founder of BRAND in YOU, which provides image consulting and organizational development consulting services. The writer, Htet Yie, has experience arranging events during which world-famous people delivered their talks. She is acting as an image consultant. During the four years of establishing her consultancy services company, she has already conducted training courses for more than 3,000 trainees. And this book is the sharing of her lectures delivered to them.

This book is not a translation but her own writing. This being so, the lectures and discussions provided in this book are highly suitable for the Myanmar con-

text. In other words, this is not an apish emulation of foreign schools of thought and foreign corporate cultures regarding image promotion and organizational development. This is why those who join the organizations will find it highly useful concerning organizational development. This book will also be useful for those who wish to promote their image.

The writer said, "Previously, I was merely an ordinary woman. I go to school. And I work after school. I have no confidence in myself. I dare not speak in public. And so, I've lost big chances. Globally, women around the world are more than a match for a person like me who is shy, reserved and silent. However hard

I try, I cannot achieve success. I cannot keep myself abreast of other women and also men. Only when I started to study Personal Branding did I become self-confident. I realize that this special discipline can give people self-confidence and improve their personalities. Since then, I have been conducting training courses on image promotion. The word 'image promotion' means not only personal image promotion but also promotion of the corporate image. She said writing this book aims to enable those who cannot attend her training courses in person to understand ways of promoting her image. That is why those readers who wish to promote their image are

recommended to read this book under review.

When we speak of brands, people would naturally think of the products. Those who can afford them are consistently branded. They would wear this and that brand, which people would think highly of. As the branded products are expensive, those who are used to wearing them are thought highly of. These people are proud of the branded products they are wearing. Nonetheless, they are also required to have their own personal brands.

In this regard, it would not be out of place to point out that those who cannot make things different are less likely to achieve success, whether engaged in the goods manufacturing sector or delivering services. As long as we are imitating what others are doing, we will never become the leaders of a business. If we are to take the top place, we need to be innovative, creative, and productive. We must be bent on research and development activities to be able to impress our customers and clients with our new ideas. In a nutshell, the writer calls on the readers to establish their own personal and corporate brands to succeed in their businesses and industries.

NATIONAL Entertainment

Thein Han (Phoenix)

THE launching ceremony of the ongoing series "Once Upon a Time in University" of MRTV-4, directed by Director Thein Han (Phoenix), was organized in Yangon on 8 February with the attendance of main characters Si Thu Win, Wint Yamon Naing, Kaung Zan Hein and Than Sin See Sar, and other artistes. The story was written by the late author Nwan Jar Thine, and the script writers are Hein Zaw Oo, Thet Zun, and Khin Maung Kyaw.



A poster of the "Problem of 4th Person" series.

SkyNet to broadcast new series on Skypremier HD

ACCORDING to actor Min Thu, SkyNet will broadcast the series "Problem of 4th Person" on the Skypremier HD channel starting 16 February.

Katipa Thway created the story, and the script was written by Maung Yu Ya and directed by director Soe Moe Min.

"It is a new series to be broadcast on Skypremier HD channel. It is about the mysterious cases of four people with different characters. Please stay tuned," said actor Min Thu. The movie's artistes are Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Nan Su Yati Soe, Min Thu, Hnget Pyaw Kyaw, Khine Mye, Thae Phyu Oo, and Saw Yu Nanda. — ASH/KTZH

Celebrity Brief

Academy May Myint Mo

ACADEMY May Myint Mo donated food for 1,500 people in front of the Bagan Myo Thu Hotel in Bagan on 6 February, marking her achievement of the Academy award. During her donation event, she cordially greeted her fans and had a photo taken together with them. She also offered alms and offertories to the monks at the hotel while day meals to monks and novices at Shwegu Parahita Monastery.

Academy Nay Win

NAY WIN, who received the Academy Award, recently thanked his fans and wife. The experience I had on that night was very significant that my colleagues from Saryateta (character) movie shouted out Myo Kyaw... Myo Kyaw... Nga Mann Gyi... Nga Mann Gyi.

But I won Academy with Yee Ywel Moe's move. I still have weaknesses.



