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We all have to show off our solidarity by responding to instigation wedged into national brethren by external elements

THE following are the full-text of Myanmar New Year greetings extended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thadoe Maha

Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of New Year in 1386 ME, today.

I extend my heartfelt greetings to all people residing worldwide, including

all national people of Myanmar, to be free from varieties of dangers and to be physical and mental well-being on the occasion of Myanmar New Year's Day when it falls today. Now is the time for

Myanmar people to wash bad deeds, behaviours and thoughts with the water in the Thingyan festival done in the old year for the resumption of performing

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Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan draws happy festival-goers on Myanmar's Traditional Maha Thingyan Finale yesterday. **PHOTO: KO KYAW GYI AND TEAM**

NAY Pyi Taw has been bustling with enthusiastic revellers as the annual Thingyan Water Festival comes to a close, sources say.

The Mayor's Pavilion featured entertainment programmes with local artistes and Myanmar traditional dances, as well as K-poppers and Russian artistes.

Revellers toured round the city by car, and pedestrians enjoyed various Thingyan snacks at donation spots across Tatkon, Lewe, Zabuthiri, Ottarathiri, Dekkhinathiri, Zeyathiri, and Pobbathiri townships.

Nay Pyi Taw abuzz with revellers as Thingyan festivities conclude

The second Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan witnessed more visitors on the last day than on previous days.

Likewise, religious centres, including the Maravijaya Buddha Image and Uppatasanti Pagoda, were crowded with merit-makers.

Festival-goers also visited famous landmarks such as the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Park, Zoological Gardens, and Safari Park.

All these festivities were possible thanks to security provided by the police and traffic police.

The Mayor's Pavilion, Commander-in-Chief's (Army) Office's Pavilion, and Transport and Communications Ministry's Pavilion, as well as smaller township-level pavilions, closed down at the designated time in the evening. — Than Min Aung, Hein Min Soe/NT

NATIONAL

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Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Senior General Min Aung Haing, enjoys water-throwing activities at pavilions in PyinOoLwin Station

NATIONAL

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Union Information Minister joins Myanmar Thingyan Water Festival

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Pilgrimage crowds flock to Mann Shwettaw Pagoda for Thingyan holidays

NATIONAL

Diplomats celebrate final day of Maha Thingyan Festival at Yangon City Central Pavilion, People's Square



DIPLOMATS and their families, along with personnel from the United Nations agencies in Yangon and its affiliated organizations, as well as representatives from consulates-general, celebrated the final day of the Maha Thingyan Festival at the People's Square Walking Thingyan and Yangon City Central Pavilion (Yangon Mayor Pavilion) at 9:30 am yesterday.

The diplomats and guests, led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo and his wife, arrived at the People's Square Walking Thingyan. They were welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and his wife, Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay and his wife, and the female members of the choral dance troupe, who presented them with Eugenia sprigs, sym-

bolizing victory, success, and auspiciousness.

The guests then observed and enjoyed performances by the choral dance troupe, ethnic traditional dance troupes, and special guests from Nay Pyi Taw's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They also enjoyed the singing of vocalist Soe Nyi Nyi, performing the song 'Mya Nandar'.

Following this, the diplomats and guests enthusiastically participated in the Walking Thingyan at the People's Square alongside other Thingyan participants.

Later, they visited the Yangon City Central Pavilion, where they enjoyed performances of Zawgyi dance by professional dancer U Sein Myint Aye, who has won 15 gold medals at the

international level, and cane-ball dance performed by Ma Myint Sandar, the coach at the Myanmar Chinlone Federation.

The Thai ambassador to Myanmar sang the song 'Thingyan Moe' and joined in dancing with the choral dance troupe. All guests then celebrated together by singing and dancing to the song 'Man Taung Yeik Kho'. Following this, they visited the Walking Thingyan Lane located beside Maha Bandoola Park together with locals.

Finally, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein hosted lunch to the diplomats and guests at Yangon City Hall, with presentation of entertainment.

The final day of the Thingyan Festival (Atet Nay) was lively and had enthusiastic participants, particularly at the People's Square and the Yangon City Central Pavilion. — MNA/TMT



Diplomats and their families take part in the final day of the Maha Thingyan Festival at the People's Square Walking Thingyan and Yangon City Central Pavilion (Yangon Mayor Pavilion) yesterday (Top and above photos). **PHOTOS: ZAW MIN LATT/ YE HTUT**

Diplomatic Thingyan Festival 2024 held in Yangon

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a Diplomatic Thingyan Festival on 16 April 2024 on the lawn of the Myanmar Institute for Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon, to welcome the Myanmar Lunar New Year.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo gave

a welcome remark. It was attended by the diplomatic corps in Yangon and their family members, representatives from the United Nations and its agencies, representatives from Honorary Consulates-General, Chairman and members of the Myanmar Institute for Strategic and International Studies, officials and personnel

from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, their family members and other guests.

The guests were served with Myanmar traditional delicacies, and damsels from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs performed Thingyan traditional dances while getting soaked from sprinkling water. — MNA



Diplomats and their families enjoy the Diplomatic Thingyan Water Festival celebrated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 16 April 2024 Yangon.

NATIONAL

We all have to show off our solidarity by responding to instigation wedged into national brethren by external elements

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good deeds in the New Year in line with the perception of Myanmar people.

Myanmar, our country, has overcome the difficulties and challenges we faced in the old year period. Likewise, our government has adopted a pledge to continue to overcome any challenges successfully through diligence, courage, and firm belief in the people in the New Year. Our State Administration Council sustains the implementation of the multiparty democratic system in accordance with the law as the entire people aspire to while striving to build a Union based on democracy and federalism.

Our government will emphasize the improvement of the socioeconomic life of all citizens by utilizing resources, proper management and ways and means in addition to focusing on the development of the education and health sectors of the State. Mainly, I would like to request all citizens to cooperate with the government in the learning for all school-age children in the coming academic year.

Furthermore, I would like to urge all people from various manufacturing are-



nas to strive to boost the State economy. Myanmar could achieve development of the State economy to some extent amid a variety of difficulties and crises.

I believe that if Myanmar had not faced these difficulties, including sanctions, the State economy would have achieved more remarkable progress.

Likewise, as peace and stability can contribute to development undertakings, our government is making utmost efforts to forge durable peace in the nation, not only for the short-term period but for the terms of future generations. In the old year period, some persons with extreme selfishness committed instability of the region due to eagerness without farsightedness and external instigations. As Myanmar people have experienced pushing national races of the Union into the miseries of one another, they all have to consider doing all things based on long-term interests. We all have to show off our solidarity by responding to instigation wedged into national brethren by external elements.

In accord with the Myanmar proverbs which go: "Unity is strength" and "Hardworking to achieve good result", I would like to extend my New Year greetings to all that all national races have to make collaborative efforts to ensure peace and stability of the nation to walk along the multiparty democratic system in coming New Year by reviewing all events in the old year.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, enjoys water-throwing activities at pavilions in PyinOoLwin Station

DAW Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, together with senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and their wives, viewed round water-throwing festivals participated by Tatmadaw members, families and cadets at family pavilions in PyinOoLwin Station in the 1385 ME Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan festival on the morning of Atet Day yesterday.

At the Hnit Oo Tihtwin pavilion of the Defence Services Technological Academy, they watched dances of family choral dance troupes and song presentations of cadets and vocalists with the happy participation of Tatmadaw members and families.

The wife of the Senior General and party sprayed cadets, Tatmadaw members, families and choral dance troupes from the festivities and presented cash

awards to them.

On arrival at the Khatawmi family water-throwing pavilion, the wife of the Senior General and the party enjoyed the happy participation of Tatmadaw members and families in the festival with dancing and singing performances of choral dance troupes and vocalists. The wife of the Senior General and party doused senior military officers who enjoyed the festival and presented cash awards to choral dance troupes, Tatmadaw members and families who performed songs and dances.

