

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Five-Point Road Map

1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
3. Processes will further continue to consolidate a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and build a Union based on democracy and federalism.
4. Priority will be accorded to work aligned with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, in order to achieve enduring peace for the entire nation.
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.

## Religious objects donated by well-wishers across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by leading donor SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enshrined in the centrepieces of the jewelled throne of Maravijaya Buddha image

A ceremony to enshrine religious objects donated by well-wishers of the entire Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by leading donor State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing took place in the centrepieces of the jewelled throne of Maravijaya Buddha image being built in Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

The Senior General presented offerings and cash for nine prerequisites to Ovada-ariya Sayadaw of the construction of the Buddha image Pynmana Pali Tekkatho Mingalazeyon Monastery Presiding Nayaka Agga Maha Pan-



dita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddata Vimalabuddhi and members of the Sangha. Members of the Sangha, the Senior General and well-wishers viewed the jewelled boxes of the precious jewellery items, silver coins of various countries and religious objects donated by well-wishers of the whole nation.

At the auspicious time, venerable Pali Sayadaw and the Senior General enshrined a stone plaque on building the Buddha image and boxes of gold, silver, precious jewellery items and silver coins of various countries donated by well-wishers of the whole nation into the reliquary at the centre of the jewelled throne.

SEE PAGE-3



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured at the ceremony of enshrining religious objects into the jewelled throne of Maravijaya Buddha image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



## National Objectives for 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2023

1. To strive for the perpetual existence of national solidarity and perpetuity of the Union through the internal strength
2. To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to restore perpetual and durable peace
3. To join hands in harmony for ensuring the prosperity and food sufficiency of the nation as two national plans through the Union spirit
4. To help develop all regions and states on equal terms and increase employment opportunities with ensuring the health and fitness of the entire National people
5. To practise the genuine, discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system through fraternity, solidarity and united endeavours of all ethnic national brethren for building the Union based on democratic and federal systems

## Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

1. Declaring themselves to be “for the people”, the so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups are lawlessly killing Buddhist monks, civil servants including school-teachers, and members of the general public, as well as looting and robbing.
2. Not encouraging, supporting, or assisting “CRPH”, “NUG”, and “PDF” terrorists, who are intimidating and killing people and committing destructive activities, is to protect the lives and property of the general public.
3. Giving information secretly to the authorities on terrorists and on the possession and transport of weapons/ammunition is tantamount to protecting the lives and property of innocent people.

## Honouring ceremony of 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day 2023 to be broadcast live on MRTV

THE celebration of the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2023 will be held in front of the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 February 2023.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on Myanma Radio and Television, MRTV-HD, MRTV News, MRTV-NRC, MITV, MWD-HD, MWD Varsity-HD, Reader’s Channel, 5Plus, Channel-9, MNTV, Skynet-NRC Channel, MOI Website, MOI YouTube and MRTV Website, and Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan, Cherry FM and Star FM starting from 6:40 am on that day. — MNA

## 4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 10 February, total figure rises to 633,863

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,863** after **four** new cases were reported on 10 February 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,324**, including **two** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 10-2-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — MNA

# 76<sup>th</sup> Union Day celebration held in People’s Square in Yangon

TO mark the 76<sup>th</sup> Union Day, an opening ceremony of exhibitions, showrooms and market fair of the ministries, states and regions including Nay Pyi Taw Council, booths of ethnic traditional foods and local products was held at 8:30 am yesterday in People's Square in Yangon.

First, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, and ministers from states and regions cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the event.

Then, the in-charge personnel for the exhibitions of the ministries, states and regions including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area were given souvenirs.

Ethnic brethren of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan and

students collectively sang the song titled “A Song for Unity”.

Next, the Yangon region chief minister and officials viewed round the exhibitions and booths displayed by the ministries, states, regions and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and showrooms of local products and stalls for ethnic traditional foods.

Afterwards, Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay, Yangon Region Economic Minister U Myo Myint Aung, ministers representing states and regions, and the chairpersons of the Yangon Region Industrial Zone Committee (29 industrial zones) unveiled the exhibitions of MSME products and the market fair in commemorating the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day.

Kachin, Kayah, Kayin,



The ceremonial opening of the exhibitions of MSME products in honouring the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day is in progress yesterday.

Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan ethnics performed the song "Everlasting Faith".

The event started from 10 February until 14 February from 9 am to 10 pm daily. The general public can visit and enjoy commemorative exhibitions and booths, market fairs, ethnic traditional dances, and performances by music and film artistes. — MNA/TS

# Quick Win can result from rice sector promotion

- As rice is the staple food, it is the most important crop for socioeconomic development of our country.
- State Administration Council is prioritizing the export promotion activities for national economic development.
- In exporting promotion programmes to further boost products that are globally marketable and suitable with the country’s weather and geographical conditions, rice sector promotion is a Quick Win within a short period.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Myanmar Rice Conference-2022 on 6 October 2022)

## Religious objects donated by well-wishers across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by leading donor SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enshrined in the centrepieces of the jewelled throne of Maravijaya Buddha image

FROM PAGE-1

Officials also put precious jewellery items donated by well-wishers into the remaining reliquaries at the centre of the jewelled throne.

The venerable Pali Sayadaw and the Senior General sprinkled scented water on the reliquaries and shared merits gained.

The Senior General inspected the progress in building the Buddha image in Buddha Park and left the necessary instructions.

A ceremony to enshrine religious objects into the centre of the jewelled throne of the Buddha image took place on 27 January. On that day, gold wares weighing 104 ticals, 6 pe and three yway, gold wares



The enshrining ceremony of revered objects into the jewelled throne of the Maravijaya Buddha image is in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

and states to make donations of jewellery items.

Yesterday, the gold wares weighing 1,360 ticals and 5.4 yway, the gold wares with jewellery weighing 1,684 ticals, 15 pe and 1.6 yway, the silver wares with jewellery weighing 126 pe and 5.1 yway, various sorts of jewellery stones, pieces of pearl, silver coins of various countries and precious items were enshrined at the centrepieces of the jewelled throne. So far, more than K810 million has been accepted for all-round tasks of the Buddha image.

Stone plaque chamber small pagodas, water fountains, the platform of the Buddha image, Thudhamma public rest houses and the main



The Senior General presents donations to the Ovadacariya Sayadaw.



The Senior General views pieces of jewellery to be enshrined.

comprising jewellery items weighing 200 ticals, one pe and one yway, three kilogrammes of jewel stones, the horoscope of the Buddha image, silver

coins of various countries and precious jewellery items were enshrined.

Further religious objects will be enshrined into the

centrepieces of the jewelled throne for the people to enjoy meritorious deeds. As officials issued the information to the entire people for the donation

of precious jewellery items to be enshrined, many well-wishers across the nation including Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory contacted officials of regions

entrance road in Maravijaya Buddha Park were illuminated for the pleasantness of the people. —MNA/TTA

# SAC Vice-Chairman DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses coord meeting between panel of patrons and leading committee for offering religious titles for 2023

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win who is also in the capacity of Chairman of the Panel of Patrons for Organizing the Religious Title Offering Ceremony delivered an address at the coordination meeting between the panel of patrons and the leading committee on organizing the 2023 religious title offering ceremony of the SAC at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said at the ceremony of offering religious titles this year, the list to accept titles comprised 382 members of the Sangha at home and 21 Sayadaws abroad, totalling 403 in addition to 38 nuns. The list also consisted of 41 laypersons at home and one female abroad, totalling 42. Of them, seven persons would accept missionary titles and 35 persons, Sasana Nuggaha titles and female foreign title recipients, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title.

