THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets family members of Heads of State who served State duties in successive eras and family members of senior military officers who will attend ceremony to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla greeted family members of the Heads of State who served State duties in successive eras and families of senior military officers who will attend the ceremony to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day which take place on 4 January 2023 at the Bayintnaung guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Senior General and his wife were warmly welcomed by family members of the Heads of State who served State duties in successive eras and families of senior military officers.

Then, the Senior General and wife individually greeted family members of the Heads of State who served in State duties in successive eras and families of senior military officers who were Daw Than Than Nu, daughter of U Nu, Daw Lei Lei Yu, daughter of U San Yu, U Thiha Saw, son of Senior General Saw Maung, Dr Khin Sanda Win, daughter of U Ne Win, Daw Nay Yee Ba Swe, daughter of U Ba Swe, Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein, daughter of U Kyaw Nyein, U Zaw Tun, son of Lt-Gen Tun Yi, and Dr Cho Lwin Oo, daughter of U Sein Lwin in a cordial manner, asked about their daily life, individual health conditions and other needs and attended to the needs. — MNA

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing converses with family members of the Heads of State and senior military officers on 31 December 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Office
Statement on Ceasefire and Perpetual Peace

10th Waxing of Pyatho 1384 ME
31 December 2022

1. With the objective of attainment of perpetual peace across the nation, enhancing the peace process and more effectively carrying out the nation's Covid-19 prevention, control and treatment, Tatmadaw has over four years issued a total of 21 ceasefire statements between 21 December 2018 and 31 December 2022, and has stopped the military campaigns except for the time when the security and administration machinery of the government, as well as the national defence and security matters, are disturbed.

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Power bill counters shut on New Year's Day and Independence Day

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Ovadakatha and goodwill wishes for New Year 2023 from Venerable Sayadaws

New Year Ovadakatha of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa

I'D like to give Ovadakatha on 13 great attributes of the Lord Buddha to bear auspiciousness as well as prevent various diseases.

We have to pay homage to the Lord Buddha with various kinds of worship, for His attributes of conquering internal and external dangers, for giving good speeches, for unrivalled miraculous power, for lack of passion, for looking sublime appearance, for unrivalled appearance, for the greatest morality, for discarding passion, for wonderful miraculous power, for the ability to disperse noble pleasure to others, for reliability and for conquering five kinds of proudness based on wrong perceptions.

Those who analyze and review the attributes of the Lord Buddha can easily and successfully do completion of all measures. They can possess miracle power. Most of the people residing in Myanmar can be free from dangers with the least impacts of Covid-19 thanks to the attributes of the Lord Buddha. I firmly believe that if everybody recites the 13 attributes of the Lord Buddha, the whole country will be free from Covid-19. So, I'd like to urge all to recite these attributes as of the New Year to be free from dangers.

Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa
Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru
Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika

Always keep four rules of good social relations in mind

TODAY is significant entering the New Year 2023 after the year 2022 ran out. As of New Year's Day, I wish all the citizens of Myanmar as well as all global peoples to follow the four rules of good social relations such as exchanging offerings, talking about politeness speeches, giving a helping hand to others and associating with other without discrimination to be free from various kinds of dangers and disturbances and enjoy all things they like.

Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa
(Agga Maha Pandita, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja)
Secretary, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee
Minkyaung Pahtamapyan Sarthintaik
Thanlyin, Yangon Region

New Year wish of Aung San Sayadaw (Dr Bhaddanta Saddhamma Kittisara)

I will share and send Metta to all people across the nation and world to achieve better things and to disappear bad things of the old year on the occasion of the new year from 2022 to 2023.

May all the beings have a good dream and sound sleep. May all wake up at dawn as everything is full of grace. May all can destroy the destructive elements, the truth of suffering with the power of Taya. May all know the perfection or completeness and practice step by step.

As the new year Mingala in 2023, may all Myanmar people and people across the world be healthy and protect the religions and obtain the benefits of desire and fruition of the Right Path to Nibbana. May all achieve good mindset, words and manners.

If people do good things according to the teachings of Buddha, good things will come to us. All can live well peacefully by saying good words with Metta (loving kindness), Karuna (compassion) and Mudita (emulation) from the morning to night sessions.

May all citizens achieve good things by keeping physical, mental and verbal actions well. I extend Metta to all citizens that the mind of people be peaceful with Dhana (generosity), Sila (morality) and Bhavana (meditation).

New Year Wish

MAY all Myanmar people as well as all global peoples be peaceful and prosperous with various kinds of pleasure on the occasion of the New Year 2023 after the ending of the old year 2022.

1. May all Myanmar people as well as global peoples be free from evil acts.
2. May all Myanmar people as well as global peoples enjoy meritorious deeds.
3. May all Myanmar people as well as global peoples culture the noble spirit.
4. May all Myanmar people as well as global people enjoy good results under the Dhamma teachings of the unrivalled Lord Buddha.

All living beings need to avoid sinful deeds and embrace good deeds with a noble mindset. They all need to consider doing all things with critical thinking.

Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Nimala (PhD, Buddhism)
Nanda Aungmyay Monastery, North Ngahtetgyi Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region,
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Our historical duty to build a genuine and disciplined democratic State

"It is our historical duty to build a genuine and disciplined democratic State holding pragmatic views on the events experienced in the past and with each of us having understanding and trust."

(Excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the 74th Anniversary of the Shan State Day on 7 February 2021)

Scenic Beauty of Bagan. **PHOTO BY U NAY LINN (IPRD)**

New Year greetings for 2023 of Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing

ON the occasion of New Year 2023 which occurs today, I extend greetings with praying for all ethnic national brethren to enjoy physical and mental well-being free from dangers and suffering.

Our ethnic national brethren have tried our best in overcoming various difficulties and challenges in 2022 with unity, patience, tolerance and generosity. We all have held the ceremony to take pride in marking the Diamond Jubilee Union Day on a grand scale in 2022 through united strength.

Our country would have regained independence for 75 years. During the period, our brethren have not fully enjoyed the essence of independence yet. We made utmost efforts as much as possible to cease the armed conflicts which emerged together with the independence. I myself extended the invitation to all for holding the peace talks. So, we have gained agreements with good potential from the peace talks held together with the ethnic armed organizations. In this regard, it is important for serving the interests of our region as well as our ethnic peoples with actual goodwill and correct compassion. If we solve the armed conflicts, we can give greater opportunities to ethnic nationals and ethnic regions. Hence, we are striving for holding the elections in all parts of the nation without any vacant areas including ethnic regions not to lose the democratic rights of ethnic national brethren. Now, efforts are being made for ensuring the peace of the nation as usual.

The year 2023 turns 75 years, which is the diamond jubilee (75th anniversary) of our country to regain independence. So also, such a year will be an initial step for the whole nation to enjoy the fruitful results of development and peace. As it is a year for ethnic national people to grasp a good chance to create a good historic event in a political turning point of Myanmar, I expect all the ethnic people would have to secure such a chance. We all have to go forward with a greater unity to strengthen the genuine, disciplined democratic system we all aspire to walk along together and to build the Union based on democratic and federal systems. To do so, the State Administration Council welcomes all by opening its doors in all aspects.