At the Yaynan Cherry pavilion in PyinOoLwin Station, the wife of the Senior General and the party watched songs and dances of choral dance troupes and participation of Tatmadaw members and families at the water-throwing festivities. The wife of the Senior General and party sprinkled water on Tatmadaw members and families and presented cash awards to dance

troupes, Tatmadaw members and families. The wife of the Senior General and party also enjoyed the water-throwing activities at Cherry Arman Hnit Oo Thingyan pavilion of the Defence Services

Academy. The wife of the Senior General and party doused cadets, Tatmadaw members, families and choral dance troupes and presented cash awards.

They also toured wa-

ter-throwing pavilions in PyinOoLwin Station, sprayed Tatmadaw members and families and presented cash awards to dance troupes and families of Tatmadaw members. — MNA/TTA



Senior General's wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla celebrates Myanmar's Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival in PyinOoLwin Station yesterday.

NATIONAL

Saraniya Ovada Katha on New Year occasion of Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Patron of Minkyaung Pahtamapyan Buddhism Learning Centre in Thanlyin of Yangon Region



Do Meritorious Deeds Daily

TODAY is a great auspicious day welcoming the New Year 1386 ME while bidding farewell to the old year 1385 ME.

Starting from the auspicious occasion, I extend my heartfelt wishes for the

well-being of all Myanmar citizens and people around the globe to be free from all dangers and bad things and to enjoy all good things as they aspire to.

Everybody and every or-

ganization, as well as every country, needs to uphold tolerance over each other, discarding grudges so that they can enjoy all varieties of peace and prosperity by doing meritorious deeds.

Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa. Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

New Year Ovada Katha for 1386 ME

I extend my greetings to all with a special Dhamma Katha on the occasion of the upcoming New Year after ending the outgoing Old Year.

ALL distinguished virtuous persons,

Old Year 1385 ME has already gone out, and New Year 1386 ME has already come in. Last year, the old year 1385 ME was a new year but it has gone out. Likewise, the present New Year 1386 ME will gradually be old and then will be run out. Naturally, every new one, including living beings, will be old and then disappear. All new ones will be old and then disappear. Such an event is in line with the impermanence preached by the Lord Buddha. The person who can watch the consequence of impermanence called "Vayadhamma Sankhara" will be a great hero. The Lord Buddha preached "Vayadhamma Sankhara Appamadena Sammapadetha" to monitor the impacts of changing the new ones to the old ones.

Mentioned in the Cakkavatti Sutta, which may be dubbed as an ancient treatise, King Cakkavatti instructed his

eldest son in handing over his royal inheritance in the dying period. Such an instruction was mentioned in the treatise, saying that it shall take security measures over all the people in accord with the Dhamma. Moreover, it shall provide aid to poor people. However, as successors of King Cakkavatti did not make contributions to the poor people, the entire people fell into misery. Consequent events brought robberies and thefts. Some persons who did not have mental qualifications committed robberies and thefts. It means attacks, robbery and theft called "Adinnadana" were triggered by idlers in the early stages of the world. As such, kings arrested them and killed those who committed crimes. The emergence of the second one was based on "Panati Pata". As such, those who committed "Panati Pata" moves did not dare to accept penalties and confessed lies at the court. Hence, the move of "Musavada",

which means lying, emerged at that time. The witnessed persons expressed actual events called "Pisunavaca".

Gradually, at a time when the lifespan of humans reached the term of 1,000 years, the "Micchaditthi" doctrine came out. In terms of 100 years for the lifespan of humans, let's note down the emergence of Adhamma Raga, Visamalobha and Miccha Dhamma". So, I mean all 18 varieties of untruths which were based on greed, anger and ignorance. If so, the world had faced consequences such as:

1. The time when greediness influences may cause starvation catastrophe.
2. The time when anger dominates may happen to be the murder of catastrophe.
3. The time when ignorance overwhelms may break out disasters of catastrophe.

It is a summary mentioned



Sitagu Sayadaw.

in the Cakkavatti Sutta treatise. Everybody knows and sees today's variety of bad things that are destroying the world. Only when these bad things can be controlled will poor people be provided food, clothing, and shelter, and society will be peaceful and stable to some extent.

In conclusion, I extended my heartfelt wish on the New Year's occasion for all to control greed, anger, and ignorance, which trigger 108 varieties of bad things and three catastrophes.

On the month of Tagu, I wish the whole country to be peaceful and prosperous, similar to a thriving forest with a variety of fragrances.

May all be pleasant and peaceful like the Sitagu moon.

Sitagu Sayadaw
State Ovadacariya, Shwegyin Nikaya Sangharaja

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika, Agga Maha Pandita, Chancellor of Sitagu Hospitals and Sitagu International Buddhist Academies.

NATIONAL

1386 ME New Year message from Presiding Patron of Nanda Aungmyay Monastery Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Dr Bhaddanta Nimala (PhD, Buddhism)



I disperse my best wishes for all on the occasion of the New Year.

May Buddhism, Myanmar, and all global living beings flourish, be prosperous,

and be wealthy at all times.

May they all have development and prosperity at all times.

May all celestial beings continuously safeguard Buddhism and look after all living beings day and night.

May all Myanmar people and global inhabitants have physical and mental well-being together with their followers.

May all people in Myanmar and across the world be free from plights and sufferings but be enjoying happiness and pleasure.

New Year message from Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Maha Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara Dr Bhaddanta Hsekinda

NOW is an excellent occasion for Myanmar New Year 1386 ME, leaving the old year 1385 ME.

Meritorious deeds are free from misdeeds and bring good deeds. Merit itself is free from sins, helps all living beings be free from sins and brings varieties of good deeds to all.

Nature of merits brings good things and deeds to all individuals whenever they do everything. As such, those wishing to enjoy good things and good deeds are keen to perform meritorious deeds.

I extend my heartfelt wishes for all to perform good things by learning techniques and accumulating knowledge



with rationality to benefit all.

Meritorious performances based on knowledge and rationality are more potent than ordinary meritorious deeds.

As such, individuals need to consider both good and bad moves of past events to possess a promising future.

Individuals need to foster the willingness to benefit from everything as much as they can.

Individuals have to sow seeds of meritorious deeds in all issues, including economic, social and educational issues, with a noble spirit in order to enjoy the reflection of good things.

If so, they can surely enjoy a variety of good things.

As such, everybody needs to try hard to be virtuous to serve the interests of the State and themselves.

New Year wishes from Dr Bhaddanta Saddhamma Kittisara (Aung San Sayadaw)

I extend my heartfelt wishes and compassion to all global citizens and Myanmar people so they can enjoy physical and mental well-being.

May all living beings have sound sleep and auspiciously wake up in the morning.

May they all be capable of eliminating all devils.

May they all exercise thirty varieties of acquired virtues.

On the occasion of changing New Year 1386 ME from the old year 1385 ME, I wish all Myanmar citizens and global inhabitants enjoy sound sleep and awaken to auspiciousness each morning, having good dreams.

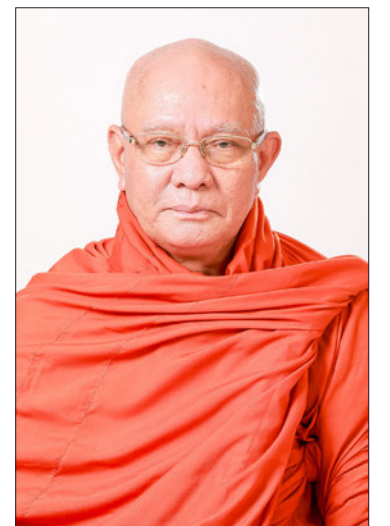
The mind of individuals naturally leads to good deeds as well as malpractices. So, they have a chance to enjoy good and bad opportunities. I wish for all to find the strength to combat all malevolent activities. If they commit malpractices on the wrong mental, physical and oral basis, they will face plights and frats. The Lord Buddha preached seven varieties of virtuous persons.