Director Maung Thi

THE artistes should keep doing their careers. They should create their milestone by themselves throughout their lives, said Director Maung Thi. He also told the media that the Academy should be regarded as exam results as the livelihood depends on the experiences and skills. We accept when our efforts are appreciated. That is enough, he added.



Zaw Win Naing

ACTOR ZAW WIN NAING said, "All the people from the theatrical, music and literary fields are brothers and sisters. When the theatrical artistes win Academy, we welcome them. We also welcome if the literati makes the movie. When we faced hardships, we participated in the play performance. At that time, they warmly welcomed us. There should not be jealousy for that. Moreover, the people criticized that many people look like Kyaw Hein. If such people succeed in arts, many may receive success. Nay Win won the award as he is an outstanding artiste.



Ko Maung Toe (Moe Naga)

KO MAUNG TOE (MOE NAGA) is a famous dance troupe performing at top Yangon hotels. He studied the Chinese lion and dragon dance in Malaysia. According to Ko Maung Toe, they must prepare to perform three months in advance.

"We, Chinese people, regard lion and dragon as wealth. If the lion and dragon dances are performed at the house, they can prevent the obstacles. The Moe Naga dance group is now 25 years old. As there is not enough support, it is difficult to stand in the long run," he said. — Htun Htun/KTZH



TOP NEWS

White House attacks 'politically motivated' Biden probe age comments

THE White House launched a fierce fightback Friday against a devastating special counsel report that criticized Joe Biden's failing memory, describing it as a political hit-job on the president in an election year.

US Vice-President Kamala Harris led the charge to deal with the fallout after the investigation cleared Biden of illegally retaining classified documents but delivered a damning description of him as a "well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory".

The 81-year-old Democrat responded angrily in a nighttime press conference Thursday to insist his "memory is fine" — although he then compounded the problem by briefly mixing up the presidents of Egypt and Mexico. — AFP

Prince Harry settles UK hacking lawsuit against Mirror tabloid

PRINCE Harry on Friday settled a long-running legal claim against Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN), nearly two months after a UK judge ruled he had been a victim of phone hacking by its tabloid titles. The Duke of Sussex sued MGN — which publishes The Mirror, Sunday Mirror and Sunday People — alleging its journalists were linked to deceptive and unlawful methods, including phone hacking.

The high court judge ruled in the duke's favour in December, after finding evidence of such practices relating to 15 of the 33 sample articles that Harry had submitted in the case. Judge Timothy Fancourt said Harry's personal phone had been targeted between 2003 and 2009 and that the 15 articles were "the product of phone hacking... or the product of other unlawful information gathering". — AFP



The Duke of Sussex sued MGN — which publishes The Mirror, Sunday Mirror and Sunday People — alleging its journalists were linked to deceptive and unlawful methods, including phone hacking. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/X

Indian Coast Guard conducts comprehensive demonstration of pollution response at sea

The Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Samarth' conducted a successful pollution response demonstration at sea, showcasing collaborative training for maritime safety.



This demonstration showcased the collaborative efforts in training for global maritime safety. PHOTO: ANI

INDIAN Coast Guard Ship 'Samarth' has successfully conducted a comprehensive demonstration of pollution response at sea, Defence PRO Kochi under Directorate of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence, said.

This demonstration showcased the collaborative efforts in training for global maritime safety.

The demonstration was a vital component of the training programme provided to

Officers from Friendly Foreign Countries...who are currently undergoing training at the CG Trg Centre. This demonstration showcased the collaborative efforts in training for global maritime safety. — ANI

A car-free Eiffel Tower zone? Paris mayor faces pushback

REMOVING cars from an expanse around the Eiffel Tower to create a green pathway sounds pretty good on paper, but the mayor of Paris is struggling to win over residents and above all the police force to revamp one of the city's most celebrated views.

Thousands of tourists jostle every day to snap the Eiffel Tower from across the River Seine on the hill at Trocadero, with its magnificent gardens and a modernist palace housing museums.

Walking to Trocadero is less romantic, however, requiring the crossing of two major intersections and the often traffic-clogged Pont d'Iena bridge.

Mayor Anne Hidalgo said to general surprise this week that she wants to push ahead with a

project to kick out the cars and create a continuous garden between the Eiffel Tower and the Trocadero esplanade.

