PRESERVE LONG-LASTING RUSSIA-MYANMAR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 309, 1st Waxing of Tabaung 1384 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Sunday, 19 February 2023

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.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends reception to mark 75th anniversary of founding Russia-Myanmar diplomatic ties

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the reception to mark the 75th anniversary of founding the Russia-Myanmar diplomatic ties at Hotel Hilton in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The ceremony was opened with Russian and Myanmar national anthems. Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Dr Nikolay Listopadov delivered an opening speech.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that Myanmar values the persistent support of Russia to Myanmar between them and in the international arena during the period when the friendly relations have been maintained since 18 February 1948.

Symbols of the friendship between Myanmar and Russia proved Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi of Shan State in 1961, the Yangon Institute of Technology in 1961, Yangon Inya Lake Hotel in 1962 and Kyetmauktaung Dam in 1967 as part of reflecting the sustainable relations between the two countries.

SEE PAGE-3

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Russian Ambassador Dr Nikolay Listopadov cut the ceremonial cake on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of the establishment of Myanmar-Russia Diplomatic Relations yesterday.

Objectives of 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

— To serve primary duties of Tatmadaw for successfully safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes, and protecting the State Constitution and shielding the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system
— To emphasize agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible for the restoration of the durable and perpetual peace across the nation as ceasing of armed conflicts is an actual requirement for realizing the multiparty democratic system
— To render assistance in protecting the national interests of the State, in safeguarding the life and property of the people and in participating in relevant sectors with utmost efforts whenever natural disasters fall
— To provide the necessary assistance by Tatmadaw for holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election upon completion of undertakings in accord with the provisions of the state of emergency for the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

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 schoolteachers, 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.

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

Cash awards for informants of preventing/arresting illegal trades

THE illegal trades inflict certain impacts on the development of the State economy. Illegal trades cause hindrances to legitimate businesses and small, micro and medium-sized enterprises face difficulties in long-term survival because they are less able to compete with illegal goods in trading. It will be more effective only when the entire people participate in the process of preventing and controlling illegal trade activities.

Regarding illegal imports and exports, 30 per cent of the money obtained from fines or holding auctions on the prohibited and seized items are being rewarded to the people who help in arresting the illegal trades and 20 per cent to those who informed about the illegal trades under the Union Government's Notification No 70/2020.

After the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reorganized, it has already provided K1200.873 million to those who arrested the cases or the surveillance organizations for 646 cases out of 792 approved cases of preventing and arresting illegal trades between 17 December 2021 and 31 December 2022 while K66.027 million to department and organizations concerned and informers for reporting the cases. The plans are underway to reward the remaining 146 cases as quickly as possible and to approve the remaining preventing/arresting illegal trade cases to provide cash prizes.

People are notified of the related phone numbers so that they can secretly inform the illegal export/import to the respective region and state anti-illegal trade special task forces with the exact information.

The personal data of informants will be kept confidential and cash prizes will be granted to the informants secretly as per the procedures. — MNA/KTZH

Illegal foodstuffs, industrial materials, industrial raw materials and vehicles confiscated

AN on-duty Customs team conducted inspections on 16 February.

Officials captured eight kinds of goods including 2,250 kilogrammes of raw materials for sanitary napkins and one unit of 1 loop addressable fire alarm panel worth K51,003,435 that were more than 60 days of valid for prior arrival (VPA) at the Yangon International Airport (Import) and four kinds of goods including 2,764.8 kilogrammes of milk powder (Gaullac) worth K164,001,096 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Confiscated illegal commodities (above and left below photos).

In addition, officials seized 435.84 kilogrammes of Molyland grease worth K4,009,720 that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from an Isuzu-Giga car (estimated value of K40 million) at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint in Mon State and 330 cartons of two-elephant beer (China-made) worth K6.6 million) were found ownerless on the bypass road near Sanlong village at the Yepu permanent checkpoint in Shan State. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, five arrests (estimated value of K265,614,251) were made on 16 February, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

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

PR system should be practised for broader representation

THE word federalism is a concept of sharing power and authority with different regions, states, ethnicities and national races. It means integration and sharing. Political parties including ethnic parties represent the people who support them. So, there are different representations and efforts are being made to practise the proportional representation (PR) system to widely represent the parties and ethnic nationals.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 7th Anniversary of Signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2022)

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends reception to mark 75th anniversary of founding Russia-Myanmar diplomatic ties

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win speaks on the occasion of the reception to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Myanmar-Russia Diplomatic Relations yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

FROM PAGE-1

From 1980-1990 to date, new-generation Myanmar youths were sent to Russia to make further studies in order to have higher knowledge and techniques as well as to enhance the defence capability of Myanmar. In 2021 when the State Administration Council stated the assumption of State responsibilities, remarkable progress could be seen in Myanmar-Russia relations.

The Vice-Senior General said that he took pride in the highest relations between the two countries thanks to the far-sightedness and endeavours of both leaders. He expressed his firm belief that the potential for future cooperation between the two countries can be seen to multiply the good results for both countries. Myanmar arranges the opening of Myanmar consulates-general in St Petersburg and Novosibirsk of Russia soon to higher friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The documentary group photo of the event.

The Vice-Senior General praised for Myanmar and Russian governments and the peoples for successfully walking together along the 75 years of friendly relations and made best wishes for the peoples of both countries to have perpetuity of friendship, further prosperity of the Russian Federation and Russian people and physical and mental well-being of both leaders and friends.

The Vice-Senior General and the Russian Federation cut the diamond jubilee cake to mark the diplomatic ties between Russia and Myanmar.

The Vice-Senior General and the Russian Ambassador enjoyed the dancing entertainment of the Russian dancing troupe and presented the flower basket to them. Later, they had dinner together with the attendees. — MNA

Commemorative ceremony for 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Myanmar-Russia Diplomatic Ties

A ceremony to commemorate the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and the Russian Federation was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-I (MICC-1) in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 18 February 2023. The ceremony was attended by members of the State Administration Council, Union-level dignitaries, Deputy Prime Ministers, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar, Ambassadors/ Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Yangon, members of the diplomatic corps, and officials from the concerned ministries.

SAC members, Deputy Prime Ministers, Union Ministers, the Russian ambassador and dignitaries view round the display at the event yesterday.

Union Minister U Than Swe reads the message of felicitation from SAC Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation at the event yesterday.

During the ceremony, U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs read out the congratulatory message conveyed from the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation on the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and the Russian Federation, and delivered a speech.

Afterwards, Dr Nikolai Listopadov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar read out the congratulatory message conveyed by Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation to the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and the Russian Federation, and delivered a speech.

The Union minister in his speech recalled that over the past seven and a half decades, Myanmar and Russia have made significant achievements in their bilateral relations underpinned by mutual understanding, trust and respect for each other despite the distinct histories, cultures and geographical distance. He noted with satisfaction that the growing exchanges of visits and multifaceted cooperation have added momentum to the bilateral relations, especially since the assumption of state responsibilities by the State Administration Council.

The two sides expressed their strong commitment to work together more closely for the further advancement of the friendship and partnership between Myanmar and Russia in the years ahead.

It was then followed by a video clip featuring the bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and the Russian Federation. Artistes from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Russian Embassy entertained with traditional performances and cultural dances of both countries.

Afterwards, SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo presented a flower basket to the Russian artistes and the Russian ambassador presented a flower basket to the Myanmar artistes. Then, dignitaries together with the Russian ambassador posed for a group photo.

After the ceremony, dignitaries and guests viewed round the documentary photos on Myanmar-Russia bilateral relations and cooperation displayed by nine ministries and the Russian Embassy, and refreshments were served to the dignitaries and guests, it is learnt. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

7 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 February, total figure rises to 633,884

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 633,884 after seven new cases were reported on 18 February 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 614,358, including two new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,490 on 18-2-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — MNA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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

Union Ministers, Mandalay Region Chief Minister meet business people, artistes from literary, film, theatrical and music fields in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung cordially met business people and artistes from the fields of literary, film, theatre and music at City Hall yesterday.

First, the Union Information Minister talked about the intention of meeting and discussed the current political situation, peace and tranquillity, rule of law, socioeconomic development, the prosperity of the region, public participation and further cooperation works of officials and people.

Then, the Union Commerce Minister highlighted the recession in international countries, strenuous efforts not to face collapse from the economic sector, prevention of trade deficit, proper plans for imports and exports and supportive measures for MSMEs.