I would like to urge all to do good deeds and meritorious deeds to enjoy good reflections. They all have to avoid ten varieties of evil moves but emphasize seven varieties of virtuous persons. They all have to take pre-

cepts to appreciate good deeds.

Individuals need to be ashamed of committing activities that lead to the nether worlds. As such, they all have to taste good deeds by discarding malpractices on the New Year occasion of 1386 ME changed from the old Year 1385 ME.

I disperse my best wishes to all living beings in Myanmar to forge compassion among all national brethren, contribute to the interests of all, and protect each other's good activities. I express heartfelt wishes for ensuring the solidarity of Myanmar with peace and prosperity, flourishing Theravada Buddhism and enabling all Myanmar people and global inhabitants to savour the sweetness of Enlightenment.



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The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Myanmar New Year Dhamma Thabin ceremony to air live on MRTV

THE three-day Myanmar New Year Special Dhamma Thabin ceremony will be held at the People's Square in Yangon, starting at 7 pm from 17 to 19 April. The ceremony will be broadcast live on MRTV.

Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara will deliver a

sermon on 17 April (Wednesday), which is Myanmar New Year's Day. On 18 April (Thursday), Mizzima Gonyi Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kovida will deliver a sermon, followed by Aung San Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Saddhamma Kittisara on 19 April (Friday).

The Myanmar New Year Special Dhamma Thabin will be broadcast live on MRTV Parliament Channel, MRTV NRC Channel, Myanmar Radio, Padamyar FM, Shwe FM, Pyinsawady FM, Cherry FM, Mandalay FM, FM Bagan, and Star FM. — TWA/MKKS



The handout of three-day Myanmar New Year Special Dhamma Thabin ceremony's programme.

New Year greetings extended by State Administration Council Member U Wunna Maung Lwin

I would like to express my gratitude to all national people, including members of the Sangha, for grasping a great chance to extend my greetings on the occasion of transition from the 1385 Myanmar Era to 1386 ME.

The New Year is an excellent occasion for Buddhist Myanmar people in accordance with Myanmar's history and traditions.

New Year's Thingyan festival is a tradition of Myanmar to cleanse misdeeds and malpractices committed in the old year with clean water to usher in the New Year. They all wash their souls for wrongly doing misdeeds over parents and teachers involved in the Five Great Benefactors in the Universe. Moreover, it is a signif-

icant occasion for all humans to pay respect to each other for forgetting wrongdoings and misdeeds.

On occasion, with fine traditions to welcome the New Year, the Thingyan festival aims to forge optimistic morality and behaviours with goodwill and attitudes in the New Year.

As such, all national races, members of the Sangha and people residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar usher in the New Year following the traditions described above.

Thus, individuals of Myanmar need to take lessons from past behaviours and thoughts in the old year, review them, and strive to do better things in the coming year. They all have to review how to repair weak



points, requirements, and mistakes from the previous year and how they meet the goals of repairing these necessities. Otherwise, they have to adopt pledges to meet the objectives in the upcoming New Year.

All Myanmar people have to review themselves individually, as well as their families

and organizations, in order to achieve more significant progress in the coming year. Now is the time for them to analyze and adapt their work processes and pour out greater efforts to meet the goals of their country as well as their goals. It is essential that they carry out all their undertakings with the utmost capabilities to meet the goal in the coming year, starting with the Myanmar New Year Day. They have to pledge that the endeavours of all citizens must be purposed not only for their individuals and their families but for the whole country to have development through successful implementation of the adopted objectives.

All citizens and individuals must strive for the implemen-

tation of national objectives, political aims, the five-point roadmap and nine objectives adopted by the State Administration Council in full swing.

Everybody needs to revitalize collaborative efforts on the occasion of the New Year celebration in order to conscientiously serve their duties, as Myanmar has firmly adopted necessary work procedures and visions for building a modern and developed nation. So, May all have to adopt assessments, reviews, and visions for the development of the nation, serve the interests of the religions at full capacity, and build the nation to become a prestigious country that stands tall in the international community as expected.

Thank you.

Daw Dwe Bu (State Administration Council Member)

I extend my greetings as an auspicious New Year to all Myanmar people as well as all global inhabitants. I heartily welcome the auspicious New Year in transition from 1385 ME to 1386 ME.

May all national brethren who have been amicably residing in the Union of Myanmar together for many years flourish in compassion starting this New Year. May they all together forge security of the nation, peace and stability, and the rule of law through unity and build a peaceful, tranquil and developed Union.

I disperse Metta (compassion) to all so that the entire national people of the Union may enjoy physical and mental well-being with peace and happiness starting from the auspicious New Year.



U Ye Tun, Chairman of Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA)

MAY all Myanmar people and all global inhabitants be free from various dangers on the occasion of New Year 1386 ME, in transition from Old Year 1385 ME, and enjoy physical and mental well-being.

Our YMBA has been steadfastly focusing on nationality, language, religion, and education as our main visions. Likewise, the Chairman of the State Administration Council, the patron of our association, has given guidance that as a national association, the association has to perform the national cause but not the

politics.

The national cause emphasizes aid for the people residing across the nation suffering loss and damage in natural disasters and assistance for the develop-



ment of religious affairs. Currently, the association is striving to do so. Only when a country is peaceful and prosperous will it be developed. As such, we assist in realizing the peace and prosperity of the country.

On the occasion of New Year, I, on behalf of YMBA, would like to urge all the people to be united and not believe in talks of instigation and misinformation in the air. I would especially like to encourage peace and prosperity to be of great importance to the nation. Let's shape the whole nation peacefully and prosperly.

NATIONAL

New Year Wishes from Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

U Wunna (Buddhism) Chairman Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

MINGALABA,

It is the end of 1385ME and the beginning of 1386ME. May all Myanmar citizens, the esteemed ethnic and national brethren, and all the people on earth have peace of mind, health, and a peaceful community.

The Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group is working hard by drafting a three-point roadmap.

They are: - To have mutual respect for beliefs and stances of religions and strengthen the unity by avoiding misunderstanding among those with different religious faiths; To make an effort to ensure the unity among the young generations with the teachings of respective religions; To work together in harmony in carrying out the public services through the collective strength of the four major religions.

Currently, we offer public services such as healthcare services, such as free eye treatment and free vocational training as a charity of education.

All the citizens, including me, grew up in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and had different religions and races. Therefore, I would like to urge you to make efforts for the sake of the country in a friendly manner based on the Union spirit. May the country be filled with peace and prosperity.



U Zaw Zaw Naing (Hindu) Vice-Chairman, Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Organization (Central)

I extend a greeting speech to all Myanmar citizens and people worldwide, saying Minbalaba during this Myanmar New Year.

May the country be peaceful and prosperous with the Metta of Gotama Buddha, and may it be a developed country without any internal and external destructive elements due to Ganesha.

During the transition from 1385 ME to 1386 ME, I wish all the national brethren to join hands with the government with new ideas, opinions, and minds for development and work hard to disperse Metta starting from Myanmar New Year.

May all get new minds, ideas, opinions and businesses in the new year, leaving behind all the difficulties and anxiety of the previous year. All should cooperate for the development of the country.

I wish everyone success in every matter because of my loving kindness.



U Aung Zaw Win (Islam) Vice-Chairman, Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

MINGALABA,

We, Islamists, extend our wishes that all Myanmar citizens and people around the world be peaceful during the transition from 1385 ME to 1386 ME.

Myanmar is a country with enormous ethnic diversity and religions. I wish people to live together with loving kindness among each other, showing loyalty.

We, Islamists, believe that one respects other religions in carrying out the measures for the peace and stability of the country, and the strength of a nation lies within.