But while she hopes to take advantage of the 2024

Summer Olympics to begin the project as soon as the Games end, her critics — and most importantly the Paris police chief — are resisting the plan. — AFP



Members of the public walk away from the Eiffel Tower in Paris on 16 August 2023. PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA /AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Chinese provinces plan to support emerging, future industries in 2024

Several Chinese provinces have unveiled plans to bolster support for tech-intensive industries and cultivate new growth drivers centred around innovation, high-quality production, and advanced productivity.

NUMEROUS Chinese provinces have mapped out blueprints to beef up support for tech-intensive industries and foster new growth momentum or “new productive forces” that feature innovation, high-quality and advanced productivity.

In their annual government work reports delivered at this year’s local “two sessions”, regional policy-makers unveiled clear signals on where China’s economic landscape will be shifting in the years to come.

Many provinces have highlighted the production of new



This photo taken on 1 February 2024 shows a NEV production line at the NIO Second Advanced Manufacturing Base in Hefei, east China’s Anhui Province. **PHOTO: ZHANG DUAN/XINHUA**

energy vehicles (NEVs), which is among the fastest growing sectors in the country, as one of their major industrial goals.

Beijing, Chongqing and Guangdong intend to upgrade the industry chains of key NEV components including motors, batteries, electronic controls and vehicle-grade chips.

To make electric cars smarter, Shanghai aims to take a leading role in national pilot programmes for smart networked vehicles or higher-level autonomous driving.

Among the emerging indus-

tries the country’s provincial policy-makers listed in their work reports are semiconductors, new-type energy storage, new materials, bio-manufacturing, smart grid, ultra HD video displays, commercial spaceflight, and low-altitude economy.

More energy storage facilities featuring next-generation battery technology are projected to be built in Anhui and Guangdong to facilitate the utilization of growing renewable power amid the country’s efforts to pursue low-carbon development.

— Xinhua

Yokohama aims for tourism boost, sustainability with Smart City initiatives



Yokohama City organized the Y-Ship global event in December last year. **PHOTO: BUSINESSYOKOHAMA.COM**

NESTLED in the heart of Japan, Yokohama stands as a coveted tourist destination, captivating visitors with its allure. With a vision for sustainable growth, the city now aims to enhance its charm and appeal by embracing smart initiatives, fostering a more sustainable and intelligent urban experience.

To realize this vision, Yokohama City organized the Y-Ship global event in December last year. It aimed to establish an innovative and smart city with collaborations with start-ups and companies from Asia-Africa’s emerging countries.

Mayor Taake Haru Yamanaka explained the his-

tory of Yokohama and appealed for the cooperation of participating countries to realize the Smart City vision.

Toru Hashimoto, the organizer of Y-Ship, said that Yokohama has been a city that created new technologies to be introduced into Japan since the opening of the port some 160 years ago. — ANI

Venezuela vows ‘forceful’ response if oil drilling begins in disputed zone

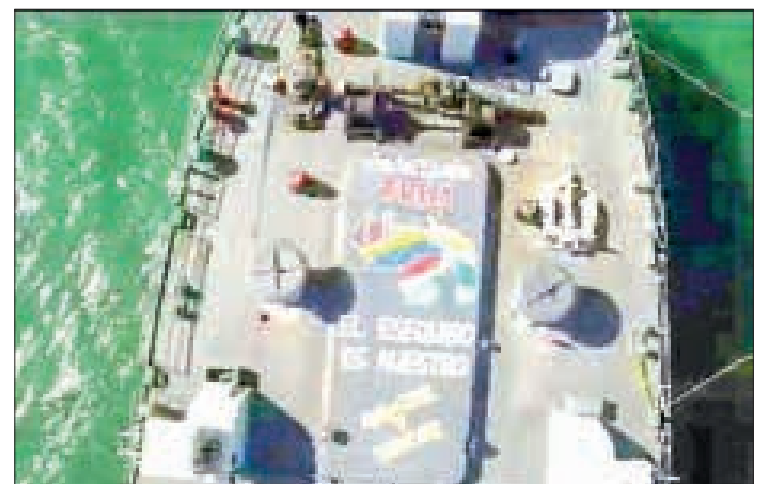
VENEZUELA on Thursday vowed a “forceful response” if oil drilling begins in contested waters off neighbouring Guyana, as announced by US oil giant ExxonMobil this week.