The Vice-Senior General stressed the need to beautify four Sangharama hostels in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda and Nay Pyi Taw Sipin Avenue as the monastery for the convenience of title recipient Sayadaws and nuns.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism needs to coordinate necessary measures for 24 local and foreign title recipient Sayadaws to stay at designated hotels, the Vice-Senior General added.

Staff from the hotel where title recipient Sayadaws would stay must have the capacity of disciples for members of the



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the coordination meeting for offering religious titles for 2023 yesterday.



The Vice-Senior General views preparatory work for the 2023 religious title offering ceremony.

Sangha and they must be skilful in languages.

The Vice-Senior General highlighted that Sasana Maha Beikman must be decorated on

a grand scale to host the national level ceremony and the Buddha chamber and the dais for members of the Sangha must be decorated as well.

The rice offering ceremony will be held for 148 title recipient Sayadaws and three nuns totalling 152 in addition to the chairman and the secretary of

the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. Relevant subcommittees are to coordinate the preparations for offering the alms without delay after the title offering ceremony.

The Vice-Senior General stressed the need to take special care in holding the national-level ceremony with security awareness and knowledge.

Chairman of the leading committee Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko reported on offering religious titles. Deputy Minister U Aye Tun also presented reports on arrangements for the religious title offering ceremony and rice offering ceremony.

Officials from relevant subcommittees also reported on preparations for their duties and functions.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding remark of the Vice-Senior General. — MNA/TTA

## Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise

## Mottos for 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2023

1. Let's go forward in joining hands among ethnic nationals in unison
2. Let's firmly join hands among national brethren of the Union in unity
3. Energetic harmony and stronger unity represent the souls of the Union

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# SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects preparations for successful holding of 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects preparations for the successful holding of the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected preparations for the successful holding of the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day 2023 yesterday.

The Vice-Senior General and relevant officials checked programmes for the morning session to commemorate the 76<sup>th</sup> Union Day to be held in front of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall and instructed the necessary things.

In the afternoon, they looked into the seating plans for the dinner and enjoyed the full-dressed rehearsal of ethnic dance troupes to be enter-

tained at the open-air theatre during the dinner. Present on the occasion were Union ministers and Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman who are members of the central committee on organizing the ceremony, the deputy ministers who are chairpersons of respective sub-committees and other relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH

The Vice-Senior General views the seating plans for the honorary dinner.



The Vice-Senior General and dignitaries watch the full-dressed rehearsal performance of ethnic cultural dance troupes.

## Union Health Minister receives UNAIDS Country Director

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received the delegation led by Mr Rangaiyan Gurumurthy, Country Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS-UNAIDS at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Welcoming the service of the country director, the Union minister highlighted that despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and human resources, the ministry made its utmost effort to control AIDS and ensure that there is no shortage

of ART for patients suffering from the disease. The country director acknowledged and praised for measures taken to ensure no shortage of ART drugs for HIV/AIDS patients. He also discussed continuing support to the ministry's anti-AIDS activities and providing more technical assistance. The deputy minister, the directors-general, the deputy permanent secretary and officials from the Ministry of Health attended the meeting. —MNA/KZW



# MoBA Union Minister inspects IDP camps in Kyauktaw, MraukU, Minbya townships



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung is seen during his inspection tours of IDP camps in Rakhine State.

RAKHINE State Stability, Peace and Development Work Coordination Committee Chair Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Union ministers inspected the Mahamuni temporary IDP camp in Kyauktaw township, Rakhine State, on 9 February.

While inspecting the camp, the Union minister expressed that assistance will be provided for IDPs to return to their original places with a better life than the original situation and coordinated the needs.

The Union minister and party met IDPs from Kyauktaw Mahakangyishin monastery camp and other IDP camps and fulfilled the requirements. In addition, they presented cash awards to 28 teachers and 375 students, who are attending at the Myitta Uyin Charity Youth School of Kyauktaw Mahakangyishin monastery.

At the IDP camp in MraukU Shitthaung monastery, the Union minister and party met representative persons from 26 IDP camps and donated offerings to Sayadaw of the MraukU Shitthaung monastery.

Afterwards, the Union minister and party met officials and representative persons from 11 IDP camps at the Women's Domestic Vocational Training School in Minbya township and coordinated the needs during the inspection tour at the Domestic Vocational Training School and the Youth Development Training School.

The Union minister along with the state chief minister and officials attended the coordinating meeting at the guest house of the Rakhine State government and discussed the necessary matters yesterday. — MNA/MKKS

# Secretary of CCDAC Deputy Minister for MoHA Chief of Myanmar Police Force attends closing ceremony of special task force Eagle 19 training in Thailand

THE Myanmar delegation led by Secretary of Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet left for Thailand to participate in the closing ceremony of special task force Eagle 19 training on 5 February at the invitation of Secretary-General of Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) Mr Wichai Chaimongkhon.

The training of the special task force on drug enforcement was jointly conducted by the Royal Thai Police Force, Myanmar Police Force and Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Task Force.

The event was attended by Thai's Legal Affairs Minister Mr Somsak Thepsutin, Secretary-General of ONCB, deputy national police chief Mr Chinaphat Sarasin, Myanmar Counsellor to Thailand U Maw Bala, senior police officials from Italy and Germany.

The training was conducted at the Counter-Terrorism Operations Centre of the Royal Thai Police from 8 January to

6 February 2023.

Its training offered the use of small arms, searching and arresting of vehicles and suspects, raid closing to enemies in blocked buildings, fast roping, patrolling, joint helicopter exercise, warfighting skills and so on. A total of 41 trainees — 20 from Myanmar and 20 from Thailand — joined the training course. The training intends to establish special task forces to combat drug cases and cooperate among ASEAN anti-drug task forces.

After the ceremony, the Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet met with Thai Legal Affairs Minister Mr Somsak Thepsutin. During the meeting, they discussed the drug cases in the region, control of illegal drugs in the golden triangle region, cooperation in seizing precursors, combatting the spread of drugs in regional and other countries, uncover of wanted suspects by two countries, plans to draft anti-drug activities at border areas, international cooperation, progresses in seizing drugs through bilateral cooperation



Demonstrations of the special task force Eagle 19 training (top photos). The MoHA deputy minister takes the documentary group photo together with Eagle 19 trainees.

and sending of trainees to the capacity building training.

The Myanmar delegation also went to the aerial logistics unit training school in Hua Hin by the flight of the Royal Thai Police Force and was welcomed by the Principle of the school and deputy head of the border patrol police force on the morning of 8 February. They then enjoyed the performance of free fall jumping in the wind tunnel, the rescue of detainees from a building by the counter-terrorism police force and displayed arms.

The Myanmar delegation then returned to Bangkok and arrived back at Yangon International Airport by MNA flight on the same night. — MNA/KTZH

LOCAL BUSINESS

More than \$200 mln of FDI pumped in Myanmar manufacturing sector as of 31 Jan

A total of 52 foreign enterprises brought US\$200.148 million in Myanmar’s manufacturing sector in the past ten months (April-January) of the current financial year 2022-2023, including capital expansion by the existing enterprises, as per statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar Investment Commission nodded 70 foreign projects from eight countries in the past ten months. The country attracted a capital of US\$1.476 billion this FY, including the expansion of capital by the existing enterprises.