We have to review some international issues which happened in the world in 2022. All our national brethren have to take greater care and conscience in 2023. So, we have to overcome these challenges through united strength in accord with the motto: "the strength of the nation lies within".

If we have to leave ideas and undertakings which did not benefit the State and its nationals within the past 75 years and carry out constructive acts beneficial to the State in unison with forging the Myanmar spirit, it is sure that we would reach the "goal" we aspire to. We all have to build a better socioeconomic life for new generation youths by focusing on the interests of the State and the ethnic national people. I'd like to urge all responsible persons in unison to efficiently utilize valuable human resources of new generation youths for the State.

I wish, may all ethnic national brethren be the persons capable of creating various advantages not only for individuals but for the State with physical and mental well-being from today's New Year occasion to forthcoming years with peace of mind.

Thank you all.

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Economy drives improvement of political and defence capacities

A country must have economic, political and defence capacity. The economic driving force will help the improvement of political and defence capacity.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with MSME businesspersons from Mon State on 18 October 2022)

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects full-dressed rehearsal for successful holding of ceremony to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected the full-dressed rehearsal to successfully hold the ceremony to mark the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 at Nay Pyi Taw grand military review square yesterday morning.

The Vice-Senior General inspected marching to the salute by parade battalions and companies, mechanized companies, decorated floats, aeroplanes and helicopters, alphabet demonstration of students, and dancing entertainment of traditional cultural troupes on the agenda and gave necessary instructions.

The Vice-Senior General who is in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Committee on Organizing the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day ceremony was accompanied by members of the State Administration Council, central committee member Union ministers, and the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers who are in the capacity of relevant subcommittee chairpersons, officials, and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The Vice-Senior General coordinated necessary measures with officials. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and dignitaries watch the full-dressed rehearsal in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 December 2022.

New special postage stamp featuring white elephant Rattha Nandaka

TO hail the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, a stamp with white elephant Rattha Nandaka, Myanmar Post under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will issue a new postage stamp worth K200 at 9:30 am on 4 January 2023.

The new series will be sold at the Central Post Office in Nay Pyi Taw, the General Post offices in Yangon and Mandalay and other post offices in each region and state.

To mark a special event, postage stamps purchased at the Central Post Office in Nay Pyi Taw and General Post offices in Yangon and Mandalay on 4 January 2023 will have a date marking. — MNA/KZW

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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.

New Year wishes of State Administration Council members

U Thein Nyunt (SAC member)

All esteemed national brethren, we have already seen the destructive elements of the terrorists (CRPH-NUG-PDF) that committed murders and robberies and their supporters, insurgents in Myanmar.

Behind them are the modern and old imperialist groups who want to encroach on Myanmar's sovereignty and their allies who want to influence supporting political and military assistance.

There is potential pressure on the economic sector which will lead t the collapse of Myanmar's economy in 2023. We should not underestimate their danger. However, the internal and external destructive elements must be destroyed in Myanmar which can maintain its independence for 75 years.

Despite the different challenges today, the Tatmadaw, political groups and the ethnic people are fighting against the enemies under the leadership of the SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

I welcome the New Year 2023 saying the further of Myanmar will be successful for the national unity that stands on the side of justice.

U Khin Maung Swe (SAC member)

All esteemed national brethren, I extend my wishes for your peace. We all expect the country would be peaceful and prosperous during the new year. If we want such hope, we need to go towards the democracy era.

Democracy can be established only by the election and if we want to grab a nation ruled by civilians, ethnic organizations and political parties the public should participate in holding a clean, free and fair election.

The socioeconomic insecurity and instability people face and the external interference emerge as the reason that the country lacks a government elected by the public. However, we can change into a new era just with the power of the public. We cannot do so without the desire of the public. If we want a switch to the public administrative system, there is no other option than the election.

It is time to transfer the public authority without any serious cases in Myanmar. Therefore, if we are asked if democracy could be demanded with guns, the answer is No. It is impossible to solve Myanmar's political issues by the election, some guess. However, after the election, there will be Hluttaw politics and the public can represent at Hluttaw to resolve something following people's desires. May I conclude my new year wish by urging the people to participate in holding the election. Thank you.

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FROM PAGE-1

2. It is one year and 11 months now Tatmadaw has taken over the responsibilities of the State in accord with the Constitution (2008). The State Administration Council, on its part, has formulated the Five-Point Roadmap for strengthening a genuine, discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system and building up a Union based on democracy and federalism, and the peace process is being constantly undertaken to be able to implement the fourth point of the roadmap, "the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) will be abided by as much as possible to ensure attainment of enduring peace across the nation".
3. The State Administration Council, on its part, has already celebrated, together with the entire indigenous races born within the Union on an elaborate scale, the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Union Day, which is historically significant, thereby instilling the Union spirit in the entire indigenous races and revitalizing it for the perpetuity of the Union.
4. The 4th of January 2023 is the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Day and so, this day is historically significant and meaningful. It can be seen that the ethnic national people cannot yet fully enjoy the essential benefits of independence which has been re-attained for 75 whole years because of the internal armed conflicts caused by the differences of opinion. Only when the problem of internal armed conflicts can be resolved, can the benefits of democracy and independence be enjoyed to the full.
5. State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, on his part, delivered a speech on 22 April 2022 concerning peace to the ethnic armed organizations and the people; additionally, he invited the leaders of the ethnic armed organizations to hold honest and frank discussions in order that the peace process can be more effectively implemented in a practical manner. Till today, Tatmadaw has been able to meet two times with the seven groups which have signed the NCA viz DKBA, KNU-KNLA/PC, PNLO, NMSP, ALP, RCSS(SSA) and LDU and the three groups which have not signed the NCA yet viz UWSA, NDAA and SSPP (SSA), bringing the number of discussants to ten *in toto*.
6. During the discussions, matters relating to the pursuit of a genuine multiparty democratic system, the building up of the Union based on democracy and federalism, the demands made by the ethnic armed organizations and things that are essential to respective regions and the country and feasible to implement were discussed frankly for the benefit of the Union with the positive results achieved. The peace process is ongoing to effectuate the path to peace based on the 2008 Constitution and the NCA.
7. It is, therefore, declared that with the objective of continuing to implement the peace process in a practical manner and achieving the perpetual peace that the entire mass of the people aspire for, the military campaigns will remain to be suspended for one more year from 1 January to 31 December 2023 except the time when the national security and the State's administrative machinery are disturbed as well as matters concerning national defence and administration are adversely affected.
8. In ensuring the peace and prosperity of the Union which is the aspiration of the entire mass of the people and in the effectuation of the socioeconomic development as well as in attempting to reach the goal of durable peace, the discussion and negotiation approach shall be employed to conform to the democratic practices. All organizations and individuals involved in the peace process are enjoined to exert concerted efforts to their utmost and in a manner that will benefit the Union to be able to increasingly implement the peace process during the extended ceasefire period.

Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

New Year greetings from interfaith organizations

U Sein Than (Buddhist)
(Chairman of Interfaith Friendship Organization) (Central)

MINGALABA,

Today is world New Year's Day that the year 2022 ends and the beginning of 2023. In other words, it is an occasion of the New Year. First, the Interfaith Friendship Central Organization prays for all people of different faiths in Myanmar to live peacefully with mutual respect for one another's religion, not to encounter natural disasters and also for the peace and prosperity of the country.

Moreover, I also extend my wish for all national brethren to participate in development and peace programmes for the country and may all the people be healthy, be free from the pandemic and possess a peaceful community.

Dr Sai Kyaw Myint (Christian)
(Vice-Chair of Interfaith Friendship Organization) (Central)

SHALOM!

I thank God for the opportunity to extend such prayers. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar hosts 135 different ethnic groups and is a nation where the people can have different religions freely. The Interfaith Friendship Organization is also working hard for ethnic unity, peace and tranquillity in the country.

I also pray for all ethnic people to make efforts to ensure the peace and tranquillity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with a new mindset and unity and be able to build a new human community in the future. May all citizens possess an auspicious New Year.

U Zaw Zaw Naing (Hinduism)
(Vice-Chair of Interfaith Friendship Organization) (Central)

At the end of 2022 and during the new year occasion of 2023, may the country, Myanmar, be peaceful and prosperous for the Metta of Gotama Buddha. May the country be free from internal and external destructive elements and be prosperous due to Lord Ganesh.

In 2023, may the economy of the country continue to grow, and succeed in religion and social affairs. May the Interfaith Friendship Organization (Central) work five times in 2023 than previous. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, not only Myanmar but also the whole world countries face hardships and other difficulties. Myanmar people encountered the difficulties like other countries. I pray for all to possess mental and physical well-being in 2023. Myanmar has a wealth, that I mention frequently, this is Metta (loving-kindness). May all keep Metta for others in the new year and be successful for Metta.

U Aung Zaw Win (Islamist)
(Vice-Chair of Interfaith Friendship Organization) (Central)

MINGALABA,

All Myanmar citizens and all beings across the world be well, happy and peaceful and be free from diseases in the new year 2023, at the end of 2022. May all the people of different religions cooperate for peace and development programmes and may all Myanmar people work for the interests of the country and the religious sector. Let's establish a modern developed nation through cooperation. May all Myanmar citizens and all beings across the world be free from the pandemic and possess a peaceful and prosperous community.

The GNLM collects the following New Year wishes from people

OLD year shook off,
A new year starts,
SIGN of success,
LIKE flowers sprinkled with water
MARCH together

U Win Nwe (Pathein)
(Editor-in-Chief, writer)
Insein Township

During the transition from 2022 to 2023, may all the people from the world and Myanmar people free from the dangers and be healthy, and peaceful and possess their intentions.

U Aung Kyaw Oo
(Journalist- Shu Htauk (Criminal) Journal)

Starting in 2023, I pray for the health and happiness of people across the world and Myanmar people and may all be free from various dangers, the pandemic and difficulties and meet with sympathetic persons.

Saya U Myint Thein (Dala)
(Chief Reporter)
Mingala Taungnyunt Township

May all human beings be free from dangers starting the new year. May all overcome the hardships in the health, social and economic sectors of the old year and be prosperous in the new year. May the whole country be peaceful and prosperous.

Ko Min Min
(Pharmaceutical industry)
Pantanaw Township

Artistes' New Year Wishes for 2023

U Kyi Soe Tun
(Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization)

As the year's old images are coming to an end, it shows the principle that things are impermanent.

Based on a love for each other, mutual support and participation in the country's development, each unit is proud to fulfil its responsibilities.

As the old year comes to an end, let all the people be happy in the new year 2023. May the people of the film world have peace of mind!

U Yan Aung (Film Actor)

May all Myanmar citizens possess a fresh mind and body in the New Year 2023. May the New Year be greeted with happiness, health and prosperity. In 2023, May everything is successful in society and business. May everything be prosperous and free from diseases and epidemics. We, the people of the movie world, may everything go well. May all the fans who are always supporting us be healthy and prosperous and free from poverty. May all jobs be successful and grow.

Daw Pale (Film Actress)

WISHING the people of Myanmar, film lovers, and all over the world possess a happy and peaceful New Year. Since the people gave birth to movies, music, and dance, I send my best wishes to the people and the film industry for peace.

I respect and appreciate all the people of the country who love art and wish them happiness and health. I would like to request fans love and support all our artists.

U Aung Lwin
(Film Director/Actor)

AUSPICIOUSNESS to everyone. We are Buddhist Myanmar people. The main focus of our religion is love and compassion. They love others and rejoice when others succeed because there is the discipline in religion based on this foundation.

On that basis, may all citizens of Myanmar can have full food, and peace of mind. I pray that all of you can live in peace and become happy and fulfilled citizens in the new year.

We have always loved the people of the film world. Succeeding and progressing more than us in the art industry, I am always praying for them to be good disciples.

Our teachers usually reward us like that. I wish that movie theatres will be crowded and film art will flow back into the hearts of movie lovers.

Daw Nwet Nwet Sann
(Film Actress)

MAY the people of the world and all the people of Myanmar fulfil their own needs and desires! I am sending my prayers for the peace and prosperity of Myanmar.

From the auspicious time of the New Year of 2023, I wish all the people in the film industry possess good health, long life, business growth and good fortune.

Daw Daisy Kyaw Win
(Film Actress)

DEAR FANS, in the new year, may you be healthy and happy with a fresh mind and body. To all movie lovers and brothers and sisters in the movie world, may the New Year be filled with the peace of mind and joyfulness. I especially wish them good health.

The GNLM collects the following New Year wishes from people

The year 2022 which struggled with many difficulties ends. As it is in a transition to a peaceful one, we all leave the difficulties in the old year. May all regain job opportunities in 2023.
I also pray for a better local tourism industry and for the country to host international tourists more and more. May all of you be peaceful, healthy and free from the dangers and pandemic.

Ma Khin Myo Nwe (Accountant - travel agency) Shwepyitha Township

In the new year of 2023, we earnestly hope and pray that a fair market situation will emerge between producers, consumers and commodity traders. I pray again that a situation where people live long and healthy will emerge as soon as possible.

U Khin San (Freight operator)
Bayintnaung Commodity Warehouse

I want to say that we should leave all the difficulties we have faced throughout the old year 2022. Since early 2023, people all over Myanmar be safe. With new thoughts and new views of the economic and social life of Myanmar, may we all work together in peace processes. We need to do our best to make it different from last year.
May the people of Myanmar be healthy and happy in the new year.