Caracas has long claimed the region of Essequibo — which makes up about two-thirds of Guyana’s territory — but has amped up its rhetoric since its neighbour began issuing licences for oil companies to operate there.

Venezuelan Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino wrote on

X that while ExxonMobil may have the protection of the United States and Guyana, “in the maritime space that rightfully belongs to Venezuela, they will receive a proportional, forceful response that adheres to the law”.

ExxonMobil — which discovered the massive crude reserves off Guyana in 2015 — announced Tuesday that it plans to drill two exploratory wells this year off the coast of Essequibo, which has been administered by Guyana for more than a century. — AFP



A Venezuelan frigate taking part in military exercises in 2023 is adorned with a pro-Essequibo message. **PHOTO: VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES/AFP/FILE**

Investing in the new: foreign firms tapping into China's emerging industries

Air Products, a global industrial gas supplier, is expanding its presence in China's new energy sector, notably establishing a hydrogen application technology centre and building the country's first commercial-scale liquid hydrogen plant in Zhejiang Province.

UPBEAT about the business opportunities in China's new energy sector, global industrial gas supplier Air Products has been scaling up its stake in the country.

Last year, the company established its Asia hydrogen application technology centre in east China's Zhejiang Province,

where it is also building China's first commercial-scale liquid hydrogen plant. In addition, it is also working to advance the local production of liquid hydrogen storage tanks in Shanghai and local liquid hydrogen industry standards.

"The growth potential of innovative green tech-

nologies will be tapped further as China promotes the development of new productive forces," said Saw Choon Seong, president of Air Products China.

As new productive forces underscore scientific and technological innovation and green growth, they are expected to generate new industries, mod-



Staff members pose for a photo at the booth of Air Products during the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China, 7 November 2020.
PHOTO: FANG ZHE/XINHUA

els and growth drivers, analysts say. For foreign investors, these forces mean increased demand and a bigger market.

Air Products' ongoing commitment to China epit-

omizes how foreign enterprises are digging into opportunities brought by the country's pursuit of these new productive forces.

On the back of government policies, China's

strategic emerging industries have seen rapid expansion in recent years, and high-tech industries have also become hot spots for foreign investors.
— Xinhua

Seven & i's supermarket unit to withdraw from some Japan areas

SEVEN & i Holdings Co said Friday that its loss-making supermarket unit will withdraw from some areas in Japan as the retail giant has faced calls from shareholders to restructure its businesses.

The group will close or sell 17 Ito-Yokado stores in central and northeastern regions, including six in Hokkaido. It will instead focus on business in Tokyo and surrounding areas.

Seven & i plans to cut the number of Ito-Yokado stores to 93 in the country by the end of February 2026, compared with 182 a decade earlier. In the face of increasing pressure from shareholders, Seven & i has been proceeding with business restructuring in recent years. Under a plan outlined last year, it underscored the need to focus more on its mainstay 7-Eleven convenience store operations. — Kyodo



The group will close or sell 17 Ito-Yokado stores in central and northeastern regions, including six in Hokkaido, while focusing on business in Tokyo and surrounding areas. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Hermes celebrates record profit with staff bonuses



French luxury brand Hermes announced record annual sales and net profit on Friday, reporting a 28 per cent increase in profit to 4.3 billion euros (\$4.6 billion) and a 16 per cent surge in sales to 13.4 billion euros. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRENCH luxury giant Hermes posted on Friday record annual sales and net profit, with plans to reward all employees worldwide with a bonus following strong growth in every region last year. The group reported a better-than-expected profit of 4.3 billion euros (\$4.6 billion), up 28 per cent from 2022, on sales that surged 16 per cent at current exchange rates to 13.4 billion euros.

"In 2023, Hermes has

once again cultivated its singularity and achieved an outstanding performance in all metiers (businesses) and across all regions against a high base," executive chairman Axel Dumas said in an earning statement. The group said its 22,000 employees worldwide would get a 4,000-euro bonus early this year as part of "its policy of sharing the fruits of growth with all those who contribute to it on a daily basis". — AFP

Polish farmers protest Ukraine imports and EU regulations

POLISH farmers on Friday staged blockades across the country to protest competition from Ukraine and heavy EU regulations, with Warsaw hinting it could impose new import bans on Ukrainian agricultural products.