The Mandalay Region Chief Minister also stressed the systematic measures of the government as per the theme "Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal", and pledged to make efforts to ensure the development of the region on behalf of business people and artistes from the fields of literature, film, theatre and music.

The participants also coordinated the discussion and the Union Ministers and party enjoyed tea together with them after the meeting.

In the evening, Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn paid homage to 36 feet high Sitagu Sanchi pagoda constructed on 2.19 acres of land in Htonebo Village of PyinOoLwin and Sitagu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanissara. During the visit, the Union minister provided the needed things regarding the umbrella hoisting ceremony to be held on 19 February. — MNA/KTZH

The meeting between Union Ministers and Mandalay Region Chief Minister and businesspersons and artistes is in progress yesterday in Mandalay.

MoTC DM inspects MR's locomotive factories, carriage and wagon factory, concrete sleeper factory, railway stations, railway lines

The MoTC deputy minister and party are pictured during the inspection of railway lines.

DEPUTY Minister U Aung Myaing of the Ministry of Transport and Communications inspected Diesel Locomotive Factories (Ywahtaung), (Mandalay) and (PyinOoLwin) and Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Factory including Myitnge Concrete Sleeper Factory, construction of Myitnge Bridge, Mandalay Circular Railways, PyinOoLwin-Watwun railway section, railway stations and ShweOoDaung Library of Myanma Railways together with the officials concerned between 14 and 17 February.

During the inspection tours to Diesel Locomotive Factories (Ywahtaung), (Mandalay) and (PyinOoLwin), the Deputy Minister stressed the need to conduct regular checks for maintenance, step-by-step repair works to ensure the strength of locomotives, to produce quality spare parts at the factories to reduce locomotive spare-part procurement, plans and rehearsals to prevent fire outbreak in factories and to provide fire extinguishers systematically.

On arrival at Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Factory, he also gave instructions to accomplish the production of new carriages in time, to ensure the capacity and skills of staff, and strength of machinery and conduct systematic programmes for human resource development. He also inspected the construction site of the new Myitnge Bridge which is crucial for the Yangon-Mandalay railway section.

He then inspected the Mandalay circular railway by RBE train and discussed the plantation of trees along both sides of the railway line.

During the inspection of the PyinOoLwin-Watwun railway section, the Deputy Minister inspected the railway stations and station yards and instructed to conduct cleansing activities, place the sleepers systematically, use the quality stones, complete the upgrading of Zeepingyi-PyinOoLwin-Gokteik railway section in time and produce quality sleepers at Myitnge Concrete Sleeper Factory for the upgrading of Yangon-Mandalay railway section. — MNA/KTZH

JLPT application forms to be accepted online this month

THE Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) announced that the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) 2023 will be held in July 2023 and the JLPT application forms for individuals will be accepted online starting from 21 February.

MAJA notified that the JLPT examination will start on 2 July in Yangon and Mandalay.

Those who sit for N1 and N2 levels have to submit their application form online from 21 February to 3 March, for the N3 level from 22 February to 3 March and for the N4 level from 24 February to 3 March. MAJA informed that it will accept level-wise application forms at the same time in Yangon and Mandalay and close on 25, 26 February and 2 March. – TWA/MKKS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Weekly market update of dry groceries at Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre

FOR a week from 11 to 17 February 2023, prices of three export pulses and chickpeas jumped. The wholesale market price of palm oil peaked at K7,000 per viss when 30,000 tonnes of palm oil were brought into the country. The newly harvested garlic from Shan State and Pakokku areas entered Yangon markets.

Onion

Bayintnaung wholesale market saw the entry of 180,000 visses of onions on 17 February 2023. The prices moved in the range of K1,000 and K1,500 per viss depending on the quality, size and producing areas (Seikphyu, Pyawbwe and Myittha) that day.

On 17 February, the price of large onions from the Myittha area plunged to K1,200 per viss. With about 21,276 visses of onions flowing into the Myingyan depot on 17 February, the highest price of onions from the Yaw and Pale areas was K1,150 per viss. The maximum price of onions from the Myittha area was K1,400 per viss and those from Myingyan touched the highest of K1,000 per viss with the supply of 30,000 visses to the Mandalay market.

Garlic

New garlic from Shan State and Pakokku area entered the Yangon market on 13 February. On 14 February, the prices stayed at K3,650-5,500 per viss depending on varieties and qualities.

Potato

Chinese potato price was around K2,250 per viss on 17 February, while the prices of local potatoes from Sinphyukyun and Bhamo areas moved in the range between K1,300 and 1,900 per viss.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K9,000-10,000 per viss for long chilli pepper and Moehtaung variety. The prices of bell peppers from the Sinphyukyun area were K14,500-15,000 per viss.

Rice

The new low-grade rice was valued at K53,000-6,1000 per bag depending on varieties (Aemahta and rice grown under intercropping system). The new Pawsan rice prices peaked at K74,000-87,000 per bag depending on the producing areas (Pyapon, Myaungmya and Shwebo).

The old Pawsan rice prices rocketed to K79,000-107,000 per bag depending on the producing areas.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region for three consecutive weeks from 13 to 19 February has been set at K4,490. The FOB price of palm oil dropped to US$955 per tonne on 14 February. However, the wholesale market price rallied to K6,550-7,000 per viss despite the inflow of imported edible oil between 8 and 14 February.

Pulses

The prices of various pulses were spiked at over K1,885,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,120,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K2,132,500 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K4,100-4,400 per viss of chickpea in Yangon markets. — TWA/EM

Kitchen goods are seen in a grocery.

MPF (Insein) produces medicines worth over K54 bln in Apr-Dec

ACCORDING to statistics from the Ministry of Industry, the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) produced and distributed more than K54.924 billion worth of various medicines including the Covid-19 vaccine and snake venom from April to December during the 2022-2023 financial year.

The sign of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (former BPI).

Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) was able to produce Covid-19 vaccines worth K32.738 billion this financial year. It also fulfilled medicinal requirements and orders from the government departments concerned.

The Ministry of Health offered orders to purchase narcotic drugs such as solid morphine, liquid injection, tramadol injection (diagnosis and treatment for severe, sudden and prolonged pain), tramadol capsules, diazepam, and medicines like methadone. — TWA/KZW

452 traffic accidents leave 230 dead, 564 hurt countrywide in January

One fatal traffic accident. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

IN January, there were 452 accidents with 564 injuries and 230 deaths, according to the of Road Transport Administration Department.

According to the statistics, there were eight traffic accidents, 37 injuries and 10 deaths in Nay Pyi Taw, 14 traffic accidents, 22 injuries and 12 deaths in Kachin State. There were no traffic accidents in Kayah State, while five traffic accidents with five injuries and four deaths occurred in Kayin State and no traffic accidents in Chin State.

Meanwhile, there were four traffic accidents with two injuries and three deaths in Sagaing Region and 13 traffic accidents with 18 injuries and 11 deaths in Tanintharyi Region.

There were 42 traffic accidents, 50 injuries, and 24 deaths in Bago Region while 42 traffic accidents with 20 casualties and 56 injured in Magway Region.

Mandalay Region sees 61 traffic accidents, 94 injuries, and 32 deaths while Mon State occurs 30 traffic accidents, 54 injuries, and 12 deaths, while Rakhine State highlighted nine traffic accidents with 11 being wounded and four killed.

There were also 65 traffic accidents with 29 being dead and 63 wounded in Yangon Region, 45 traffic accidents, 42 injuries and 32 deaths in Shan State, and 74 traffic accidents, 97 injuries and 29 deaths in Ayeyawady Region.

There were also 13 traffic accidents, 13 injuries, and eight deaths that occurred on Highway Road, according to the Directorate of Road Transport.

The cause of accidental injuries worldwide is 22.8 per cent due to traffic accidents, 10.8 per cent due to violence, 18.1 per cent due to other causes, and 3.4 per cent due to war, so most of the wounded are caused by traffic accidents.

To reduce the number of traffic accidents, relevant township and district traffic control forces are cooperating at present.

If a driver violates the basic norms of driving, it will only increase the risk to the lives of the people riding in the vehicle.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3) have been set to reduce injuries and deaths on the roads. — TWA/KZL

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

LOCAL BUSINESS

Corn stable on high price

A corn plantation in a village near the border with China.

THE price of corn remained unchanged at K1,300 per viss this month, according to the Bayintnaung Commodity Depot.

On 2 January 2023, corn fetched K1,170 per viss. Then, the price moved slowly up and reached K1,300 per viss.

