

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.

Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony of 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day

Esteemed ethnic national people,

I respectfully extend greetings to all ethnic national people residing throughout the country to enjoy all auspiciousness and physical and mental well-being

on the significant occasion of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day which occurs on 4 January 2023.

All ethnic national people of Myanmar have been

standing tall in unison together as a sovereign country with its own monarch across the world by preserving its own culture and customs for many years.

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing inspects the parade battalions, decorated floats and mechanized companies of the Tatmadaw and the Ministry of Home Affairs in a motorcade at the Nay Pyi Taw grand military review square on 4 January 2023.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing addresses ceremony to mark 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day 2023, takes salute of parade columns

THE 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day 2023 was observed at the Nay Pyi Taw

grand military review square yesterday morning, with an address by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Sen-

ior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing who took the salute of parade columns.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime

Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe,

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Flag hoisting ceremony of 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day held in Nay Pyi Taw



THE ceremony to hoist the State Flag on the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day was held on the Grand Military Review Square in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The flag-hoisting platoon raised the State Flag at 4:20 am together with the State Military Band and ethnic races and then they saluted the flag.

The ceremony was organized with the objectives: (1) to ensure cementing the discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democratic system and build the Union based on democracy and federalism, (2) to utmost strive for ensuring the prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency as national work processes, (3) to build a better State and socioeconomic life in accord with the theme “Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal”, focusing on interests of the State and ethnic national people, (4) to initiate national solidarity and peace of the Union with a firm vow and (5) to successfully hold the free and fair multiparty democratic general elections and emerge an electoral system in which all ethnic nationals would participate proportionately.

— MNA/MKKS

Congratulatory messages from foreign heads of states on 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman of Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I would like to convey my warmest felicitations and best wishes to Your Excellency, and through you to the people of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It is noteworthy that Cambodia and Myanmar have enjoyed close bilateral relations over the past years based on traditional friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation. I stand ready to continue working closely with Your Excellency to further strengthen bilateral relations for the peace, stability and prosperity of our two countries and the ASEAN Community. Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration and best wishes for your good health and for the durable peace and well-being of the people of Myanmar.

Mr Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of Republic of Belarus sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Government of the Republic of Belarus and on my own, I convey my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It is a pleasure for me to note that our countries maintain a high level of mutual trust and continue joint work to strengthen bilateral cooperation in current difficult conditions. I am convinced that in the near future, the relations between Belarus and Myanmar will achieve significant progress in various areas of economy, agriculture, industry and education. I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, prosperity and stability to the people of Myanmar as well as express the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Kingdom of Cambodia sends Congratulatory Message to U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

I have the great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to you and the people of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 75th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I look forward to continuing working closely with you to further enhance our bilateral ties and regional cooperation, particularly in the ASEAN frameworks, to safeguard peace, security, and stability and promote sustainable development in the region and the world at large. Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr Sergei Aleinik, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Belarus sends Congratulatory Message to U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

I congratulate you on the National holiday—Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I note the significant potential for the development of Belarusian-Myanmar cooperation in areas of mutual interest which we can realize with joint efforts. I hope that systematic work on the intensification of diplomatic and trade-economic contacts between our countries will lead to the designation and practical implementation of joint projects of economic and humanitarian orientation.

Taking this opportunity, I wish Your Excellency good health and professional success as well as express the assurances of my highest consideration.

Necessary to preserve languages and cultures of ethnic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture

THE Senior General urged relevant ministries to provide education, health, economic and transport facilities for ethnic people. Hence, relevant ministries need to cooperate with each other in work processes. It is necessary to preserve the languages and cultures of ethnic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture.

[Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 10 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government].

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing ...



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing returns the salute of the parade troops at the Nay Pyi Taw grand military review square on 4 January 2023.

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the SAC secretary, the joint secretary, council members, Vice-President (Retd) Thray Sithu Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife, Vice-President (Retd) Thray Sithu U Nyan Tun and wife, families of the heads of state who had served State duties in successive eras, officials, NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations, NCA non-signatory EAOs, ethnic people and guests.
The State flag bearer and parade battalions led by Parade Commander Lt-Gen Aung Aung took positions at the square.
All parade troops saluted the Senior General who arrived at the dais of the square. At the same time, the artillery troop launched the 21-shot gun salute, and 750 white doves were released to mark the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day 2023.
The Senior General together

er with the parade troops and attendees saluted the State flag and then fallen martyrs and comrades.
After taking a two-minute silence, they all recited the oaths of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day 2023.
The Senior General inspected the parade battalions, decorated floats and mechanized companies of Tatmadaw and the Ministry of Home Affairs in a motorcade.
The Senior General delivered an address on the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Independence Day 2023. (The full text of the speech is reported on pages 4 to 6)
Then, aircraft from the Tatmadaw (Air) in a 75 type formation flew over the square to salute the Senior General.
The State flag bearers, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air)

flag bearers, parade companies from nine battalions representing the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), military, police and student bands, ministries, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, and the State central military band led by the parade commander saluted the Senior General.
Meanwhile, varieties of military aircraft in different formations saluted the Senior General.
Basic education students from Nay Pyi Taw Council Area demonstrated letters and images on “75th Anniversary of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day” (4.1.2023), Union flag, Unity is strength, eight national races, safeguard Independence, a white dove with an olive branch, Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal, and let’s meet again.”
A total of 75 female and male parachutes demonstrated free-fall parachuting from 7,500 feet

high, bearing different flags on the ground. The Senior General took the salute of decorated floats, royal families and military troops in the royal regalia ceremonial procession.
Troops from Tatmadaw, SWAT and Myanmar Police Force together with decorated floats of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) together with BIA company, BDA company, BNA company, PBF company, BA company, Beret company, Gurkha company, 303 company and 52 Sten company, SWAT and security battalion showed off skill demonstration while marching past the Senior General.
Decorated floats and entertainment troupes from relevant regions and states, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and ministries presented songs, dances, landmarks of regions and states, lifestyle, customs and products as well as

work processes.
The mechanized columns comprising artillery, armoured vehicles, missiles, air defence, military engineering, Tatmadaw (Navy) and Ministry of Home Affairs led by Column Commander Brig-Gen Zaw Min Thein marched past the Senior General.
Meanwhile, the aircraft of Tatmadaw (Air) in different formations saluted the Senior General. Two Su-30 fighters demonstrated High-Performance Manoeuvre, and daytime colour smoke fireworks were launched.
The Senior General and his wife together with guests cordially waved at the decorated floats, skill-demonstrated troupes and dance troupes.
After the ceremony, the Senior General and his wife cordially greeted attendees and left the grand military review square.
— MNA/TTA

Speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman
Prime Minister Senior General Thadue Maha Thray Sithu
Thadue Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing
on Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023

(4 - 1 - 2023)

Distinguished guests and all esteemed national brethren of the Union,

Today is truly auspicious as we celebrate the momentous occasion of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my warmest felicitations and greetings as well as best wishes for health, happiness, and prosperity to all the national races residing in the country in harmony and friendship.

Our motherland, Myanmar, has prospered as a dignified nation when we enjoyed solidarity and unity amongst all national races during the reigns of Kings Anawrahta, Bayintnaung, and Alaungphaya. Nonetheless, when unity was weakened, the colonialists waged three aggressive wars against Myanmar. As a result, Myanmar was enslaved, leading to the loss of its own monarchy and sovereignty. The imperialists oppressed and exploited Myanmar in political, economic and social aspects through various means. Colonizers used a divide-and-rule strategy to drive a wedge between national races by dividing hilly regions from the mainland in an effort to prolong their colonialist dominance.