Those enterprises are engaged in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, power, hotels and tourism, real estate and service sectors respectively. The majority of the investments were brought into the

manufacturing sector. The agriculture sector drew \$3.5 million from two projects. The power sector received \$820.27 million from 11 projects, while one enterprise put \$29 million in the real estate sector and two other foreign enterprises made an investment of \$413.068 million in the service sector respectively. The mining sector received \$7 million from one project, while one enterprise also put investments of less than a million into the hotels and tourism sector and some capital expansion of the existing businesses is also seen. Additionally, the livestock and fisheries sector saw a capital expansion of \$1.845 million.

The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need a large labour force are prioritized to create job opportunities for the local community. Manufacturing of fertilizer,

cement, iron and steel, value-added foodstuff, electric vehicle and pharmaceutical and medical devices, agriculture and livestock farming and its related industries and public transportation services will be prioritized for investment. The commission welcomes both foreign direct investment and domestic investments made by Myanmar citizens in those sectors. Myanmar Investment Commission and the related ministries will also ensure investment facilitation.

Myanmar’s manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textile produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country’s GDP to a certain extent.

There are 547 factories actively operated under the Myanmar Garment Manufacturing Association. The ma-



Myanmar Investment Commission nodded 70 foreign projects from eight countries in the past ten months. The country attracted a capital of US\$1.476 billion this FY, including the expansion of capital by the existing enterprises.

jority of them are from China, followed by Myanmar and the Republic of Korea.

The MGMA has been providing capacity development programs and labour law awareness training compulsory programmes to boost employee performance and build employee resilience.

Myanmar has drawn foreign direct investment of more than \$647.127 million from 49 enterprises in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022). Of them, 40 foreign enterprises put investments in the manufacturing sector, pumping an estimated capital of \$202.667 million. – KK

Kyat depreciates at K2,860 against US dollar in market despite CBM’s reference rate of K2,100

KYAT depreciation against greenbacks persists at K2,860 in the grey market although the Central Bank of Myanmar set the reference exchange rate at K2,100.

CBM has set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, according to a directive issued by the CBM on 10 August 2022.

Therefore, financial institutions including banks and informal money exchanges are instructed to set a dollar value at K2,094 for buying and K2,106 for selling. However, the over-the-counter Kyat-dollar exchange rate was K2,850 for buying and K2,865 for selling on 10 February.

There is a large price difference between the reference rate of the CBM and the unofficial market rate. However, there is no way to set the new price, as per the notification released on



US dollars being counted at a money changer in Yangon.

15 January.

Some unscrupulous people were allegedly spreading fraudulent news to manipulate the market and attempt to make the dollar gain, stating that changing reference prices and repaying financing for the fuel oil companies, according to the statement.

The CBM injected liquidity into the banking sector. Approximately US\$108 million were sold within 45 days in the

market through foreign salary transfers. More amount will be put for sales.

Last August, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K4,500 in the grey market.

Consequently, the CBM sold dollars at its auction market for the sectors in need, to control the soaring dollar. A total of \$443.8 million were sold at an auction rate in 2021 as well. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 10 February 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Octane 92      | K2,190 |
| Octane 95      | K2,225 |
| Diesel         | K2,260 |
| Premium Diesel | K2,340 |

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

|                                                     |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA | K2,198,300 per tical |
| High-purity gold in the gold market                 | K2,870,000 per tical |

Dollar Price

|                                                |                  |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar | K2,100           |
| A US dollar in the forex market                | K2,850 to K2,865 |

The above prices may change from time to time.

ဆက်သွယ်ရန် ဖုန်းနံပါတ် 09 454 237 515

## Turn out skilful human resources in the fishery sector

FISH and fish products such as fish paste, dried fish and fish sauce are contributing much to the daily food supply of the people in Myanmar society. As such, research should be conducted on the systematic fish farming process as well as fresh-water and seawater shrimp farming works in order to produce fish for the sufficiency of local consumption.

The best ways and means must be sought for the operating of the fish farming task to produce maximum products with the least cost. If operation costs at breeding farms decline, lesser selling prices will benefit consumers. Hence, fish farmers need to consider how to benefit the relevant regions through the operation of their farms.

Farmers need to efficiently utilize livestock farming plots and systematically operate their farms. Local authorities have to contact relevant ministries to supply pedigree fish species to the fish farmers for booming fish farms.

On the other hand, quick sending of local livestock products to the market and lesser transport charges are important for all. Although products can be manufactured at reduced prices, transport difficulties can be hindrances to reducing the prices of products. So, the manufacturing roads must be actually useful and essential for the manufacturers and consumers.

The government recently established the Institute of Fisheries in Twantay Township of Yangon on 12 December 2022 so as to develop fishery technology, create job opportunities and develop fishing technology to be shared with youths.

Moreover, the institute conducting diploma courses is scheduled to produce qualified human resources in the fishery sector. Depending on the result and progress of academic measures, the institute will be upgraded to a college in order to enable the students to learn higher education as a vocational course. The human resources to be turned out by the institute are expected to become reliable skilled persons in the fishery sector of the nation.

Only when the right men have the chance to take the right positions will their endeavours contribute to the improvement of the nation. Hence, those who graduated from the institute need to join the businesses concerning the experiences they have had in learning. If so, their businesses will benefit themselves as well as the national economy.

Various vocational institutes are turning out skilled persons on whom the State can rely. The Institute of Fisheries (Twantay) is expected to fulfil the needs of human resources in building the nation and developing the fishery sector which can meet the fish demand of consumers across the nation through advanced technologies they learnt.

■

# Comparative linguistic and philosophical queries regarding the classical text Tao Te Ching

By Dr Myint Zan

### The Year of the Rabbit and the Wise Sayings in the Tao Te Ching

The Chinese New Year (the Year of the Rabbit) is upon us. At least in one Burmese folktale, the rabbit figure is displayed as a 'wise person' (or animal) ယုန်ဝဉာဏ်.

Roughly about 2,400 years ago a compilation of sayings now known as *Tao Te Ching* (*Daode Jing*) was composed. The *Tao Te Ching* supposedly is based on the pronouncements of the philosopher and sage Lao Tzu/Laozi (circa 6<sup>th</sup> century Before the Current Era, BCE). Some scholars do not accept that the sayings in *Tao Te Ching* (hereafter *Tao*) are attributable solely or even mainly to Lao Tzu. They aver that it is a collection of sayings and they were not made by a particular personage.

Be that as it may, whether the sayings can be attributed to the personage of Lao Tzu or to compilations throughout the centuries this work reflecting the philosophy and teaching of Taoism was composed more than 2000 years ago in the classical Chinese language. Online sources indicate that the *Tao* has been translated at least 250 times into major Western languages including English, French and German. The English translation that I have read was translated by the linguist and scholar Arthur Waley (19 August 1889-27 June 1966). The 1997 re-

print by Wordsworth classics does not indicate when the translation was first published.

### Juxtaposing a treatise written in 'classical Chinese' with those in old or medieval English and Burmese languages

Yours truly is familiar with Burmese (mother tongue) and English languages only. Hence, the queries and comments regarding linguistic usage below are dil-  
ettantish. Therefore, this writer is receptive to being educated by knowledgeable persons.

Hasn't the Chinese (Mandarin) language changed over the course of roughly 2300 years? Perhaps thousands of local and foreign scholars like Arthur Waley can fully understand what was first put on written record around 2,300 years ago. But can other educated Chinese persons read the classical language as smoothly as they do the contemporary Chinese language? Mandarin unlike Burmese or English is a 'character language'. Would it be essentially correct to say that because of the nature of the language, there could not have been that many changes in Mandarin even in the course of over 2,000 years?