During the New Year period, all citizens and people around the world should be peaceful and participate in the State peace and stability measures. May all your wishes be fulfilled in the new year.



U Thomas (Christianity) Vice-Chairman, Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

FIRST, I want to express gratitude to our Lord Jesus Christ for an opportunity to deliver a New Year speech as Christian Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central). I am so proud of that.

People from different religions, such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam, have been living together peacefully by respecting the traditional and religious festivals to date.

The Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group is also exerting concerted efforts to maintain the unique culture and heritage of Myanmar by joining hands with all ethnic people.

May all keep unity, harmonium, compassion and loving-kindness among each other while heading to 1386 ME and leaving behind all the negative impacts of 1385 ME in a promising new year.

May god bless you all.



Tekkatho Myat Thu
ANCIENT literary geniuses composed poems about Myanmar's New Year at the end of the Thingyan Festival. Our country, rich in natural resources, will emerge as a prosperous nation in Asia if it is united and peaceful.



People call Myanmar an "Asian tiger". We are not just an ordinary tiger but a mighty one. We need a united mindset and to value our country if we want to develop. Since 40 million years ago, humanoid living beings have been roaming what is now the Pondaung Pongya region. So, it can be said that the human race began in Myanmar. There are also Padalin Caves in Ywangan Township, which hosts evidence of Stone Age culture. This is historical evidence. Our country has a prestigious history.

We need a united effort to develop our nation. I would like to request Union-born ethnic nationalities to usher in the New Year with a wish for unity, peace, prosperity, and the perpetuity of our religion for Myanmar.

May the people of Myanmar be safe, happy, and peaceful!

Filmmaker Kyi Soe Tun (Chairperson, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization)

I wish Myanmar citizens and Union-born ethnic nationalities a pleasant New Year. The film industry relies on people. So, it is my heartfelt wish for our citizens to have a serene New Year and for our country to be peaceful and prosperous.



New Year Wishes from artists and artistes



Filmmaker Pachi Soe Moe

MAY everyone have a blessed New Year. May people work towards the nation, religion, and common good. May Union-born ethnic nationalities be united like brothers. May Myanmar

stand tall. May both Myanmar and the world be peaceful and prosperous.

Actress Daw Nwe Nwe San

I wish Myanmar people a safe and happy life. May your businesses thrive and overcome obstacles. May people from the entertainment industry get more jobs. I believe art is for the country. I have been working for the country for 85 years.

May all the citizens overcome the three catastrophes.



Actress Daw Pale

MAY all the citizens enjoy a pleasant time. May all the people in the film industry be happy. I starred in seven films with U Win Oo. I began my film career in 1975 with a Thingyan-themed film, "Chitthu Kyinthu Myatnoethu". It

was aired on TV recently, so it brought back all the memories. I wish Myanmar to be as serene and prosperous as the Thingyan water.

Academy Yan Aung

AS we leave behind the Myanmar Year 1385 and have transited to 1386, may the Myanmar people and the world be safe from calamities and be healthy and prosperous.

Actor Moe Yan Zun

MINGALABA. We have left behind the Myanmar Year 1385 and have transited 1386. I wish everyone, regardless of race and religion, to be healthy and prosperous. May our fans enjoy a pleasant New Year.

Actress Hsu Pan Htwa

MAY everyone be healthy and prosperous in the pleasant New Year. May fortune be ever in your favour. I wish everyone a prosperous, and, more importantly, enjoyable time.

U Lwin Myint (Chairperson, Myanmar Music Association-Central)

THIS is an auspicious time for Union-born ethnic nationalities. I wish everyone a peaceful and pleasant moment. May the love between our people bloom like yellow blossoms. May we hear the songs of peace as well as the songs of Thingyan. May our country stand firm until the end of the world.

U Aung Tin Win (Patron, Myanmar Theatrical Association-Central)

MAY everyone be happy and healthy. Happiness leads to a happy country. I always wish for our people and Thabin (Myanmar traditional theatre arts) professionals to be peaceful and prosperous. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/NT
PHOTOS: KANU

OPINION

ARTICLE POEM

May all be happy and pleasant on New Year's Day

ON NEW Year's Day, esteemed figures, revered members of the Sangha, and notable personalities extend their heartfelt wishes to all beings, encompassing humans residing throughout Myanmar and across the world, for the assurance of physical and mental well-being and the presence of auspiciousness.

As Myanmar collectively transitions into the New Year 1386 Myanmar Era while bidding farewell to the outgoing Old Year 1385 ME, it's a moment for all to nurture their souls, free from greed, anger, and ignorance, dedicating themselves to the cultivation of a peaceful and prosperous society, breaking free from the cycle of negativity.

At this significant juncture, individuals are called upon to uphold and spread compassion to every corner of the universe.

May the entire world be imbued with the seven virtues such as generosity, adherence to precepts, knowledge, virtuous practices, wisdom, a sense of shame, and fear of wrongdoing, essential for the sustenance of the universe. Without these virtues, the universe faces decay and eventual disappearance.

Therefore, individuals must pledge to engage in acts of kindness and meritorious deeds while abstaining from misconduct and evil actions. They must cultivate tolerance towards one another, letting go of grudges, thus enabling the enjoyment of various forms of peace and prosperity through virtuous conduct.

Let animosity, hatred, and hostility towards others be discarded in favour of fostering enduring peace. Each individual holds the responsibility to extinguish the sparks of hatred and conflict. All clashes must cease, and all animosity should be eradicated. It is incumbent upon all Myanmar citizens to foster

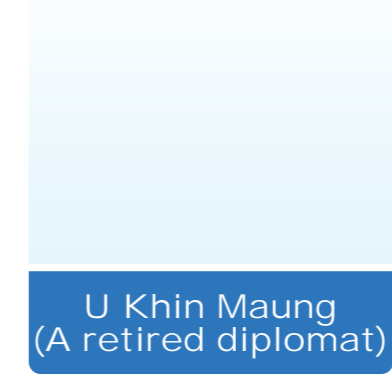
genuine peace and stability across the nation, considering the plight of those enduring physical and mental suffering, displaced by conflicts, disasters, and pandemics.

Henceforth, all must pledge to extend a helping hand to one another, collectively overcoming daily challenges and profound tribulations. It's crucial not to turn a blind eye to the hardships faced by internally displaced persons and citizens residing in all parts of the nation.

From then onward, everybody needs to adopt a pledge to lend a helping hand to each other to be able to overcome daily challenges and bitter sufferings. They all have to consider that only when all persons and organizations can cease their greediness, anger and ignorance will all citizens people have a chance to enjoy the fruits of peace and stability and have guarantees for their lives and property. May all be happy and pleasant.

- 1. Grandson : Oh, Grandpa, what are you doing?
- Grandpa : My dear, I'm reading a book.
- Grandson : Really? Grandpa, you're too old to learn. I think, in fact, you're in your twilight years. Why and what are you learning for? Please don't bother yourself, that much.
- Grandpa : Well, my kid, I believe, learning is a never-ending process. It is a life-long process. We live to learn and learn to live, so said, the scholars.
- Grandson : Interesting. Please explain what you mean, Grandpa.
- 2. Grandpa : Thanks for your interest, Sonny. Through their research, great scientists now claim that the "brain is just like a muscle; you use it or you lose it; if you wish to keep your brain sharp, active and alert, go brain-jogging". Furthermore, those scientists also, claim that if you don't want to suffer from dementia senility, or Perkinosis disease, when getting old, you must go brain-jogging, is a must.
- Grandson : Wonderful. Tell me please, Grandpa, what do you mean by brain-jogging?
- Grandpa : Brain-jogging means you read, read and read, Sonny. To explain it to you furthermore, I think, I can't do any better than to brief you on what I have learnt from the famous scholars' writings and great scientists' research. An American writer, Mr. Norman Lewis explained in his book entitled "Word Power Made Easy" as follows: "All normal human beings are born with a powerful urge to learn. But, almost all of them lose this urge, even before they have reached

To stay brainy, go brain-jogging



(A dialogue between a grandson and a grandpa)

maturity. The adults who lose this urge, who no longer feel that "lack of learning becomes a nuisance, stop learning, and once they stop learning, they stop growing intellectually and they stop changing. But, when and if such a time comes, the author said, "This is perhaps the most insidious of human tragedies". But, he added that "fortunately the process is far from irreversible. If you have lost the powerful urge to learn, "you can regain it. And it can recapture the powerful urge to learn with which you were born.