At present, Myanmar delivered corn to China and Thailand through border posts and also shipped corn to China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines by sea, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

China is purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution program. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 companies have been given the go-ahead for corn exports.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

The directive released on 30 June said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. Therefore, 65 per cent of export earnings (US dollars) of the corn have to be exchanged according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100). Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unauthorized rate of the US dollar (over K2,860).

Nonetheless, as per the meeting 66/2022 of the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee, export earnings of some items can be made in Chinese Yuan and Thai Baht in addition to the US dollar.

The CBM's notice dated 18 November takes effect on those export items; various pulses (green gram, black gram, chickpea, pigeon pea), edible oil crops (peanut, sesame seeds), corn, rubber, fishery products (fish, shrimp, crab, eel) and livestock products (live cattle, hides, frozen meat, dried meat).

The traders need to apply for a licence to make Yuan or Baht payments. According to the US dollar policy, 65 per cent of earnings must be exchanged for local currency at the CBM's reference foreign exchange rate, while exporters can use 35 per cent of export earnings or transfer or sell them to Authorized Dealers or others with an over-the-counter rate within 30 days, the CBM announced.

Myanmar exported more than 2 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons- winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM

MIC to prioritize electric vehicles and related business sector

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) released a notification dated 15 February that it will give priority to electric vehicles (EVs) and related business sectors.

In the exercise of the power conferred by Sections 43 and 100 (B) of the Myanmar Investment Law, the MIC issued this statement with the approval of the Union government.

Enterprises executing installation, manufacturing and restoration services of the EVs, renewable electricity generation, EVs charging service businesses, electric vehicle battery production, EV battery and related service business, electric bus operation services, electric taxi and transportation service businesses and scientific research development business are included in those priority sectors.

During the establishment and ideation phase for incorporation and operations, those businesses can seek a permit from the MIC to enjoy tariff relief or zero-customs tariff status and the exemption for other taxes levied in the country under Section (A) of the Myanmar Investment Law and income tax exemption under Section 75 (C) of the Myanmar Investment Law for the importations of machinery, essential equipment and accessories, spare parts and construction raw materials that cannot be found in domestic markets.

Electric vehicles (EVs) are entitled to zero-Customs tariff status, according to the notification released in early November 2022 by the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

To encourage the number of EV users and improve the related business, the tariff of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) imported under Completely Built Up (CBU), Completely Knocked Down (CKD) and Semi-Knocked Down (SKD) in the Customs Tariff of Myanmar 2022 were reduced to zero per cent keeping in line with the decision of the Union government.

Types of BEVs include road tractors for semi-trailers, buses or motor vans for the transport of ten or more people including the driver, truck, motor vehicle for personal use, three-wheeled vehicles for the transport of persons, three-wheeled vehicles for the transport of goods, electric motorcycles, electric bicycles, ambulances, prison vans and hearses.

According to this directive, the imports of spare parts (for instance, charging station equipment and device) with the recommendation of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and the spare parts with the recommendation of the Department of Industry can be done between 2 November 2022 and 31 March 2023. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 18 February 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,100
Octane 95	K2,175
Diesel	K2,160
Premium Diesel	K2,240

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,170,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,856,000 per tical

US Dollar Vs Kyat

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.

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

OPINION

Preserve long-lasting Russia-Myanmar diplomatic relations

THE day '18 February 2023' turned the 75th anniversary of founding the diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Russian Federation as the Russian Federation is the sixth country Myanmar has been cementing diplomatic relations since 1948.

During the tenure of the State Administration Council, both countries enhance relations with two armed forces of Myanmar and Russia as well as cooperated in trade, science and technology, and other sectors. Thanks to bilateral relations, peoples from both countries can raise their heart-to-heart relations.

Both Russia and Myanmar pledged to continue cooperation with each other as friendship countries and allied countries forever, reflecting reliance on each other in all measures related to international and regional issues. Indeed, Russia and Myanmar, despite separating by oceans and continents have been closely raising relations based on mutual understanding, economic opportunities and taking strategies into consideration for hundreds of years.

> Pledges adopted by both Russia and Myanmar such as the exchange of goodwill visits from both government and senior military officers, formation of more Russia-Myanmar associations, cooperation in language and culture, exchange of scholarship students for human resource development, cooperation in humanitarian measures and enhancement of international and regional relations will be fruits of cementing the long-lasting diplomatic relations up to thousands of years.

Nowadays, some powerful countries interfere in the internal affairs of small countries for various reasons so as to cause deterioration and disintegration in unity with the use of various ways and means. On one hand, they pose pressure and intimidation, bullying and discrimination in small countries based on different concepts.

Especially, it is regrettable that those countries are constantly posing pressure and coercion on geopolitically important Myanmar to shape its situation as they like and to widen its influence, committing criticism, imposing sanctions and interfering in internal affairs.

This being so, Myanmar people thank Russian leaders and citizens for their standing with Myanmar as good friends to overcome challenges based on negative views and attempts of the utter devastation being committed by some big countries.

As such, Myanmar pledges to steadfastly emphasize friendly ties and cooperation with Russia in high regard to boost the interests of both countries as well as to create chances for peoples from both countries to have amicable communications. It is an act of polishing the fine traditions, prestige and integrity of the histories and heritages of both Russia and Myanmar to be brighter in the international community.

Pledges adopted by both Russia and Myanmar such as the exchange of goodwill visits from both government and senior military officers, formation of more Russia-Myanmar associations, cooperation in language and culture, exchange of scholarship students for human resource development, cooperation in humanitarian measures and enhancement of international and regional relations will be fruits of cementing the long-lasting diplomatic relations up to thousands of years.

■

ARTICLE

History and evolution of diplomatic efforts to establish Myanmar-Russia ties in late Feudal Myanmar, an initial period of anti-colonialism

By Maung Lwin Myint

ALBEIT the geographical distance between Myanmar and Russia is over 4,000 miles, the relations between the two brotherly nations deepen and strengthen more like a friend in need and a good brother of rain or shine. The diplomatic ties between the two nations formally started on 18 February 1948. Marking the Diamond Jubilee (75th Anniversary) of the diplomatic ties, the current relations shine brighter under the administration of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The two brotherly nations share a rich history. Dating back many years, it is an auspicious and historical phenomenon with the Myanmar-Russia relations strengthening.

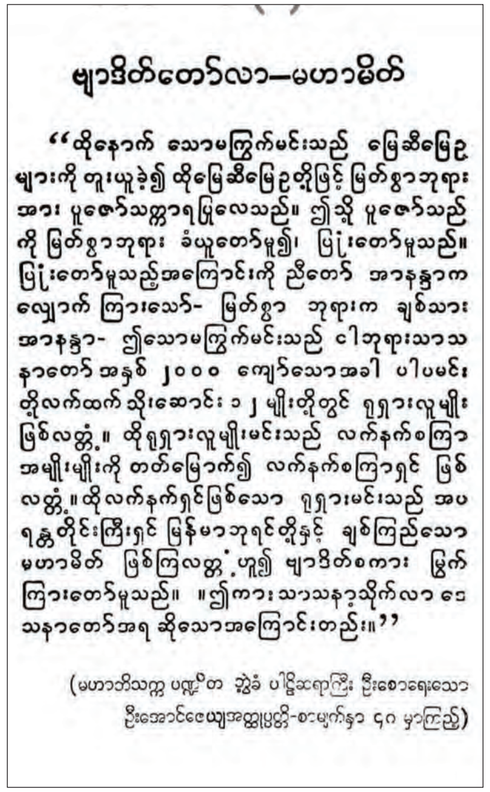
It is a surprising and incredible coincidence that it happens according to the Buddha's prophecy described on Page 48 of U Aung Zay Ya's autobiography noted by Maha Bithaka Pandita Pali Sayagyi U Saw. It was titled "prophecy-alliance", stating that Buddha told his principal disciple Ananda that King Thawma of the rats dug tuber crops and offered them to Buddha and Ananda asked why the Buddha smiled. Buddha has prophesied that Russia would be one of 12 leading western countries after over 2,000 years of the Buddhist Era. The King of those Russians would own superior arms and weapons. That King and Myanmar King would-be allies. This revelation has become reality.

Myanmar's feudal rulers endeavoured to promote relations with Russia in the pre-colonial era. This article will reveal this untold truth and history. Genuine efforts to start friendship ties with Russia have started since King Mindon of the Konbaung dynasty, with solid evidence.