When I read only a few parts of what is called the 'epic hero writing' of (in old English) *Beowulf* composed not more than a thousand years ago (about 1,300

years after *Tao Te Ching*) even in modern English 'translation' (from old English) I barely understand it. The first page of *Beowulf's* original which is reproduced in the Wikipedia entry on the manuscript is totally 'Greek' to me. Though the date of composition is disputed, *Beowulf* was written between 700 to 1000 Common Era, CE. And the old English is not only dramatically different from modern English it is also completely less understandable than say *Canterbury Tales* written between 1387 and 1400 by Geoffrey Chaucer (circa the 1340s-25 October 1400) in what is described as 'middle' or medieval English. There is no more than (at most) 400 years gap between the composition of *Beowulf* and *The Canterbury Tales* but the syntax, grammar, and style indeed the contents of the writings of these two works have become substantially and substantively different.

Burmese language (မြန်မာဘာသာ) as far as written texts are concerned dates back to perhaps no more than a thousand years. I can read and largely understand the three Royal Orders which regulated the conduct of and scolded pleaders (lawyers) by King Anaukpetlun (21 January 1578-9 July 1628) issued on 23 June 1607 written in what can be considered as 'medieval' Burmese. In contrast, when I read the Royal edict on the theft of King Kyaswa (4 May

1198-May 1251) first recorded on a stone inscription I can make out no more than 25 per cent of what is written in 'Old Burmese'. The Royal edict on theft was recorded on a stone inscription and was issued and recorded (after transposition to the Gregorian calendar) on 6 May 1249. King Kyaswa's edict on theft was the very first Royal Order the late historian Dr Than Tun (6 April 1923-30 November 2005) was able to find and is reproduced in the typed script in old Burmese and in summary English translation in the first volume of *Royal Orders of Burma* (Kyoto University Southeast Asian Studies, 1983). In his *History of Buddhism in Burma* AD 1000 to 1300 (first published 1978) Dr Than Tun reproduced King Kyaswa's edict on theft in English (phonetic) transliteration (not 'translation'). Dr Than Tun provided a summary (though more elaborate than in his *Royal Orders* volume) English translation. Only after I read Dr Than Tun's summary English translation I was able to grasp the main essence of most of the old Burmese as reproduced from the stone inscription.

But back to the linguistic queries (not meaning or essence yet) of *Tao*. Would ordinary, literate Chinese persons who are not linguistic or language scholars be able to read *Tao* as written in the earliest or earlier versions of

it without reverting to modern, contemporary Chinese (language) 'translation'?

### A glimpse 'through a glass darkly' of two Chapters of Tao Te Ching as translated by Arthur Waley

I read almost all of the 81 'Chapters' in the Arthur Waley translation at least twice a few as many as four or even five times. I glimpsed the message of some perhaps most of the Chapters but I do not fully understand at least a few of them. To paraphrase a Biblical saying: I can glimpse the hints, the leads and the enigmas of some of *Tao Te Ching's* Chapters 'only through a glass darkly'. (1 *Corinthians* 13:12, King James Version)

I have read ancient religious texts in English and Burmese translations. (I realise that the *Tao* cannot quite be considered a 'religious text'). I have read the entire Bible in English translation (King James version) and a few parts of it in Burmese translation by the American Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson (9 August 1788- 12 April 1850). I understand – does not mean I agree with- what I read in English and Myanmar translations of the Bible even the arguably most philosophical *Ecclésiastes*.

I have read the English and Myanmar translations of the an-

cient Buddhist text *Dhammapada* and I understand them. The Buddhist *Dhammapada* at least as far as the initial oral tradition is concerned can be considered to be (almost) contemporaneous with the *Tao* Most of the New Testament are perhaps written and recorded a few centuries after the *Tao Te Ching*. What is it that acts as a conceptual barrier, so to speak, in me not fully 'seeing face to face' (1 *Corinthians* 13:12) some of the short, enigmatic, yet ostensibly wise sayings of the *Tao Tee Ching*?

### Brief comments or 'spillover thoughts' on two Chapters of the 'Tao Tee Ching

Parts of Chapter 29 (of the Arthur Waley translation, page 52) reads:

*The Sage has no heart [makes no judgement] of his own; He uses the heart of his people as his heart. Of the good man [i.e. the Sage] I approve, But of the bad, I also approve, and thus he gets goodness*

Immediately after reading this paragraph, I am reminded of (again) the Biblical pronouncement of Jesus himself '... the rain falls on the just and the unjust ...' (Matthew 5:45, King James version). The difference between these two statements arguably made a few centuries apart in

different geographical, historical and cultural contexts is that in the Bible it was (is) God who made the 'rain falls on the just and the unjust' and in the *Tao* it was the 'Sage' who 'approves both the good and the bad'.

### Chapter 81 (the last Chapter in the Arthur Waley translation) in part reads:

*True words are not fine-sounding; Fine-sounding words are not true. The good man does not prove by argument; And he who proves by argument [i.e. the 'sophist'] is not good.*

(Words inside the square brackets are Arthur Waley's insertions)

Several decades or a few centuries after Lao Zu made that statement (or the aphorism or saying emerged) the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates (470 BCE-399 BCE) was, if not arguing, then having conversations with many who would care to listen and respond to his queries. Socrates apparently had a few discussions with the Athenian sophists as well. Socrates' disciple Plato (427-347 BCE) put on written record these 'Socratic conversations' in his *Dialogues* (did Plato also blemish them?). If Socrates were to come across Chapter 81 in translation in

the ancient Greek language what would he have said to the above statement? If Lao Tzu or some of his followers were to read a few of Plato's *Dialogues*, in Mandarin translation, where Socrates was the main 'questioner' as well as a 'cross-examiner' what would they have said to Socrates' (contrived) protestations of 'ignorance' ('all I know is I know nothing')? In some of its Chapters, *Tao* contains a few paradoxes. Would the Sage of *Tao* be impressed with or bemused by the paradoxical statement that Socrates (according to the Delphi, the Athenian oracle) was 'the wisest man in Athens' (but not necessarily in China!) yet all Socrates knows was allegedly, apparently that he 'knows nothing'?

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AS babies learn by looking at human faces, many parents and pediatricians are concerned about the developmental repercussions

Learning faces is central to how babies learn to talk, perceive emotions, develop relationships with their caregivers and explore their environment. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI**

## Babies remember faces despite face masks: Study

of widespread face masking during the pandemic.

A new study by researchers at the University of California, Davis, allays those concerns, finding that 6- to 9-month-old babies can form memories of masked faces and recognize those faces when unmasked.

Michaela DeBolt, a doctoral candidate in cognitive psychol-

ogy, and Lisa Oakes, a professor in the Department of Psychology and at the Centre for Mind and Brain, used eye tracking to study how masks influence infants' facial recognition.

### Masked and unmasked women's faces

In the study, 58 babies, each seated on a parent's lap or in a

highchair, were shown pairs of masked and unmasked women's faces on a computer screen, while cameras recorded where they looked. Because babies linger longer over unfamiliar images, the researchers could derive which faces they recognized, DeBolt said.

The findings appear in a paper published in the January/February special issue of the journal In-

fancy, which focused on the impact of Covid-19 on infant development.

The testing took place at Oakes' Infant Cognition Lab at the Center for Mind and Brain in Davis, California, from late December 2021 to late March 2022, during a statewide mask mandate and the arrival of the coronavirus omicron variant. "When babies learned a masked face, and then they saw

that face again unmasked, they recognized it," DeBolt said.