Ko Myo Chit Aung (Design/Computer Typography) Dawbon Township

New Year is a special time that we want to spend with our loved ones.
In the new year, may all mankind be free from worries. Let them be free from all harm. May they overcome the epidemic and all the challenges. Be calm and cool. May the business grow in the new year. May they be healthy. I would like to wish you all a very happy new year.

Ma Khin Su Htwe (Accountant-company employee)

May Myanmar be at peace as soon as possible. In the new year, people be free from worries and safe. May the Covid-19 pandemic that was spreading in Myanmar be disappeared as soon as possible. Let the stopped businesses due to the pandemic resume as usual. May the people be peaceful and happy.

Ma Tin Tin Aung (Real estate company employee) Dawbon Township

OPINION

Warmly welcome the New Year with new mindsets

WE ALL have to heartily and warmly welcome the New Year 2023 after bidding farewell to the old year 2022. Now, the New Year comes in whereas the old year went out.

In welcoming the New Year, we have to first change our mindsets so as to refresh all things of our society including the country. We have to leave the idea, attitudes, concepts and percepts not in conformity with the trend of the New Year in the period of the old year. So, we have to adopt a pledge to change mindsets and society in order to really modernize the nation.

> We have to open the first page of the New Year. It is ready to write down the scripts for everything we would do on the first page. These would be records and then our history. Every record will reflect us, and it will bring good or bad results to us.

In the New Year, we have to use our new mindsets in paving the way for the nation and the nationals to be able to march forward the new nation with prosperity and peace, abandoning the hatred, jealousy, manners and attitudes adhering to backward ideologies, exploitation, manipulation, instigation, inappropriate moves and so on.

Everybody needs to consider all their works in line with the Dhamma preached by the Lord Buddha. Nothing is perpetual. Everything cannot be brought to the life after death. So, we all should never eagerly embrace everything such as ranks, positions, property, attachment and others.

Everybody should understand that like the old leaves are substituted with new ones, we all have to happily bid farewell to the old year with a conscience. At the same time, we all should welcome the New Year with a conscience to perform good deeds as well as meritorious deeds but evil acts.

Hence, all the people should pray for all living beings to be free from devil acts, to be able to enjoy meritorious needs, to be able to culture the noble spirit, and to enjoy good results of society under the Dhamma teachings of the unrivalled Lord Buddha and to consider doing all things with critical thinking, rationality and compassion.

We all have to need review and analyze the past things they did. Depending on the results from the analysis, we all have to seek the best way to the goal without derailment from the missions and visions to build our country as well as our society with peace and prosperity.

We have to open the first page of the New Year. It is ready to write down the scripts for everything we would do on the first page. These would be records and then our history. Every record will reflect us, and it will bring good or bad results to us.

■

What western media (intentionally) missed in reporting China's COVID-19 reality

Children skate at a business center in Beijing, capital of China, 24 December 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JU HUANZONG**

IF YOU only get your COVID-19 news from Western media, you might believe that China's economy is in trouble and life-saving measures are out of place. However, China's COVID-19 reality differs from what they report. Life and business are picking up across the country as a result of the widespread adjustment in epidemic response.

China's epidemic prevention and control has entered a new stage despite the fact that some Western media characterized the change as "rapid" and "dramatic," ignoring the fact that China has changed its response strategy based on a comprehensive assessment of the mutation of the virus, the COVID situation and ongoing response efforts. Li Bin, deputy head of the National Health Commission (NHC), has said that various factors have created the conditions necessary for the latest adjustment in the management of novel coronavirus infection.

"It in no way means letting go of the virus or a complete exit from prevention and control measures," Li said. "China will continue improving management, services and guarantees."

LOW DEATH RATES

During the fight against COVID-19, China has effectively coordinated COVID response with economic and social development, and refined the response policy in light of the evolving situation.

Over the past three years, China has effectively responded to five global COVID waves and avoided widespread infections with the original strain and the Delta variant, which are relatively more pathogenic than the other variants.

China has kept its severe COVID-19 cases and death rates among the lowest in the world. The average life expectancy of the Chinese has continued to rise amid the pandemic, from 77.93 years in 2020 to 78.2 years in 2021.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Poem

Hello!

Gone with the yesteryear,
Cons left behind far.

Cool breeze in the winter,
Pros ushered in heartier.

Hello! Happy New Year,
Let the world be fresher.

My ardent wish and desire,
Get Myanmar held higher,
We, citizens, altogether!

By Chit Ko Pe

ARTICLE
BOOKRACK

Book Title - **Kengtung Essay 33**
Writer - **Maung Ko Ko (Amarapura)**
Publishing House - **Smart**
Publication Date - **September 2022 (1st Edition)**
Price - **K5,500**

Kengtung Essay 33

WHEN a composer puts his hands on the guitar, a pleasant song is created. And when an artist swings the brush on the canvas, a beautiful painting is brought into existence. But when a writer travels, an entertaining book is created. The writer of this book is nobody but Maung Ko Ko-Amarapura, who is producing masterpieces, particularly essays and biographies. He conducted a trip in 2021 to Kengtung where he was stranded for varied reasons. It is not surprising to learn that the writer has been attracted by the scenic beauty of Kengtung, an important town in the Eastern Shan State. The town is inhabited by more than 40 ethnic people. The scenic beauty, the peculiar customs and the cultural mores of a plethora of ethnic minorities are things to write essays about and compose songs about. All 33 essays are about this beautiful town, the town folks, their lifestyles, their philosophies and the places of attraction.

The teashop belonging to Daw Nang Hla from the Village of Kyaing Phaung, the Naga Ai Monastery in Yin Kwe Taung, the Sawbwa Bazaar and Dr Nang Marlar Wang of Kengtung are mentioned in this book. The visit to Mong Khat is depicted with the queer customs of the local people highlighted while the scenic beauty of the places located en route to Mong Khat is illustrated. Additionally, there are travelogues, which reveal the on-ground situations of the transport in eastern Shan State in addition to depicting the lifestyles of the local ethnic minorities. In the essay titled, "Lu Ta Yauk Thay Pyi Hso Yin Khway Da Gaung Ko That Ya Dai", the writer depicted the traditions and customs of the ethnic minorities residing in Ahkhay Village of in Maing Lan Village-Tract in Kengtung. He emphasized a strange tradition that prevents the daughters from inheriting the legacy of their parents. He did not miss writing about the wedding receptions and the housewarming parties. What appeals to me most is the tradition under which a dog has to be killed when a person dies. Another interesting custom is that the groom has to offer a hen and a silver coin to the bride as the dowry. The writer also deals with the job hunting by the villagers within and without the country, highlighting their woes and sorrows while at the same time enabling the job-seekers to have knowledge on the types of jobs as well as on the experiences shared by the people who are already in the labour force. In addition to knowledge giving, the writer also entertains the readers with his smooth, artful writing about the daily lifestyle.

The cover and the inside illustrations are the works of Wai Chit Ko and Maung Kan.