However, under the able leadership of ethnic leaders, the entire national races of the Union sacrificed their life and blood for the great cause of regaining our independence. Consequently, Myanmar regained its independence and sovereignty on 4 January 1948. The cost of achieving Independence through

sacrifices of the lives, blood and sweat of the ethnic nationals was indeed high. Even after we regained our independence, the negative impacts of the divide-and-rule system lingered, sparking the emergence of numerous internal armed organizations within the nation. On the bright side, the struggle for independence has fostered a strong sense of patriotism, nationalism and unity amongst all our national races. The history of the struggle for independence has proven that we are crowned with victory when all our national races were unified.

Since our country was ruled by colonialists for almost a century, there were hardships in the history of our independence struggle. Many sacrificed everything in their quest for independence, including their lives and limbs. They are, in fact, the architects of our independence who contributed towards the perpetuation of our independence. **We observed a two-minute moment of silence to pay tribute to them on this special day.**

Independence can be lost in a flick of a moment, but it takes years to regain. Therefore, I would like to earnestly urge the entire national race to join hands in safeguarding and perpetuating sovereignty and independence.

Distinguished guests and all esteemed national brethren of the Union,

Our country has existed as a Union since the days of the ancient monarchs. Our country has been under different political systems since independence,

such as the parliamentary democratic system, the Tatmadaw-led government that temporarily assumed State responsibilities, the single-party system led by the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party, the Tatmadaw government, and

There are various interpretations of the federal system that use different norms; however, the expression implies cohesion and concordance in essence. This requires us to be aware that no state or territory is home to just one

Myanmar, blessed with favourable weather conditions and a strategic geographical location, is a country that thrives in crop cultivation, fruit cultivation, and livestock breeding.

the multiparty democratic political system. Based on the experiences gained throughout our history, from the monarchy to the present, **our government has formulated the following two political objectives which best suit the nation and the people: to strengthen the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and to build the union system based on democracy and federalism.**

In the realization of the said two political objectives, the active participation of all citizens is of paramount importance. While adhering to the provisions prescribed in the Constitution, it is also important to avoid actions and activities that might deviate from the democratic course. As rule of law is a prerequisite to ensure stable and strong democracy, **“No one is above the law”.**

There are divergent views with respect to democracy or the federal system when it comes to building a Union aspired by all ethnic nationals. Regardless of differences, it is crucial to choose a system that best suits our country. Just as democracy calls for fulfilling the wishes of the majority, it also required to heed the aspirations of the minority. People with diverse perspectives and goals could not be viewed as an adversary; they should also not be subjected to prejudice or exclusion because such beliefs are incompatible with democratic ideals. A cult of personality is opposed to democracy which not only causes a detrimental impact on union cohesion but also social division.

national race; rather, different races are scattered throughout a state or region. Our country regained independence after overcoming the storm of the colony because of the cohesion and unity of all national races. **I would like to strongly urge all our national races to uphold the fine tradition of unity in order to build a genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy as well as a Union based on democracy and federalism through patience, understanding and brotherly spirit.**

Distinguished guests and all esteemed national brethren of the Union,

The State, on the other hand, has been exerting its utmost efforts in all sectors to achieve national development and food security, which are the two national policies, and has adopted the motto “The strength of the nation lies only within”. People who depend on agriculture and livestock breeding make up some 70 per cent of the rural population of the nation. Technology-assisted production and sales of value-added products in the agricultural, livestock breeding, and other sectors would guarantee not only self-sufficiency but also export promotion and increased income for our citizens. Efforts will be made to formulate the objectives to reverse the status of an importer who has to import basic consumer products into the status of an exporter, who can produce products not only for domestic needs but also for export surplus.

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Speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister ...

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We need to approach this with “a global perspective”. Food, shelter, and clothing are the three fundamental requirements of all human beings. The global population was approximately 6.1 billion in 2000, 7.8 billion in 2020, and approximately eight billion in 2022 and the population is increasing annually. There will be a proportionately larger need for food, clothing, shelter and housing as the population grows. Food demand, in particular, will be extremely high. Agriculture and livestock-breeding supply the majority of the demand for these basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter. Our country is sandwiched between two of the world’s most populous nations. Myanmar, blessed with favourable weather conditions and a strategic geographical location, is a country that thrives in crop cultivation, fruit cultivation, and livestock breeding. It is critical to seize these opportunities and utilize them effectively. Food security will become increasingly important in the world where demand for these basic human needs rises.

Ours is a country with significant potential to contribute to global food security. Indeed, our country could become the **agricultural powerhouse** that we once imagined.

Rather than increasing the sown acreage of main crops, plans were underway to increase crop cultivation as mixed cropping and double cropping. If per-acre yield increases, we can expect better development for the country. Similarly, livestock farms must be planned in order to expand livestock manufacturing. If this occurs, the country will have sufficient poultry, meat and fish, as well as serve as import substitution and as primary export commodities. **Every nation and individual strives to advance their socioeconomic status. Our collective efforts are necessary to achieve this overarching goal. “Dedicated work and determination enable us to achieve any goal we set.”**

In order to build a modern, developed nation, our administration has taken pragmatic steps in the best interests of the entire people. Additionally, for the sake of the nation, I would like to urge all national races to work side-by-side in respective sectors with a view to promoting the prosperity and development of the nation.

Distinguished guests and all esteemed national brethren of the Union,

The government exerts utmost efforts to a better State and to uplift the socioeconomic condition of our people in accord with the motto: **“Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal”** in the

interests of the country and the people.

In building a country that practises a democratic system, all citizens need to possess the knowledge and critical thinking. This cannot be done overnight but must be initiated a length of time from generation to generation. Human resources are the key to sustainable development, so, an emphasis must be placed on the education sector. Thus, the

According to the history and geopolitical conditions of Myanmar, our government has been steadfastly upholding the five principles of peaceful co-existence as the foundation of foreign policy since the post-independence period.

government emphasizes the education sector to increase the percentage of school children and literacy rate across the country. The government has set a national goal for all school-aged children to have the chance to learn and finish KG+9 education. Only when they finish KG+9 education at a minimum, will they have a solid foundation for vocational education, and so, they can pursue their studies at vocational training schools.

School education as well as knowledge of life beyond schools are widely encouraged in pursuing education. It is necessary to create opportunities for all citizens to learn vocational education in their respective sectors. Hence, the government has made arrangements to create chances for all citizens to accumulate knowledge through reading as it is the simplest and cheapest way of learning. **Moreover, efforts are being made to launch literacy campaigns with the goal to reach reading campaigns. Investment plans in the education sector will be the groundwork for a future democratic nation.**

It is necessary to encourage people to enthusiastically participate in sports activities as part of a nationwide movement for ensuring the health and fitness of entire people. Plans have been laid out with implementation to turn out a new generation of youths who have talents in sports, to be able to represent from regional/national level to international level, with a view to uplifting the prestige of the State and nationals. The government has also set a goal to implement affordable healthcare services in order to meet

the healthcare standard and increase the life expectancy of the entire people. With effective measures of prevention, control and treatment of Covid-19, the outbreak of disease and death toll have been reduced and brought under control at present.

In order to develop the state economy and domestic manufacturing capacity, efforts are being made to develop

micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs). With these measures, the production of finished goods using raw materials from domestic agriculture and livestock farms and natural resources which are major driving forces for domestic manufacturing will improve significantly as well.

While striving for development, natural resources must be utilized in a prudent and sensible manner giving due consideration to the future of the State and the next generations. As such, it is necessary to conduct environmental conservation and rehabilitation measures for past environmental degradation. In extracting natural resources, sales of manufacturing finished goods rather than selling in raw form can earn more income, create job opportunities for local people and develop technology and human resources at home.