However, when the order was reversed, babies did not show strong recognition of masked faces that they first saw unmasked. DeBolt said that was similar to her own experience of not instantly recognizing a friend who was wearing a face mask.

**SOURCE: ANI**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Private businesspersons allowed to operate 43 jetties in Ayeyawady Region: MoTC

FORTYTHREE jetties in eight districts of the Ayeyawady Region will be leased to private businesses by auction in the financial year 2023-2024, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

There are six jetties in Patheingyi district, four in Kyongpaw district, eight in Myaungmya district, five in Labutta district, 10 in Maubin district, five in Pyapon district, two in Hinthada district and three in Myanaung district.

Private businesspeople, who are interested in the tax collection work of these ports in the financial year 2023-2024, can purchase auction forms from 1 to 17 February at the office of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Region 2 of the Ayeyawady Region in Patheingyi township.

— TWA/MKKS

Rice price extends to further rise along with high paddy price

THE prices of both paddy and rice have been inflating since early February. The new low-grade rice price remains above K50,000 per bag while the new high-grade Pawsan rice fetches approximately K70,000 per bag.

Additionally, the price of paddy and Pawsan rice from delta regions are on the rise, according to the rice market's statistics on 9 February.

The prices of broken rice moved in the range between K41,000 and K45,000 per bag on 9 February 2023 depending on different qualities. The low-grade rice price for export is estimated at K50,000 per bag. New low-grade rice prices stood at K54,000-62,000 per bag depending on varieties (rice grown under the intercropping system, Sinthuka, Pagan, Pawkywel, Kunni and rice grown in the late season).

New Pawsan rice prices

were K73,000 per bag from the Pyapon area, K75,000 from the Myaungmya area and K88,000 from Shwebo respectively. Meanwhile, old Pawsan rice fetched K84,000-1,050,000 per bag, some rice traders involved in Padauk, Seinpan and Arthawka lanes at Bayintnaung Wholesale Market told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Next, the prices of paddy indicated an increase of K3,000-5,000 per 100-baskets, according to the daily price report at Wakema depot.

During the harvest season of monsoon paddy in 2022, the low-grade paddy was offered at K1.33 million per 100-baskets in October and K1.6 million in mid-November. The price plummeted to K1.3 million in early December last year.

Thereafter, the prices increased again. The figures



A potential customer is observing the quality of the sample paddy.

indicated a significant rise of K300,000-330,000 per 100-baskets four months after the harvest time.

Normally, the price of paddy goes down this time of the year. In early 2023, the number of millers increased remarkably. Even some big companies are involved in the export process.

Some traders in possession of rice and paddy put their stocks for sale. If the price remains on an upward trend, the price of low-grade rice that is highly consumed by low-income people will reach around K60,000 per bag. It is the same with high-grade Pawsan rice recorded in the previous years.

Similarly, Pawsan from the delta region is expected to hit K90,000 per bag, which is the record price of Pawsan from the Shwebo area last year, a rice trader told the GNLM.

— TWA/EM

Union Day celebration programme to use 11 songs, appealing to original songwriters

ပရိသတ်အားလုံးသို့  
တေးဂီတအဖွဲ့အစည်း  
ပြန်လည်တည်ထောင်

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE SHOW

ရသ ကျေးဇူးအောင် စောမင်းဦး လလတ္တော် ထိုက်စိုး  
မြနုာ ဟအောင် ချိုသိန်း စွေးစုထွေး မေမြောင်  
၃-၂-၂၀၂၃ (သောကြာနေ့) ၊ ည (၉) နာရီ

Live ON MRTV HD

ELEVEN songs will be used for the programme celebrating the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day, announced through State-owned newspapers. On Union Day, Myanma Radio and Television will broadcast a music concert titled “Nyinyutyay Thanzin” and the copyright holders are requested to allow the broadcasting of the songs.

Eleven ethnic folk songs will be broadcast by singers from MRTV and musicians. — TWA/KZW

An advert of the music performance.

Export earnings from CMP garment sector cross \$4.4 bln in past ten months

MYANMAR pulled income of \$4.4 billion from exports in the garment sector working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging (CMP) basis.

The export values stood at \$185 million in April 2022, \$384 million in May, \$610 million in June, \$636 million in July, \$662 million in August, \$500 in September, \$364 million in October, \$366 million in November, \$360 million in December and \$360 million as of 27 January 2023.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector attracted a total of 505 foreign garment factories on a CMP basis. China tops the investment line-ups in the garment sector, followed by China Taipei, Thailand, the Republic of Korea and Japan.

The garment sector placed first among the export groups, with over 700 factories running so far, the Ministry of Labour stated.

There are 505 apparel factories, 48 footwear factories, eight wig factories and other 148 factories executing the manufacturing of bags, sportswear, socks and other goods. They are given the green light to run the business under the existing rules.

The majority of the foreign direct investment went to the CMP garment businesses that need a large workforce. Those labour-intensive businesses create job opportunities for the local community.

In the 2020-2021 financial year, the manufacturing sector including the CMP garment businesses generated export earnings of \$8.253 billion, which is the highest amount among the export groups.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated on garments and textiles produced on a cutting, making, and packaging basis. Raw materials are imported to produce finished items. The sector contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

A total of 602 CMP garment factories are located in Yangon Region, 71 in Bago Region, 18 in Ayeyawady Region, nine in Mandalay Region, three in Magway Region, three in Nay Pyi Taw, two in Kayin State and one in Sagaing Region respectively. —TWA/EM

# HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

## WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus departs for earthquake-hit Syria

WORLD Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has departed for Syria after the devastating earthquakes on Monday that claimed over 21,000 lives in Türkiye and Syria. Taking to his official Twitter handle, he informed about his visit and stated that WHO has been supporting essential healthcare in earthquake-affected regions.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus tweeted, “On my way to Syria, where WHO is supporting essen-

tial healthcare in the areas affected by the recent earthquake, building on our long-standing work across the country. Earlier on 8 February, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus held a meeting with Syria’s permanent representative to the UN office at Geneva to discuss the immediate health needs of people impacted by the earthquake and essential care for all the people of Syria suffering due to the conflict. He tweeted, “Met Syria Ambassador Haydar Ali Ahmad to discuss the



Rescue teams conduct search and rescue operations in Aleppo, Syria on 8 February. **PHOTO: AFP**

timmediate health needs of people affected by the earthquake, as well as essential care for all Syrians suffering due to the prolonged conflict. I reassured him of WHO’s support for all people in Syria.”

On 8 February, WHO Chief Ghebreyesus said, “I want to start by expressing my deepest condolences to those affected by the earthquakes that hit Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic in the early hours of Monday morning.” — ANI

## Study identifies warning signs of bad mental health among athletes



More than 400 athletes across a variety of sports, ages and levels of experience were questioned for the study by sports psychology experts from Staffordshire University and Manchester Metropolitan University. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI**

ACCORDING to new research, ‘put down’ language is a major indication of poor mental health in sports. More than 400 athletes across a variety of sports,

ages and levels of experience were questioned for the study by sports psychology experts from Staffordshire University and Manchester Metropolitan University.

The findings reveal that athletes’ belief systems — specifically irrational beliefs — are related to poorer self-confidence, and in turn, greater competitive anxiety and depressive symptoms. Phrases that reflect self-deprecating beliefs such as “if I lose, I’m a failure” or “If I face setbacks, it shows how stupid I am” are warning signs, say the authors.