Agga Maha Senapati Kinwun Mingyi Min Thadoe Mingyi Maha Minhla Sithu Kyaw, duke under King Mindon sent a letter to patriarch Gevorg-IV of Armenia in 1875 (1237 ME). At that time, there was no bishop in the Russian Orthodox church. Yerevan is the capital of Armenia, which was a part of the Russian Empire. He was the patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church (1865-1882). He disclosed in the letter that Mr Uprin from Russia, who was considered an Armenian ship owner merchant Mr Ovanes Amirkhan as per the contemporary document, travelled to Myanmar in 1873 (1235 ME) while Myanmar was attempting to build an alliance with Russia. At that time, Russia was under the reign of Alexander II (1855-1881). The foreign minister was Alexander Gorchakov (1856-1882). King Mindon was so delighted with the encounter with a Russian traveller. He cordially hosted him and gave a letter to the Armenian supreme patriarch with the aim to establish diplomatic ties with Russia through a missionary. The Armenian patriarch replied to a letter to King Mindon with a picture of a missionary bishop who was expected to come to Myanmar through an Armenian traveller. King Mindon was so pleased with the letter. Archbishop Gregory made his mission trip in 1878 (1237 ME). King Mindon welcomed the archbishop in a gracious and attentive act. He responded to it in the letter referring to King Mindon that he would relay a message to Russia's King Alexander II and Foreign minister Alexander Gorchakov, regarding Myanmar's willingness to build ties with Russia. He would address King Mindon about their expressions and thoughts.

Regarding this letter, K.A. Snow wrote an article entitled "Russian as the 'Western Other' in Southeast Asia; Encounters of Russian Travellers in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century" in Russia Review-Journal (Vol.71, No 2 April 2012).

Myanmar King Mindon and Thailand's King Mongkut and King Chulalongkorn became aware of Russia's naval power in eastern Asia and Southeast Asia. They noticed how Russia competes against European imperialism in China. Russia did not create separate colonies like the British and France. It was the Western Other that could assist in the fights against imperialism and colonialism. Nevertheless, Russia's empire viewed central Asian countries and China as its Pivot to the East policy. It was beware of yet remained away from confrontation with European colonialism in Southeast Asia in the early 19th century. Consequently, it mulled over knitting diplomatic ties with southeast Asian nations.



ဗျာဒိတ်တော်လာ—မဟာမိတ်

"ထိုနောက် သောမကြွက်မင်းသည် မြေဆီမြေဥ များကို တူးယူခဲ့၍ ထိုမြေဆီမြေဥတို့ဖြင့် မြတ်စွာဘုရား အား ပူဇော်သက္ကာရပြုလေသည်။ ၎င်သို့ ပူဇော်သည် ကို မြတ်စွာဘုရား ခံယူတော်မူ၍၊ မြဲုံးတော်မူသည်။ မြဲုံးတော်မူသည့်အကြောင်းကို ညီတော် အာနန္ဒာက လျှောက် ကြားသော်- မြတ်စွာ ဘုရားက ချစ်သား အာနန္ဒာ- ၎င်သောမကြွက်မင်းသည် ငါဘုရားသာသ နာတော် အနှစ် ၂၀၀၀ ကျော်သောအခါ ပါမမင်း တို့လက်ထက် သိုးဆောင်း ၁၂ မျိုးတို့တွင် ရှုရှားလူမျိုး ဖြစ်လတ္တံ့။ ထိုရှုရှားလူမျိုးမင်းသည် လက်နက်စကြာ အမျိုးမျိုးကို တတ်မြောက်၍ လက်နက်စကြာရှင် ဖြစ် လတ္တံ့။ ထိုလက်နက်ရှင်ဖြစ်သော ရှုရှားမင်းသည် အပ ရှစ်တိုင်းကြီးရှင် မြန်မာဘုရင်တို့နှင့် ချစ်ကြည်သော မဟာမိတ် ဖြစ်ကြလတ္တံ့.ဟူ၍ ဗျာဒိတ်စကား မြွက် ကြားတော်မူသည်။ ။၎ကား သာသနာ့သိုက်လာ ဒေ သနာတော်အရ ဆိုသောအကြောင်းတည်း။"

(မဟာဘိသက္က ပဏ္ဍိတ ဘွဲ့ခံ ပါဠိဆရာကြီး ဦးစောရေးသော ဦးအောင်ဇေယျအတ္ထပြုတို-စာမျက်နှာ ၄၈ မှာကြည့်)

Page 48 of U Aung Zay Ya's autobiography noted by Maha Bithaka Pandita Pali Sayagyi U Saw

The Russian community realized the first Anglo-Myanmar War (1824-1826) through Russian-translated articles written in German and French during the early 19th century. They studied Myanmar's history, the structure of the nation, trade, laws, education and religion through Russkii Invalid, Aziatskii Vestnik, Moskovskii Telegraf and Moskovskie Vedomosti journals in the 1820s. Personal views and experiences of Russian travellers shared about the public opinion on Russia from Asia and Southeast Asia, politics, culture and important insights in the 1870s. Later, Myanmar's geographical features, components of nations and trade were taught in school and young people were able to study them. The Russian community knew about the British invasion in the second Anglo-Myanmar War (1852) and the third Anglo-Myanmar War (1885) through articles. In the late 19th century, Myanmar became a part of Russia's prospects in Southeast Asia.

King Mindon believed that Myanmar needed to develop diplomacy, relations and trade with some European countries in addition to the reforms in education and forging advanced technology after the revolution against the British in the second Anglo-Myanmar War (1852-1853).

King Mindon is a compassionate and brilliant ruler. He strived for diplomatic and friendly relations with some European countries, including France, Italy and Russia. Kinwun Mingyi U Kaung (1822-1908) played a pivotal role in establishing diplomatic efforts with western countries. He served in a monarchy and accomplished diplomatic tasks. He was awarded many titles. He created and maintained strong international ties. Although the prime minister's position was not officially appointed in Myanmar's monarchy, European diplomats considered him a prime minister. He also led a delegation to England as the right hand of the King in 1871. Additionally, he advocated the delegation to strengthen the ties with the western countries in 1872. U Kaung has been cited as a liberal leader who wanted to practice a constitutional monarchy system. As he was fluent in English and French, he made efforts to actively contact Russian travellers. He was resolute to safeguard the sovereignty and maintain independence. During the Crimean War between Russia and an alliance of the Ottoman Empire, the UK and France (1853-1856), Myanmar saw Russia as a possible new ally. Myanmar witnessed strong competitiveness between Russians and the British and wanted Russia to protect Myanmar from the British's invasion or form a diplomatic alliance. Myanmar's King and its ministers realized Russia's Pivot to the East policy on Central Asia and Asian-Pacific regions through the translated newspapers.

Armenian people under the Russian Empire found Russia essential to its security. They are Christians from Apostolic Orthodox Church. In 1863, Armenian Gregorian Church was established as a self-autonomous institution. Myanmar's monarch persuaded Mr Ovanes Amirkhan who was considered to be an Armenian merchant to connect with the supreme patriarch in order to stride in Myanmar-Russia relations.

A Christian church was constructed at Yadanabon, the royal capital of the Konbaung dynasty, in March 1873 and Archbishop Gregory, a representative of the supreme patriarch Gevork-IV of Armenian, came to Myanmar to have a chief pastor entrusted to a church. That bishop has requested a Russian Church Patriarch to establish Myanmar-Russian diplomacy. Myanmar also sent a request letter to the Russian Church through a little-known guest named Usharov. The Russian church received this letter and forwarded it to the Russian government. The Russian government responded with grace yet there were no formal diplomatic relations. King Mindon explored other indirect paths to the creation of diplomacy. A Persian consul from Bombay visited Mandalay in 1874 and Myanmar's minister also asked for diplomatic relations with Russia through Russian diplomat Mr A.F Berger to Persia. Nonetheless, Alexander II declined a request as Myanmar was out of reach in terms of politics and trading interests.

> It is a surprising and incredible coincidence that it happens according to the Buddha's prophecy described on Page 48 of U Aung Zay Ya's autobiography noted by Maha Bithaka Pandita Pali Sayagyi U Saw.

Russia might have a hunch that Myanmar desired Russia to protect it from the British's invasion beyond a diplomatic tie. So, Russia did not want to aggregate relations with the British.