Moreover, the best ways and means are being sought for generating electricity at full capacity and for having a sufficiency of electricity for both household and manufacturing purposes. Renewable energies such as solar power and hydropower could be conducted and atomic energy in addition to potential wind energy and hydropower will be peacefully used to implement projects in the electric power sector and others.

Strenuous efforts are also being made for the development of the nation in all aspects and undertakings of non-disintegration of the Union and improvement of culture and social sectors. In implementing a social object for deepening the Union Spirit **“to respect and promote the customs and traditions**

of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics”, the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the national level was successfully organized on a grand scale. Members of the State Administration Council (SAC) organized celebrations to mark relevant State Days on a grand scale. The government has pledged to march towards a modern and developed nation. So, I would like to urge all our national races to cooperate with the government in our march towards the goal in respective sectors.

Distinguished guests and all esteemed national brethren of the Union,

According to the history and geopolitical conditions of Myanmar, our government has been steadfastly upholding the five principles of peaceful co-existence as the foundation of foreign policy since the post-independence period. Currently, Myanmar continues to practise independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy and attaches great importance to world peace and friendly relations with other countries, while practising five principles of peaceful co-existence.

Our government has been serving the State’s responsibilities in line with the State Constitution (2008) and cooperating with international organizations such as the United Nations, ASEAN and BIMSTEC and other countries under international law, treaties and conventions. It is seen that some organizations and countries had meddled in the internal affairs of Myanmar. However, we have decided to stand firmly globally, while adhering to our foreign policy in order to safeguard the sovereignty, security and interests of our nation.

Our government has placed emphasis on global affairs and friendly relations with other countries and will closely cooperate with neighbouring countries, such as China, India, Thailand, Laos and Bangladesh, especially in peace, stability and development endeavours of border areas. Our government always ensure the peace and stability and development of neighbouring countries by adopting a practical policy of **“not allowing any organizations to utilize our territory to conduct activities against our friendly neighbours”**. Likewise, Myanmar maintains close relations with the world’s major powers.

During our administration tenure, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the cooperation and suggestions of some international/regional organizations and countries amid various pressures and criticisms,

Speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister ...

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while realizing the factual account of events. I would like to urge them to give continuous support to the fullest extent possible in practising “the genuine, discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system”, which is also the aspiration of the entire people of Myanmar. I would also like to extend our gratitude to those countries and international organizations that provided support across sectors including finance, technology and opportunity since the pre- and post-independence period which enable us to rise from the ashes to this current stage. Our government is ready to continue our cooperation with any countries or organizations which contribute to the interests of Myanmar.

Our government is ready to continue our cooperation with any countries or organizations which contribute to the interests of Myanmar.

Distinguished guests and all esteemed national brethren of the Union,

A state of Emergency was declared in accordance with the State Constitution (2008); hence, the State Administration Council remains loyal to the Constitution. A point “Emphasis will be placed on achieving durable peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement” has been included in the Five-Point Roadmap of our government for the cessation of internal armed conflicts to ensure national solidarity and peace which are absolute necessities for our country and strenuous efforts are being made towards that end.

As the year 2022 was marked as a Year of Peace, I myself have offered to hold peace dialogues with leaders of ethnic armed organizations in order to end long-running armed conflicts and build lasting peace, and I have met with them and had peace talks with them. The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, the Work Committee and the Negotiation Committee have been established to implement the peace process. The peace talks were based on the Constitution (2008) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA which the State stands for ensuring the restoration of peace. Attendance of a total of ten ethnic armed groups to the

peace talks reflected their attitudes and willingness to walk the path of peace.

The Tatmadaw has conducted a unilateral ceasefire for four years starting from 21 December 2018 to the end of 2022, aiming to enable the ethnic armed organizations to walk on the path of NCA and restore perpetual peace. The Tatmadaw has always remained committed to seeking solutions through negotiations. For the time being, the extension of the ceasefire from 1 January to 31 December 2023 has been declared. Taking into consideration the interests of our country and people facing internal armed conflicts since independence, I would like to urge all stakeholders to make utmost efforts for ceasing the internal armed conflicts starting from this very Diamond Jubilee of Independence so

that our next generation will inherit peace.

Distinguished guests and all esteemed national brethren of the Union

Free and fair elections play a pivotal role in the revitalization of the genuine, discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system. The process of holding the election is being carried out in line with the last point of the Five-Point Roadmap “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 the democratic standards”.

As the government is striving for the successful holding of the election, relevant departments are making systematic preparations to have accurate data. A special emphasis is being placed on the accuracy of voter lists in order to prevent voter fraud.

The Union Election Commission (UEC) has been discussing with the political parties to hold a Proportional Representation electoral system which allows the ethnic people to have the official rights to expression, discussion and broad representation that are entitled to them in the parliament, the highest legislative body.

The government will join hands with the entire people to ensure safe and smooth transportation across the country, the prevalence of law and order and tranquillity in order to successfully hold a free, fair and credible election.

Our country has held three general elections since the transition to the multiparty democratic system. The 2010 election covered 325 of 330 townships across the nation; the 2015 election was held in 323 townships; and the 2020 election took place in 315 townships. It was observed that public desire was less expressed under the governments which asserted that they would implement the democratic system. In holding elections, individual citizens must be freed from unfairness such as threats, coercions, unfair inducement and mobbing to express their opinion. Our government is striving for holding nationwide general elections across the country and for all citizens free from injustice.

I would like to earnestly request partner organizations and countries and entire people to hold consciousness and awareness and to cooperate with the government in implementing the national and political processes so as to safeguard the democratic process of Myanmar.

Distinguished guests and esteemed national brethren of the Union

During the time of the independence struggle and post-independence era, there were many organizations and individuals that placed national interest over self-interest. Some organizations are the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA), the General Council of Burmese Associations (GCBA), Doh Bamar Asiayone, AFPFL, Thirty Comrades, the Revolutionary Council, the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the State Peace and Development Council and so on.

With regard to individuals, Wuntho Saopha U Aung Myat, Con Bik, Bagan Bo Cho and so on were famous in the first phase of the independence struggle. Likewise, U Ba Pe, U Chit Hlaing, Saya San, Thakin Po Hla Gyi, Bo Aung Kyaw, Thakin Kodaw Hmine, U Po Kyar, Saya Tin, U Wizara and U Uttama were included in the second phase and martyrs led by General Aung San and Colonel Ba Htoo were in the final phase. Moreover, in the post-independence era, many personalities from various arenas exerted national perpetuation and raised the prestige of the State. Some renowned persons were U Nu, U Ba Swe, General Ne Win, U Kyaw Nyein, Senior General Than Shwe, UN Secretary General U Thant, Dr Ba Maw, and national leaders who signed the Panglong Agreement. There are many more outstanding peo-

ple out there who are not on my list. Regardless of differences in their concepts and attitudes, they all built the State and raised the prestige of the State. So, in recognition of the merits of individuals of successive eras for their contributions and sacrifices for the State, our government has conferred honorary titles upon them. I further honoured them with this ceremony. They will forever remain in our hearts.

Distinguished guests and all esteemed national brethren of the Union

The past history testifies that the strength of the nation lies only within. We have to primarily rely on internal strength to develop the nation. There is no reason for our country not to develop since our country is rich in above-ground, underground and water resources as well as human resources. If we are united and make our efforts, without doubt, we would become a regional power, and eventually a world power. I would like to praise all the national races of the Union for their steadfastness in the face of adversities during the 75 years. I would also like to urge all of you to make every effort with patriotic and national spirit, for national perpetuation and for our country to stand tall among global nations. “So long as the world exists, so does Myanmar.”