Paul Mansell, Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Psychology at Staffordshire University, said, “Despite the psychological benefits of physical activity, studies frequently report poor mental health in athletes, which may be exacerbated by adversities, such as injury, de-selection, and performance pressure.” —ANI

## Harmful pollution boosting superbug ‘silent pandemic’

CONTAINING and cleaning up environmental pollution, especially in waterways, is crucial to controlling increasingly bullet-proof superbugs which could kill tens of millions by mid-century, a new UN report said Tuesday.

Superbugs -- strains of bacteria resistant to antibiotics -- are estimated to have killed 1.27 million people in 2019, and the World Health Organization says antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the top global health threats on the near-term horizon. Up to 10 million deaths could occur every year by 2050 because of AMR, the UN says.



Workers clearing mounds of floating plastic waste of the Klang river, in Klang, on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/FILE**

The disinfectants, antiseptics and antibiotics that can help microbes become stronger are everywhere, from toothpaste and shampoo to cow’s milk and wastewater.—AFP

### HEALTH: TOP STORIES

#### China unlikely to see new COVID wave in coming months: expert

THE possibility of a new wave of the COVID-19 epidemic is low in China in the coming months, as the immune protection of the country’s population remains relatively high after a nationwide virus outbreak, said a Chinese health expert on Thursday.

There is also a low possibility of a large-scale and concentrated epidemic in the short term, Wu Zunyou, chief epidemiologist of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said at a press conference.

No new mutant strains of the virus that are significantly more transmissible, pathogenic and immune-evasive have been detected in China since the start of this year, according to official data.

In the future, the epidemic may occur intermittently and regionally for some time, infecting certain groups of people, Wu said, adding that the virus has continued to mutate over the past three years, making it more contagious but less pathogenic. — Xinhua

#### Swedish home helps seniors spice up their sex lives

“IT’S a good book!” 97-year-old Nils exclaims, skimming through a brochure on sexual relations and desires among seniors, in the common room at his retirement home in Sweden.

Here, at the Lindgarden facility in the southern village of Broby, the 56 residents aged 65 and above can now avail of a recently added programme on how to lead a healthy sex life.

There are no sex toys or pornography lining the tidy halls. But when a new person moves in, they’re immediately offered an informal discussion on intimacy and desire.

“The counsellor has a conversation with the client and asks him or her some of the questions we’ve established about sexual health,” Lindgarden director Liselott Klang, 54, told AFP.

She started the project a year ago, initially as a way of allowing her employees to discuss the topic without embarrassment.

“Previously, employees didn’t feel comfortable when they saw a resident masturbating in public, or really couldn’t understand why someone needed help booking a hotel room,” Klang explained.

To make the seniors feel more comfortable, the establishment has put together a “pleasure basket” with creams and sex toys the residents can buy. —AFP

# ECONOMY

## WORLD

### Japan aiming for record number of foreign visitors in 2025



An artist's rendering shows the proposed venue for Osaka-Kansai Japan Expo 2025. PHOTO: JAPAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE 2025 WORLD EXPOSITION / VIA KYODO

JAPAN aims to receive a record number of foreign visitors in 2025, a draft of the government's revised plan showed Thursday, with inbound tourism seeing a steady recovery since the country significantly eased border measures last October.

The tourism plan covering fiscal 2023 to 2025 also aims to increase per person spending to 200,000 yen (\$1,500), up around 25 per cent from 2019 levels, and see a 10 per cent increase in the number of overnight stays in regional areas by foreign visitors.

The ambitious goals come as the government expects a recovery in demand for international air travel and for upcoming international events to be held in Japan, such as the Expo 2025 in Osaka, to boost visitor numbers.

The draft plan, which was presented at a meeting of experts on Thursday, is set to be approved by the Cabinet in March.

While the previous plan ended in fiscal 2020, a revision was postponed due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the tourism industry.

In 2019, prior to the outbreak of the global coronavirus pandemic, a record 31.88 million tourists visited Japan. But the number fell sharply following the outbreak of COVID-19, totaling only 4.12 million in 2020 and 250,000 in 2021.

Rather than focusing solely on numbers, the revision will also incorporate strategies to address "tourism pollution" through measures such as attracting high-end tourists and encouraging them to venture outside the main cities.—Kyodo

### Istanbul exchange shuts for first time in 24 years

THE Istanbul stock exchange announced on Wednesday that it would close for five days in response to this week's deadly earthquake, the first such shut-down since 1999.

Monday's 7.8-magnitude tremor ravaged swathes of southeastern Türkiye and Syria, killing at least 11,700 people and leaving thousands more homeless in the winter cold.

The exchange cited an "increase in volatility and extraordinary price movements after the earthquake disaster" in its decision.

The exchange suffered sharp losses before suspending trading on Wednesday morning.

"Considering the low transaction volume that does not allow efficient price formation, all



The exchange suffered sharp losses before suspending trading on Wednesday morning. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

trades executed in the closed markets on 8 February 2023 will be cancelled," it added, noting it would remain closed until the evening of 14 February.

The last time it suspended

trading was after a 1999 quake which killed more than 17,000 people. Some politicians called for all trades conducted since the earthquake to be cancelled.—AFP

### Swedish central bank hikes rate to 15-year high

SWEDEN'S central bank announced another hefty rate hike on Thursday, taking it to its highest level since 2008 to fight double-digit inflation.

"Monetary policy needs to be tightened to bring down inflation," the bank said, warning that a further increase was to be expected in the coming months after raising the rate by a half-percentage-point to three per cent.

Swedish inflation hit 12.3 per cent in December, its highest level in 30 years and six times higher than the bank's 2.0 per cent target.

"Even disregarding energy prices, inflation is high and rising," the bank said.

While the bank had launched asset purchases in recent years to stimulate the economy, the monetary institution will begin doing the opposite in April, selling government bonds.

Sweden's economy slowed considerably in the fourth quarter, with gross domestic product unexpectedly shrinking by 0.6 per cent.

The krona has also depreciated sharply against other main currencies.—AFP



People shop in Stockholm on 24 March 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy, UK agree new investment partnership

ITALY and the UK agreed a new export and investment partnership on Wednesday, with London hailing it as the first such accord with an EU country following its break with the bloc.

The Italian government said the memorandum of understanding aimed to "deepen the solid economic partnership between the two countries, adapting it to the post-Brexit context".

Trade ties between the two countries are covered by an agreement the UK signed with the European Union after leaving the bloc following the 2016 Brexit vote. But Rome said the new partnership aimed to create a structure in which companies and institutions could better cooperate, focusing on the most innovative sectors, including the green economy and life sciences.—AFP

Sri Lankan president confident about the country's recovery from bankruptcy

SRI Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday expressed confidence that the country will recover from bankruptcy by 2026.

Informing the parliament about the future policies of the government, Wickremesinghe said that he will continue with a tax reforms programme despite it being seen as unpopular by several groups. "I'm ready to make unpopular decisions for the sake of the nation. People will realize the importance of those decisions in two to three years," he said.—Xinhua

Tour operator fined over 2019 deaths of Japanese teens in Australia

AN Australian court has fined a locally based Japanese tour operator over the deaths of two Japanese teenagers who drowned on a popular tourist island in the country's east in 2019.

The 16-year-old boys from Kanagawa University High School died while on a guided group tour at Lake McKenzie, a picturesque freshwater perched lake, on the World Heritage-listed Fraser Island, as part of an overseas exchange programme organized by the school.