- 3. Grandson : Oh, amazing, Grandpa. Please go on.
- Grandpa : Sonny, after all, "no educative process is ever the end, it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living. "So, in this "knowledge age", we must be happy and feel honoured to belong to a constantly learning society.
- Grandson : How can I thank you enough, my dear grandpa? Please teach me more.
- Grandpa : My pleasure? You are a university graduate.

- Grandson : It means, I think, you now know how to learn. I'm just sharing my knowledge and experience with you, if I may say. You can't be "taught" how to speak and write better English, or your own mother tongue better. You have to learn it.
- Grandpa : Thanks a lot, Grandpa.
- Grandson : Now, you are a university graduate, an educated gentleman and an officer. Well, Sonny, your parents have made the best, cost-effective, mutually beneficial investment in you. And mutually beneficial, I mean, to your own parents, and to the society you belong, simply "an investment in knowledge pays the best interest". After all, education aims to make a man more useful, more useful to himself, and more useful to others. Therefore, my dear, let's learn and grow as the days go by. Herein, grow, I mean, intellectually, last, but not least, I would like to advise you, simply, sincerely and yet strongly to upgrade and update yourself to constant learning. Your life, live it well, my dear Sonny.
- Grandson : Oh, Grandpa, do you mean to say "to stay brainy, go brain-jogging"?
- Grandpa : Of course, yes.

References:

- (1) Word Power Made Easy – Norman Lewis
- (2) A book of essential quotations – edited by Eric Partridge.
- (3) Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary.
- (4) Reader's Digest – October 2015.

Exploring value of data to boost sustainable development

The country's digital economy exhibits five distinct characteristics as it strives to accelerate the development of a digital economy centred around data.



A staff member checks equipment at a high performance computing company in Horinger, Hohhot City, north China's Inner Mongolia, 28 November 2023. PHOTO: LI ZHIPENG/XINHUA

CHINA is exploring the value of data as a factor of production to boost sustainable development, at a time when the emerging digital economy is creating new growth momentum through forging new production supply and consumer demand.

China's digital economy has shown five characteristics as the country works to accelerate the construction of a digital economy with data as the key element.

First, digital infrastructure has improved. China had built 3.38 million 5G base stations by the end of 2023, up 46.1 per cent year on year. Its scale of computing power had exceeded 230 EFLOPS, while the country reported 1.09 billion netizens at the end of 2023, elevating the internet penetration rate to 77.5 per cent.

Digital and intelligent applications

Second, data as a factor of production is becoming robust.

Digital and intelligent applications, involving smart cities and industrial internet, have been empowered by improving data production, storage and development capacity. Taking artificial intelligence as an example, China has developed more than 100 large-scale AI models with over one billion parameters each.

Third, integrating the traditional economic system with information and communications technology is instrumental in boosting productivity and competitiveness. Along with the growth of intelligent manufacturing and industrial internet, China had more than 340 leading industrial internet platforms connecting 96 million items of industrial equipment at the end of 2023.

Regarding intelligent manufacturing, China had incubated 421 national-level demonstration factories and over 10,000 provincial-level digital workshops and smart factories.

Industrial equipment upgrades

The government, in the latest move, unveiled an action plan to promote industrial equipment upgrades to boost industrial equipment investment by more than 25 per cent for the period 2023-2027. By 2027, the penetration rate of digital R&D and design tools in major enterprises will exceed 90 per cent, and over 75 per cent of their key production processes will be numerically controlled.

Fourth, new forms of business in the service sector have grown more active. In 2023, China's online retail sales hit 15.42 trillion yuan (2.17 trillion US dollars), up 11 per cent year on year. The mobile payment penetration rate stood at 86 per cent — ranking first in the world. Fifth, public service applications are more inclusive. The rural internet penetration rate had climbed to 66.5 per cent by the end of 2023.

SOURCE: Xinhua

New Year Wish



By Chit Ko Pe

A new year is cordially ushered replacing the old year.

A wish is made for the wellbeing to be contented in full swing.

The beloved one pops up in a memory log, making last year's wish in the phone talk.

နှစ်သစ်ဆုမွန်

နှစ်ဟောင်းကြော့ နှစ်သစ်ဆန်းတော့
လက်ကမ်းကြိုပျူငှာ
မင်္ဂလာပါ။
ကိုယ်စိတ်ချမ်းမြေ့သာ
ပြည့်ဝစေ ဆန္ဒ။
နှစ်ဆန်းချိန် မနှစ်တုန်းက
ဖုန်းထဲမှာ ဆုမွန်ပို့သူ
တို့ သတိရ။ ။

ချစ်ကိုဖေ

NATIONAL



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn hosts an honorary dinner for Korean artistes and K-pop stars at Nay Pyi Taw Myat Tawwun Hotel yesterday.

Union Information Minister joins Myanmar Thingyan Water Festival

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who is also Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan, participated in the Thingyan Festival together with deputy ministers, officials and people along the Nay Pyi Taw City Mayor Pavilion and Sipin Guesthouse Street in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union minister and party first enjoyed entertainment programmes of famous Myanmar artistes and singers and Korean actors, actresses, K-pop singers to the accompaniment of DJ, and bands at various wa-

ter festival pavilions. They also viewed round food donations during the festival.

The Union minister presented gifts to the K-pop stars and officials from Bomstar Company, who programmed entertainment at the central pavilion of Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan activity.

The Union minister also hosted an honorary dinner to Korean artistes and K-pop stars at Nay Pyi Taw Myat Tawwun Hotel. The Union minister, his wife, Korean artistes, and K-pop stars exchanged gifts after the dinner. — MNA/KZL

Kachin State chief minister participates in Thingyan festival in Myitkyina



People celebrate the Thingyan festival at the central pavilion in Myitkyina, Kachin State, yesterday. **PHOTO: STATE IPRD**

THE Kachin State government celebrated the Thingyan festival, welcoming the new year of 1386 ME, and the central pavilion and pandals in Myitkyina were crowded with Thingyan lovers yesterday.

Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, his wife, relevant officials and their wives inspected the walking Thingyan at the central pavilion and watched the lively dance and singing performances.

The chief minister and party then enjoyed the performance at five pandals of departments concerned, along with local business people on

Samar Road, together with the visitors.

Similarly, they watched the dance performance at Maha Thingyan central pavilion and awarded the dancers.

Moreover, the departments concerned gave away charity foods twice a day daily along the walking Thingyan areas, and the roads were crowded with visitors, vehicles and tricycles.

The chief minister and party also watched the competitions of dance groups of ministries concerned at the central pavilion on 16 April evening and gave cash prizes to the dance troupes. — IPRD/KTZH

Closing ceremony held for Yangon Maha Thingyan, People's Park Walking Thingyan

THE 1385 ME Myanmar Maha Thingyan Festival was celebrated in Yangon from 13 to 16 April with Thingyan enthusiasts.

The final day of the Maha Thingyan festival was bustling with celebrations as Thingyan lovers gathered. Cultural dances and melodious music were performed by various groups, including dance groups, ethnic cultural dance troupes, the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, the Myanmar Music Association, and the Myanmar Theatrical

Association.

The closing ceremony of the Yangon Maha Thingyan Pavilion, the People Park's Walking Thingyan Festival, and the Royal Apex Pavilion took place at 5 pm.