Distinguished guests and all esteemed national brethren of the Union,

Let me conclude by urging the entire people to make collective efforts in implementing the following national objectives of the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day:

- to ensure cementing the discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democratic system and build the Union based on democracy and federalism;
- to utmost strive for ensuring the prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency as national tasks;
- to build a better State and socioeconomic life in accord with the theme “Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal” focusing on the interests of the State and ethnic national peoples;
- to initiate national solidarity and peace of the Union with a firm vow;
- to successfully hold free and fair multiparty democratic general elections and emerge an electoral system in which all ethnic nationals would participate proportionately.

May all national races brethren enjoy physical and mental well-being. Thank you all.

Honorary dinner, entertainment mark 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day



The Senior General and dignitaries watch the song and dance entertainment at the honorary dinner in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

AN honorary dinner in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day hosted by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla was held in conjunction with the entertainment on the lawn of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The guests to the dinner were greeted by SAC

Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Union ministers and their wives.

The Senior General and wife, together with the Vice-Senior General and wife, cordially greeted chairmen and representatives of political parties, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign embassies, honorary consuls and guests.

At the awarding ceremony, SAC member General Mya

Tun Oo and Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presented honorary prizes and cash awards to two honorary prize winning decorated floats, five decorated floats from Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), regions and states and union ministries.

SAC member General Mya Tun Oo presented honorary prizes and cash awards to officials for third prize-winning floats of Mandalay Region and Ministry of Construction respectively.

The Vice-Senior General

presented honorary prizes and cash awards for second prize-winning Bago Region to Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win and Ministry of Transport and Communications to Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San respectively.

The Senior General presented honorary awards to parachute troops, first prizes and cash awards for Ayeyawady Region to Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation to Union Minister U Khin

Maung Yi respectively.

The Senior General and his wife had dinner together with the attendees. Before and during the dinner, the artistes of MRTV and the Fine Arts Department performed song entertainment.

The Senior General and party enjoyed the launching of titles, pictures of the Senior General and a map of Myanmar with the use of drones and the launching of fireworks.

After dinner, they watched the song and dance entertainment of artistes and famous vocalists at the variety show.

After the variety show, the Senior General and his wife presented the flower basket to those artistes and cordially greeted the attendees to the dinner.

The dinner was attended by the Senior General and wife, the Vice-Senior General and wife, the SAC Secretary, the SAC Joint Secretary, council members and their wives, Vice-President (Retd) Thray Sithu Dr Sai Mauk Kham and his wife, Vice-President (Retd) Thray Sithu U Nyan Tun and wife, families of heads of state who had served State duties in successive eras, senior military officers, Union ministers, officials, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign embassies, honorary consuls, representatives from NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations and NCA non-signatories and guests. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General and dignitaries attend the honorary dinner yesterday.

Refresh your minds as from New Year 2023

EVERYBODY needs to review all their acts on physical and mental behaviours and thoughts whether they committed anything harming somebody or something or not the whole year 2022.

Generally, everybody is easy to commit any misdeeds as miserable as sin. If they cannot control themselves, they easily commit them. Hence, everybody needs to control themselves to be free from various misdeeds starting from the New Year 2023.

Only when society is decorated with pleasure and happiness will everybody have the chance to pleasantly live in society. Indeed, a pleasant society does not have any space for those who commit acts of sin. If not, society definitely punishes them for their sinful acts not only in the current life but in the next life.

With regard to something, one day, the truth will conquer the wrong. Those who uphold the truth will have to grasp victory one day. Hence, everybody should not change their right concepts leading to a pleasant goal.

Only when society is decorated with pleasure and happiness will everybody have the chance to pleasantly live in society. Indeed, a pleasant society does not have any space for those who commit acts of sin. If not, society definitely punishes them for their sinful acts not only in the current life but in the next life.

Believe it or not! Thanks to religious orders, society gradually removes the sinners while creating spaces for noble persons. Heaven is waiting for all living beings from society. The Nibbana is reachable for all persons. At a time when they can wash their minds, they can find the steps leading to Heaven as well as the Nibbana. Let's start our good deeds!



COVID-19 vaccines prior to infection reduce transmission of Omicron: Research

RECENT vaccination and boosters reduce infectiousness, but the risk of infection is still high, according to a study conducted in California prisons.

An examination by researchers at UC San Francisco that looked at transmission between people living in the same cell found that vaccination and boosting, especially when recent, helped to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in California prisons during the first Omicron wave.

Advantages of vaccination

The study indicates the advantages of vaccination and boosting in lowering the transmission, even in environments where many people are still becoming sick. Additionally, it demonstrates the cumulative effects of boosting and the additional protection that immunization offers patients who have already contracted the disease. With each extra dose, the chance of transmission decreased by 11 per cent.

“A lot of the benefits of vaccines to reduce infectiousness were from people who had received



A family leaves a Covid-19 testing and vaccination site at a public school in Los Angeles, California, 5 January 2022. PHOTO: ROBYN BECK/AFP

boosters and people who had been recently vaccinated,” said Nathan Lo, MD, PhD, a faculty research fellow in the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine at UCSF and the senior author of the study in Nature Medicine. “Our findings are particularly relevant to improving health for the incarcerated population.” The researchers analyzed deidentified data collected by the California

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). This included COVID-19 test results, vaccine status and housing locations for 1,11,687 residents, 97 per cent of whom were male, between 15 December, 2021, and 20 May, 2022.

Breakthrough infections

Breakthrough infections were common, despite the residents’ relatively high vaccination

rate of 81 per cent with the primary vaccine series. But the rate of serious illness was low. In just over five months, there were 22,334 confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Omicron infections, 31 hospitalizations and no COVID-19 deaths. Vaccinated residents with breakthrough infections were significantly less likely to transmit them: 28 per cent versus 36 per cent for those who were unvaccinated. But the likelihood

of transmission grew by 6 per cent for every five weeks that passed since someone’s last vaccine shot. Natural immunity from a prior infection also had a protective effect, and the risk of transmitting the virus was 23 per cent for someone with reinfection compared to 33 per cent for someone who had never been infected.

Those with hybrid immunity, from both infection and vaccination, were 40 per cent less likely to transmit the virus. Half of that protection came from the immunity that one acquires from fighting infection and the other half came from being vaccinated.

The researchers said they were gratified to see that vaccination confers additional protection even for those who had already been infected, but they were surprised by how much the infection continued to spread, despite the residents’ relatively high vaccination rates.

A high amount of transmission

“Regardless of the benefits you see in vaccination and prior infection, there is still a high amount of transmission in

this study,” said Sophia Tan, a researcher in Lo’s lab and the study’s first author. “We hope these findings can support ongoing efforts to protect this vulnerable population.”

This includes making efforts to keep residents current with boosters and increasing the vaccination rate of the prison staff, only 73 per cent of whom had received the primary series at the time of the study. The general rate of boosting could also be improved significantly. At the time of the study, just 59 per cent of residents and 41 per cent of staff had received all the doses recommended by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), based on their age and health status.

“Within the two months following vaccination, people are the least infectious, which indicates that boosters and large timed vaccination campaigns may have a role to reduce transmission in surges,” Lo said. “New ideas are needed since the risk of infection in this vulnerable population remains so great.”

SOURCE: ANI

Climate data can help model spread of Covid-19: Research

ACCORDING to a new study by a group of researchers from the Qatar Environment & Energy Research Institute (QEERI), at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, and Transvalor S.A., France, Covid-19 transmission can be more precisely modelled by including meteorological factors, with ultraviolet (UV) radiation as the main driver.

A rising number of studies indicate that the climate may have an effect on how Covid-19 spreads, however, it is unclear how much it alters risk and transmission. Studies on the effects of climate change have been patchy or poorly controlled; they have only looked at a small number of

climatic factors or have ignored socioeconomic factors, for example.