In 1875, Myanmar approached a Russian Mr G. Neniukov with an intensive background in international relations knowledge to build a bridge between Myanmar and Russia. During his trip to the East, he visited Captain Strover who was an English representative in Mandalay in early 1975 after the visit to the main cities in India. He stayed at the house of that representative and King Mindon met him at the Palace where he inquired about the objectives of the trips, his service year and his home country and discussed Russia-Myanmar relations with King Mindon and Kinwun Mingyi. He was asked to take a letter with him to the Russian minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. King Mindon expressed affection for Russia and its people and respect for Alexander II. King's willingness to create diplomatic relations with Russia was enclosed in the letter written in French. The Minister presented this letter to Alexander II. However, his response on 28 January 1876 showed no sign of establishing formal diplomacy. Friendly visits and exchanges were suggested then. The writings of a Russian traveller Mr P.I. Pashino extended adoration for the friendship between the two countries. He believed that the Russian empire would play a pivotal role in Southeast Asia.

He worked for the Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in Persia (1861) and Tajikistan (1866-67). However, he was considered a critic of Russia's central Asian colonization by Soviet writers. Mr Pashino stopped in Yangon in 1876 during his world tour including Egypt, India, Malaysia, China and Japan.

He witnessed the natural scenic beauty of tropical areas with natural forests during the upstream tour to Mandalay along the Ayeyawady River. The astonishing views of the villages and pagodas and temples at the old capital of Amarapura enchanted him. He felt empathy for Myanmar struggling under British rule after meeting Myanmar people in different living classes. He described King Mindon as a brilliant ruler with a knowledge of European culture and he showed his respect and devotion to the King.

During his stay in Myanmar, Mr P. I Pashino advocated how to initiate diplomacy with Russia and also put forward positive tactics to maintain freedom of politics and economics. The British controlled lower Myanmar and sea ports so he suggested a railway project in the northeast region to the China border to conduct global trade. He expected this railway to link to Russia after years. He submitted a report regarding Myanmar's condition and his trip to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and shared his story with popular news outlets in Russia.

"Russia is the centre of attention among Asians. Out of the blue, some Asians believed Russia would be the saviour of colonial rulers. King Mindon is one of those enthusiastic believers. He even acquired the translated version of Peter the Great's history in detail.

In November 1876, King Mindon and Kinwun Mingyi gave two letters to Alexander Gorchakov, foreign minister of Russia and Dmitry Milyutin, the Minister of War via Mr P. I Pashino, call upon the establishment of consulates in Myanmar and Russia. Moreover, hospitality to Russian travellers proved cooperation efforts and amiability of Myanmar's monarch, the first letter stated. The second letter revealed a request for Myanmar young people to have an opportunity to attend military schools and training facilities. Also, they called for sufficient skilled personnel to assist in weapon production in Myanmar and share military thought.

Mr N.G. Giers who was working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1882-1895) warned that this request could threaten the relations with the British.

SEE PAGE-10 >>

ARTICLE
BOOKRACK

History and evolution of diplomatic efforts to establish Myanmar-Russia ties in late Feudal Myanmar, an initial period of anti-colonialism

>> FROM PAGE-9

He suggested Dmitry Milyutin slow down the response time. Nonetheless, the Foreign Minister discussed with N.G. Giers and Dmitry Milyutin to respond with grace. The letter unveiled that Russia welcomed Myanmar's youths in science and manufacturing education.

Yet, this plan had not been implemented anyhow. Myanmar seemed to turn to France to seek consular assistance as France actively participated in Myanmar's affairs. Meanwhile, Russian officials still viewed Myanmar as too far from them according to geographical conditions. Furthermore, possible misunderstandings between Britain and France still bothered Russia then.

Before King Mindon passed away in 1878, he was eager to establish ties with Russia and expressed his respect and appreciation to Peter the Great. The successor King Thibaw (1878-1885) was also dying to call for assistance from Russia and some European countries to combat British rule. The weakening rule of the Myanmar monarch in the 1880s and the business economic recession (1885) were contributing factors to the end of the Konbaung dynasty and the surrender of the King under British rule in upper Myanmar.

Russian travellers persisted in visiting Myanmar in the colonial period and they criticized Britain over colonization.

Regarding the Russian consulate in Myanmar, the British proposed that if they allowed British consulates in Irkutsk and Samarkand, it would give green light to the Russian consulate in Myanmar.

The Russian government decided that they did not need to set up one in Myanmar as only a handful number of Russian ships were seen at Yangon Port at that time. Later, German Mr Fokke who helped the captains of Russian ships were appointed as vice consul. Myanmar and Russia conducted normal trade and crude oil was the main item. Then, Russia shifted to the expansion of naval power in the East, the Soviet invasion of Manchuria, relations with China and Thailand and the straits of Singapore owing to its maritime trade interest.

The aforementioned untold facts are presented to show how Myanmar exerted utmost efforts to establish ties between Russia and Myanmar during the Konbaung dynasty, the last monarch of Myanmar.

Those great efforts of the Myanmar King and ministers played a significant role to establish diplomatic relations with Russia. The geographical conditions make things exponentially more difficult and Myanmar reaped only a small success. This article is written to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee (75th Anniversary) of Myanmar-Russia diplomatic relations that takes place on 18 February 2023.

Reference

- **Page 48 of U Aung Zay Ya's autobiography noted by Maha Bithaka Pandita Pali Sayagyi U Saw**
- **original letter of Kinwun Mingyi to Armenian Patriarch Gevorg-IV**
- **Article entitled "Russian as the 'Western Other' in Southeast Asia; Encounters of Russian Travellers in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century" by K.A. snow published in Russia Review Journal (Vol.71, No.2 April 2012)**

Translated.

■

Book Title	-	Mingalaba Sayama
Writer	-	Mon Halsey
Publishing House	-	Pann Satt Lann
Publication Date	-	January 2023 (8th Edition)
Price	-	K6,000

Mingalaba Sayama

(A Trail of Thoughts in the Classroom)

THIS book is dedicated to schooling-age children and teenagers. Pan Set Lan published this book, which was reprinted many times within a short period. The writer is Mon Halsey and this book is the eighth impression. In fact, this book is a youth guide, which sells well.

The title of this book is, "Mingalaba Sayama". There are seven parts plus two bonus articles. Part One includes nine articles which deal with the weaknesses of the parents who force their children to fulfil the dreams they have failed to realize, who fail to provide their children with the sweet memories of childhood, who do not let them undergo sorrows and inconveniences, who fail to instil correct attitude and mindset in their children, who do not nurture their children to become ambitious types and who are weak in properly upbringing their children etc.

Part Two has nine articles. One article is aimed at educating the parents to be able to decide which school they should send their children to — the local Myanmar School or the International English School. She wrote this article because the parents of these days are spending a huge sum of money, sending their children to the international English school, not knowing very well the advantages and disadvantages. Matter-of-factly, what counts is the children, not the school. If the children are bright and industrious, they will score good grades regardless of which school they are going to. The writer wants to point out that parents should not think lowly of the local Myanmar schools. Sending the children to an international English school is no problem if the parents are wealthy. But those who cannot afford should not invest a huge sum of money in their children's education.

Part Three has seven articles one of which is about the importance of the need for children to master the English language. Another article is about the priority of learning English. She wrote this article because Myanmar people are bent on developing grammatical competence traditionally. And the school textbooks lay emphasis on grammar, reading and writing. No section on speaking or listening is provided in the curriculum. As a consequence, there is no speaking test or listening test in the examination. This is the reason why the products of local Myanmar schools are weak in the actual performance of four language skills.

Part Four has six articles one of which underscores the fact that failures are the stepping stones to success. One article deals with Valentine's Day while others are about kindness, longevity and the water festival.

Part Five includes nine articles which are about colourful flowers, five love languages, neglected children and the children having to lead an unnatural life. In this regard, the flower is used as a euphemism for children.

Part Six is about sex education. The writer wrote this article to educate parents who are traditionally not in favour of sex education. She emphasized the importance of sex education particularly for adolescents. Additionally, she wrote about rape cases, the nature of the rapists and the penalties for the rapists. And she has encouraged the parents of the victims not to hesitate to have a case filed against the rapist, saying that letting the rapist go unpunished is dangerous for society. Traditionally, Myanmar women are keeping silent when they are raped. They are ashamed of going to a court of law to make statements as to how raping has taken place in detail.

Part Seven has three articles about physical abuse, emotional abuse and child neglect.

The two complimentary articles given as a bonus are The America I've Known and the Letters of KuKu.

■

HEALTH/PANDEMIC
WORLD

Rio carnival returns, celebrating 'life, democracy'

RIO DE JANEIRO'S mayor declared the world's biggest carnival officially open Friday for the first full-scale edition in three years, calling it a celebration of life and democracy after the turmoil of Covid-19 and Brazil's bitterly divisive elections.