Farmers protested at over 250 locations across Poland, blocking highways and border checkpoints while snarling traffic with columns of slow-moving tractors converging on major cities.

"We have no other choice," Marcin Wilgos, an organizer of the protest in Dorohusk at the border with Ukraine, told AFP next to a banner calling on the European Union to ban Ukrainian grain and sugar.

The farmers also called for an easing of environmental requirements already introduced by the EU as well as those included in the bloc's forthcoming Green Deal. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.017N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.017N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-2-2024** 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

EU agrees on disability card accepted across the bloc



The law seeks to improve the lives of 87 million people with disabilities and their families by ensuring recognition of disability cards and parking permits throughout the EU, addressing issues of access, tariffs, and assistance faced by travellers with disabilities. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU states and lawmakers have reached an agreement on a law aimed at establishing a universal disability card accepted across the 27-nation bloc.

EU states and lawmakers have reached an agreement on a law that would pave the way for a disability card accepted across the 27-nation bloc, the European Parliament said Friday.

Negotiators struck a deal Thursday on measures that the European Union believes will make life easier for 87 million people with disabilities and their families. The agreement also includes ensuring that parking per-

mits for people with a disability are accepted all over the EU.

Brussels proposed the law last year because when people with disability cards travel to other EU countries, their ID cards are not always recognized by other member states.

This means they are sometimes unable to obtain priority access, reduced tariffs and special assistance.

“We have achieved agree-

ment on a milestone piece of legislation that persons with disabilities were expecting for a decade,” said Dragos Pislaru, chair of the employment and social affairs parliamentary committee.

“It will support them to be independent and on equal footing now that the cards will soon become a reality in all EU countries. This will help them considerably when travelling to other member states,” he said. — AFP

Sweden closes Nord Stream gas pipeline investigation amid political complications

The Swedish Prosecution Authority announced the closure of its investigation into the Nord Stream gas pipeline explosions, citing a lack of jurisdiction, and transferring evidence to Germany.

THE Swedish Prosecution Authority announced on Wednesday the closure of its investigation into the Nord Stream gas pipeline explosions, citing a lack of jurisdiction in the case.

As the 16-month-long investigation concludes, the authorities, who identified the incident as a “gross sabotage” possibly involving “a state actor”, have failed to pinpoint any culprits.

Analysts believe Sweden’s ultimate decision to transfer and relinquish the “hot potato” to Germany is driven by intricate and delicate political considerations. — Xinhua



On 26 September 2022, a series of underwater explosions and consequent gas leaks occurred on the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipelines, two of 23 gas pipelines between Europe and Russia. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

TOP NEWS

Israel deploys new military AI in Gaza war

Israel’s army has deployed some AI-enabled military technology in combat for the first time in Gaza, raising fears about the use of autonomous weapons in modern warfare.

The army has hinted at what the new tech is being used for, with spokesman Daniel Hagari saying last month that Israel’s forces were operating “above and underground simultaneously”.

A senior defence official told AFP the tech was destroying enemy drones and mapping Hamas’s vast tunnel network in Gaza.

New defence technologies including artificial intelligence-powered gunsights and robotic drones form a bright spot in an otherwise dire period for Israel’s tech industry. — AFP

US: Plane crashes on Florida highway, two killed

A small plane crash took place on Florida highway on Friday afternoon, leaving two people dead, Fox News reported, citing the Collier County Sheriff’s Office, which confirmed it to the publication.

The plane, a Bombardier Challenger 600 business jet, crashed on Interstate 75 in Naples, Florida, with five people on board, according to the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration).

The airplane departed from Ohio State University Airport at 1 pm ET, according to FOX 35. — ANI

US university to shut Qatar campus citing Mideast instability

TEXAS A&M is to close its Qatar campus, the US university said Friday, blaming Middle East insecurity for the move, which drew criticism from its partner in the Gulf emirate.

The university said it had “decided to reassess the university’s physical presence in Qatar

in fall 2023 due to the heightened instability in the Middle East”.