Data on reported Covid-19 cases

In the new paper, the researchers studied data on reported Covid-19 cases in 196 countries over a 14-month period, using socioeconomic, environmental, and global health factors as control variables. They developed three different analytic approaches -- statistical, machine learning and econometric -- which modelled the potential contributions of climate to confirmed case numbers.

The results suggest that while disease susceptibility, lockdown compliance, and increased testing are the most effective strategies for preventing the spread of Covid-19, UV radiation is the climate factor most strongly correlated with the spread of Covid-19, with greater UV radiation associated with reduced transmission. For other meteorological and air quality factors, including temperature, absolute humidity and solar radiation, discrepancies between results in the three analysis methods emphasized the difficulty in understanding the correlations.

For instance, the humidity was positively correlated with Covid-19 spread in the machine learning analysis and negatively

correlated in the econometric analysis.

The statistical analysis

The temperature was moderately negatively associated with Covid-19 in the statistical analysis but positively correlated with Covid-19 transmission in both the machine learning and econometric analyses.

The authors conclude that UV radiation emerges as the most impactful meteorological factor in Covid-19 transmission across all methods.

This could help refine transmission predictions based on seasonality or weather forecasts, and help inform future pandemic

response measures that limit the economic impact of complete lockdowns. They point out that this is supported by overwhelming evidence that UV light can effectively kill SARS-CoV-2 and other coronaviruses.

The authors add: “The impact of climate on Covid-19 transmission rates has been the subject of many studies, but it is still poorly understood.

In our study, we demonstrated that meteorological factors play a key role in statistical, machine learning and econometric analyses of Covid-19 risk, with ultraviolet radiation (UV) as the main driver.”

SOURCE: ANI



A rising number of studies indicate that the climate may have an effect on how Covid-19 spreads. PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 4 January 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 5 January 2023: Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady Regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayah States and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 January 2023: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 January 2023: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 January, 2023: Generally fair weather.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlnm.com.mm

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SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends inauguration of exhibitions, traditional food booths, decorated floats marking 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day 2023

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win yesterday afternoon attended the ceremony to unveil the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day 2023 commemorative booths, traditional food booths and decorated floats at Tabaung Ground, south of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda.

The Vice-Senior General, Council members Mahn Nyein Maung and U Saw Daniel, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin unveiled the booths.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin presented commemorative gifts to the Vice-Senior General.

Ethnic traditional choral



The Vice-Senior General and dignitaries unveil the exhibitions, traditional food booths and decorated floats at Tabaung Ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

dance troupes from Nay Pyi dana".

Taw Council, regions and states The Vice-Senior Gener-

presented the song "Pyae Ya- al and party cordially greeted

ence Day 2023 commemorative booths and traditional foods booths.

The booths and decorated floats exhibition will last from 4 to 8 January. The exhibition comprises 25 booths of ministries, 15 booths of Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states and 15 booths of traditional foods, totalling 55, showing 26 decorated floats from ministries, 15 decorated floats from Nay Pyi Taw and regions and states, a decorated float marking the Independence Day a Union decorated float and five decorated floats for Tatmadaw, totalling 48. Admission is free for people.

Visitors are requested to understand systematic inspection and searching of security forces at entries and exits of the town and exhibitions.

—MNA/TTA

Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony of 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day

FROM PAGE-1

However, as colonialists occupied Myanmar in three aggressive wars in the late 19th century, the country lost its independence and sovereignty in 1885.

Although ethnic national people misunderstood among them their slavery life due to suppression and divide-and-rule administration in various ways and means, all ethnic people born within the Union with the Union spirit under the leadership of ethnic leaders unitedly fought against the colonialists and fascists with sacrifices. As a result, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar regained independence and sovereignty on 4 January 1948, and this year's occasion takes place on the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) occasion.

Although independence can lose in a few days or months, it is necessary to take many years for regaining independence. Forefathers sacrificed life and blood for more than 100 years to regain the independence of Myanmar but the devil legacy of colonialism triggered armed conflicts among ethnic nations and harmed the peace of the Union.

In order to ensure the perpetuity of the regained independence, the entire ethnic national people need to take great care so as to prevent instigations and pressure committed by internal and external destructive elements with the national cause. Moreover, the entire ethnic national people are to keep Our Three Main National Causes in their soul in striving for building the Union based on the genuine, disciplined-flourishing democratic system and federalism for its perpetuity as long as the world exists.

Esteemed ethnic national people,

As the energy for humans to be able to do daily

processes can be taken from food, food security is the most crucial and primary requisite for all human beings. If people can sufficiently buy healthy food at fair prices in a country, such a country can be defined as one with food sufficiency.

The global population amounted to eight billion at the end of 2022. So, the demand for rations will increase in proportion to with the growing population. As Myanmar has been sufficient in food at home in successive eras and it exported surplus agricultural and livestock products to neighbouring countries and global countries, it is necessary to strive for Myanmar to become a country to be able to meet the demand of global countries for food security. It must establish a modernized nation by promoting education as the education sector plays a key role in the improvement of the human resources of a nation.

The government also makes efforts for every school-age child to have a learning opportunity for attending the KG+9 of middle school education. More than 70 per cent of the country's population is residing in rural areas and so agriculture, livestock breeding and technical skills will be taught at the high schools in 50 districts in the coming academic year to uplift the socioeconomic status. Besides this plan, arrangements are underway to expand the schools that offer vocational skills aiming to support the MSMEs.

Myanmar is rich in land, water and natural resources and it should try to develop human resources. For the economic growth of the country, it should encourage the manufacturing industries to produce a certain local product and try hard to be an exporter producing the commodities to meet the country's needs instead of being an importer of basic commod-

ities, the local demand. It should conduct the natural environmental conservation procedures systematically after the natural resources are explored. Only then, it will claim Sustainable Development.

Since Myanmar gained its independence, it passed years with various political systems, and it reaches its 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day on 4 January 2023. Praising a person who should be honoured and showing gratitude to a person who helps is a good deed (Mingala), and so, honouring should be done as a tradition. Despite the different opinions, beliefs and stances within 75 years, the people who work for the interests of the country are presented honorary titles, medals and religious titles regardless of who or what they are.

Peace talks are being held with ethnic armed organizations according to NCA to ensure perpetual peace.

It also heads to a multiparty democratic election that is fair and just to establish a Union based on democracy and federalism that the entire people truly desire.

The two national tasks and two political tasks of the country will be implemented successfully upholding the Union spirit based on the friendship and unity of ethnic national people overcoming the challenges to grab the motto: "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal".

I send this message urging the entire ethnic national people to participate in implementing the Five National Objectives of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day with firm stances for the enduring existence of the country.

■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No 1/2023

14th Waxing of Pyatho 1384 ME
4 January 2023

Pardon Order

In commemoration of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day that occurs on 4 January 2023 on humanitarian and compassionate grounds as well as on the goodwill of the government, the State Administration Council Chairman has pardoned 7,012 male and female prisoners from their respective prisons, jails and camps under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) "to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which he was sentenced this time if more offence is committed"

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

A total of 7,012 males and females are pardoned and released from their respective prisons, jails and camps as well as prison sentences are remitted under the SAC Order Nos 1 and 2.



A total of 1,400 males and females including foreigners from Insein Gaol.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No 2/2023

14th Waxing of Pyatho 1384 ME
4 January 2023

Remitting prison sentences

IN commemoration of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day that occurs on 4 January 2023, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds as well as on the goodwill of the government, the State Administration Council Chairman has remitted the punishment of prisoners from their respective prisons, jails and camps reducing one-sixth of the sentences they are serving under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) except for those convicted of murders and rapes or jailed for charges under the Explosives Act, the Unlawful Association Act, the 1878 Arms Act Section 19 (f), the 1949 Arms (Emergency Penalty held) Act (Temporary), the 1951 Arms (Temporary Amendment) Act, the 1924 Shan State Arms Order, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Natural Disaster Management Law, the Counter-Terrorism Law and the Anti-Corruption Law before 4 January 2023.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary



Released from prisons in Rakhine State.



From Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.



From Mandalay Prison.



From Taunggyi Prison.



1. From Shwebo Prison.
2. From prisons in Shan State.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Weekly market update of dry groceries

Onion

The Bayintnaung Wholesale Market saw the entry of 150,000 visses of new onions on 3 January 2023. The prices moved in the range of K1,600 and K2,600 per viss depending on the quality, size and producing areas (Myingyan and Myittha).

The price of onions from the Myittha area hit the highest at K2,350 per viss in the Mandalay market, while those from the Pakokku area were also priced the highest at K1,950 per viss.

Garlic

The wholesale price of the Kyukok garlic variety was approximately K3,400 per viss on 3 January 2023, while the local garlic from Shan State (Aungban) fetched K3,900-5,100 per viss.

Potato

The prices of potatoes stood at K2,300 per viss of old Chinese potatoes and K1,900 per viss of new Chinese potatoes, while the prices of Shan potatoes moved in the range between K1,700 and 2,200 per viss.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K12,500 per viss of Shan long chilli pepper and K12,000 for the Moehtaung variety. The prices of bell peppers were moved in the range between K11,500 and 14,200 per viss depending on the producing areas (Thazi, Sinbyukyun, Chinese varieties and Salin).

Rice

The prices of sticky rice were K75,000-K80,000 per bag on 3 January in the Yangon market.

Meanwhile, the prices of high-grade old Pawsan stood at K98,000 per bag from the Shwebo area, K70,000 from Pathein/Myaungmya area and K68,000 from the Pyapon area, while the new Pawsan varieties were K61,000-72,000 per bag depending on the production regions. The prices of other varieties were K52,000 for short mature rice (90 days), K47,000 for rice grown under the intercropping system, K42,000 for new low-grade rice and K40,500-41,000 for export broken rice (B1-2).

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region this week was up by 110 per viss compared to the last week's price. The reference price for a week from 2 to 8 January 2023 was set at K4,470 per viss.

Consequently, the wholesale prices of palm oil increased to K5,250 per viss on 3 January 2023.

Pulses

The prices of various pulses stood at over K1,690,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K1,890,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K1,755,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K4,225 -4,350 per viss of chickpea and K2,800-2,920 per viss of green gram (Kayan Shwe Wah variety) in Yangon markets. —TWA/EMM

Six solar-powered aerators to be used to prevent water pollution in re-discharge of wastewater

ACCORDING to the Urban Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department under the Yangon City Development Committee, arrangements are being made to prevent water pollution in disposing of wastewater by using six aerators driven by solar-powered two HP motors.

Leachate wastewater released from the landfills and the Hteinbin final disposal site in Hlinethaya (West) Township is collected in the surface aerator tank and then aerated. Aeration is the process by which air is circulated through, mixed with or dissolved in a liquid or substance.

By the aeration process, bacteria and micro-organisms in the leachate can be reduced and water pollution can be prevented



A solar panel.

during re-discharge.

In addition, the aeration process is also being used at the Kandawgyi Lake to reduce the bacteria and micro-organisms in the lake water and algae with the solar-powered three-blade motor equipped with a 1.1 kW DC motor. It is known that the process is being used by the Urban Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department, Yangon City Development Committee. — TWA/CT

New Mingala Market to be completed in April 2023

THE construction of the new Mingala Market is scheduled to complete at the end of April 2023 and some completed shops are to be sold at the beginning of this year, according to the Department of Markets under the Yangon City Development Committee.

Joint contractors of the new Mingala Market are Sun Myat Tun Construction Company Co Ltd and Jasmine Palace Construction. The construction of the project started in 2019, and the first part — up to the fifth floor — was completed in October 2022 and the second part — the rest floors — will be completed at the end of April 2023.

The new market is going to be a 17-storey building with over 5,000 shops, 21 lifts, and parking lots that can accommodate more than 700 vehicles, cinemas, restaurants, banks and supermarkets.

After the completion, owners of shops who had run the business in the old market will be relocated to the new market.

Detailed inquiries can be made by those who are willing to purchase vacant shops, at the Department of Markets under YCDC in Yangon City Hall.

The new Mingala Market in Mingala Taungnyunt Township was formerly a high-end market that used to sell wholesale and retail consumer goods. It encountered two fire outbreaks, in May 2010 and in January 2016. — TWA/CT



CBM revokes forex licence of Mandalay Capital Company Ltd

MANDALAY Capital Company Limited got its money changer licence revoked, as per the Central Bank of Myanmar's statement released on 3 January.

Non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) have to seek a forex licence under a separate company or parent company and they are not entitled to be engaged in money changer business under the NBFIs.

When the CBM conducted an onsite inspection, the money changer business was found running under the name of Mandalay Capital Co Ltd, which is a registered NBFI.

According to the policy laid down by the CBM, Mandalay Capital Co Ltd got its licence revoked (MD-537/2022) on 3 January 2023, as per the CBM's statement. — TWA/EMM

The picture shows a loan advert for Mandalay Capital Co Ltd.

China’s Ant Group gets green light for \$1.5 bln fundraising plan

CHINESE authorities have given approval to Jack Ma’s Ant Group to raise 10.5 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) for its consumer finance arm, in a sign that Beijing may be loosening its grip on the fintech giant.

An office of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission in the southwestern city of Chongqing will let the firm raise its registered capital from eight billion yuan to 18.5 billion yuan, according to a notice issued on 30 December.

After the deal goes through, Ant — in which ecommerce titan Alibaba has a stake — will have contributed a total of 9.25 billion yuan and control half of its shares.

A unit owned by the eastern city of Hangzhou will become the sec-



After the deal goes through, Ant — in which ecommerce titan Alibaba has a stake — will have contributed a total of 9.25 billion yuan and control half of its shares. **PHOTO: AFP**

ond-largest shareholder with a 10 per cent stake, the notice said.

It added that Ant is required to “complete the relevant statutory proceedings” within six months of receiving the

authorization.

Chinese authorities have cracked down on major technology firms in recent years, and in 2020 pulled Ant’s planned initial public offering in Hong Kong at the last minute.

The listing would have been a world record at the time. Beijing also hit Alibaba, which Ma co-founded and formerly headed, with a record \$2.75 billion fine for alleged unfair practices.—AFP

Discount supermarket Aldi posts record Christmas in UK



German discount supermarket chain Aldi enjoyed record UK sales during the Christmas trading period, it announced Tuesday, as the country struggles with soaring prices. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMAN discount supermarket chain Aldi enjoyed record UK sales during the Christmas trading period, it announced Tuesday, as the country struggles with soaring prices.

Sales during December topped £1.4 billion (\$1.7 billion), up more than 26 per cent from a year earlier, with the company profiting also from food and

drink purchases during the football World Cup, according to a statement.

“Aldi reported its best Christmas ever... despite the rising cost of living,” the group said. UK annual inflation stands at around 11 per cent, the highest level in decades, largely owing to a surge in global food and energy prices last year.—AFP

Shares in troubled Kenya Airways suspended for another year

TRADING in Kenya Airways shares has been suspended for another year, the local stock exchange said Wednesday, as the troubled national carrier battles to return to profitability.

Last month, Kenyan President William Ruto said the government was ready to sell its entire stake in the airline, which has been languishing deep in the red for

years.

Kenya Airways shares have been suspended since July 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic that devastated global air travel.