Embracing the party spirit in a Panama hat, a grinning Mayor Eduardo Paes symbolically handed the key to the city to "King Momo", the jovial "monarch" who will "rule" Rio for the four-day free-for-all.

"It is with great happiness, celebrating life, celebrating democracy, that I have the honor of handing the keys to the city to King Momo," said the mayor, giving the giant key to the "king" — a carnival fanatic chosen for his charisma, party spirit and samba skills. "It's worth remembering that just a few years ago, after carnival in 2020, when everyone was locked-down at home, we stopped to wonder: 'Will we be able to be together again, hug and kiss again, have carnival again?'" Paes said.

"Thanks to science, the public health system and those who got vaccinated, we can celebrate life again." Rio is ready to party after two pandemic-disrupted carnivals and a polarizing presidential election in October, in which veteran leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva ousted incumbent Jair Bolsonaro — an ultra-conservative carnival critic accused of authoritarian tendencies who was regularly the target of protests and mockery during the festivities.—AFP

Rio's last pre-Covid carnival, in 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Shenzhou-14 astronauts meet press after quarantine, initial recovery

Astronaut Chen Dong is out of the return capsule of the Shenzhou-14 manned spaceship at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, 4 December 2022. The return capsule of the Shenzhou-14 manned spaceship, carrying astronauts Chen Dong, Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe, touched down at the Dongfeng landing site safely. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LI GANG**

THE three astronauts of China's Shenzhou-14 crewed mission met with press on Friday, in their first such appearance since returning to Earth in December.

The astronauts have completed their quarantine and recuperation stages, and have now moved to the observation stage, according to the press conference held at the Astronaut Center of China in Beijing. At present, the crew are in good physical and mental condition. Their weights are at the same levels as they were prior to their missions, and they have restored their muscle strength, endurance and cardio functions further.

They will resume their regular training after completing health assessments.

Launched on 5 June 2022, the Shenzhou-14 spaceship sent Chen Dong, Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe to China's space station core module Tianhe. They completed multiple tasks during their six-month mission, including performing three extravehicular activities, giving a live online science lecture, and cooperating with ground control to complete the assembly and construction of the space station's T-shape structure. Chen Dong, the mission commander, became the first Chinese astronaut to live in orbit for over 200 days. He said that timely and effective ground support was a strong backing for the team to complete the mission successfully.

Liu Yang is China's first female astronaut. She said she was very excited to witness the enormous progress of China's aerospace science and technology sector compared with 10 years ago, when she first travelled into space. She also said she was honoured to witness the formation of the space station's basic configuration. Reflecting on her 183 days in space, she said that she could never forget the beauty of the universe, meeting with the Shenzhou-15 crew aboard the space station, or the cards her husband wrote her and the songs her children sang for her when she celebrated her birthday. — Xinhua

Syria's less fortunate take refuge in public parks after earthquakes

WHEN the massive earthquakes rocked Syria's northern city of Aleppo on 6 February, many people became homeless once again.

Many are forced to find new residences for their families. The rich could choose to go to hotels or rent a home in safe areas, while the less fortunate have to take refuge in school-turned-shelters, or even temporary tents in public parks.

At al-Shahba public park in the Bustan al-Qasr area, 24 tents were set up, housing around 149 people. Some of the tents host more than 10 people.

On a sunny Wednesday afternoon after the quake, Xinhua visited the park. While the kids were playing outside the tents after days of unmerciful cold weather, their families seemed far too tired, both mentally and physically. Sadness and weariness were evident.

Everybody was coughing, possibly from exposure to extremely low temperatures, particularly in Aleppo, which is famous for its freezing weather in winter. — Xinhua

Racial disparities in US diabetics correlate to higher risk hyperglycaemia: study

A new study has found that Mexican Americans and non-Hispanic Black diabetes patients have the most cases of severe hyperglycaemia in the United States.

High blood sugar (hyperglycaemia) is where the level of sugar in blood is too high. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

The study, recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, used data from the US National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey among 2,482 adults to conduct a serial, population-based, cross-sectional analysis.

The study revealed that among adults currently diagnosed with diabetes and receiving insulin, individuals who self-identified as Mexican Americans or non-Hispanic Black had the highest prevalence of severe hyperglycaemia. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Tourism revival boosts Thai economy but exports sluggish

Thailand is banking on the return of tourists to boost its economy. The Grand Palace is a complex of buildings at the heart of Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THAILAND'S economy expanded by 2.6 per cent last year on the back of a tourism recovery and strong consumer confidence but an export slowdown dragged on growth, officials said Friday.

The figure was below expectations and followed 1.5 per cent growth the previous year.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy ran out of steam in the fourth quarter with only 1.4 per cent growth year on year, down from 4.6 per cent in the previous quarter, according to Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Council.

"The growth was driven mainly by the tourism recovery and continual improvement of domestic demand in both private consumption and investment," the council said.

Border restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic battered the kingdom's key tourism industry, which previously contributed around a fifth of national income.

While visitor numbers are steadily increasing again with 11.2 million international arrivals last year, the number is a far cry from the 40 million recorded in 2019. — AFP

S Korea attributes continued trade deficits to expensive energy, low chip demand

SOUTH Korean Minister of Economy and Finance Choo Kyung-ho said on Thursday that the country's continued trade deficits and export slump were attributable to expensive energy and low chip demand. Choo, who doubles as the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, told an emergency meeting with economy-related ministers that winter demand for energy has not weakened despite price hikes in energy such as crude oil and natural gas.

The minister noted that export sluggishness for semiconductors, which account for about 20 per cent of the country's total export, deepened in the aftermath of a global economic downturn.

South Korea's export dropped 16.6 per cent in January from a year earlier, keeping a downward trend for the fourth consecutive month.

Photo taken on 5 July 2022 shows the price board at a gas station in Seoul, South Korea. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG YILIANG**

Trade deficit in January hit a record monthly high of 12.69 billion US dollars, topping 10 billion dollars for the first time since relevant data began to be compiled in 1956. The trade balance stayed in red for the 11th successive month through January.

Chip export tumbled 44.5 per cent over the year to 6.0 billion dollars in January.

Crude oil import sank 10.0 per cent to 6.94 billion dollars in January on stable oil prices, but those for natural gas and coal grew to 6.77 billion dollars and 2.08 billion dollars, respectively. — Xinhua

Markets drop as traders eye higher-for-longer rates

STOCK markets fell Friday on the prospect of more US interest rate hikes after two Federal Reserve officials hinted at ramping up its monetary tightening campaign in the face of stubbornly high US inflation. In Europe on Friday, London and Paris stock markets also slid one day after striking record peaks on recovery hopes. The greenback topped 135 yen and the dollar index, comparing it with a basket of currencies, hit a 1.5-month peak.

The Fed news also sent oil prices tanking on concerns over the impact on crude demand in the world's biggest economy. Separately, European TTF gas prices sank under 50 euros for the first time in nearly a year and a half, as a mild winter curbs heating demand.

'Rhetoric has changed'

"It was only days ago that investors seemed confident we would only get one or two more small increases in US interest rates and then the Fed might start cutting rates later in the year. The rhetoric has now changed," said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould. — AFP

Ukraine fallout pushes French nuclear giant EDF into historic loss

EDF reported one of the biggest losses in French corporate history Friday, as fallout from the Ukraine war and idling nuclear reactors spelt financial disaster for the state-controlled energy giant.

Earnings and debt both worsened dramatically in 2022 as EDF struggled with a drop in electricity output after shutting down a big chunk of France's nuclear plants to fix corrosion problems, and a heatwave reduced hydro-power production.

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent energy prices soaring, the government ordered EDF to sell energy at below cost to consumers — forcing it deeper into the red.

"The 2022 results were significantly affected by the decline in our electricity output, and also by exceptional regulatory measures introduced in France in difficult market conditions," chief executive Luc Remont said in a statement.

EDF's debt ballooned to 64.5 billion euros ($68.6 billion) in 2022 while losses totalled 17.9 billion euros, after a profit of over five billion euros in 2021.

In the past two decades, only former entertainment behemoth Vivendi Universal and communications giant France Telecom have reported bigger annual losses in France.

A bright spot was EDF's revenue, which rose by 70 per cent to 143.5 billion euros last year due to the spiking energy prices.