“The board has decided that the core mission of Texas A&M should be advanced primarily within Texas and the United States,” chairman Bill Mahomes said in a statement.

The winding down of the

campus, which opened in 2003, is due to take four years.

Colleges in the United States have faced intense political scrutiny, including accusations of anti-Semitism, since the unprecedented attacks by Hamas on Israel on 7 October triggered war in Gaza. — AFP



“The board has decided that the core mission of Texas A&M should be advanced primarily within Texas and the United States,” chairman Bill Mahomes said in a statement. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/X**

SPORTS

Real Madrid's Bernabeu to hold NFL game in 2025 season

THE NFL will stage its first ever regular season game in Spain during the 2025 season with a fixture at Real Madrid's newly refurbished Santiago Bernabeu Stadium as the league continues its expansion into overseas markets, officials confirmed on Friday.

Days after confirming the NFL will host a game in Brazil next season, the league announced that the Bernabeu will be the venue for a Spanish fixture next year.

"Playing a game in Madrid in 2025 highlights the continued expansion of the league's global footprint and the accelerated ambitions to take our game to more fans around the world," said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in a statement.

"We are proud to partner with Real Madrid C.F., a global brand, together with the City of Madrid and Comunidad de Madrid, to bring a spectacular regular season game to Spain at the world-class Santiago Bernabeu Stadium," he added. Fifty regular season

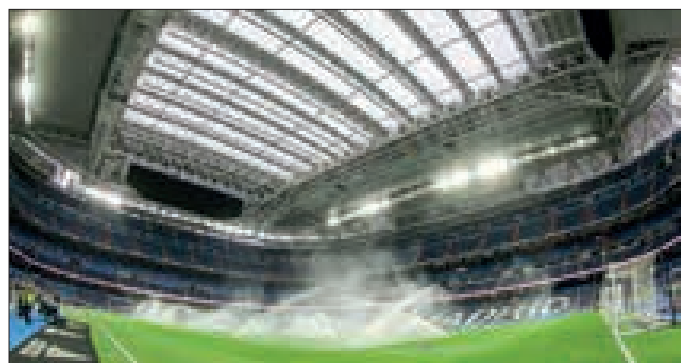
NFL games have been played internationally through the league's history, with London, Munich, Frankfurt, Mexico City and Toronto all hosting games to date.

Sao Paulo, Brazil, will stage a game in 2024 at the Corinthians Arena — home to Brazilian football team Corinthians — the first NFL game in South America.

The iconic Bernabeu has undergone a significant redevelopment and now has a retractable roof.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez hailed the move as a win for both his club and the NFL.

"The National Football League's arrival at the Santiago Bernabeu is a major event in sport history. This strategic alliance between Real Madrid and an organization of the NFL's prestige will boost our brands globally. It will be enthusiastically welcomed by millions of people on all continents, and it is an honor to embark on this journey together". — AFP



Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium will host an NFL regular season game in 2025, the league said on Friday. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Team Myanmar to compete in two int'l football matches this year

THE Myanmar national team will compete in two major international competitions this year. After the World Cup second-round qualifiers, they will compete again in the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup, the most advanced competition in the ASEAN region.

Team Myanmar, participating since last year, will compete again in March and June for the remaining group matches of the 2026 World Cup Asia Zone Second Stage Qualifiers. The Myanmar squad has four remaining games in the sec-

ond round of qualifying.

They will have to play a home game against the Syrian team and an away game in March. The team will have to play at home against the Japanese and away against the North Korean teams in June. The Myanmar national team will also com-

pete in the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup at the end of the year.

Michael Feichtenbeiner, a German national, is handling the Myanmar national team as the head coach, conducting the team's training twice from the second week of January to the first week of February and playing three friendly matches against local clubs.

The Myanmar national team is struggling to get a good result as it meets the top Asian teams in the World Cup qualifiers, but it needs to earn a good result in the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar's goalkeeper seizes the ball during the previous international match against North Korea. PHOTO: THAW GYI

Cote d'Ivoire has world-class infrastructure: CAF president

PATRICE Motsepe, the president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), praised the exemplary infrastructure in Cote d'Ivoire, developed in anticipation of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

"We are reassured to have

world-class infrastructure," said the CAF chief, who expressed his gratitude to Ivorian authorities for their commitment to these projects and for the quality of the tournament, and also underlined local people's passion for football.

"I travelled the country and saw thousands of people, ordinary people dancing for their nation's performance. Football is a force for good. We are very committed to using football to unite the world," he commented. — Xinhua

China women's fencing team competes in City of Barcelona Trophy

CHINA is among around 60 countries and regions competing in the City of Barcelona Trophy women's fencing event here here from Friday to Sunday.

Composed of 12 fencers, China is the largest team in the tournament after hosts Spain, while Hong Kong of China has also dispatched eight fencers.

"This is very important for the Chinese team because we're fighting for the Olympic qualification, which is the most important job for us," Chinese team leader Wang Junyan told Xinhua.

For Nuria Marco, president of the Catalan Fencing Federation which organized the tournament with Barcelona City Coun-

cil, this year's event is marked by a very high level of the sport across the board.

Held for the first time in 1957, the City of Barcelona Trophy embraces its 47th edition this year. According to the organizers, this year's event is the largest so far with over 300 fencers competing. — Xinhua



Chen Qingyuan (L) of China competes against Pauline Ranvier of France during the women's Foil Individual Table of 32 match at the 2022 Fencing World Championships in Cairo, Egypt, 19 July 2022. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA/FILE

Malaysia holds lantern show to welcome Chinese New Year

In Selangor, Malaysia, people celebrated the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year with colourful lanterns, welcoming the Year of the Dragon, symbolizing power, nobility, and success.



A dragon boat lantern is pictured at a lantern show ahead of the Chinese Lunar New Year in Selangor state, Malaysia, 7 February 2024. **PHOTO: CHONG VOON CHUNG/XINHUA**

People enjoyed colourful lanterns with Chinese characteristics in a joyful and festive atmosphere ahead of the Chinese Lunar New Year in

Selangor state, Malaysia.

The Chinese Lunar New Year, or the Spring Festival, falls on 10 February this year to kick off the Year of the Dragon.

In Chinese culture, Dragon holds a significant place as an auspicious and extraordinary creature, symbolizing power, nobility, honour, luck and success.—Xinhua



People visit Everything Electric Australia, a home energy and electric vehicle show, at the Sydney Showground in Sydney, Australia, 9 February 2024. **PHOTO: MA PING/XINHUA**

Everything Electric Australia features electric vehicles, home energy options

Participating brands include BMW, Audi, Polestar, Hyundai, Renault, GWM, and MG.

EVERYTHING Electric Australia, a home energy and electric vehicle show, kicked off on Friday in Sydney. The event, which will last three days, is committed to offering an exceptional platform for leading electric vehicle brands to showcase their latest innovations.

Several famous electric

vehicle brands participated in the exhibition, including BMW, Audi, Polestar, Hyundai, Renault, GWM and MG.

Meanwhile, Everything Electric Australia offered visitors an opportunity to an extensive test-drive lineup of electric vehicles. The event will also have dozens of expert live sessions in

the three days, discussing topics including the cost of cleaner technologies, buying a used EV, the future of deliveries, and low-impact living.

Everything Electric Australia also showcases exhibitors in the home energy space, along with a line-up of expert panels, providing invaluable education on the myths, misconceptions, and simple steps to going electric, according to the event website.—Xinhua

More Japan women buying Valentine's Day chocolates for themselves

A recent survey by marketing firm Intage Inc revealed that in Japan, the number of women planning to buy Valentine's Day chocolates for themselves is over three times higher than those intending to give treats to their partners or crushes.

THE number of women who plan to buy Valentine's Day chocolates for themselves in Japan is over threefold more than those giving the treats to their sweethearts, a recent private sector survey showed.

Among respondents, 21.7 per cent of women said they plan to purchase chocolates for themselves, up 8.5 percentage points from the previous year, reflecting an increasing trend of women treating themselves with sweets, the survey by marketing firm Intage Inc showed.—Kyodo



A special sales event is held at a Takashimaya department store in Nagoya, central Japan, on 17 January 2024, a day ahead of the start of a Valentine's Day sales campaign for the general public. **PHOTO: KYODO**