“The extension of suspension seeks to enable the company (to) complete its operational and corporate restructuring process,” the Nairobi Securities Exchange said in a statement.—AFP



Kenya Airways was hit by a pilots’ strike in November. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stock markets rally on New Year boost but US equities falter

GLOBAL stocks mostly rallied Tuesday thanks to a New Year boost, clouded however by rising interest rates, recession worries and Russia’s war on Ukraine.

While 2022 was painful for investors, there is a fear that this year could be worse, with International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva warning a third of the global economy could slip into recession.

Yet London closed 1.4 per cent higher, as traders returned from a holiday weekend to play catch-up with Frankfurt and Paris, which logged gains on both Monday and Tuesday.

German inflation eased in December for a second straight month, preliminary data showed, as government interventions helped to bring down energy prices.

But Wall Street stocks failed to hold on to gains, closing lower. “Restrictive policy and recession fears remained front and center for investors,” said Edward Moya of the OANDA trading platform.—AFP

Ex-crypto boss Bankman-Fried pleads not guilty to fraud

FTX co-founder Sam Bankman-Fried pleaded not guilty Tuesday to US criminal fraud charges over the spectacular collapse of his crypto exchange.

The 30-year-old former digital currency billionaire, who is out on bail, entered the plea in federal court in Manhattan before New York judge Lewis Kaplan.

FTX and its sister trading house Alameda Research went bankrupt in November, dissolving a virtual trading business that at one point had been valued by the market at \$32 billion.

The United States has charged Bankman-Fried with conspiracy, wire fraud, money laundering and election finance violations.

Prosecutors allege he cheated investors and misused funds that belonged to FTX and Alameda Research customers. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0331N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0331N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-1-2023** 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.

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GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin orders screening of Ukraine assault documentaries

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin ordered his government on Tuesday to ensure by February the screening in cinemas of documentary films dedicated to his assault on Ukraine and the fight against “neo-Nazi” ideology.

The Kremlin said in a statement that the culture ministry had until 1 February to implement the order.

Putin shocked the world by sending troops to Ukraine on 24 February last year, saying the pro-Western country needed to be “demilitarized” and “de-Nazified”.

Putin ordered the defence ministry to render assistance to Russian filmmakers who will produce documentaries dedicat-



A billboard emblazoned with the letter Z (the tactical insignia of Russian troops attacking Ukraine) and reading “Victory is being Forged in Fire” is pictured in central Moscow on 13 Oct. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV /AFP**

ed to “the heroism of the participants of the special military

operation”, the Kremlin said, using the official term for the offensive.

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has been ordered to report to the president on those efforts by 1 March.

Since the start of Moscow’s military campaign, state television channels have ramped up propaganda lauding Russian troops fighting in Ukraine as heroes. Independent media outlets have been suspended or shut down in Russia, with many journalists leaving the country.

Criticism of the offensive in Ukraine is now punishable with jail time, while words such as “war” and “invasion” are banned.—AFP

85% Ukrainians oppose territorial concessions to Russia, poll reveals

EIGHTY-five per cent of Ukrainians oppose any territorial concessions to Russia according to a poll released by the latest poll results released by a Kyiv-based pollster, reported NHK World.

The poll was conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology conducted from 4 - 27 December and involving 2,005 residents in all regions of Ukraine except for areas occupied by Russia.

Respondents reiterated that Ukraine should not give up any of its territories to Russia, even if it causes the war to last longer.—ANI

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Tanzanian president lifts ban on opposition political rallies



On this 18 February 2022 photo, supporters reacts as Tanzania’s main opposition Chadema party chairman Freeman Mbowe (not in picture) who was arrested on 21 July 2021. **PHOTO: ERICKY BONIPHACE/AFP**

TANZANIA’S president on Tuesday lifted a ban on opposition rallies imposed in 2016 by her strongman predecessor, in an overture to political rivals seeking the restoration of democratic traditions.

“I am here to declare that

the ban on political rallies is now lifted,” President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who took power after the death of John Magufuli in 2021, told a gathering of political leaders at State House in Dar es Salaam.

“The government will be re-

sponsible for ensuring security during rallies, but I urge all politicians to also practise civilized politics,” she added.

Hassan has been under pressure to break with some of the more hardline policies of Magufuli, who came to power in 2015 as a no-nonsense man of the people but became accused of crushing dissent.

Nicknamed “the Bulldozer” for his uncompromising style, Magufuli banned political rallies early in his first term, but critics said the ruling was applied only to opposition groups.

Free speech and the press were also curbed and opposition leaders detained in a sweeping crackdown on dissent under his leadership in a country once seen as a democratic beacon in East Africa.—AFP

French prosecutors seek fraud trial for former spy chief

PROSECUTORS have urged a trial for the ex-head of France’s domestic intelligence agency in a sprawling probe into murky ties between the security services and private firms including luxury giant LVMH, a source close to the case said Tuesday.

Bernard Squarcini, until 2012 head of the DGSI spy agency, and 10 others are targeted on charges including influence peddling, fraud and complicity in breaches of professional and judicial secrecy.

The investigation into the so-called “Squarcini affair” has

been going on for over a decade, and prosecutors asked judges in December to order the trial for the suspects, who include a former appeals court judge.

Conspicuous by its absence from the list is the LVMH luxury conglomerate, the parent company of brands including fashion house Louis Vuitton and champagne producer Moët.

In late 2021, the company paid a fine of 10 million euros (\$10.5 million at current exchange rates) fine to settle claims it hired Squarcini to spy on private citizens.—AFP



Conspicuous by its absence from the list is the LVMH luxury conglomerate, the parent company of brands including fashion house Louis Vuitton and champagne producer Moët. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US resumes full immigrant visa service in Havana

FIVE years after it was closed due to mysterious “sonic attacks” on diplomatic staff, the US consulate in Havana resumes full immigrant visa services for Cubans on Wednesday.

The reopening comes amid

a record exodus from the communist island to the United States, mainly by undocumented migrants, as Cuba suffers its worst economic crisis in 30 years. “The United States is working to ensure safe, legal,

and orderly migration of Cubans by expanding consular operations in Havana and restarting the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program (CFRP),” the embassy said in a statement last week.—AFP

New chapter for Pope Francis after death of Benedict XVI

WITH the death of Benedict XVI, Pope Francis enters a new phase of his papacy free from the constraints of co-existing with a predecessor, but conservative criticism of his reforms may not end.

For the first time since his 2013 election, the Argentine pontiff is squarely at the helm of the Catholic Church and its 1.3 billion faithful without another man in white — former pope Benedict XVI — also at the Vatican.

From Benedict's surprise resignation a decade ago until his death Saturday at the age of 95, the German theologian's lingering presence at the Vatican had caused confusion within the Church, fuelling a "two popes" dynamic sometimes exploited by Francis's critics.

Benedict's death "ends a misunderstanding, a situation of ambiguity, in which (Joseph) Ratzinger could be used as a standard by Francis's opponents", Vatican expert Marco

Politi told AFP, using the former pope's birth name.

Although promising to carry out a post-papacy life of quiet contemplation and study following his resignation, Benedict XVI later weighed in on the explosive issues of clerical sex abuse and the possibility of married priests.

His contribution to a book in January 2020 on celibacy was viewed as a bid to boost the cause of the Church's ultra-conservative wing.—AFP



Despite the complications posed by the presence of a living ex-pope at the Vatican, Francis succeeded in carrying out reforms. **PHOTO: OSSERVATORE ROMANO/AFP/FILE**

US House adjourns after failing to elect speaker in historic political stalemate



Republican Kevin McCarthy needed to keep his party's moderates united behind him while getting opponents on the right on his side. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE US House of Representatives adjourned on Tuesday evening after its members failed to elect a speaker for the lower chamber. US Congressman Kevin McCarthy, a Republican from California, failed to secure enough votes in three ballots earlier in the day after a group

of House Republicans voted against him.