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Book Title - **Shan Thamaing Hmat Tan**
Writer - **Dr Sai Sam Aik**
Publishing House - **Shan Book Club**
Publication Date - **January 2021 (1st Edition)**
Price - **K3,500**

Shan Thamaing Hmat Tan

THIS week, I would like to introduce a book which is worth reading by all those who are interested in the indigenous people and their historical literature. Among the indigenous races, the Shans have the longest history, and this is the right book, for it is written by a Shan in the name of Dr Sai Sam Aik. The writer said that reference is made to a book on Shan history kept in the Chinese Palace which is noted for its collection of valuable records. The readers will learn that the dialect spoken by the people living in a vast area extending from Yunnan Province to India is similar to the Shan language, he wrote. Then, the readers will also know that Sao Kyar Khaing, the son of Sawbwa (Shan King) Sao Kyar Tun, built a town, combining four wards in 1887, that ward is called Pauk in the Shan Language whereas four is called Hsi in the Shan Language and so, the town is named Hsi Pauk and that the name of this town has changed to Hsi Pot, then, to Hsi Paw which in turn has then changed to Thipaw as known today. Afterwards, the readers will learn why the Shans have come to settle down in the Plains. In fact, those Shans now living in the Plains are the descendants of the Shan soldiers, who have come down from the Hilly Region to the Plains during pursuit of their enemy. Hot pursuance of their arch enemies has caused their forefathers to come down to the lower parts of the country with some losing their lives while others being able to survive. Nonetheless, their lucky forefathers did not dare to go back to the hilly region for fear of not only them being arrested as the prisoner of war but also both them and their descendants of up to nine generations being executed, and so, they were forced to settle down in the lower parts of Myanmar.

This book comprises of nine episodes: Episode One deals with the history of Sakkya Saki race and Tagaung people while Episode Two is about Lu Chaung Nang Chaung. Episodes Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight and Nine are about the history of Maw Shan Gyi Mai Maw Lon, Yun Shans, the Shans in the Era of 1298-1538, Maing Maw and Nine Shanpyi, the Shans in Nam Cho and Nam Tar Loo Areas, the Shans living in Bhamo, Myitkyina, Katha and Chindwin and the Shans inhabiting the Plains respectively. In Sipsongpanna Episode, the readers will know to their amazement how the Shans have led a wonderful life in Mong Maw Lon, Mong Lue (later Sipsongpanna) Lana Mongrai and Hsenwi Long as well as the tradition of worshipping the spirits and even the frogs for better fertility. The Shans in those days believed that lunar eclipse was the event of the moon being swallowed by the frog and that when there happened lunar eclipse, there would be low yield of paddy. To ward off such an unlucky event, the Shans will strike the drums. Such stories of superstition can be read.

Concerning Moemeik and Mogok, it will be learnt that Moemeik was founded in AD 1238 with Hsenwi being its satellite town. In 1420, Moemeik was already included in Nine Shan States of Mongmaw. The 13 villages of Mogok were incorporated into Moemeik Town. Mogok also became the satellite town of Hsenwi. The daughter-in-law of Moemeik Sawbwa called Nang Han Lon was vested with the power to rule Mogok up to 1484. Then, Mogok fell into the hands of Myanmar King. In 1597, Tagaung was handed over to the Moemeik King, and the Myanmar King was vested with the power to reign Mogok and Kyatpyin in exchange. Moemeik and Hsenwi were not on good terms, and so, since 1450, they were separated.

Hsenwi launched an attack on Moemeik in 1484, but the former could not occupy the latter. Ming from China in 1488 attacked Hsenwi, leaving Moemeik more isolated. This has led to establishment of Stand-alone Moemeik (Moe Koe Pyi Htaung). In compiling this history book, a total of 167 books were quoted as references.

Additionally, the references include the rare things like manuscripts of the Shan Sawbwas, the photo of Hermit U Khamti taken during his search for the town of Saw Mon Hla and the historical documents, pictures and photos.

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Contestant from Ayeyawady Region wins "Tu Shin Hnwal Pyaw Gita Pwal Taw" singing contest Season 2

THE Grand Final event of the "Tu Shin Hnwal Pyaw Gita Pwal Taw" singing contest Season 2, which marks Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, was held at MRTV Studio A in Yangon yesterday.

After the singing contest, the artistes performed and sang group songs for the closing ceremony.

The "Tu Shin Hnwal Pyaw Gita Pwal Taw" singing contest Season 2 started on 2 September 2022 and lasted for 18 weeks and a total of 45 contestants participated in it. Three contestants representing Yangon Region, Nay Pyi Taw and Ayeyawady Region competed in match No 17 of the semi-finals held on 23 December and reached another level according to the marking scheme – 30 per cent of judges and 70 per cent of SMS voting.

At the Grand Final contest, academy award winner Daw Cho Pyone presented awardee Soe Htet Aung from Ayeyawady Region while the second prize winner Ma Htun Pa Pa Aung from Yangon Region by academy award winner Nay Aung and third prize winner Ma Pu Tuu by singer Khine Wah.

Then, other officials also gave prizes to other winners. — MNA/KTZH

Photos display of Countdown to New Year 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

IRD to take action against tax evaders from 1 January 2023

The Internal Revenue Department building in Myeik.

THOSE who evade, avoid and shelter tax liability will face legal actions under the existing tax laws and anti-money laundering law from 1 January 2023.

The Internal Revenue Department released a statement on 16 November regarding tax evasion and tax avoidance. A further notification was issued on 21 November as well.

As per the statement, non-declaration or false declaration of assets and services, cross-border tax avoidance and under-reporting of income or minimizing tax liability or misrepresenting income between taxpayers and their partners, modifying the corporate structure to optimize tax benefits, tax evasion and tax fraud in contracts are subject to criminal charges and penalties.

Those unscrupulous persons who fail to declare for the long term, reduce the taxable income and liability by subterfuge, make inaccurate information to obtain tax-exempt status and tax returns, deliver false information and documents, lower tax bills and fail to affix tax stamps are committing crimes.

Additionally, illegitimate export/import to avoid tax, distribution of asset holdings and capital gains to evade or defeat tax, hiding assets with other separate bank accounts and having many financial statements to cut tax bills are tax fraud.

Those who intentionally evade tax will face legal actions, penalties and fines under Section 77 of Tax Administration Law. Moreover, further actions will be taken against them under the anti-money laundering law, the Internal Revenue Department notified.

This notification was released on 16 November 2022 and it will come into effect on 1 January 2023. — TWA/EMM

Sticker campaign held in Yangon to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day

TO commemorate the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day under the guidance of the Yangon regional government, a sticker campaign was conducted in Yangon on 31 December.

The campaign was held in collaboration with the Yangon Region Public Transport Supervisory Committee (YRTC), the Road Transport Administration Department, and the Transport Planning Department.

A total of 12,000 stickers with Diamond Jubilee Independence Day commemorative texts were put on YBS buses, express buses, taxis, vehicles, and at the bus stops of Sule, Thakin Mya Park, San Pya Zayy, Hledan Junction, Kaba Aye Pagoda, and Aung Mingala Bus Terminal to mark the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. — TWA/KZL

Stickers with Diamond Jubilee Independence Day commemorative texts are seen on the bus.