In a decision handed down by the court on Wednesday, Huckleberry Australia, the tour com-

pany that led the group, was convicted and fined AU\$250,000 (\$174,000) and ordered to pay \$1,900 in professional costs for failing to comply with its health and safety duty over the students.

The boys were part of a group of 15 students and two teachers, from the school in Yokohama near Tokyo, visiting the island. The boys went missing on 29 March 2019, and their bodies were found in the waters of the lake the next day.

A spokesperson from the Queensland Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor told Kyodo News on Friday, —Kyodo

L'Oreal confident as posts double-digit gains for 2022

COSMETICS giant L'Oreal posted double-digit growth in sales and profits in 2022 to record levels despite inflation and Covid lockdowns in China and expressed confidence for the year ahead thanks to a return by Chinese consumers.

Recording growth in all of its markets, sales rose by 18.5 per cent to 38.3 billion euros (\$41.1 billion).

Profits, meanwhile, jumped 24.1 per cent to 5.7 billion euros.

"It's a year we're very proud of," chief executive Nicolas Hieronimus told AFP. "There are a lot of uncertainties in 2023 and there could be several new difficult moments," he said, but added he remained "confident" in the capability of the company to outperform the market.—AFP



Cosmetics giant L'Oreal posted double-digit growth in sales and profits in 2022 to record levels despite inflation and Covid lockdowns in China and expressed confidence for the year ahead thanks to a return by Chinese consumers. PHOTO: FRANCOIS LO PRESTI /AFP

British business community eyes stronger trade ties with China

BRITISH business leaders have said they hope that trade ties between Britain and China will deepen as the two countries work toward economic rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. The remarks were made Wednesday during the "Icebreakers" 2023 Chinese New Year celebration, jointly hosted by the 48 Group Club, China Chamber of Commerce in the UK and China-Britain Business Council.



A woman writes Chinese calligraphy during "Exploring Yummy Chongqing in London" event in London, Britain, 2 February 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI YING

group of 48 British businessmen on a historic trade mission to Beijing. This helped create one of the first modern-day trade links with China, effectively breaking the US-led Western embargo on the newly-founded People's Republic of China. The 48 men were the founders of the 48 Group Club. Their trip to Beijing became known as the "Icebreaking Mission", while the club members were called "Icebreakers". —Xinhua

In 1954, Jack Perry, founder of the London Export Corporation, led a

Texas, other US states mull ban on Chinese buying land

THE US state of Texas is considering barring Chinese citizens from buying property on national security grounds – and as tensions with Beijing rise other states may follow suit.

The Texas proposal also would bar Russians, Iranians and North Koreans from owning real estate.

But the principal target appears to be Chinese nationals. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (23MS092N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (23MS092N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-2-2023** 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 MTT SHIPPING SDN.BHD.**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (011E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (011E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-2-2023** 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**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (W143)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (W143)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-2-2023** 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 INTER ASIA LINES**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V JIAN YANG HUA QING VOY.NO. (23001)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V JIAN YANG HUA QING VOY.NO. (23001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-2-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-2** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD.**

# China welcomes US treasury secretary's willingness to visit China: commerce spokesperson

CHINA welcomes US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's willingness to visit the country, a spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday.

Spokesperson Shu Jueting made the remarks at a press conference when commenting on media reports that Yellen has recently said she still hopes to visit China.

It is very important that the two sides maintain normal communications, Shu said, noting that Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He held constructive talks with Yellen over half a day in Switzerland last month.

When answering questions on the Biden administration's move to stop providing US companies with licences to export to Huawei, Shu said China has al-



The Biden administration is weighing a plan to block the export of all US-sourced technologies to Huawei - the latest escalation in Washington's years-long campaign to throttle the Chinese firm. Attendees visit the Huawei booth at the Second Digital China Summit & Exhibition in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian province, on 6 May. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ZHU XINGXIN/CHINA DAILY**

ways opposed the United States' generalization of the concept of national security to impose unreasonable sanctions on and suppress Chinese companies in violation of market economy and international trade rules. —Xinhua

# Cyprus presidential run-off too close to call

WITH Cyprus's ruling DISY out of the presidential race for the first time in its history, the conservative party's decision to back neither candidate has thrown Sunday's run-off wide open.

Last Sunday's first round results and the DISY development have changed everything.

"I expect a close result, and either of the candidates can win," said Hubert Faustmann, a politics and history professor at the University of Nicosia.

"The choices of the DISY supporters will decide this election."

Cypriots in the divided island's south vote again Sunday, with both candidates trying to prove their credentials to govern independently of the parties that back them.

Former foreign minister Nikos Christodoulides faces career diplomat Andreas Mavroyiannis in the second round after neither secured a majority last weekend.

The winner succeeds two-term President Nicos Anastasiades as the republic's eighth president.

Pre-poll favourite Christodoulides led a close-fought contest with 32.04 per cent of the vote, followed by Mavroyiannis with 29.59 per cent.

He unexpectedly squeezed out Averof Neofytou, leader of the island's largest party DISY, who came third with 26.11 per cent.

Despite Anastasiades' endorsement, Neofytou is the first DISY candidate in the party's history not to progress from the first round. —AFP

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

# UN nuclear chief Grossi due in Russia for Ukraine talks



Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, speaks to journalists after the IAEA's board of governors meeting at the agency's headquarters in Vienna, Austria, on 16 November 2022. **PHOTO: JOE KLAMAR/AFP**

UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi is due to arrive in Moscow on Thursday for talks on nuclear safety in Ukraine

amid ongoing fighting, Russia's deputy foreign minister said.

Atomic sites have been a key concern throughout the

nearly one year-long conflict, with attacks around several facilities raising fears of a nuclear incident.

Grossi visited Ukraine last month to dispatch International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) teams at several nuclear facilities, building on its mission at the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia plant near the frontline.

"The IAEA Director-General is flying to Moscow today," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

"His trip is important. We have been discussing parameters for a nuclear and security protection zone for a long time," he added. —AFP

# Poland still buying Russian oil: deputy minister

POLAND is still buying ten per cent of its oil supplies from Russia, a deputy minister for state assets said on Thursday, despite Warsaw's repeated calls for strengthening sanctions on Russian oil.

An embargo on Russia oil products — like diesel, gasoline and jet fuel — implemented by the bloc came into effect on Sunday.

That expanded on an EU embargo on seaborne oil deliveries introduced two months ago.

Poland had declared last year it had a "radical plan" of stopping all Russian oil imports by the end of 2022.

But deputy minister for state assets Maciej Malecki told parliament that Poland still has a valid contract with a Russian company Tatneft.

The deal expiring at the end of 2024 covers "around 10 per cent of the needs of (Polish oil firm) Orlen," Malecki said.

That means Poland is still buying 200,000 tonnes of oil from Russia each month. —AFP



Pipes are seen at the gas transmission point in Rembelszczyna near Warsaw, Poland **PHOTO: JANEK SKARZYNSKI/AFP**

# Hailed as hero at EU summit, Zelensky urges faster arms supplies

HAILED as a European hero on his arrival in Brussels, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky urged EU leaders to accelerate the promised

delivery of modern long-range weapons.

The Ukrainian leader warned during an EU summit Thursday that he could not re-

turn empty-handed from what was only his second foreign trip since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion just under a year ago. —AFP

# Democrats submit resolution to expel Republican lawmaker George Santos from US Congress



Photo taken on 2 April 2021 shows the US Capitol building in Washington DC the United States. PHOTO: XINHUA/LIU JIE

A group of House Democrats filed a resolution on Thursday, seeking to expel Republican lawmaker George Santos from the US Congress.