Remont became EDF's boss in November of last year, tasked with carrying out President Emmanuel Macron's plans to make France less dependent on Russian gas, and fossil fuels in general, by investing in a new generation of nuclear energy reactors and renewables. — AFP

France's nuclear power stations are getting old and losing steam. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

TikTok, Twitter user numbers bring them under strict EU rules

TIKTOK, Twitter, Apple Store, Amazon and several other online platforms have announced user figures in Europe that bring them under stricter EU regulations for policing internet content.

The companies published their numbers ahead of a deadline Friday made compulsory under the new EU Digital Services Act (DSA) that puts internet behemoths operating in Europe under monitoring by the European Commission.

Those platforms —also joined by Alphabet's Google Search and Google Maps units and its YouTube subsidiary, and Meta's Facebook and Instagram units — all said they had more than 45 million monthly active "recipients" of their services. That is the threshold above which they are categorised as a "Very Large Online Platform" (VLOP) or a "Very Large Online Search Engine" (VLOSE) under the DSA.

Many, but not all, of those falling into the VLOP/VLOSE listings are US internet giants. One major non-American one was Chinese-owned TikTok, which on Friday said it had 125 million active monthly users in the EU. — AFP

Reaching 3.11 mln exports, China's cars gain growing popularity with innovations

Vehicles for export are parked at a port in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province, in October. **PHOTO: WANG CHUN/FOR CHINA DAILY**

ALMOST one year since Israel Aguilar tried out a Chinese new energy vehicle (NEV), the Mexican believes he may not get back to driving his petrol car anymore.

The NEV, now his favourite, features great comfort and reliability. "Technology is truly very important in these times, especially for a vehicle. And it has been truly extraordinary for me to handle these technologies that come from China," said Aguilar.

Last year, China's auto exports reached 3.11 million units, up 54.4 per cent year-on-year, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM). NEVs comprised an important pillar of China's auto industry in 2022, with its export volume reaching 679,000 units, an increase of 1.2 times year-on-year. In a highly competitive global market, China's auto industry, marked by a resilient supply chain, a commitment to green development and a win-win pursuit, stood out against the headwind of the COVID-19 pandemic and a sagging world economy.

Masks on, workers are busy with car assembly and testing in disinfected units, expecting more cars to go off the production line and enter the market.

This has become a daily routine of Chinese auto plants over the past year. From the production and supply of auto parts to the distribution of complete vehicles, all links of the auto industrial chain have been operating as normal. — Xinhua

Sanitation firm fined $1.5mn for illegally hiring children

Food sanitation contractor Packers Sanitation Services hired minors at meat-processing facilities, investigators found. **PHOTO: AFP**

A sanitation company in the United States has paid $1.5 million in penalties for hiring over 100 children in "hazardous occupations" and having them work at meat processing facilities, the Department of Labour said Friday. Officials found that the food sanitation contractor, Packers Sanitation Services, had employed at least 102 children aged between 13 and 17, and had them working overnight shifts at 13 facilities in eight states.

"Children were working with hazardous chemicals and cleaning meat processing equipment including back saws, brisket saws and head splitters," said the Labour Department in a statement.

At least three minors had sustained injuries while working for the company, the statement added. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (012E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (012E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-2-2023** 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

Bridgestone using tyre technology to develop dexterous robot hand

BRIDGESTONE Corp is using its expertise in rubber materials and tyre technology to develop a soft robot hand with the dexterity and flexibility of a human, with the hopes that the automaton will help alleviate labour shortages in the logistics industry.

Equipped with artificial intelligence technology to recognize objects, the robotic hand will be capable of packing fragile objects like raw eggs in boxes, allowing it to operate autonomously alongside workers in factories and stores.

The Japanese tyre maker, which unveiled a prototype to media in Tokyo on 1 February, plans for the soft robot hand to be commercially available, possibly in 2024. — Kyodo

Bridgestone Corp shows to the media in Tokyo on 1 February 2023, a newly developed Soft Robot Hand that can grip and move objects even if they are soft. Ken Kutaragi, seen on the right, is CEO of Ascent Robotics Inc, the company that cooperated in the development of the robot. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်မီ ပုံနှိပ်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
01 860 4530

ကြော်ငြာရုပ်မျှားနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအေဂျင်စီများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်
09 974 424 848

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

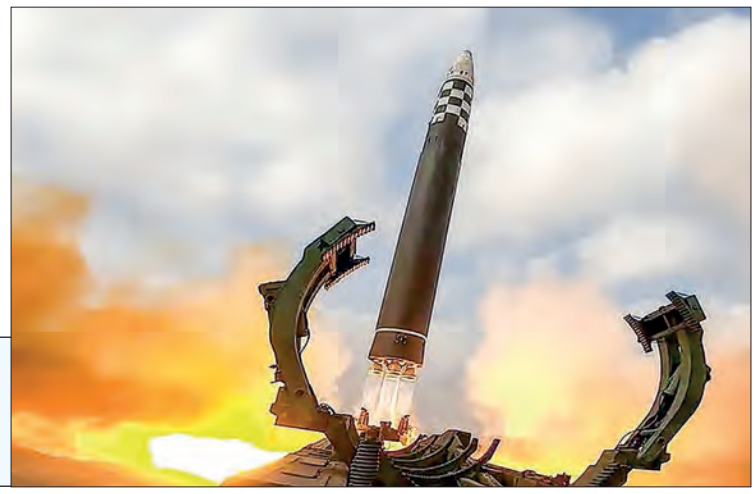
N Korea fires ballistic missile, falls within Japan's EEZ

NORTH Korea fired a ballistic missile on Saturday that fell into the Sea of Japan, Japanese and South Korean authorities said, in what could be the first such test conducted by Pyongyang in more than one month. The Japanese Defence Ministry said the missile was fired at around 5:21 pm. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said the projectile is believed to have fallen within Japan's exclusive economic zone.

The premier instructed officials to swiftly provide necessary information to the public, ensure the safety of aircraft and ships in the area and prepare for contingencies, according to his office.

North Korea fired a ballistic missile on 1 January, after launching various types of missiles on a record 37 occasions last year in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. The latest launch came a day after the North denounced a plan by the United States and South Korea to conduct tabletop exercises next Wednesday, as well as another round of joint military drills in March.

North Korea warned that they would face its "unprecedentedly persistent and strong counteractions," according to the nation's state-run media.—Kyodo



An ICBM is launched in an undated photo released by North Korea in mid-November that could not be independently verified. **PHOTO: KCNA**

French court convicts three over Macron attack plot

Their defence lawyers sought to portray them as marginalized people and supporters of the anti-government 'Yellow Vest' movement. **PHOTO: AFP**

A French anti-terror court convicted three people on Friday over a plan to attack President Emmanuel Macron after a trial that threw the spotlight on a radical far-right online group.

The three men, part of a Facebook group known as the "Barjols", were convicted for conspiracy to commit a terrorist act after the court heard how they discussed using a ceramic knife to stab Macron in 2018 at a World War I commemoration.

Jean-Pierre Bouyer, a 66-year-old former mechanic, was handed the longest sentence of four years in prison, with one year suspended, well below the maximum jail term of 10 years for the offence.

He was arrested on 6 November 2018 with three others in the eastern Moselle region. Police found a commando-style knife and an army vest in his car as well as three firearms at his home.

Two others arrested along with him were handed shorter prison terms, while nine co-defendants and fellow members of the "Barjols" were cleared.

A 13th member was given a suspended sentence for illegally possessing a firearm.

Since the start of the trial in mid-January, the court heard details of the group's alcohol-fuelled meetings and often racist online discussions of migration, their fear of a civil war, and their hatred of Macron. — AFP

Canada right to use emergency powers on truckers: probe

A public inquiry on Friday found Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government was right to use emergency powers to dislodge trucker-led protesters that jammed Canada's capital last year.

The self-styled "Freedom Convoy" of truckers rolled into the city last January from across Canada to express anger at Covid vaccine mandates, blocking trade routes and angering residents in downtown Ottawa. "After a careful reflection, I have concluded that the very high threshold required for invocation of (the emergency measures) was met," former judge Paul Rouleau, who led the review, told a news conference. – AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine energy supply recovering after Russian strikes

UKRAINE was weathering a wave of Russian attacks on its power grid and seeing recovering supplies despite Russia's campaign against key infrastructure, energy operator Ukrenergo said Friday.

After humiliating defeats on the ground, Russia has since October pummelled Ukraine's energy facilities, leading to power shortages that have left millions in the cold and dark during winter.

"There has been no shortage of electricity in the energy system during the entire working week, and none is expected so far," Ukrenergo said on the Telegram messenger.