Power bill counters shut on New Year's Day and Independence Day

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) announced that electricity fee collection counters will be closed on International New Year's Day and the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. Electricity bill collection counters will be shut down on 31 December 2022 and 1 January. On 2, 3, 5 and 6 January, electricity bill counters will be open from 8 am to 3 pm, according to the YESC's notification. — TWA/KZW

Pakokku locals are seen lining up to clear the electricity bill.

Green gram price stagnant in 2022

THE price of green gram (Shwewah variety) hovered unchanged in the domestic market in 2022, unlike volatile black gram and pigeon pea prices.

In early 2022, the green gram price fetched around K2,330-2,420 per viss. The price slightly rose to K2,830-3,000 on 30 December. In mid-October 2022, the price hit the highest of K3,165-3,335 per viss.

The prices of green gram were stagnant between K1.5 million and K2.1 million per tonne in 2022. The prices of black gram fluctuated between K1.28 million and K2.1 million in 2022, while pigeon pea prices moved up and down, ranging from K1.175 to K1.75 million per tonne. There were price differences of K800,000 per tonne of black gram, K1 million for pigeon peas and around K600,000 for green gram.

The green gram possesses the second-largest sowing acres in the country after the black gram. They are grown as a summer crop under a mixed-cultivation system in the lower Myanmar regions. They are cultivated in the central Myanmar regions with an irrigation system.

A green gram is a green bean. Some have a yellow colour. It is the origin of South East Asia yet it is now found in Africa as well.

They are utilized in making bean sprouts and vermicelli. They are a popular soup cuisine in Myanmar.

The official data showed that there were around 3 million acres of winter and monsoon green gram in the 2016-2017 FY, with a production of 1.59 million tonnes. Myanmar conveyed a total of 407,595 tonnes of a green gram to foreign markets in the 2016-2017 FY. The highest price was K1.2 million then.

Black gram and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India. Yet, green gram is mostly exported to European countries and China.

Myanmar has shipped 430,000 tonnes of black gram, 380,000 tonnes of green gram and 93,000 tonnes of pigeon peas to foreign trade partners as of 2 December since April in the current 2022-2023FY.

Green gram Shwe Wah varieties from the Kayan area are offered at the highest price in the domestic market. Those from the Wakema area are also highly demanded. Those three types of beans are commercially valued crops and generate foreign earnings like rice. — TWA/EMM

ECONOMY
WORLD

Debt spiral engulfs Turkish voters months before polls

THE growing pile of debt notices covering the Ankara district mayor's desk hint at the scale of the economic crisis facing Turkish voters months before crucial presidential polls.

The warnings and court summonses end up being forwarded to Ali Golpinar — the "muhtar" of one of the Turkish capital's working-class suburbs — when they cannot be delivered to the debtor's stated address.

Golpinar says the number of them he gets daily has doubled to about 40 in the past two years.

That generally reflects what has happened to Türkiye's consumer prices over the same span. The official inflation rate hit 85 per cent in the past year alone. "And these are only the undelivered letters," Golpinar said from behind his messy desk.

"Imagine how many there are in all. People can no longer pay their debts." Turkish media say the total number of debt recovery cases rose by about 1.5 million in a year and exceeded 24 million at the height of the crisis in August. The main banking regulator says the value of unpaid individual loans in the nation of 85 million people rose from 17 billion to 29 billion liras ($1.6 billion) between March and September.

Friendly grocers

Türkiye's most recent economic problems started when President Recep Tayyip Erdogan — a lifelong foe of high interest rates — pushed the central bank to start fighting persistent inflation by lowering borrowing costs in September 2021. The policy contradicted conventional economics and turned Turkey into a no-go zone for foreign investors. —AFP

People attend a celebration marking the Republic Day in Istanbul, Türkiye, 29 October 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/SHADATI**

Tech billionaires see wealth shrink amid 2022 stock crunch

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos saw their massive fortunes shrink over 2022, while Zhang Yiming bucked the trend with a rising share price of his company, TikTok-parent Bytedance. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE fortunes of Silicon Valley billionaires took a beating in 2022 as share prices of the world's tech giants plummeted. Here are some of the worst hit by this year's tech stock downturn.

After becoming the world's richest person in 2021, the Tesla and SpaceX boss saw over half of his net worth evaporate this year, boosting France's luxury goods mogul Bernard Arnault into the top spot.

Musk lost $140 billion in 2022 due to the collapse of Tesla's share price, leaving his total net worth at $130 billion, according to Bloomberg's index of the world's richest people. Once the darling of Wall Street investors, the future of the electric car company is now under question after Musk pushed through with a $44 billion buyout of Twitter that many observers see as an expensive distraction.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sweden takes EU presidency after shift to the right

SWEDEN takes over the EU's rotating presidency from 1 January vowing to maintain unity on Ukraine and uphold free trade in the face of calls for a tougher response to US green subsidies.

But the main questions for Stockholm as it takes the reins of the 27-nation bloc at this tumultuous time could be how new dynamics in its own domestic politics play out on the European stage. After eight years of centre-left rule, the government of conservative Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson formed in October relies on an unprecedented alliance with the far-right Sweden Democrats for a majority in parliament.—AFP

Foreign direct investment in Morocco up 45% in first 11 months

THE foreign direct investment in Morocco increased by 45.7 per cent to 2.3 billion US dollars in the first 11 months of 2022 compared to the same period last year, the country's Foreign Exchange Office said Friday. The North African country's trade deficit increased by 56.9 per cent year-on-year by the end of November, according to the report published by the office.

The deficit comes as a result of a faster growth of imports, which rose 42.3 per cent to 64.7 billion dollars, while exports rose 33.1 per cent to 37.3 billion dollars.—Xinhua

Japan start-up seeks to expand abroad with exoskeleton business

A start-up founded by a researcher at Tokyo University of Science that developed a wearable exoskeleton to support heavy lifting is hoping to make further inroads overseas in nations that have aging populations like Japan.

Set up by Hiroshi Kobayashi, a professor at the university, in 2013, venture firm Innophys Co., hopes its products will be used in the care and farm fields in Europe as well as China and South Korea, which face similar age-related social issues to Japan. "Demand for assistive suits will get greater and greater as populations age. We've got a chance at being top in the world," said Innophys Executive Officer Masaru Yoda.

The firm has a domestic market share of some 70 per cent. It launched its Muscle Suit in 2014 and as of April 2021 had sold around 20,000 suits.

The firm's exoskeletons provide both back and arm support. They use artificial muscles made from rubber tubes wrapped in a nylon mesh that expand when filled with compressed air. This causes the nylon to make the tubes shorter, producing a powerful pulling force that can aid manual tasks requiring strength and ease pressure on the back when lifting heavy objects. —Kyodo

An exoskeleton by start-up Innophys Co for assisting with lifting heavy objects is demonstrated in Tokyo in November 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

China's membership supermarkets log robust growth: report

MEMBER stores and community shops of supermarkets in China saw rapid expansion in recent years as they diversified brands, business forms, and store types, industry data shows.