Yangon Chief Minister U Soe Thein and his wife, Yangon Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and his wife, Yangon Region cabinet ministers and their wives, Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay and officials, as well as artistes, and invitees attended the ceremony.

Following this, the Chief Minister delivered the New Year message of greetings and announced the closing of the Yangon Maha Thingyan Pavilion. Singer Ye Htike performed the song "Man Taung Yeik Kho".

Later, the attendees, including the Yangon Region chief minister, presented the first, second, and third prizes to the ethnic dance troupes and choral dance troupes Nay Pyi Taw Thinhyan activities also concluded in the evening.

— Ko Ko Zaw/MKKS



The closing ceremony of the Yangon Maha Thingyan Festival in progress at the Yangon Maha Thingyan Pavilion in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO- ZAW MIN LATT/YE HTUT**

NATIONAL



Visitors seen recreating at the Mann Creek near Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda during Thingyan holidays. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG (MINBU)

Pilgrimage crowds flock to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda for Thingyan holidays

THE board of trustees of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda reported that there was an overcrowding of pilgrims at the pagoda, situated in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, during the Thingyan holidays, and all the guesthouses were fully occupied.

U Win Htay, the chair of the pagoda's board of trustees, highlighted that the

Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda is one of the most renowned pagodas in the country. The Mann Shwesettaw festival, spanning 64 days, attracted numerous pilgrims from across the country. Visitors offered golden foils and alms, and they relaxed at Mann creek. All the monasteries and guesthouses were filled with visitors.

As usual, the closing ceremony of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda festival will be held on the first day of the Myanmar New Year. According to the travel records of Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda, there were a total of 398,689 visitors and 77,430 overnight guests from the first day of the festival to 15 April. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/TRKM

Mandalay Thingyan Festival attracts massive crowds on closing day

THE Thingyan pavilions and pandals, walking Thingyan sites and famous recreational sites near Mandalay moat were packed with visitors on the last day of the Thingyan festival, Atet Day.

The people who played water at Mandalay City Maha Thingyan pavilion and pandals around the moat watched the entertainment of artistes and singers and the dance performance of the dance troupes from the ministries.

The Mingala Mandalay Walking Thingyan and another walking Thingyan site in the southern part of the moat showcased traditional dressing styles

from four different eras, featuring entertainment zones, performances, dances, a DJ section, free food donations and pandals.

The northern and western parts of the moat were also thronged by Thingyan vehicles, motorcycles, and visitors.

Mandalay Myoma Band and Zaygyothu water pandal near Mandalay Zaygyo Clock Tower entertained the people with classical and modern Thingyan songs.

Similarly, townships, wards and areas along Strand Road were filled with locals who played water and enjoyed free food. — Maung Aye Chan/KTZH



Revellers of Mandalay participate in the Mingala Mandalay Walking Thingyan on the last day of Thingyan Festival yesterday.

Minbu holds Maha Thingyan Festival

PEOPLE in Minbu, Magway Region, held the Maha Thingyan (Myanmar New Year and Water Festival 1385 ME), and they participated in the water party held at the central pavilion on the final day of the festival yesterday.

Seven troupes performed dances, and five troupes took part in the dance contest, plus bands which entertained Thingyan songs and dances in front of the U Awbasa Hall.

People also joined the Minbu Thingyan festival. The closing ceremony and awarding ceremony for the Thingyan dance troupes were held in the evening. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KZL

People in Minbu, Magway Region, enjoy with the entertainment of local artistes during the Thingyan Festival in Minbu Township.



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

Japan prepared to take necessary steps on forex moves: finance chief

JAPAN is prepared to take all necessary steps to counter excessive volatility in the currency market, Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki said Tuesday, the latest in a series of verbal warnings as the yen continued to tumble, dropping past 154 against the US dollar to a 34-year low.

Suzuki said the government is keeping close tabs on developments in the currency market but declined to say whether the yen's recent fall was rapid and volatile, an assessment that could



Financial monitors at a currency trading company in Tokyo show the dollar rising to a new 34-year high above 154 yen. PHOTO: KYODO

trigger another market intervention to slow its decline.

Japanese authorities have repeatedly warned that they would act if needed, keeping financial markets on edge over the possibility of another

yen-buying, dollar-selling intervention.

The yen has already weakened past the level at which Japan previously intervened in October 2022, when it inched near the 152 level.

Still, Suzuki did not ratchet up his warnings on Tuesday and stuck to the same language in describing Japanese authorities' concern. He did not use expressions like "decisive" action that would signal that a market intervention is imminent.

"We are closely watching market developments

and we are prepared to take all necessary steps if needed," Suzuki said at a press conference.

"With respect to whether the recent moves are excessive or rapid, I don't think it's appropriate to state our view because this is linked to our position to take all necessary steps."

The dollar has strengthened as the US Federal Reserve is no longer expected to start cutting interest rates as soon as June, following stronger-than-expected economic data. — Kyodo

Milan design fair opens with sustainability and David Lynch

ONE of the world's leading design events, the Salone del Mobile, opened in Milan on Tuesday, marked by sustainability, craftsmanship and two "thinking rooms" from David Lynch.

Immersive experiences, new editions of iconic furniture and pop colours from the 1970s are also set to define this year's fair, featuring around 1,950 exhibitors — including a third from outside Italy.

Sustainability, the environment and social responsibility are again a



People stand next to a sign promoting the Salone del Mobile (furniture fair) on the eve of the Milan Design Week, on 15 April 2024 in Milan. PHOTO: Gabriel Bouys / AFP

big theme, Maria Porro, head of the Salone, told

AFP. Shapes are "inspired

by the organic world", colours are dominated by natural shades from dark brown to sage green and cobalt blue, she said.

Leading materials include "natural fibres and recycled ones, materials that meet high standards of sustainability as well as design and functionality".

But Porro said the bright colours of the 1970s would also return, as part of a wider retro spirit as Italian brands bring furniture from that period up to date. — AFP

Microsoft to invest \$1.5 bln in AI firm in UAE, take board seat

MICROSOFT is to invest \$1.5 billion in United Arab Emirates artificial intelligence firm G42, taking a minority stake and a seat on the board, the companies said on Tuesday.

The deal, in which G42 will run its applications and services on Microsoft's Azure platform, comes days

after the US giant said it would plough \$2.9 billion into Japanese AI.

Microsoft has become a major player in the advancement of AI through its partnership with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI — propelling it past Apple as the world's biggest company by market capitalization. — AFP

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V S.T MARY VOY.NO. (0UVUDE1NC)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V S.T MARY VOY.NO. (0UVUDE1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-4-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (222N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (222N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-4-2024 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (815N/S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (815N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-4-2024 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES</p>
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China, Germany aim for steady progress in economic cooperation

In January, German company Beumer Group settled in Taicang, Jiangsu Province, marking the arrival of the 500th German enterprise in this eastern Chinese city.

At the inauguration ceremony held in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Beumer CEO Rudolf Hausladen said the company has conducted very positive dialogues with Taicang and the local government is always responsive to their needs and supportive. "We are full of expectations for our development in the Chinese market, which possesses many growth opportunities," said Hausladen.

The strip and wire provider Kern-Liebers, one of the first German



A China-Europe freight train which departed from Duisburg of Germany arrives at Xi'an International Port in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, 10 July 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

businesses settled in Taicang, recalled its entry in 1993 with an investment of 500,000 German marks, only six employees, and a

400-square-metre factory house. Now it possesses 70,000 square metres of factories with an annual output value of 1.5 billion

yuan (about 207.3 million US dollars), accounting for the largest proportion of its global footprint. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (2414E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (2414E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-4-2024** 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
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SEOUL GLOW VOY.NO. (413W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SEOUL GLOW VOY.NO. (413W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV72E1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV72E1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0319-768N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0319-768N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-4-2024** 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
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE.LTD.