Prime Minister Denys Shmygal added that "for almost a week, there have been no power outages across Ukraine. Four months of terror, thousands of missiles and drones, Russia has spent billions of dollars but is losing again, unable to break Ukraine on the energy front."

He added, however, that "the attacks do not stop" and repairing the damaged equipment will take "many months", warning that some regions could still experience power cuts.

The capital Kyiv restored all electric transport after it was stopped for 56 days, the head of the city's military administration Sergiy Popko said. — AFP

Rescuers and policemen work at the bottom of a hotel, which has been partially destroyed by a Russian strike in the center of the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv on 31 December 2022. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP /FILE**

Ukraine accuses French retailer Auchan of being Russia's 'weapon'

UKRAINE'S foreign minister on Friday accused French retailer Auchan of being a "weapon of Russian aggression" following an investigative report that suggested it was supplying goods to the Russian army.

"Last year, I urged the world to boycott Auchan for failing to withdraw from Russia and stop funding war crimes. However, the reality seems to be far worse: Auchan has evolved into a full-fledged weapon of Russian aggression," the minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Twitter. – AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

India lashes out at critics after BBC raids

INDIA'S foreign minister on Saturday hit out at "scaremongering" critics who claim the country's democracy is being corroded, singling out billionaire George Soros — a popular target for right-wing ire.

At an event in Sydney, S. Jaishankar rejected accusations that multiple raids on the BBC's India offices showed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government were veering toward authoritarianism.

Jaishankar defended the prime minister, painting detractors as "scaremongering", holding an antiquated "Euro-Atlantic view" of democracy and failing to respect the Indian people's democratic choice.

"There are still people in the world who believe that their definition, their preferences, their views must override everything else," he said.

Indian tax authorities raided the BBC's offices in New Delhi and Mumbai just weeks after the broadcaster aired a documentary on Modi's actions during deadly sectarian riots in 2002.

Jaishankar singled out philanthropist Soros, who recently highlighted Modi's close ties with fraud-accused businesses run by ally Gautam Adani and suggested that while India was a democracy, Modi "is no democrat".

Jaishankar denounced the 92-year-old Hungarian-born financier as "old, rich opinionated and dangerous" and someone who "still thinks that his views should determine how the entire world works".

"He actually thinks that it doesn't matter that this is a country of 1.4 billion people — we are almost that — whose voters decide how the country should run." — AFP

Indian tax authorities raided the BBC's offices in New Delhi and Mumbai weeks after the broadcaster aired a documentary on Narendra Modi's actions during deadly sectarian riots in Gujarat in 2002, when he was the state's chief minister. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Trade, security top issues as African leaders meet

The two-day summit aims to accelerate a free-trade pact launched in 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFRICAN leaders met Saturday in Addis Ababa for an annual summit, aiming to jumpstart a faltering trade deal while also focusing on the continent's most pressing challenges, including armed conflict and a worsening food crisis.

As the continent reels from a record drought in the Horn of Africa and deadly violence in the Sahel region and the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the two-day African Union (AU) meeting will look to address these issues and accelerate a free-trade pact launched in 2020.

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is billed as the biggest in the world in terms of population, gathering 54 out of 55 African countries, with Eritrea the only holdout.

African nations currently trade only about 15 per cent of their goods and services with each other, and the AfCFTA aims to boost that by 60 per cent by 2034 by eliminating almost all tariffs.

But implementation has fallen well short of that goal, running into hurdles including disagreements over tariff reductions and border closures caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. — AFP

Pakistan Taliban warn of more attacks against police after compound raid

PAKISTAN'S Taliban warned Saturday of more attacks against law enforcement officers, a day after four people were killed when a suicide squad stormed a police compound in Karachi.

The police are often used on the frontline of Pakistan's battle with the Taliban and frequently a target of militants who accuse them of extra-judicial killings.

Last month, more than 80 officers were killed when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive vest at a mosque inside a police compound in the northwestern city of Peshawar, sparking criticism from some junior ranks, who said they were having to do the army's work. "The policemen should stay away from our war with the slave army, otherwise the attacks on the safe havens of the top police officers will continue," Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) said Saturday in an English-language statement.

"We want to warn the security agencies once again to stop martyring innocent prisoners in fake encounters otherwise the intensity of future attacks will be more severe." — AFP

Five US officers plead not guilty to murdering Tyre Nichols

FIVE former police officers pleaded not guilty Friday to charges they murdered Tyre Nichols, a young Black man who died after a beating in the southern US city of Memphis, Tennessee.

Videos showed the officers, who are all Black, repeatedly kicking and punching Nichols during a traffic stop close to his home on 7 January, three days before he died in hospital.

Attorneys representing the defendants, all of whom were fired after the incident, entered the pleas in a brief hearing for the case, which has again drawn national attention to the issues of police abuse and mistreatment of African Americans.

The five officers were charged with second degree murder, aggravated assault, kidnapping, official misconduct and "official oppression".

Judge James Jones warned the defendants and the family of Nichols present in court that the trial could be long and involve "high emotions", and urged "civility" for those connected to proceedings.

"Everyone involved wants this case to be concluded as quickly as possible. But it's important for you all to understand that the state of Tennessee as well as each one of these defendants have an absolute right to a fair trial," he said.

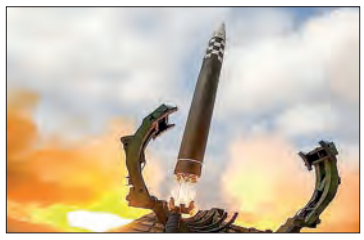
Adding there is a large amount of evidence to be collected, Jones set the next court date for 1 May. — AFP

Demonstrators protesting the police killing of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tennessee. **PHOTO: AFP**

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

N Korea fires ballistic missile, falls within Japan's EEZ

PAGE-14



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.

MNL football matches to be broadcast live by SkyNet

The photo shows attendees of the press conference held to announce that Myanmar National League football matches will be shown by SkyNet TV channel.

THE 2023 Myanmar National League football matches will be broadcast live by SkyNet as the host broadcaster, according to a press conference on 18 February.

It is reported that SkyNet TV channel will broadcast two or three football matches live per week as the sole copyright holder of the Myanmar National League football matches. The 2023 Myanmar National League matches will be held from 21 February to 29 October, and 55 of the 132 Myanmar National League matches will be broadcast live on SkyNet.

Shan United, Hanthawady United, Myawady FC, Ayeyawady United, Yadanabon FC, ISPE FC, Mahar United, GFA FC, Rakhine United, Dagon Star United, and Kachin United will compete in the Myanmar National League.

The champion of the last tournament was Shan United, who won the championship title with an undefeated record.

Free to Air channels such as Channel 9, MNTV, SkyNet DTH and SkyNet Sports 4 will also be shown simultaneously. — TWA/KZL

Japan advertising exec pleads guilty to Olympics bribery

THE former president of a major Japanese advertising firm pleaded guilty Friday to bribing an Olympics official to secure a coveted sponsorship contract for the Tokyo Games.

The admission in a Tokyo court comes as the investigation into bid-rigging and bribery widens, casting a shadow over Sapporo's bid for the 2030 Winter Games.

"Nothing stated is wrong," Shinichi Ueno said in court at his first appearance, after prosecutors reeled off a list of allegations. Prosecutors allege that Ueno, 69, offered at least 14 million yen ($103,000) to then-Tokyo Games executive Haruyuki Takahashi to secure sponsorship deals for ADK Holdings, Japan's third largest advertising agency.

By 2018, prosecutors said, Ueno was becoming "desperate" because his firm was yet to land a single contract, and pleaded with Takahashi: "please help us."—AFP

People wearing face masks walk past the Olympics Rings statue in Tokyo. **PHOTO: SHINJI KITA/KYODO/FILE**

Ghana footballer Atsu found dead in Türkiye quake rubble

FORMER Ghana international Christian Atsu was found dead on Saturday, almost two weeks after a devastating earthquake in Türkiye.

Atsu, 31, was caught up in a 7.8-magnitude quake that rocked Türkiye and Syria on February 6, killing more than 43,000 people in both countries.

There were initial reports that Christian Atsu had been rescued a day after the quake, but these turned out to be false. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

There were initial reports the former Chelsea and Newcastle player had been rescued a day after the quake, but these turned out to be false.

His manager in Türkiye, Murat Uzunmehmet, told DHA news agency on Saturday that his body had been found under the rubble of luxury flats that crumbled in the Turkish southern province of Hatay. — AFP