The number of member stores of major supermarkets in the country surged from less than 40 in 2020 to over 120 in 2021, and is expected to top 180 this year, said a report on chain supermarkets released by the China Chain Store & Franchise Association. Supermarkets' member and discount stores reduced costs through direct sourcing, simple packaging, and optimized logistics, which attracted consumers with more competitive prices, said the association.

Digital businesses of supermarkets registered rapid growth in China. In 2021, online sales of member stores accounted for about 68 per cent of their total sales, up around 6.9 percentage points year on year. The report also shows that China's community stores, fresh groceries, and convenience shops boomed amid the efforts to set up convenient urban living circles. Some supermarkets have opened high-end community stores to attract more customers.— Xinhua

India's exports of agricultural, processed food products rise by 16%

INDIA'S exports of agricultural and processed food products rose by 16 per cent in the first eight months (April-November) of the current financial year 2022-23, in comparison to the corresponding period of the last financial year, said the federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Friday. The overall exports of agricultural and processed food products rose to 17.43 billion US dollars during April-November from 15.07 billion dollars in the same period a year earlier, data released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics showed. Thus the country has achieved nearly 74 per cent of its total exports target for the financial year 2022-23 in the first eight months.

The overall exports of agricultural and processed food products rose to 17.43 billion US dollars during April-November from 15.07 billion dollars in the same period a year earlier. **PHOTO: EXPORTERS INDIA/ANI**

"For the year 2022-23, an export target of 23.56 billion US dollars was fixed for the agricultural and processed food products basket," said the data.—Xinhua

Between new rivals and a distracted boss, Tesla suffers on Wall Street

TESLA lost a staggering two-thirds of its market value in 2022, a victim of fears about demand for electric vehicles, dismay at Elon Musk's tribulations as head of Twitter and the end of easy money on Wall Street.

On paper, everything was going well for the iconic electric vehicle maker that overcame supply problems and made nearly $9 billion in profit in the first three quarters of the year despite soaring costs.

But this is slower than the furious pace of growth that CEO Musk demands of his company with his stated ambition that Tesla unseat Apple as the world's most valued company. Even if the share price is subject "to a lot of emotional elements... Tesla will be by my best guess the most valuable company in the world in less than five years," a defiant Musk told a forum on Twitter this month.—AFP

Tesla lost a staggering two-thirds of its market value in 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (188N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (188N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (271N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (271N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0283-738N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0283-738N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (007E/W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (007E/W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-1-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Xi meets Putin via video link

Chinese President Xi Jinping meets Russian President Vladimir Putin via video link in Beijing, capital of China, 30 December 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/SHEN HONG**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping had a virtual meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Beijing on Friday afternoon.

President Xi expressed his pleasure in meeting President Putin virtually at the year-end, which he said has become a good tradition between them. President Xi noted that under the guidance of both President Putin and himself, the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era has grown more mature and resilient, with the internal impetus and special value of bilateral cooperation further brought out.

In the first 11 months of this year, two-way trade volume reached a record high. Investment cooperation has been improved and integrated. Energy cooperation continues to serve as an anchor. And cooperation projects in key areas are moving forward steadily. The two sides also enjoy growing sub-national cooperation and closer people-to-people and cultural exchange. Activities of the Year of Sports Exchange have been carried out smoothly. The social and popular support for China-Russia friendship becomes stronger, President Xi said. "In a changing and turbulent international environment, it is important that China and Russia remain true to the original aspiration of cooperation, maintain strategic focus, enhance strategic coordination, continue to be each other's development opportunity and global partner, and strive to bring more benefits to the two peoples and greater stability to the world," President Xi said.— Xinhua

N Korea fires 3 ballistic missiles toward Sea of Japan

NORTH Korea fired three ballistic missiles towards the Sea of Japan on Saturday, Japan's Defence Ministry said, in the latest of a flurry of weapons tests that have raised regional tensions.

The missiles, launched around 8 am from the outskirts of the capital Pyongyang, flew about 350 kilometres at a maximum altitude of around 100 km before falling near the east coast of the Korean Peninsula, the ministry said.

It marks the 37th time that North Korea has fired missiles in 2022, renewing the highest level on record for a year. The last launch was on 23 December.

The projectiles appear to have fallen outside Japan's exclusive economic zone and no damage to aircraft or ships has been reported, the ministry said.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida instructed officials to swiftly provide necessary information to the public, ensure the safety of aircraft and ships and prepare for contingencies, according to his office. The government has lodged a protest with North Korea via the Japanese Embassy in Beijing over the latest launches in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.—Kyodo

People watch a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test at a railway station in Seoul, South Korea, 4 May 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Bulgaria moves to replace Russia nuclear fuel supplies

BULGARIA'S sole nuclear power plant signed a nuclear fuel supply deal with a French firm on Friday in efforts to replace shipments from Russia in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The state-owned Kozloduy plant on the Danube river currently relies on Russian fuel for its two Soviet-built 1,000-megawatt reactors.

Under a 10-year agreement signed Friday, Framatome, a subsidiary of French energy giant EDF, will supply nuclear fuel to Kozloduy's unit 5 reactor from early 2025.

Kozloduy nuclear power plant in Bulgaria. **PHOTO: ROSATOM**

Last week, Kozloduy signed a similar contract with Westinghouse Electric Sweden to deliver nuclear fuel for its other operational reactor, unit 6, from 2024.

With the two agreements in place "we have achieved full diversification of nuclear fuel deliveries" for Bulgaria's only nuclear power plant, interim energy minister Rosen Hristov said at the signing ceremony. "The aim is security of deliveries and safe operation," he added.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENT

Russia says assigned targets in Ukraine neutralized after new strike

RUSSIA'S armed forces launched a massive strike with high-precision long-range air- and sea-based weapons at Ukrainian military targets and energy facilities needed for the operation of Ukraine's defence industry, the Defence Ministry said Friday.–Xinhua

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Venezuelan opposition dissolves Guaido's 'interim government'

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido waves a national flag during a demonstration in October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Venezuelan opposition on Friday dissolved the "interim government" led by Juan Guaido, once the popular and internationally recognized face of a failed drive to oust leftist leader Nicolas Maduro.

The vote came in an online session of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, a body elected in 2015 and now largely symbolic as it was replaced by a legislature loyal to Maduro.

The tally was 72 in favor of dissolving the interim government, 29 against and eight abstentions.

Almost four years ago, in January 2019, Guaido won the recognition of more than 50 nations including the United States as the legitimate albeit acting leader of Venezuela, after widely disputed presidential elections that kept Maduro in power.

But while the opposition holds the purse strings to some of Venezuela's assets abroad, Guaido's failure to find a winning strategy to oust Maduro has caused his public support to plummet.

Maduro is blamed for overseeing an oppressive regime and running Venezuela's economy into chaos and poverty for years, with widespread shortages of food and medicine and other essentials.