There will be at least a fourth vote as House members agreed to adjourn until Wednesday noon. McCarthy is reportedly negotiating with fellow Republicans on Tuesday night.

The political drama came

nearly two months after the 2022 midterm elections, in which Republicans flipped the House and Democrats held onto their majority in the Senate.

HISTORICALLY DIVIDED CONGRESS

This was the first time in a century that the US House speaker was not elected on the first ballot.

The House will have to vote on and on until a speaker is elected with a majority of votes. A candidate needs 218 votes to become speaker if no lawmaker skips the vote or votes "present."

All House Democrats voted for Congressman Hakeem Jeffries from New York to lead the Democratic minority in the three rounds of voting on the speakership. It also followed the convening of the new and divided Congress on Tuesday noon.—Xinhua

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Brazil's Lula puts US, China among his first official visits

BRAZIL'S President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will make his first official trip to Argentina at the end of January, before visiting the United States, Portugal and China, an official said Tuesday.

Lula, as the 77-year-old leader is commonly known, will participate in the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Celac), which takes place on 23 and 24 January in Buenos Aires.

The leftist leader, who was sworn in as president of the South American giant for the third time on Sunday, will meet with US counterpart Joe Biden in Washington, on a still "undated" trip, according to a source in the president's office. —AFP

Germany rejects Polish demands for WWII compensation

GERMANY has formally rejected a World War II reparations claim estimated to be 1.3 trillion euros (\$1.4 trillion), the Polish foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

Since coming to power in 2015, Poland's governing Law and Justice (PiS) party has championed the issue and evoked Germany's "moral duty".

Poland in September estimated the financial cost of World War II losses to be 1.3 trillion euros and sent a formal diplomatic note to Berlin demanding compensation. —AFP

Illegal migration to Spain drops in 2022

THE number of migrants arriving illegally in Spain dropped by more than a quarter in 2022 over the previous year, mainly due to a fall in sea crossings, the interior ministry said Tuesday.

A total of 31,219 people entered Spain without permission last year, down from 41,945 in 2021 — a drop of 25.6 per cent and a second straight yearly decline, the ministry said in its annual

migration report.

The interior ministry credited "cooperation with countries of origin and transit" of migrants, and the reinforcement of the fight "against mafias that traffic people" for the fall.

Migrant arrivals by sea decreased across the country but the most significant fall occurred in Spain's Canary Islands in the Atlantic off northwest Africa.

The number of migrants who arrived by sea in the archipelago fell to 15,682 in 2022 from 22,316 in the previous year, about 30 per cent less.

The Atlantic route from West Africa to the Canary Islands had been increasingly used by migrant smugglers since the end of 2019 after safer routes to Europe in the Mediterranean were closed.—AFP



Spanish police try to disperse migrants at a border between Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. **PHOTO: AFP**



MFF appoints Daw Thet Thet Win as Myanmar women’s team head coach



Myanmar women’s team head coach Daw Thet Thet Win. PHOTO: THAWGYI

THE Myanmar Football Federation has appointed Daw Thet Thet Win as the head coach of the Myanmar women’s national team on a two-year contract.

The former head coach of the Myanmar national women’s team, U Tin Myint Aung, part-

ed ways after the 31st Viet Nam SEA Games held in May 2022. After that, no head coach was appointed, and only now a new head coach has been appointed. The Myanmar national women’s team won third place in the 2022 ASEAN Women’s Championship held in July 2022, and she was appointed as the permanent head coach due to her brilliant performance in the competition. Daw Thet Thet Win became the first female head coach appointed in the history of the Myanmar national women’s team. Myanmar national women’s team started training in December for international competitions to be held in 2023, and 35 preliminary players have been selected. The women’s squad will compete in the 32nd Cambodia SEA Games, Paris Olympic Asian Zone Qualifiers, ASEAN Women’s Championship and other international competitions this year. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

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.

TO hail the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day, the final games of the Myanmar Equestrian Federation President’s Cup Equestrian Competition were held at the Myanmar Equestrian Federation Ground in Dagon Myothit (North) Township yesterday.

Myanmar traditional ride, gallop-ride competitions, and international jumping competitions for junior, and senior horse riders were included in the final matches.

Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Aung Win Thein, Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Department Director U Aung Moe, President of the Myanmar Equestrian Federation U Pyone Maung Maung, Vice-President of the federation and committee members, professional horse riders and fans enjoyed the final games.

The federation president

Final matches, Award Ceremony of Equestrian competition held to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day



Winners of the Equestrian competition hold their trophies as a celebration of their victories. PHOTO: LIN YAR MA

and committee members presented individual medals, cash awards and trophies to the winner of Myanmar traditional ride Zeyar Win (Shwe Zinyaw), first-runner up Pyone Cho (Htike Htar), and second-runner up Aung San Lin (Myanmar Pyay Chan Chan), and winner of gallop-ride competition (junior class) Zaw Myint (Padamyar May), first-runner

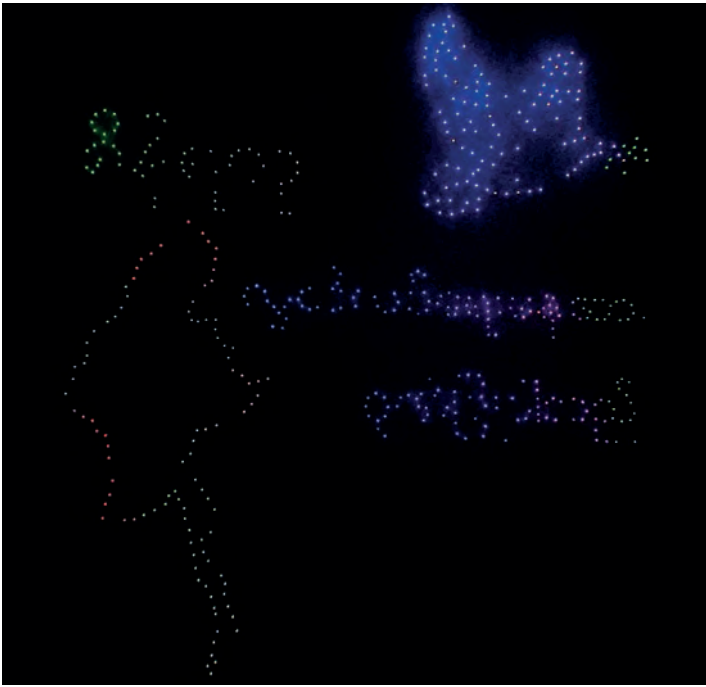
up Chit Lar (Adipati), and second-runner up (Hteik Htar), and winner of gallop-ride competition (middle class) Kyaw Min Ko (Tun Tauk), first-runner up Chit Chit Naung (Htilar Takhon), second-runner up Sandra (Melgyi), and winner of gallop-ride competition (senior class) Chit Lar (Pyan Hlwar), first-runner up Aung Aung Soe (Ye Ye Tauk), and second-runner up Myint Soe (Duwun), and winner of gallop-ride (special edition) Phyo Thiha Zaw (Bondi Rolar), first-runner up Nan Ko Win (Kissapanadi), and second-runner up Zin Min (Moe Kham), and winner of dressage competition U Than Naing Aung, winner of jumping demonstration Poe Ei Phyu (Sein Win Mel), first-runner up Shin Khant Win (Mandalay New), and second-runner up Than Naing Aung (Sein Eain Thu) at the award ceremony. — Lin Yar Ma/KZL

The following documentary photos are depicting the grand ceremony in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day (From Page A to C).









SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign embassies, honorary consuls and guests at the honorary dinner in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