“We gave him plenty of time to resign, and he has chosen not to do so,” US Congressman Robert Garcia, a California Democrat, told reporters.

Santos, the US representative for New York’s 3rd congressional district, has admitted to fabricating several aspects of his work history and education, following his election last year.

The embattled Republican freshman is facing several investigations but has refused to step down.

The resolution is largely symbolic and unlikely to reach the floor for a vote as House Republican leaders have so far declined to call on Santos to resign.

Santos and US Senator Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican, had a tense exchange shortly before US President Joe Biden’s State of the Union address on Tuesday night.

Romney later revealed that he told Santos that he did not belong there. Santos said on Wednesday that he thought Romney’s comments were “reprehensible”.

Expelling a member from the US House of Representatives requires the support of two thirds of members under the country’s constitution. — Xinhua

# Britain to extend N Ireland election deadline by a year

BRITAIN will extend a deadline for elections in Northern Ireland, the government said Thursday, as an impasse over Brexit trade in the UK-run province shows little sign of swift resolution.

In a statement the UK said it would push back the deadline for Northern Ireland’s parties to form a government for a year to 18 January 2024 but reserved the right to call an election at any time in the intervening period.

The government’s previous cut-off point for parties to form a power-sharing executive at Northern Ireland’s devolved assembly expired on 19 January 2023.

Northern Ireland has been without a devolved government since February last year because of a walk-out by the pro-UK Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

It had been due to share power with pro-Ireland Sinn Fein, which became the biggest party in the assembly after the elections last May.

“Twelve months and one assembly election later, it is disappointing that people in Northern Ireland still do not have the strong devolved government that they deserve,” Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris said.

The DUP collapsed the power-sharing executive in February 2022 because of its opposition to the Northern Ireland Protocol.

The protocol, signed between London and Brussels as part of the UK’s Brexit divorce from the European Union, governs trade in the British province, and keeps Northern Ireland in the European single market.—AFP



The seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly, often referred to as Stormont. Northern Ireland has been without a devolved government for almost a year because of a walk-out by the pro-UK Democratic Unionist Party. PHOTO: AFP

# EU agrees tougher rules for irregular migrants

EU leaders have agreed tougher rules aimed at making it easier to expel asylum-seekers whose refugee applications are denied, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said Friday.

The measures are a response to increasing European concern over rising irregular immigration that has become a hot-button issue in several member countries.

That problem is “a European challenge that requires a European response,” EU leaders said in a final document at

the end of a 16-hour summit looking at that and other topics.

The low numbers of failed asylum-seekers being returned to their home countries is a central preoccupation for the European Union.

The bloc is already hosting millions of refugees from conflicts in Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan, while facing asylum claims from citizens of safer countries such as Bangladesh, Türkiye and Tunisia, many of whom end up being deemed economic migrants ineligible for asylum.—AFP



Ukrainian nationals fleeing the conflict in their country follow the direction of a “Ukrainians Welcome Centre” after their arrival at the Paris-Beauvais Airport in Tille, north of Paris, on 2 March 2022, seven days after Russia launched a military invasion of Ukraine. PHOTO: GEOFFROY VAN DER HASSELT / AFP/FILE

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### Nearly 50 injured in Peru’s latest anti-government march

ALMOST 50 people were injured in Peru in violent clashes between law enforcement and anti-government protesters outside an airport Thursday, a month after 18 demonstrators were killed at the same location.

A march had been organized in the city of Juliaca, Peru’s southern Puno region, to demand justice for the 18 civilians killed on 9 January, but it turned violent when protesters again tried to enter the Inca Manco Capac airport.

Twenty-three protesters sustained injuries – including three minors – one of whom had a gunshot wound to the leg, a local medical agency reported. —AFP

### Colombian VP, on visit to Cuba, urges US lift island embargo

COLOMBIAN Vice-President Francia Marquez on Thursday began her two-day visit to Havana with a call for Washington to remove Cuba from its list of state sponsors of terrorism and to lift its decades-long embargo on the Communist-run island.

Attending the inaugural Havana International Book Fair, Marquez said that “a country that bets on peace cannot be a country that finds itself on a war list.” —AFP



SPORT

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council:  
Twelve 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 prioritize 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.
- (d) To ensure peace, stability, rule of law, and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to 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 assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

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 people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
- (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
- (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.



A Yangon United player (brownish yellow) attempts to pass the opponent during the friendly match at Yangon United Sports Complex on 10 February. PHOTO: YUFC

Yangon beat Myawady 4-0 in fourth friendly

AS a preparation for the 2023 Myanmar National League, the Yangon United team played a friendly match against Myawady FC and won by 4-0.

The match was the fourth friendly match for team Yangon and played at Yangon United Sports Complex.

The winning goals for Yangon were scored by David Htan, Kaung Satt Soe, Sylla and Okkar

Naing.

David Htan scored the opening goal for Yangon United in the 3<sup>rd</sup> minute of the game. The second goal was scored by Kaung Satt Soe in the 42<sup>nd</sup> minute of the match, and at the end of the first half, the Yangon United team led the Myawady team by 2-0.

In the second half, both teams were fiercely competitive and were the fans' favourites.

Sylla made a third leading goal for Yangon United in 57<sup>th</sup> minutes and Okkar Naing found the fourth goal at 83<sup>rd</sup> minutes to celebrate a 4-0 victory over Myawady.

Yangon has played four friendly matches and recorded a win 3-0 to Kachin United, 2-1 to Mahar United and GFA, and 4-0 to Myawady, Yangon United officials stated. — KZL

Ronaldo scores four to pass 500 league goals

CRISTIANO Ronaldo scored all of Al Nassr's goals in a 4-0 rout of Al Wehda in the Saudi league on Thursday as he passed the 500 league goal mark in his club career.

The 38-year-old Portuguese star now has 503 goals scored for five different teams stretched across five leagues.

He hit three for Sporting Lisbon in his fledgling career, 103 for Manchester United over two spells, 311 for Real Madrid and 81 at Juventus.

Ronaldo now has five for Al Nassr who he joined after the World Cup following his bitter

divorce from United.

On Thursday, he hit the 500 mark in the 21<sup>st</sup> minute with a left-footed strike.

He made it 2-0 with his right foot just before the interval before his hat-trick arrived from the penalty spot eight minutes into the second half.

It was his 61<sup>st</sup> career hat-trick. He added a fourth just after the hour mark when he was first to a rebound.

Ronaldo had opened his account for his new employers last Friday with a stoppage-time penalty in a 2-2 away draw against Al Fateh.—AFP



Lionel Messi (L) in action for PSG against Marseille in the French Cup on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

LIONEL Messi will miss Paris Saint-Germain's Ligue 1 trip to Monaco on Saturday with a hamstring injury, raising concerns that he may not be fit in time for his team's Champions League showdown with Bayern

Munich next week.

PSG confirmed on Friday that the Argentine World Cup winner had suffered the injury in the club's 2-1 defeat against Marseille in the French Cup on Wednesday and would continue

to undergo treatment over the next 48 hours. They added that Messi would return to training on Monday, the eve of the last-16 first leg against Bayern in Paris.

PSG coach Christophe Galtier played down concerns that the 35-year-old may not be ready in time for that huge game.

"Leo will not be available for the match against Monaco but he will be back in training on Monday so you can forget about him being a doubt," Galtier told reporters.

"We know the importance of Leo to the way we play. With his absence we will maybe need to play in a different way, make sure we have a more compact and solid spine.—AFP