And Guaido's international backers, led by the United States, have adopted a more nuanced approach. Backing for him abroad has dwindled over time as he failed to dislodge Maduro.—AFP

130 mln Arab population in poverty: UN survey

A survey released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on Friday said that poverty affects one-third of the Arab region's population, excluding the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Libya.

Dubbed "Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region", it said that "poverty, measured against national poverty lines, increased to affect 130 million people in Arab countries".

The survey expects a further rise in poverty levels in the next two years, reaching 36 per cent of the population in 2024.

Moreover, the Arab region registered the world's highest unemployment rate in 2022 at 12 per cent, said the survey, adding that there may be a very slight decrease in 2023 to 11.7 per cent, owing to post-COVID-19 economic recovery efforts.

It expects the region's economy to grow by 4.5 percent in 2023 and 3.4 per cent in 2024.—Xinhua

Former pope Benedict XVI dies aged 95

FORMER pope Benedict XVI has died at the age of 95, the Vatican announced Saturday, almost a decade after he became the first pontiff to resign in six centuries.

"With sorrow I inform you that the Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, passed away today at 9:34 in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican," Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said in a statement.

The German pope emeritus, whose birth name was Joseph Ratzinger, had been living a quiet life in a former convent inside the Vatican grounds since his shock decision to step down in February 2013.

His health had been declining for a long time, but the Vatican revealed on Wednesday that his situation had worsened, while his successor Pope Francis called for Catholics worldwide to pray for him.

His death brings to an end an unprecedented situation in which two "men in white" — Benedict and Francis — had co-existed within the walls of the tiny city state.

Former pope Benedict XVI has died at the age of 95, the Vatican announced Saturday. A portrait of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is seen near the altar at the Cathedral of Regensburg, southern Germany on 29 December 2022, during a church service. **PHOTO: FLORIAN CAZERES/AFP**

While there is no rulebook for former popes, Benedict's funeral is expected to be at the Vatican, presided over by Francis.

In 2005 the body of John Paul II, the last pope to die, lay in state before a funeral mass in St Peter's Square attended by one million people, including heads of state.

Scandal and in-fighting

Benedict had almost entirely withdrawn from public view, his health reported to be shaky and the few photographs that emerged of him exposing his frailty.—AFP

World readies to ring in 2023

THE world's eight billion people on Saturday prepared to usher in 2023 and farewell a turbulent 12 months marked by war in Europe, stinging price rises and Lionel Messi's world cup glory.

After a few pandemic-dampened years, many will be looking to cut loose this New Year's Eve — setting aside pinched budgets and a virus that is increasingly forgotten, but not gone.

Sydney will be among the first major cities to ring in 2023, restaking its claim to be the "New Year's Eve capital of the world" after two years of lockdown and Omicron-muted festivities.

Australia's borders have now reopened, and more than one million people are expected to line Sydney's sparkling harbour to watch 100,000 pyrotechnics illuminate the southern sky.

A woman poses for a picture after getting her hands and face painted ahead of New Year eve celebrations in Amritsar on 30 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sydney authorities expect almost half a billion more people will see the festivities online or on TV.

For some, 2022 was a year of Wordles, the Great Resignation, a new Taylor Swift album, an Oscar slap and billionaire meltdowns.

It also saw the deaths of Queen Elizabeth II, Brazilian football icon Pele, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jiang Zemin and Shinzo Abe.

But 2022 is most likely to be remembered for armed conflict returning to Europe -- a continent that was the crucible of two world wars.

'A peaceful sky'

More than 300 days into Russia's botched invasion of Ukraine, about 7,000 civilians have been killed and 10,000 more injured, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

About 16 million Ukrainians have fled their homes.—AFP

SPORT

Rashford hits United winner at Wolves after 'disciplinary' benching

MARCUS Rashford gave the perfect response to his benching for disciplinary reasons as the Manchester United forward's late strike clinched a 1-0 win at Wolves on Saturday.

United manager Erik ten Hag sprang a pre-match surprise when he revealed Rashford had been dropped because of an "internal disciplinary" issue.

The 25-year-old had been in excellent form for Ten Hag's side this season and also scored three goals for England at the World Cup, so United fans were startled to learn of his demotion.

Ten Hag did not give any further details when pressed on the decision to axe Rashford during his pre-match interview with BT Sport, adding it was "our rules".

But Rashford's exile only lasted until half-time when he was sent on by Ten Hag in a move that proved the catalyst for United to seal their fifth successive win in all competitions.

Rashford looked determined to prove Ten Hag was wrong to drop him as he rampaged through the Wolves defence to score his 11th goal in all competitions this season and his third in three appearances since the World Cup.

Manchester United's English striker Marcus Rashford smiles as he celebrates after scoring the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Manchester United at the Molineux stadium in Wolverhampton, central England on 31 December 2022. **PHOTO : ADRIAN DENNIS / AFP**

United climbed into fourth place in the Premer League, two points above Tottenham who have a game in hand, as they bid to qualify for next season's Champions League. —AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.

(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

(a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.

(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.

(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Russia sanctions must remain in 2023: Olympics chief

IOC president Thomas Bach. **PHOTO: GREG MARTIN/ AFP**

THE sporting sanctions imposed on Russia and Belarus over the invasion of Ukraine must remain firmly in place in 2023, the head of the International Olympic Committee insisted Friday.

IOC president Thomas Bach said Ukrainian athletes had the Olympic Movement's full solidarity and the IOC wanted to see a strong Ukrainian team at the Paris 2024 Games.

From its own territory and that of Belarus, Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February, three days after the closing ceremony of the Beijing 2022 Winter Games, in violation of the Olympic truce and charter.

The IOC sanctioned Moscow and Minsk, with no international sports events being organized or supported in Russia or Belarus, and no national symbols of these countries being displayed at any sports event.

"These sanctions against the Russian and Belarusian states and governments must and will remain firmly in place," Bach said in a New Year message. "We are supporting the athletes and members of the Ukrainian Olympic community everywhere with all our solidarity.

"In the New Year, the Ukrainian athletes can count on the full commitment to this solidarity from the IOC and the entire Olympic Movement. We want to see a strong team from… Ukraine at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026." —AFP

A man poses for a photo by the statue of late football legend Pele outside the Vila Belmiro stadium in Santos, Brazil. **PHOTO: AFP**

Brazilian city of Santos honours its idol

FROM the second floor of her house, Onofra Alves Costa Rovai can see the Vila Belmiro, the stadium where Brazilian football legend Pele first took the world's breath away.

Rovai has fond memories of chatting with "O Rei" (The King), who died Thursday in a Sao Paulo hospital at age 82, triggering an outpouring of emotion in Brazil -- and especially in Santos, the city where he played most of his storied career. "He would come out that door after matches and we would talk football. He was like that -- just an ordinary person, he would talk to anyone about anything. He was marvelous," said Rovai, 91, motioning to the stadium's main gate, a stone's throw from her modest blue house.—AFP