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

Open Tender Invitation for FV.BEST HARVEST-11 (EX: FV.CHOTPATTHANA-51)/ FV.BEST HARVEST-22 (EX:FV.CHOTPATTHANA-55) and FV.HAO HAI (EX: FV.MAR DORA DO-8)

- FV.BEST HARVEST-11 (EX: FV.CHOTPATTHANA-51) Registered in Cameroon, FV.BEST HARVEST-22 (EX:FV.CHOTPATTHANA-55) Registered in Cameroon and FV.HAO HAI (EX: FV.MAR DORA DO-8) Registered in Mongolia and at the present controlled by the Myanmar Port Authority due to the Port Act 1908, will be auctioned through and open tender system.
- FV.BEST HARVEST-11 (EX: FV.CHOTPATTHANA-51) are as follows

(a) IMO NO.	- 8609746
(b) LOA	- 42 M
(c) BREADTH	- 8.5 M
(d) Max Draft	- 2.1 M
(e) Type of Vessel	- Iron
(f) Gross Tonnage	- 378 GT
(g) Net Tonnage	- 257 GT
- FV.BEST HARVEST-22 (EX:FV.CHOTPATTHANA-55) are as follows:

(a) IMO NO.	- 8690980
(b) LOA	- 40 M
(c) BREADTH	- 8.0 M
(d) Max Draft	- 2.0 M
(e) Type of Vessel	- Iron
(f) Gross Tonnage	- 302 GT
(g) Net Tonnage	- 205 GT
- FV.HAO HAI (EX: FV.MAR DORA DO-8) are as follows:

(a) IMO NO.	- Nil
(b) LOA	- 40 M
(c) BREADTH	- 10.0 M
(d) Max Draft	- 2.0 M
(e) Type of Vessel	- Wood
(f) Gross Tonnage	- 384 GT
(g) Net Tonnage	- 261.16 GT

5. The tender process will be taken place in accord with 23/24 of Directive No. (1/2017)/(1/2022).

6. The companies (both local and international) those are interested in are invited to inter this tender. The vessel can be checked at Myeik Port.

7. The tender application forms can be purchased and submitted in accordance with the following date, time, place; (Remark: International companies need to submit an endorsement by the Myanmar embassy in the respective country.)

- Address (to purchase): Store Department, Botataung Township
- Date & Time (to purchase): 22-4-2024 to 14-5-2024 (formal day & time)
- Address (to submit): Myanmar Port Authority (Tender Room)
- Date & Time (to submit): 16-5-2024 (13:00) Hrs
- Date & Time (Tender opening): 16-5-2024 (13:00) Hrs

8. Since the vessel will be auctioned in account with the Port Act 1908, the Myanmar Port Authority has right to cancel either partially or as a whole of this tender at any time, if it is needed to do so for some applicable reasons.

9. For detailed information, please contact the following contact points:

- Marine Department - 01 2301918 / 01 2301929
- Store Department - 01 8610230

Myanmar Port Authority
Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

TEPCO begins loading nuclear fuel into idle Japan reactor

TOKYO Electric Power Company Holdings Inc started loading nuclear fuel into a reactor on Monday at an idle plant northwest of Tokyo as part of preparations to potentially restart the facility.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority granted approval earlier in the day for the loading of the No 7 reactor at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in Niigata Prefecture. However, the timing of the restart remains uncertain.

TEPCO has yet to restart any of its nuclear reactors that were halted after a massive earthquake and tsunami in March 2011 triggered the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster.

It is expected to take about two weeks of round-the-clock work to complete the loading of 872 fuel assemblies into the reactor pressure vessel.

TEPCO will confirm the safety by testing the function of control rods and emergency core



File photo taken from a Kyodo News airplane in April 2021 shows the Unit 6 (R) and 7 reactors at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Station in Niigata Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

cooling systems, among other things, for about a month after the loading.

It will increase the number of night shift workers from eight to 51 and prepare portable radia-

tion monitoring posts in addition to fixed ones.

Niigata Gov Hideyo Hana-

zumi has yet to announce whether he will agree to restart the reactor, and it is rare for a nuclear plant operator to start refuelling one without local consent. The governor has been calling for extensive discussions on measures to ensure people's safety in the event of a nuclear accident.

Around 60 people gathered to hand a letter of protest to a TEPCO official and staged a demonstration in front of JR Niigata Station against loading nuclear fuel.

"I am not convinced at all because there are people who are still suffering from (the consequences of) the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident," said Ayako Oga, a 51-year-old farmer from Agano, Niigata Prefecture. She had to evacuate from the town of Okuma in Fukushima Prefecture after the 2011 disaster. Okuma is one of the two municipalities hosting the Fukushima Daiichi plant. — Kyodo

'Scranton Joe' visits hometown as Trump languishes in court

US President Joe Biden will draw a stark contrast with Donald Trump on Tuesday when he visits his birthplace in Scranton, Pennsylvania — while his election rival is stuck in a New York courtroom.

The 81-year-old has long traded on his blue-collar image as "Scranton Joe" to reach out to middle- and working-class voters, but his rally in a key battleground state in November's election is even more symbolic.

Biden will be relishing the split screen as he tours America's industrial heartland while

his Republican real estate tycoon rival is kept off the campaign trail, making unwanted history as the first ex-president ever to face a criminal trial.

The Democrat has refused to comment on Trump's legal woes — shaking his head at the White House on Monday when asked if he was following the trial — but the messaging of the trip will speak for itself.

Biden often references the former coal-mining boomtown where he was born in 1942 to hardscrabble circumstances, which he frequently recalls in

folksy stories about his family designed to appeal to voters struggling with the cost of living.

But this time he will also be giving a speech about how billionaires need to pay more in taxes.

"The address will drive home a simple question: Do you think the tax code should work for rich people or for the middle class?" Biden's campaign said in a statement.

"The president has made it clear what he thinks the answer is, and so has Donald Trump." — AFP

Lightning, downpours kill 41 people across Pakistan

AT least 41 people have died in storm-related incidents across Pakistan since Friday, including 28 killed by lightning, officials said on Monday.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has warned of landslides and flash floods because more rain is expected in coming days.

Punjab, Pakistan's largest and most populous province, witnessed the highest death toll, with 21 people killed by lightning between Friday and Sun-

day. "I have asked the NDMA to coordinate with the provinces... and for the NDMA to provide relief goods to areas where damages occurred," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Monday.

People living in open, rural areas are more at risk of being struck by lightning during thunderstorms.

At least eight people were killed in Balochistan province, including seven struck by lightning, where 25 districts were battered by rain and some areas were flooded. — AFP

Death toll in Indonesia's South Sulawesi landslides rises to 20

SEARCH and rescue team has found two more bodies in landslides in Tana Toraja in South Sulawesi, bringing the death toll to 20, the National Disaster Management Agency said on Tuesday.

High-intensity rain trig-

gered landslides on unstable ground in Lembang Randan Batu and Manggau villages on Saturday night at 10:30 pm local time, injuring some people and burying four houses. Search and rescue operations were carried out amidst fog and rain, and

landslides blocked roads.

All the missing people have been found with the recent finding of the two deceased. The search operation was then called off, but the team remained on the lookout for any reports from locals. — Xinhua



Residents gather beside a collapsed bridge due to flood waters following heavy rains in Pishin district on 15 April 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Myanmar to face Viet Nam today in Futsal Asian Cup group match



Myanmar national futsal players seen posing for a group photo. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR will play an opener against Viet Nam in the final group stage matches of the Futsal Asian Cup 2024 today.

Myanmar consists of the same group as host Thailand, China, and Viet Nam in Group A. The Team Myanmar vs Viet Nam match will begin at 1:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

The final stage will be divided into four groups, and the group matches will be held from 17 to 22 April and the top

two teams from each group will advance to the next stage. The Myanmar team has been preparing for this competition since the beginning of this year and has been taking training from January to March. In the first round of training, the Myanmar team went to Indonesia and played three friendly matches against Indonesian clubs. In the second round of training, they played two games against the Afghanistan team and played friend-

ly matches against the Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan teams.

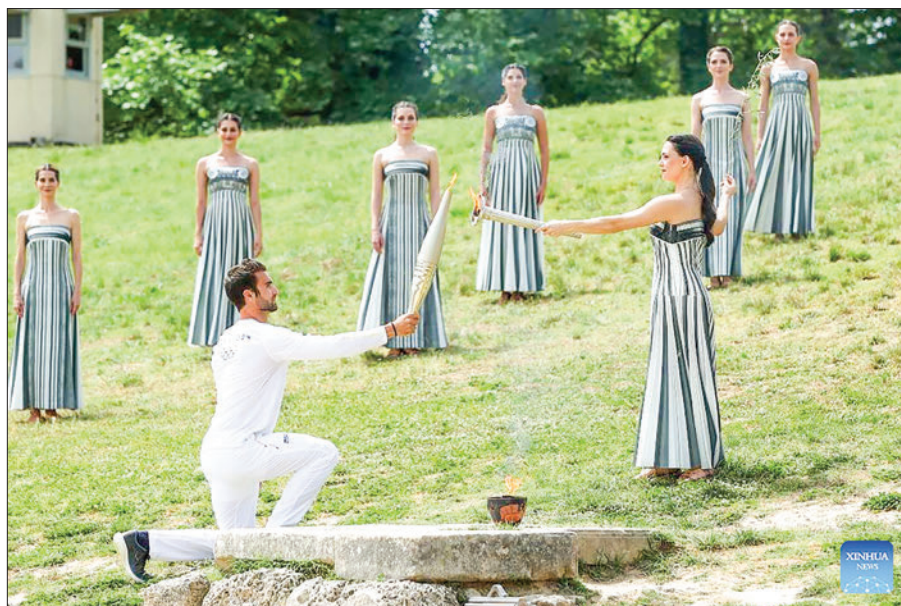
The Myanmar team lost six goals to one in the first friendly match against Afghanistan but won the second match by four goals to two goals. In addition, in the friendly game played in Thailand, they won the Kuwait team by four goals to two goals but lost to the Kyrgyzstan team by three goals to one goal. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Olympic flame for Paris 2024 Summer Games lit in Ancient Olympia

THE Olympic flame that will be burning for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games started its journey after being ignited at the birthplace of the Games in Ancient Olympia, Greece on Tuesday during a traditional ceremony.

Actress Mary Mina, in the role of an ancient Greek High Priestess, lit the torch using a backup flame instead of a concave mirror due to cloudy skies before the 2,500-year-old Temple of Hera, a goddess in ancient Greek mythology.

Escorted by dozens of female and male dancers playing the roles of priestesses and male youth in pleated costumes, the flame was transported in a replica of an ancient urn to the stadium where the Olympic Games were born, under the rhythm of an ancient Greek type Lyra and percussions. — Xinhua



Greek actress Mary Mina (front R), in the role of the High Priestess, passes the flame to the first torch bearer, Greek rowing Olympic champion Stefanos Ntouskos (front L) during the Olympic flame lighting ceremony for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Ancient Olympia, Greece, on 16 April 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



Manchester United's Argentinian midfielder (17) Alejandro Garnacho (L) greets a fan as he arrives for the English Premier League football match between Bournemouth and Manchester United at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth, southern England on 13 April 2024. **PHOTO: ADRIAN DENNIS / AFP**

Man Utd speak to Garnacho over social media activity

MANCHESTER United have spoken to Alejandro Garnacho after the winger liked social media posts criticizing manager Erik ten Hag over his handling of the player.

The Argentina international, taken off at half-time in their 2-2 draw at Bournemouth on Saturday, liked two messages on X, by United fan and YouTuber Mark Goldbridge.

One post accused Ten Hag of "throwing (Garnacho) under the bus" because of comments the United boss made about the 19-year-old's performance.

The other said Garnacho "had a poor first half but taking him off at half time and holding him up as the problem is a joke".

Garnacho swiftly "unliked" both messages, an action the club believes shows contrition, and a United source told the PA news agency the matter had been dealt with internally.

The teenager has become a key player for United this season, scoring nine goals and providing four assists in 42 games.

The incident follows one in September when Jadon Sancho said on X that he had been made a "scapegoat" after being left out of the squad for the Arsenal match, with Ten Hag saying he had trained poorly.

Sancho said he would "not allow people saying things that (are) completely untrue", interpreted as accusing Ten Hag of misrepresenting reasons why he was not in the side.

The 24-year-old was banished from the first team before being loaned to Borussia Dortmund in January.

Ten Hag's position has come under renewed pressure after the draw against Bournemouth, which left United seventh in the Premier League table, 13 points off the top four. — AFP



Motorists drive their vehicles past a billboard depicting named Iranian ballistic missiles in service, with text in Arabic reading "the honest (person's) promise" and in Persian "Israel is weaker than a spider's web", in Valiasr Square in central Tehran on 15 April 2024. PHOTO: Atta Kenare / AFP

Hamas rejects all clauses of Gaza ceasefire agreement

PALESTINIAN movement Hamas has rejected all clauses of the latest hostage deal proposal, increasing the number of Palestinian prisoners, who have to be released by Israel as part of the agreement, Israeli newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing a senior Israeli official.

In addition, Hamas is ready to release only about 20 hostages – women and men over 50 – as part of the first stage of the agreement, the report said. The movement also demands that Israel agree to a six-week ceasefire before Hamas releases these hostages, the newspaper reported.

On 7 October 2023, Hamas launched a large-scale rocket attack against Israel and breached the border, attacking both civilian neighbourhoods and military bases. Nearly 1,200 people in Israel were killed and some 240 others abducted during the attack. Israel launched retaliatory strikes, ordered a complete blockade of Gaza, and started a ground incursion into the Palestinian enclave with the declared goal of eliminating Hamas fighters and rescuing the hostages. Over 33,700 people have been killed so far by Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip, according to local authorities. — Sputnik

Middle East on edge after Israel vows 'response' to Iran strikes

ISRAEL and Iran traded threats after Tehran's first ever direct attack on its arch foe sharply heightened Middle East tensions and as the Gaza war ground on with no truce in sight.

Israel's military chief Lieutenant-General Herzl Halevi on Monday vowed "a response" after Iran and its allies launched a barrage of over 300 missiles, drones and rockets at Israel at the weekend.

Iran said its large-scale attack was

an act of self-defence following a deadly Israeli air strike on its consulate in Syria, and that it would consider the matter "concluded" unless Israel retaliated.

However, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi also warned that "the slightest action against Iran's interests will definitely be met with a severe, extensive and painful response".

US President Joe Biden stressed on Monday that "the United States is committed to Israel's security" but also

that he wants to prevent the conflict from spreading.

Washington, Israel's top ally and arms supplier, has made clear it will not join Israel in any attack on their common adversary Iran, a senior US official said.

World leaders have urged restraint since Iran's attack on Israel, which has sparked a flurry of crisis diplomacy and sent up oil prices while depressing stock markets. — AFP

Potential dangers of major nuclear accident at Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant remain real – IAEA

EVEN though the six reactors at the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) are in a cold shutdown, the threat of a major disaster at the facility remains real, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi said on Monday.

"Even though the plant's six reactors are now in cold shutdown, with the final unit shifting into that status two days ago following the IAEA's recommendation, the potential dangers of a major nuclear accident are very real," Grossi told the UN Security Council.

The situation is "dangerously close to a nuclear accident", Grossi warned.

Attacks around the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) have to stop immediately as nuclear safety is already compromised, the IAEA director stressed. — Sputnik



A photo shows a view of the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant on 14 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP