

Navy commissions two domestically built submarine destroyers

The Tatmadaw Navy has been upgraded to a Three-Dimensional Combat Ready Navy to protect Myanmar's exclusive economic zone fully.



State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during the commissioning ceremony to honour the 77th Anniversary Tatmadaw (Navy) Day held yesterday at No 3 Naval Jetty in Yangon Region.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the 77th anniversary Tatmadaw (Navy) and commissioning of warships

- 1. Efforts must be made to transform the Tatmadaw Navy into an Adjacent Force Projection Navy or Regional Navy.
- 2. Vessel construction must progress swiftly to produce full-power warships, ensuring the Tatmadaw Navy can effectively cover adjacent sea areas.
- 3. The Tatmadaw Navy must maintain readiness in vessels, weapons, weaponry systems, and personnel.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing stressed that it is necessary to strive to shape Tatmadaw (Navy) as an Adjacent Force Projection Navy or Regional Navy. As a gesture of honouring the 77th Anniversary Tatmadaw

(Navy) Day, a ceremony to commission warships into service aimed at fully safeguarding the maritime interests of the State and the exclusive economic zone of Myanmar seas was held at No 3 Naval Jetty in Yangon yesterday, graced by State Ad-

ministration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that Tatmadaw (Navy) has been upgraded to the Three-Dimension-

al Combat Ready Navy to fully protect the exclusive economic zone of the Myanmar Sea. He continued that it is necessary to strive to shape Tatmadaw (Navy) as an Adjacent Force Projection Navy or Regional Navy.

He stressed that vessel building must be done with momentum to produce full-power war vessels to enable Tatmadaw (Navy) to have the capability of covering the adjacent sea areas.

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Myanmar exports over 1.7M tonnes of maize in FY 2024-2025

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Domestic glass eel exported to China, Thailand for breeding

NATIONAL

Cooperative System: Key to Economic Development in Myanmar

- The cooperative system is the most suitable approach for Myanmar to develop its economic sector under current conditions.
- This system fosters collaboration among entrepreneurs and farmers who share common goals and ideas.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Union government meeting 6/2024 on 29 July 2024.)

Five National Objectives for 77th Anniversary of Independence Day 2025

1. To address armed conflicts and differing perspectives lawfully, ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To safeguard the State with unity and strength of all citizens, guided by the spirit of the Union
3. To conduct a free, fair, and credible general election to establish a genuine, disciplined democratic system
4. To promote balanced development across all sectors of the Union through the collective strength of the entire people
5. To collectively advance politics, the economy, defence, national identity, and spirit with perseverance, diligence, and dedication, guided by the motto: “Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal”



2024 Population and Household Census



- Myanmar’s 2024 Population and Household Census was conducted nationwide starting on 1 October 2024.
- Preliminary results are scheduled for publication on 31 December 2024.
- Census data will be available on the Department of Population’s website at www.dop.gov.mm.

Bank Holidays and Working days

ALL Banks will be closed on 31 (Tuesday) December 2024, 12(Wednesday) March 2025 and 14 (Friday) March 2025, 3 (Monday) November 2025 and 26 (Friday) December 2025, being public holidays. All Banks will be opened on 11 (Saturday) January 2025, 22 (Saturday) March 2025 and 29 (Saturday) March 2025, 8 (Saturday) November 2025 and 3 (Saturday) January 2026, working days under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Kyaiktiyo crowded with visitors this month



This image captures visitors at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda platform in the December second week.

AMONG vacationers, the number of people who go on a trip to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda has mounted, according to highway bus ticket counters.

Highway buses have been occupied by vacationers who go to different destinations such as Taunggyi, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, in both local and outbound journeys.

“As far as we see, people go on vacation to different destinations. All highway buses heading to Taunggyi, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw are packed with passengers. Not only outward journey but the return journey is also packed. Among destinations,

Kyaiktiyo has the largest visitor arrival, even mountaineering buses are unavailable now,” said an official from a highway bus ticket counter.

Among Yangon’s visitors who booked tickets in advance, the destination of the majority is Mandalay.

“Mandalay is their major destination followed by Taunggyi. People go on trips the most in December,” he added.

During the last Thadingyut holidays, Aungmyingala Highway Bus Terminal was thronged with people who returned to native towns and went on pilgrimage and vacations. — Thit Taw/ZS

Fuel information now available on MPTA FM app

GUIDED by the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, a software application named MPTA FM has been developed to offer access to the types of fuels, and prices at

the nearest petrol stations, including the amount of fuel for the people using their mobile phones.

The MPTA FM application features location, opening and closing hours, types of fuel and

prices of fuel stations across the nation, and it was developed by the Supervisory Committee on Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil and Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association.

The MPTA FM application can be downloaded on the Android version at Google Play Store starting 1 January 2025. Plans are underway for the IOS version. — MNA/KTZH



NATIONAL

THE door is open to all ethnic armed groups at all times for the sake of peace in the State. They are always welcomed to resolve the differences, not by military means, but through dialogue. Only when the entire population makes collective endeavours to achieve peace and stability, rule of law and socio-economic development, will Myanmar be able to stand tall in the world as a modern and developed country.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Thadue Maha Thray Sithu Thadue Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion to mark the Kayin New Year Day held on 11 January 2024.)



Yangon's night beauty. PHOTO BY AUNG KYAW MOE

Navy commissions two domestically built ...

FROM PAGE 1

He underlined that Tatmadaw (Navy) must be capable of readiness for vessels, weapons, weaponry systems and naval men.

The Senior General urged all Tatmadaw (Navy) members to have skills in handling weapons and weaponry systems.

Chief of Staff (Navy) Vice-Admiral Aye Min Htwe reported on facts about the vessels. The commander of Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters handed over documents related to the vessels to the commander of the Naval Fleet.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) presented scale models of the vessels to the Senior General.

The Chief of Staff (Navy) declared the commissioning of the war vessels and performed

hoisting the State flag and the naval flag as well as the flag to mark the commissioning of the vessel, beating the bell eight times and conducting work procedures.

The Senior General and party viewed round two newly-commissioned 63-metre (about 207 feet) submarine destroyers.

The Senior General from the dais aboard War Vessel Mottama took the salute of the Guard of Honour. Meanwhile, the Senior General was saluted with a 21-gun fire by War Vessels Yan Taing Aung and Yan Gyi Aung.

Frigate Kyansittha, Frigate Hsinbyushin, Covette Tabinshwehte, Offshore Patrol Boat Inlay and Submarine Destroyer Yan Ye Aung led by Frigate Aungzeya in a single line formation and two war vessels and four fast patrol vessels led by the 49-metre

fast attack missile vessel 491 in a lineabreast formation saluted the Senior General.

The Senior General presented plaques, certificates of honour, cash awards and gifts to Tatmadaw members who participated in the activities of saluting the Senior General and construction of vessels.

Also present at the ceremony were retired commanders-in-chief (Navy) and their wives, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, union-level dignitaries and their wives, union ministers and their wives, the Yangon Region Chief Minister and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the



The Senior General presents plaques, certificates of honour, cash awards and gifts.

commander of Yangon Command, the commander of Naval Control Command, commanders

of naval region commands, war veterans organization members, members of Tatmadaw (Navy) and their families, and guests.

The Senior General left No 3 Naval Jetty for Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters by naval vessel Yadanabon.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) presented medals to mark the 77th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Navy) and vessel commissioning medals to the Senior General.

At Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters, the Senior General and party visited the commemorative exhibitions to mark the 77th Anniversary Tatmadaw (Navy) Day with the participation of relevant naval bases, souvenir shops, traditional food shops, book stalls and personal goods shops of the Tatmadaw and cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families. — MNA/TTA



The two newly commissioned domestically constructed submarine destroyers are docked at No 3 Naval Jetty.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Tatmadaw Navy christens and launches domestically built frigate

Frigate King Thalun is capable of defending against conventional and unconventional threats on the frontline of the Myanmar Sea, conducting patrol and surveillance, combatting the invasion of terrorist groups, and protecting the water territory of the State.

AT the ceremony to mark the 77th Anniversary of the Tatmadaw (Navy) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to christen and launch a 135-metre Frigate built by Tatmadaw (Navy) at the Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters in Thanlyin Station yesterday morning.

On the agenda, Admiral Htein Win reported on the construction of the frigate and facts about the vessel.

At the ceremony to christen the vessel, the Senior General read the name of the vessel. He said that the Frigate was named “King Thalun” in honour of King Thalun for combatting internal enemies of the country, defending the external danger and adopting the standards and norms for the development of the State.

As per naval traditions, the Senior General broke a bottle of champagne at the auspicious moment and the 135-metre about (443 feet) Frigate was launched as the military band of the Tatmadaw (Navy) played music.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) presented the Senior General with a scale model of



State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the commemorative group photo at the christening and launching event of the homegrown frigate in Thanlyin, Yangon Region.

the vessel and a gold axe used in launching the vessel.

The Senior General cordially conversed with officers and other ranks who participated in building the vessel and presented a fruit basket. They then had documentary photos taken.

The Senior General and party viewed launching the newly built 135-metre Frigate from the ship lift platform.

Frigate King Thalun was launched at 9:00 am it was fully afloat 10:04 am. The vessel anchored at the jetty of Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters at 11:24 am.

Also present at the ceremony were retired commanders-in-chief (Navy) and their wives, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief

(Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, union-level dignitaries and their wives, union ministers and their wives, the Yangon Region chief minister and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Yangon Command, the commander of Naval Control Command, commander of naval region commands, war

veterans organization members and guests.

The 135-metre Frigate King Thalun was built at the Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters in March 2017 under the guidance of the Senior General. As it was a large volume, parts of the body were constructed separately, and then these were assembled.

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NATIONAL

Military parade, alms donation commemorate 77th Anniversary Tatmadaw (Navy)



The 77th Anniversary of Tatmadaw (Navy) in progress yesterday, attended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win.

A military parade commemorating the 77th Anniversary of the Tatmadaw (Navy) was held yesterday morning at the Naval Training Command Headquarters in Thanlyin Station yesterday.

It was attended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Ad-

miral Htein Win, Chief of Staff (Navy) Vice-Admiral Aye Min Htwe, retired Commander-in-Chief (Navy), and relevant naval officials and their families.

After the ceremonial procedures, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) observed the parade

companies. He then made a speech, took a salute and left the event.

Moreover, the early alms food donation event commemorating the 77th Anniversary of the Tatmadaw (Navy) took place at Maha Narvanikajaya Mingala Beikman in Thanlyin

station. The monks led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Chairman Presiding Patron Sayadaw of Thanlyin Min Kyaung Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa and Ovada Cariya of Thanlyin Kyaikkhauk Pagoda

Patron of Thanlyin Township Sangha Nayaka Chairman of Thudhamma Vinedo Pavarana of MyoU Setpyitkwin Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Teza attended the event, and Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Chief of Staff (Navy) Vice-Admiral Aye Min Htwe and his wife, senior naval officials, other ranks and their families were also present at the donation event.

First, all the attendees took five precepts from Ovada Cariya Sayadaw of Kyaikkhauk Pagoda and listened to Paritta recited by the monks. Then, they donated offertories to the Sayadaws. Moreover, the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Presiding Patron Sayadaw of Thanlyin Min Kyaung Monastery delivered sermons, and the aggregation shared merits gained and offered alms food to the Sayadaws. — MNA/KTZH

Tatmadaw Navy christens and launches domestically built frigate

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The Frigate is the largest vessel among other vessels built by the Tatmadaw (Navy). It is fully facilitated with the body structures, machines, electronics, weapons and weaponry systems. Efforts were made to develop the inner parts of the vessel to meet the international war vessels. The vessel with 135 metres in length, 14.5 metres in breadth, nine metres in height and 4.1 metres in draught can withstand 3,500 tonnes of load, and can cruise 30 nautical miles per hour. The vessel can possess the capabilities to serve the missions of the 21st-century navies. It has the capability of defending conventional and unconventional threats on the frontline of the Myanmar Sea, conducting patrol and surveillance, combatting invasion of terrorist groups, protecting the maritime boundary as



The domestically constructed 135-metre (about 443 feet) frigate King Thalun is ready for combat.

well as controlling the territorial waters of the State and performing search and rescue

operations for humanitarian measures. As the Frigate which can be used in multi-mil-

itary operations was added into the Tatmadaw (Navy), it can more effectively protect

the Myanmar sea which can bring marine benefits to the State. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Myanmar Music Association to honour 120 senior musicians in Jan 2025



ACCORDING to Chairman U Lwin Myint of the Myanmar Music Association (Central), the 14th annual respect-paying ceremony for elderly music professionals will be held in January 2025.

The Myanmar Music Association (Central) has been organizing this ceremony every year to honour senior music professionals. This year, approximately 120 distinguished in-

dividuals will be recognized.

“The ceremony is scheduled for January 2025, and for those unable to attend, we will visit their homes to pay our respects. The event will take place at the Sky Star Hotel in Tamway,” explained U Lwin Myint.

The association categorizes music professionals into four sectors – Maha Gita (classical music), contemporary music, stereo music, and the music industry. Senior professionals aged 75 and older are selected for recognition based on their contributions in areas, such as songwriting, singing, playing instruments, sound engineering, and music production. — ASH/TRKM

This photo depicts the 13th Respect-Paying Ceremony for aged musicians in the previous year.

Chinese Language and Cultural Exchange Seminar held in Yangon



The Chinese language and cultural exchange seminar in progress on 20 December.

A seminar on Chinese language training for 2024 was held in Yangon on 20 December, as reported by the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar.

The event was organized by the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and the Chinese Cultural Centre in Yangon. Discussions covered a range of topics, in-

cluding Chinese language learning and cultural exchange, teaching methods used by local Chinese teachers, HSK and other international Chinese language certifications, guidelines for scholarship programmes and study trips to China, as well as initiatives to promote Chinese language logos.

Participants also discussed strategies for the long-term improvement of Chinese language teaching in Myanmar.

The seminar was attended by Chinese Counsellor Mr Li Qianguo, Head of the Chinese Consulate Mr Liu Xin, Head of the Chinese Cultural Centre Mr Xiang Jianbo, Principal of the Confucius School in Mandalay Mr Li Zu Qing, Head of Mandalay Inwa Private School Mr Yang Zhou, and representatives from Chinese language schools and international schools in Yangon. — ASH/TMT



An invitation card for a fair.

Bimonthly dried chilli pepper fair in Aungban

ACCORDING to a market organizers group, the dried chilli pepper fair will be held every 15 days starting from 30 December 2024 in Aungban town, southern Shan State.

Growers collectively organize this fair and provide a wide range of locally produced chilli peppers at auction. It is designated for growers in Kalaw, Aungban and Pindaya to explore markets and foster collective sales. This will also help connect growers with buyers. The bimonthly fair will also help set floor prices for commodity depots and growers.

Additionally, growers will have access to growing methods, pedigree seeds, solar-powered irrigation equipment and fertilizers, and advanced payment services for farmers to cover agricultural inputs. Moreover, it will bridge exhibitors with domestic and foreign suppliers, traders and buyers in the same place.

Furthermore, chilli pepper, onion and other crops from southern Shan State were also exhibited in Aungban city on 11-12 December. — ASH/KK

Yangon Zoo to host Christmas & Pre-New Year Events on 25-30 Dec

THE Yangon Zoological Gardens (Yangon) will host the “Christmas & Pre-New Year Open Events” starting on 25 December, featuring lively entertainment programmes, according to the park’s administrator.

The “Christmas & Pre-New Year Open Events” will be jointly organized by the Yangon Zoological Gardens and MJE Company Limited and will run until 30 December. During the event, shops selling consumer goods and food items will also be set up for visitors.

“The Christmas party at Yangon Zoological Gardens will take place from 25 to 30 December and promises to be

a vibrant celebration. The event will feature magic shows, performances by skilled animals, photo opportunities with trained birds, modern dance performances, live music by bands, and many other activities,” said Administrator U Than Myint Tun.

Plans have also been made to ensure families visiting the Yangon Zoological Gardens can enjoy their time in a safe and pleasant environment. On weekends and public holidays, the zoo typically attracts around 2,500 visitors, while on regular weekdays, the number reaches approximately 1,000. — ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases the Yangon Zoo hosting a festive Christmas & Pre-New Year Open Event in 2023.

Myanmar exports 5,200MT+ of shrimp from Apr to Nov

THE Fisheries Department stated that Myanmar conveyed more than 5,290 tonnes of shrimp to foreign buyers between 1 April and 30 November of the current financial year 2024-2025, with an estimated value of \$17.87 million.

Myanmar's seaborne shrimp export exceeded 4,330 tonnes worth \$12.543 million and the border saw exports of 962.9 tonnes worth \$5.3 million from April to November.

Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 international countries including Japan, Bangladesh, China and Thailand, through seas and land borders.

Myanmar's fish export bagged over \$256.6 million from 240,000 tonnes in the past eight months of the current FY, indicating a year-on-year increase of \$39.344 million. — NN/KK

Myanmar exports over 1.7M tonnes of maize in FY 2024-2025

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association, Myanmar has exported over 1.7 million tonnes of maize to foreign markets so far this FY.

Maize prices stay on an upward trajectory on high foreign demand. Myanmar's maize is currently sent to India, the Philippines and Vietnam via maritime trade. They are also delivered to Thailand through the Tachilek border.

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

Additionally, China has been purchasing Myanmar's maize through cross-border trade under the alternative development programme. Legitimate maize trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies



A thriving corn plantation.

have been permitted for maize exports.

Myanmar shipped over two million tonnes of maize to foreign trade partners in the 2022 corn season, and the majority of them went to Thailand, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, - winter, summer and monsoon. Myanmar's annual corn output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/KK

Basic Stock Investment Training Course set for Jan 2025

BASIC Stock Investment Training Course 001/2025 Online Class will be opened between 18 January and 15 February 2025 every Saturday with Microsoft Teams Application.

This course is to share know-how of the stock market which plays a key role in the development of developing countries through on-line platforms, listed companies on the exchange, roles of security companies and investment knowledge before buying stocks of listed companies.

This course is tailored to those studying economics and finance, interested in stock investment, working for public companies, aiming to work for banking and financial companies and willing to make long-term investments.

Daw Kyi Kyi Khin Swe, director of Myanmar Security Exchange Commission, U Saw Mya Aye, deputy director of Myanmar Security Exchange Commission, U Min Thu, Executive Senior Manager of YSX, Daw Phyu Pyar Lin, Deputy Senior Manager, U Thet Tun Oo, Deputy Managing Director of CB Securities Limited, Ma Hnin Wai Zin, Vice President, AYA Trust Securities Co

Ltd, U Aung Thein Tun, (Chartered MCSI) Managing Director, Institute of Business & Investment Management (IBIM), U Min Han Tun, (CFA) Co-Founder and Academic Director, Matrix Institute of Professionals (MIP)/ CFA Steering Committee and Dr Sithu Phyto, (CFA) Director, Trust Venture Partners/Myanmar Institute of Business (MIB) will be trainers of the courses. They are also trainers serving the exchange and experts with profound experience in the finance and investment industry.

The modules are Legal Structure of Securities Market, Listing on YSX: Criteria and Listing Process on 18 January, Basic Principles of Stock Trading and Overview of Capital Markets on 25 January, Role of Securities Companies and Pre IPO and IPO Process on 1 February, Understanding AML/CFT in Securities Market and Trading Stocks Technically on 8 February and Introduction to Corporate Finance and Introduction to Fundamental Analysis / International Stock Market on 15 February respectively.

A virtual link will be sent to the email of the trainees.

Presentation PPT, Lecturer Videos, and analysis questions will be uploaded on the YSX Online Basic Stock Investment Training Course 001/2025 Telegram Channel. Trainees can visit and study at any time and save the videos.

The trainees must submit answers to analysis questions every week. They can receive a completion certificate with an over 80 per cent grade.

Those enthusiastic can register through the YSX Online Booking system <https://ysx-mm.com/events/001-2025-online-class/> before 4 pm on 17 January 2025. The course fee is K35,000 which can be transferred to the i-Banking account of KBZ Bank (Kanna Branch) with the Account Name: Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company Limited. YSX JV Co Ltd and Account No 21910321900111301, Wave Pay Account (Daw Ei Thinzar Thet, 09 692862428) and KBZ Pay Account (Daw Myint Kay Khine, 09 254 326 388).

Individuals can enquire about the course details through 01 371274 during office hours and the YSX Facebook messenger. — NN/KK

DTVET to offer EV Maintenance & Troubleshooting Training in Jan

DEPARTMENT of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DTVET) under the Ministry of Science and Technology will open EV Maintenance and Troubleshooting Training on 5-23 January 2025, in order to produce EV trainers equipped with EV technical knowledge and troubleshooting electrical problems in electric vehicles.

They must be healthy enough to execute practical work. Graduates of GTHS (AT, ET, EC), ITC (AT), AGTI, BTech, BE, ME, PhD (Mech, EP, EC) and staff from EV private companies with high school education are eligible to attend the training. The training will offer both practical and technical knowledge of EVs with the use of Lab equipment. They will receive a completion certificate. The training will be conducted from 9 am to 4 pm on weekdays at Technical Teachers Training College (TTTC) (Baelin) in Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region.

Those enthusiastic can enrol in the training by providing a citizenship scrutiny card copy, a health certificate from the Township Public Health Department, copies of education certificates, a household registration copy, a police clearance certificate and three licence-sized colour photos. The training is limited to 25 trainees. Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training 09 790361553, 09 5661235, and 09 787086456). — NN/KK

OPINION

Forge durable peace in Myanmar’s society

CHRISTMAS Day is a special and sacred day for Christians, marking the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is now celebrated on 25 December every year. In the past, Christmas was celebrated in months such as May, April, and January. It wasn’t until around the year 300 AD that 25 December was officially designated as Christmas Day.

On Christmas Day, people of all ages — men, women, and the elderly — take a break from their work to celebrate with feasts and parties. Christmas carols are sung, and gifts are exchanged among close friends and family. Children believe that Santa Claus

It is well known that people of various ethnicities, religions, and beliefs in Myanmar have lived together in harmony and coexistence. Despite their differences, they have been able to build unity through mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect, guided by their respective religions. Recently, the Head of State emphasized that religious leaders from each faith should encourage their followers to cultivate knowledge, wisdom, and virtuous attitudes to restore internal peace.

humanity experience the tranquillity of society as a whole. While different religions may vary in their practices, the foundation of all religions is love. It is essential to practice patience and forgiveness to foster this unity.

It is well known that people of various ethnicities, religions, and beliefs in Myanmar have lived together in harmony and coexistence. Despite their differences, they have been able to build unity through mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect, guided by their respective religions. Recently, the Head of State emphasized that religious leaders from each faith should encourage their followers to cultivate knowledge, wisdom, and virtuous attitudes to restore internal peace.

All religions in Myanmar contribute to peace and happiness in society. On Christmas Day, people not only from the Christian faith but also from various other religions come together to enjoy joyful and peaceful activities, praying for the restoration and lasting peace in their beloved homeland, Myanmar.

brings them presents. Today, Christmas is celebrated not only by Christians but also by people of other religions.

As soon as Christmas is mentioned, Christmas trees and Santa Claus figures are a must. As Christmas Day approaches, it’s common to see Christmas trees and Santa Claus figurines adorning many places. The Christmas tree is always a symbol associated with the Christmas celebration. These days, Christmas trees are often decorated with gifts, lights, and other decorations.

In Myanmar, every individual has the right to freely practice and believe in the religion or faith of their choice. The 2008 Constitution includes provisions regarding religion and faith, along with legal guarantees. It explicitly ensures the right of every citizen to freely practice and adhere to their chosen religion or belief.

The teachings of religion ultimately serve as a path to achieving peace within human society. Religion is also a source of wisdom, promoting peace and harmony. Only through inner peace can humanity

AS December arrives, a magical transformation sweeps across the world. The crisp chill in the air signals the beginning of winter; a season of frosty elegance and festive joy. Streets sparkle with decorations, homes glow with warmth, and a sense of anticipation fills the air. This time of year is not only about chilly weather but also the promise of cherished traditions, joyful gatherings, and the magic of Christmas. Christmas, as we know it, has evolved over centuries, blending religious and cultural traditions. Originating over two thousand years ago to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas started as a solemn celebration by Christians, focusing on faith. Over time, it absorbed cultural influences, such as medieval feasts, carol singing, and gift-giving customs inspired by St. Nicholas. Today, Christmas is celebrated globally, transcending religious and cultural boundaries as a season of goodwill and unity.

The Charm of Winter in December

Winter in December unfolds like a fairy tale, blanketing the world in a serene, snowy landscape. Snowflakes drift from the sky, transforming the earth into a peaceful white wonderland. Icicles hang from rooftops like crystal ornaments, catching the soft winter light. The world becomes quieter, as the snow muffles sounds, creating an atmosphere of calm. Walking on snow-covered paths, the satisfying crunch beneath each step adds to the enchantment. The chill in the air invigorates, while rosy cheeks and visible breaths enhance the magic of the outdoors. Indoors, the warmth of a crackling fire invites respite. The scent of hot chocolate or freshly baked cookies, mixed with the smell of pine, creates an inviting atmosphere.

Nature also reveals its artistry during winter: Evergreen trees stand vibrant against the snow, their green hues providing contrast to the monochrome world. Frost forms intricate, lace-like patterns on windows, showcasing nature’s delicate designs. Although the season may be cold, its beauty creates a warmth that lingers long after it ends.

Festive Decorations and Preparations

As December arrives, homes, streets, and public spaces transform with festive decorations. The

A Season of Magic & Togetherness

By Min Zan



Christmas tree, symbolizing life and hope, is a central part of the season. Adorned with ornaments, baubles, and lights, it becomes a focal point of joy and tradition. Garlands on mantels and wreaths on doors further enhance the cosy atmosphere. The tradition of decorating extends beyond homes to shops and streets, where twinkling lights and grand Christmas trees spread cheer to all. Christmas markets bustle with activity, offering seasonal crafts, treats, and gifts, creating a sense of anticipation and joy.

Creating a festive atmosphere at home doesn’t require extravagance. DIY decorations like paper snowflakes, cinnamon ornaments, and pinecone garlands bring a personal touch. A themed colour palette — red and green, gold and white, or pastels — can tie decorations together. Scented candles with aromas like cinnamon or pine add warmth, while cosy corners with blankets and twinkling lights complete the holiday look. Decorating, whether grand or simple, fills the season with meaning and excitement. It’s a way to share creativity, celebrate traditions, and make the space feel warm and welcoming.

The Culinary Delights of Christmas

Christmas is as much about food as it is about celebration, with festive dishes that bring people together. A classic Christmas meal often centres around a roast turkey, accompanied by stuffing, cranberry sauce, and roasted potatoes. Each dish carries significance, symbolizing abundance and balance. Christmas pudding, often flambéed for dramatic effect, is a beloved dessert that marks the end of the holiday feast.

Special treats and desserts add to the festive spread. Gingerbread cookies, with their warm spices and playful shapes, have been a holiday favourite for centuries. Candy canes, with their red-and-white stripes, symbolize a shepherd’s staff, while eggnog — a creamy, spiced drink — warms the soul on cold evenings. Different cultures have their versions of eggnog, such as Puerto Rico’s coquito, made with coconut.

One of the highlights of Christmas cooking is the joy of creating together as a family. Baking gingerbread houses, decorating cookies, or preparing holiday cakes provide opportunities to bond and make memories. The

kitchen fills with the sweet smells of cinnamon and freshly baked goods, turning it into a place of warmth and togetherness. Whether preparing traditional or new dishes, the flavours of Christmas bring added joy to the season.

Christmas Markets and Shopping

Christmas markets are magical places where the season’s spirit comes alive in a swirl of colours, sounds, and smells. Wooden stalls, adorned with twinkling lights, offer a variety of handcrafted goods, from knitted scarves to carved ornaments. The scent of mulled wine, roasted chestnuts, and gingerbread fills the air. Carolers sing classic songs, and street performers create festive melodies that warm the heart.

These markets offer a range of delights, from unique gifts to seasonal foods. Handmade crafts, like artisanal candles or knitted scarves, showcase local talent, while gourmet food stalls tempt visitors with festive treats. Christmas markets are the perfect place to find one-of-a-kind presents, filled with personal meaning. Shopping for these gifts becomes an act of love, and wrapping them with care enhances the giving experience.

The true magic of gift-giving lies in the joy of seeing a loved one’s face as they unwrap a thoughtful present.

Beyond the markets, Christmas shopping is also about the act of giving itself. The search for the perfect gift, whether a small keepsake or a grand gesture, becomes an expression of love and consideration. Wrapping gifts in beautiful paper and adding personal touches makes the experience even more special. The exchange of gifts, whether big or small, fills the holiday season with warmth and magic.

Cultural and Religious Traditions

Christmas is celebrated globally, with each country adding its unique customs and flavours to the holiday. In Mexico, Las Posadas reenacts Mary and Joseph’s search for shelter, culminating in festive celebrations with music and piñatas. In Germany, Christmas markets are a central part of the season, offering crafts, mulled wine, and a festive atmosphere. In Japan, Christmas has taken on a modern twist, with families often enjoying a festive meal of fried chicken, a custom that gained popularity in recent years. These traditions highlight the cultural diversity of Christmas, making it a global celebration.

For Christians, Christmas is a deeply religious occasion, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. The Nativity story recounts how Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born in a humble stable. Angels announced His birth to shepherds, and wise men brought gifts, symbolizing the recognition of His divine mission. Advent, the four-week period leading up to Christmas, is a time of reflection and preparation. Church services, including midnight Mass and carol services, play a significant role in the religious celebration.

In addition to its religious aspects, Christmas is rich with cultural traditions that are universally beloved. Santa Claus, based on the figure of Saint Nicholas, symbolizes generosity and joy. Hanging stockings and eagerly awaiting them to be filled has become a cherished tradition. Exchanging Christmas cards, adorned with festive scenes or messages, provides a way to connect with loved ones and spread holiday cheer. These traditions, both sacred and secular, contrib-

ute to the multifaceted beauty of Christmas.

Community and Togetherness

The holiday season is a time for community and togetherness. Family dinners, filled with laughter and love, become cherished moments. Festive gatherings with friends offer opportunities to exchange gifts and create lasting memories. These occasions remind us that the greatest gifts of Christmas are the people we hold dear and the time spent with them.

Acts of kindness and generosity also define the season. Many choose to donate to charities, ensuring that others can experience the joy of Christmas. Volunteering at shelters or community events brings people together to make a difference in the lives of those in need. Simple gestures, like helping a neighbour hang lights or delivering baked goods, spread warmth and cheer.

Holiday events bring the community closer, turning neighbourhoods into festive wonderlands. Neighbourhood light displays transform streets into sparkling vistas, while holiday parades and festivals foster shared joy. These communal activities create a sense of unity and connection, reminding us of the power of togetherness.

Festivities and Entertainment

Winter festivities offer joy for all ages, from outdoor adventures to indoor entertainment. Ice skating, sledging, and building snowmen create opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. The laughter of children and adults engaged in snowball fights or crafting snowmen adds to the festive spirit.

Christmas movies, music, and literature also play a major role in the season’s atmosphere. Timeless stories like A Christmas Carol remind us of the importance of generosity, while movies like Home Alone offer a mix of comedy and holiday magic. Christmas carols, sung by choirs or played during gatherings, further enhance the mood. These traditions bring people together, creating shared moments of joy.

Holiday parties and events provide additional excitement. Office parties foster camaraderie, while New Year’s Eve celebrations mark the end of the season with fireworks and festivities. The laughter and joy shared during these moments highlight the season’s true magic.

Study shows how osteosarcomas are diagnosed, treated

Using advanced mathematical modelling and machine learning, the team categorized patients based on their genetic data. This approach offers a more personalized treatment method compared to the one-size-fits-all approach used since the 1970s.

FOR the first time, researchers have identified at least three unique subtypes of a rare type of bone cancer; potentially transforming clinical trials and patient care.

A University of East Anglia-led research project has been able to use advanced mathematical modelling and machine learning called “Latent Process Decomposition” to categorise patients with osteosarcoma into different subgroups using their genetic data. Previously, all patients would be grouped together and treated using the same protocols, which has very mixed outcomes.

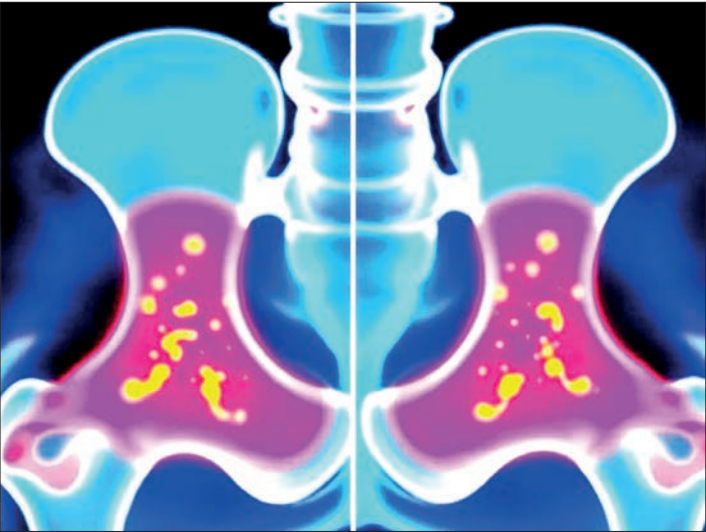
While genetic sequencing has previously helped to uncover different subtypes of other cancers, like breast or skin cancer, for which those patients then receive targeted treatment personalized to their cancer subtype, it has been much harder to do this with osteosarcoma – a cancer that starts in the bone and typically affects children and teenagers.

Lead author Dr Darrell Green, of UEA’s Norwich Medical School, said: “Since the 1970s osteosarcoma has been treated using untargeted chemotherapy and surgery, which sometimes results in limb amputation as well as the severe and lifelong side effects of the chemotherapy.

“Multiple international clinical trials investigating new drugs in osteosarcoma have been deemed to have ‘failed’ over the last 50 plus years.

“This new research found that in each of these ‘failed’ trials, there was a small response rate (around five to 10 per cent) to the new drug, suggesting the existence of osteosarcoma subtypes that did respond to the new treatment.

SOURCE: ANI



Previously, osteosarcoma patients received the same chemotherapy and surgery, with mixed results and severe side effects. This breakthrough could transform clinical trials and improve patient care by targeting specific cancer subtypes. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/VISUAL ART

NATIONAL

Applications open for final candidate list in manufacturing, service batch 1, Jan 2025

THE Government Overseas Employment Agency (POEA- EPS) has announced that application issuance and acceptance for the final list of candidates who passed the 1st EPS-TOPIK and Basic Skills Test in 2024 (Manufacturing Group 1 and Service Group 1) will be done in January 2025.

Schedules include application issuance on 2, 3, 6 and 7 January 2025 and acceptance on 8, 9, 10 and 13, from 9 am to 3 pm at Panglong Hall, Minyekyawswa Road, Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

The job application must



This photo shows the place of issuing applications at Panglong Hall, Minyekyawswa Road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

be submitted by the applicant himself along with his original passport. Photos submitted for the exam and shown on the passport must be the same. The health examination will be conducted only at designated clinics and only those who pass it will be allowed to apply for the job.

The job application must also include a copy of the passport, three passport photos, original medical examination records, a copy of the national scrutiny card, a personal bank account opened in the name of the passport holder, a copy

of the household register, a copy of the educational qualification certificate, whether or not he has visited the Republic of Korea, and if he has visited, the type of job and industry he worked there and date of re-entry into Myanmar.

A passport (PV or PJ) must be valid for at least one year and if one receives a job offer, it must be PJ. Information to be filled in the job application, contact phone numbers, and submitted documents must be correctly stated and the applicant is solely responsible for any discrepancy, it said. — MT/ZN

Illegal trade crackdown confiscates items worth K1.435bln on 23 Dec

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 23 December, the combined teams impounded two unregistered vehicles and 12 unregistered motorbikes (estimated value of K55 million) in Belin, Thanbyuzayat, Mudon, Chaungzon and Kyaikmaraw Townships, a Nissan Diesel tractor head with a trailer (worth approximately K73 million) carrying industrial materials (valued at K10.03 million) without official documents at the Yadanabon bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint, a Yutong bus (estimated value of K80 million) carrying industrial materials and consumer goods (worth K368.06 million) without official documents at Milepost-366/6 on Yangon-Mandalay expressway, and consumer goods (valued at K20.21 million) without official documents from the luggage carriage of the Yangon-Mandalay up train at the Mandalay station, and industrial materials (valued at K14.57 million from the luggage carriage-40029 of the Yangon-Mandalay up train at the Mandalay Myohaung station. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

Similarly, the Customs on-duty teams nabbed two trucks (estimated value of K90 million) carrying industrial materials (worth K22.5 million) without official documents at the Ma-yanchaung permanent checkpoint, industrial materials (worth K25.59 million) without official documents from a container at the Thilawa Port, and industrial materials (worth K642,03 million) without official documents from nine containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was carried out per Customs procedures.

Additionally, the combined on-duty teams captured a Sun-long bus (estimated value of K30 million) carrying foodstuffs (worth K4 million) without official documents in Phayagyi and the action was conducted following Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 38 arrests on 23 December, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K1.435 billion. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs worth K2B seized in 4 townships in Mandalay Region



Arrestees are seen alongside confiscated drugs.

THE Myanmar Police Force has reported the seizure of stimulant tablets, ketamine, ecstasy, and “Happy Water” valued at approximately K2 billion in the Mandalay Region.

On 17 December, acting on a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, stopped a 22-wheel transporter in Amarapura Township. The vehicle, driven by Thein Zaw Oo and accompanied by Yan Naing Soe, was found to contain 34,400 stimulant tablets

during the 5 pm search.

Following the interrogation of the suspects, police arrested Aung Aung and Ba Hein, who had arranged for the transportation of the drugs, in Pyigyidagun Township later that evening. On 18 December, Ma San San Mya was arrested in Amarapura Township with 84,000 stimulant tablets.

Further operations on 19 December led to the arrest of Myo Htun Aung (also known as Sai Dana Aung or Kyaung Saya) in Chanmyathazi Township. He was found with 5.5 kilogrammes of Happy Water, 8,640 ecstasy tablets, 0.2 kilogrammes of ecstasy powder, a Toyota Crown vehicle, and a motorbike. The same day, Hteik Soe Kyaw was arrested in Chanayethazan Township with 1.9 kilogrammes of ketamine, 9,600 ecstasy tablets, 9,000 Happy-5 tablets, and 1.215 kilogrammes of Happy Water.

Legal action has been taken against the offenders, and investigations are ongoing to apprehend additional individuals involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

False reports claim security forces burned homes in Yesagyo

REPORTS claiming that security forces burned down over 40 homes across five villages in the Yaylekyun of Yesagyo Township, Magway Region, have been dismissed as false by authorities.

The official clarified that security forces are conducting routine security operations in the area and have not engaged in any acts of arson or destruction against civilian houses. Instead, it is terrorists who are responsible for targeting villages that do not support them, setting fire to properties, and detaining, and killing residents.

According to a security official, these allegations circulated by malicious news media are baseless and fabricated.

The official added that malicious news media spread these false reports to mislead the public and tarnish the reputation of security forces while concealing the violent acts of insurgents. This misinformation campaign is intended to manipulate public perception and divert attention from terrorists’ activities. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Domestic glass eel exported to China, Thailand for breeding



A glimpse of farmed eels for sale in the market.

DOMESTIC young eels are being exported to China and Thailand for breeding, according to fish farms and fish fry trading markets.

Export-grade eel fry are bought by entrepreneurs from China and Thailand at the size of five-tical and ten-tical to breed.

“They are supplied to Muse via Mandalay. They are also exported to Thailand via Myawady through a series of brokers. Many people export after stocking to Muse. The Chinese and Thais breed the five-tical and ten-tical eel. Myanmar eel is natural,” said an official of the Ko Min Thu

Aung Fish Farm and Fish Fry Trading Business in Kayan Township.

Eel fry come in small, medium and large sizes, and are sold in the market after about three months of breeding, making them suitable for small-scale farmers to increase their income. As eel fry are hardy fish, they are preferred for breeding domestically more than before.

“When they were bred, some people doubted if it would be okay. They didn’t have any idea before. Some didn’t dare to breed them. They are a very hardy fish. Now they are being bred more than before. When we sell fry, we explain to our customers the breeding methods based on our experience. Eel fry need to have a non-stop oxygen supply,” she said. — Thit Taw/ZN

9th free Sitagu eye donation round set for late Dec

SITAGU Cakku Dana Hospital located in Yangon’s Dagon Myothit (North) will provide free medical examination and surgery in its ninth round of eyesight donation for patients across the country, from 24 to 29 December, announced the hospital.

At this time, only those who underwent medical examinations in November will be included and no new patients have been listed as the external examination wasn’t made, it said. Contact numbers 09 420062227, 09 457771313 and 09 25914744 are provided for further information.

The eighth round of eyesight donation was made as from 22 to 28 November 2024 and of 2,258 patients who received medical examinations, 520 were underwent surgery and 47 were given laser treatment.



A general view of the Sitagu Eye Hospital (Yangon).

Throughout its eight donations, free medical examination was given for 10,859 patients, of them, 3,157 were provided surgery and 215 were offered laser treatment. New patients will be invited to the 10th donation and further announcements will be continued for the commencement date. — MT/ZS

Water chestnut, medicinal tubers sales surge in Yangon

WATER chestnut, a medicinal tuber, is on rising sales in Yangon, according to a local fruit and vegetable market.

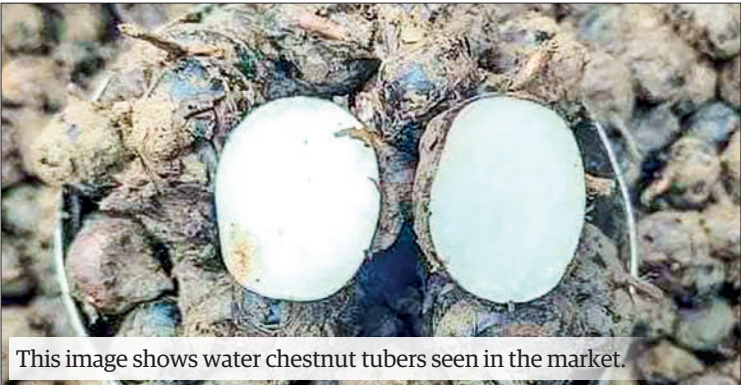
There are two types of tubers - local and imported - and imported tubers from Thailand are more expensive than local ones.

“We eat them boiled, stewed, and they come from the ground like tapioca. They have a mild taste. Many people eat them and there are orders from all over the country. They are selling well in Yangon. There are two types- imported from Thailand and local. We sell them outside. The imported ones are bigger and more expensive. Some sell

them by basket. We sell them by viss,” said a fruit wholesaler and retailer.

Tubers produced more in the northern Shan State where it is called the pig tuber. It is also grown in tropical regions and as it is medicinal, the cultivation of tubers has become widespread according to reports.

Water chestnuts can be eaten boiled, fried, or raw, and they can be peeled and canned to produce a long-lasting value-added product. It contains starch, protein, and fibre, which is said to remove toxins from the body, lower blood pressure, and prevent heart disease and the spread of cancer. — Thit Taw/ZN



This image shows water chestnut tubers seen in the market.

Laypin plum trade rises in Yangon

NEWLY harvested Laypin plums have been traded well in the Yangon fruit market.

These plums are called Laypin plums as they are produced from Laypin village located along the road to Mann Shwesehtaw Pagoda in central Myanmar and the flavour is distinctly sweet. Laypin plums are available only for three months of the year.

“The recent best-seller fruit is Laypin plum which is produced from Shwesehtaw Laypin village. It is its season and just begins now. The Laypin plum trade has been pretty good since the beginning of the season. It is one of the most marketable fruits in Yangon. It is different from other plums and quite sweet,” said Ma Thin Thin Hlaing, fruits retail and wholesale distributor from



A thriving Laypin plum farm.

Hmawby Township.

Laypin plum is crunchy and the flavour is distinctively sweet from the stage of young fruit and sweeter when it ripens. Despite being sweet, it is hardly to be infected and can

be harvested from November to March.

In 2023, Laypin plums were traded online in Pyay, and since then the fruit has become more popular in the local fruit market. — Thit Taw/ZS

Gold Market Rate as of 23 December 2024

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with a density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,260,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

ECONOMY

WORLD

Ethiopia sees surge in coffee exports



This photo taken by a mobile phone shows workers sorting roasted coffee beans at a coffee roastery in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, on 8 June 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

ETHIOPIA has seen a significant increase in coffee export volume and revenue in recent years, said an official with the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA).
“The surge is attributed to ongoing economic reforms undertaken by the government, involving the production of high-quality coffee and boosting productivity,” the state-run Ethiopian News Agency quoted Shafi Umar, deputy director-general of the ECTA, as saying on Monday.
According to the ECTA official, Ethiopia’s coffee exports have

expanded rapidly since 2021. During the last Ethiopian fiscal year, which ended on 7 July 2024, Ethiopia exported 298,000 tonnes of coffee, generating \$1.43 billion, and this year the country is set to increase its coffee exports to 400,000 tonnes, aiming to earn over \$2 billion. “Providing high-quality coffee on time increases demand, which in turn boosts both export volume and income,” said Umar, noting that the country has exported 178,000 tonnes of coffee in the past five months, representing a 72 per cent increase

compared to the same period last year. Umar also explained that by streamlining the coffee supply chain, coffee suppliers and exporters are now able to communicate and trade directly, ensuring the timely delivery of quality coffee to international buyers. Renowned for producing some of the world’s highest-quality Arabica coffee beans, Ethiopia is the world’s fifth-largest and Africa’s largest coffee producer. About 20 million Ethiopians are directly dependent on coffee production for their livelihoods. — Xinhua

BRIEF: ECON

Laos reviews tourism promotion campaign Visit Laos Year 2024

Laos’ Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism convened a meeting to evaluate the implementation of the Visit Laos Year 2024 tourism promotion campaign, setting the stage for future tourism initiatives.
The meeting on Monday was attended by Lao Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Suansavanh Viyaket, along with representatives from the tourism business sector and officials from Vientiane and provincial tourism offices, Lao News Agency reported on Tuesday. The meeting focused on assessing achievements, addressing challenges, and refining strategies to improve the performance of the tourism sector. — Xinhua

Vietnam’s aquatic exports driven by shrimp, pangasius in 2024

VIETNAM’S aquatic exports reached US\$10 billion in 2024, driven by shrimp and pangasius, Vietnam News Agency reported on Tuesday, citing the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers. Shrimp and pangasius accounted for 60 per cent of the total revenues, the report said. Shrimp’s overseas shipments climbed 16.7 per cent to \$4 billion this year, while pangasius export revenues increased 8.9 per cent to \$2 billion compared to 2023. Despite raw material shortages, tuna exports hit \$1 billion, up 18 per cent year on year. — Xinhua

Japan to put critical goods plants under state control during crisis

JAPAN is set to introduce a system to temporarily place factories under state control in the event of a contingency to safeguard supply chains of critical materials such as semiconductors and batteries, the government said Tuesday. The government aims to start the system from around the fall of next year to better protect the country from contingencies such as infectious disease outbreaks and disruptions in the supply of raw materials.
Resource-scarce Japan has been trying to make its supply chains more resilient to ensure stable procurement of economically critical products including 12 goods designated under the economic security promotion law. — Kyodo

UK economy stagnant in third quarter in fresh setback

BRITAIN’S economy was stagnant in the third quarter, according to revised official data released Monday, dealing a fresh blow to the Labour government.
Gross domestic product showed zero growth in the July-September period, revised down from an initial estimate of 0.1 per cent growth, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.
The data covers the period of the

Labour government’s first few months in office in the lead up to its highly-anticipated maiden budget at the end of October.
“The challenge we face to fix our economy and properly fund our public finances after 15 years of neglect is huge,” said finance minister Rachel Reeves in response to Monday’s figures. “But this is only fuelling our fire to deliver for working people,” she added. — AFP



Pedestrians carry Harrods shopping bags in London on 22 December 2024 on the last weekend before Christmas. PHOTO: AFP

Investors swoop in to save German flying taxi startup

A German flying taxi startup was Tuesday saved from collapse after a consortium of investors swooped in at the 11th hour to take over the ailing firm.

Lilium had already filed for bankruptcy in October, and was expected to fold entirely this week unless it could secure new sources of funding.

But the startup, which has been developing small electric-powered jets that can take off and land verti-

cally, announced a “major breakthrough”.

Mobile Uplift Corporation, a company set up by a consortium of European and North American investors, had signed a deal to buy the assets of the crisis-hit German company, Lilium said.

Lilium, which is based in the southern state of Bavaria, did not disclose the price of the deal. The agreement is expected to be finalized at the start of

January, which will “allow us to restart our business”, Lilium CEO Klaus Roewe said. Lilium had attracted substantial interest, with Saudi Arabia’s flag carrier Saudia earlier this year signing a deal to buy 50 of the firm’s jets with options to purchase 50 more.

But it has yet to conduct a manned test flight, with the first such trial not expected until next year, and burnt through huge sums in development costs.



Delegates look at The Lilium Jet, an electric vertical take-off eVTOL jet, on the company’s stand on the opening day of the Farnborough International Airshow 2024, south west of London, on 22 July 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

It was forced to turn to the state for emergency funding but the German parliament’s budget committee refused in October to approve a loan guarantee to the tune of 50 million euros (\$52 million). Lilium was founded in 2015 and employed more than 1,000 people, although most were made redundant ahead of this week’s deadline to get new investors on board. — AFP

Toyota eyes building EV factory in China’s Shanghai



File photo taken on 25 October 2023 in Tokyo shows a concept model of Toyota Motor Corp’s Lexus-brand electric vehicle. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TOYOTA Motor Corp is preparing to build a new factory to manufacture electric vehicles in Shanghai, with operations expected to begin around 2027, people familiar with the plan said Monday.

The Japanese automaker plans to produce EV models of its luxury Lexus cars at the envisioned facility in eastern

China, the people said, adding the project is subject to change due to potentially volatile demand for EVs.

Toyota has manufactured vehicles in China, such as the RAV4 sport utility vehicle and the bZ4X electric car, under joint ventures with China FAW Group Co and Guangzhou Automobile Group Co. — Kyodo

Cambodia’s bicycle export down nearly 20% in first 11 months of 2024

CAMBODIA’S bicycle export went down nearly 20 per cent year-on-year in the first 11 months of 2024, said a Ministry of Commerce report on Tuesday.

The Southeast Asian country exported bicycles, including electric bicycles, worth US\$375.7 million during the January-November period this year, a decrease of 19.7 per cent from \$468 million over the same period last year. The Ministry of Commerce’s Secretary of State and Spokesperson Penn Sovicheat said the made-in-Cambodia bicycles had been sold mostly to European countries, the United States, and Canada, among others. “The decline was due to global economic slowdown and uncertainties that had resulted in a plunge in purchase orders,” he told Xinhua. —Xinhua

Global stocks mostly rise after US tech rally

GLOBAL stocks were mostly higher on Tuesday boosted by a tech rally on Wall Street, but gains remained modest in thin Christmas Eve trade.

Overnight, US equities shook off early weakness to push higher as investors waited to see if a so-called Santa Claus rally would materialise.

“The US stock market closed with a mixed bag of results yesterday, but the gift under the tree was a

tech-driven rally that lit up the broader market,” said Matt Britzman, senior equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Analysts said it could help boost semiconductor-related shares, including in Tokyo, although the key Nikkei index closed down 0.3 per cent.

Several exchanges, including Hong Kong, London and Paris, close early on Tuesday due to the holidays. — AFP



Traders work on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) floor on 18 December 2024 in New York City. **PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HONG JIA 11 VOY.NO. (2448)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HONG JIA 11 VOY.NO. (2448)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S OCEAN SALUTE SHIPPING PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

UN Security Council voices “deep concern” over deteriorating crises in Haiti



Representatives vote on a draft resolution during a UN Security Council meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, on 30 September 2024. **PHOTO: MANUEL ELIAS/UN PHOTO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

THE UN Security Council on Monday expressed “deep concern” over the deteriorating crises in Haiti, condemning the continued gang violence and calling for solidarity with the Haitian people. In a press statement, the members of the Security Council reiterated their deep concern over the ongoing and deteriorating political, economic, security, human rights, humanitarian and acute food insecurity and nutrition crises in Haiti, as well as restrictions on humanitarian access, and reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to continue to support the people of Haiti.

The council members strongly condemned the continued destabilizing criminal activities of armed gangs and stressed the need for the international community to redouble its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the population and to support the Haitian National Police, including building its capacity to restore law and order through the Multinational Security Support Mission.

In particular, they strongly condemned the reports that an armed gang has killed at least 184 people between 6 and 8 December in the Wharf Jeremie neighbourhood in the capital of Port-au-Prince. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan to cut 60% of emissions by FY2035, but experts call for more

THE Japanese government on Tuesday won an approval for a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent by fiscal 2035 from fiscal 2013 levels, but rejected calls for it to pursue a more ambitious target.

At a joint meeting of the Environment Ministry and the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry, officials and experts also agreed to a longer-term target of a 73 per cent reduction by fiscal 2040.

The targets, criticized by some expert participants of the meeting as insufficient to meet global climate goals, are in their final stages of preparation and are set to be submitted to the United Nations by February 2025.

The government outlined sector-specific emissions reduction goals for fiscal 2040 compared to the levels in fiscal 2013, including cuts of 74 to 83 per cent in the business sector, 64 to 82 per cent in transport, and 71 to 81 per cent in households.

Discussions on the targets began in June. Experts have argued that the proposal is inadequate, citing estimates that Japan must contribute a 66 per cent reduction by fiscal 2035 to meet the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels. An Environment Ministry official defended the proposal, saying, “It is an ambitious plan, and we are committed to pursuing both emissions reductions and economic growth simultaneously.” — Kyodo

Turkiye’s Erdogan to visit Syria with big delegation - Reports

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will lead a large delegation of ministers to Syria, Turkish newspaper Hurriyet reported on Tuesday.

The delegation will include ministers in charge of the economy and investment. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin have already paid visits to Damascus.

The Turkish presidential office told Sputnik that the exact dates of Erdogan's visit to Syria were being worked out.

Syria's armed opposition captured Damascus on 8 December. Russian officials said that Syrian President Bashar Assad stepped down after negotiations with participants in the Syrian conflict and left Syria for Russia, where he was granted asylum. Mohammed al-Bashir, who ran an Idlib-based administration formed by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and other opposition groups, was named interim prime minister. He announced that an interim government had been formed and would remain in place until March 2025. — SPUTNIK

Panama leaders past and present reject Trump’s threat of Canal takeover

THE status of the Panama Canal is non-negotiable, President Jose Raul Mulino said in a statement Monday signed alongside former leaders of the country, after Donald Trump’s recent threats to reclaim the man-made waterway.

The US president-elect on Saturday had slammed what he called unfair fees for US ships passing through the Panama Canal and threatened to demand control of the waterway be returned to Washington. Mulino dismissed Trump’s comments Sunday, saying “every square meter of the Panama Canal and its adjacent areas belongs to Panama and will continue belonging to Panama”. He reiterated Monday in a statement – also signed by former presidents Ernesto Perez Balladares, Martin Torrijos and Mireya Moscoso — that “the sovereignty of our country and our canal are not negotiable”.

The canal “is part of our history of struggle and an irreversible conquest”, read the statement, which the four politicians had signed after a meeting at the seat of the Panamanian government. — AFP



Tourists watch a cargo ship transit through the Panama Canal in Panama City on 23 December 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

AFC Women's Futsal Qualifiers Group D matches to be held in Yangon

MYANMAR will host the AFC Women's Futsal Qualifiers 2025 Group D matches at the MFF Futsal Indoor Stadium located within the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon.

Group D comprises teams from Vietnam, Chinese Taipei, Macau, and Myanmar. The matches are scheduled to take place from 15 to 19 January. This tournament will mark a historic milestone as the first international futsal competition to be held at the MFF Futsal Indoor Stadium.

Each tournament day will feature two matches, with Myanmar's matches set as the second game of the day. The schedule begins on 15 January with Chinese Taipei facing Macau, followed by Myanmar competing against Vietnam. On 17 January, Vietnam will play against Macau, while Myanmar will take on Chinese Taipei. The final day, 19 January, will

see Vietnam versus Chinese Taipei and Myanmar competing against Macau.

The qualifiers are organized into four groups with the top two teams from each group, as well as the best third-placed team across all groups, progressing to the next stage. In total, nine teams will advance.

To prepare for the competition, the Myanmar national women's futsal team commenced training on 16 December with a squad of 19 preliminary players. The team is under the guidance of head coach Boonlert Charoenwong, a Thai national, who is leading their efforts to secure success in this tournament. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



The Myanmar women's futsal team under training for the AFC Women's Futsal Qualifiers 2025. PHOTO: MFF

Mice add to Manchester United's woes – report

AS if faltering results on the field and a leaking roof were not enough to be dealing with, Manchester United are tackling an infestation of mice at Old Trafford, according to a newspaper report.

The Daily Mail said the issue had seen the club's food hygiene rating drop to two stars out of a possible five.

United are currently considering whether to redevelop Old Trafford or build a brand new stadium.

"Manchester United implements a robust pest-control system throughout Old Trafford," a club spokesperson told the Mail.

"Multiple weekly checks are made in all catering areas and stringent measures are taken to ensure levels of hygiene and cleanliness are high wherever food is stored, prepared and served.

"If incidences of this nature do occur at the stadium, immediate and appropriate action is taken".

A Trafford Council spokesperson said: "Our environmental health officers gave a food hygiene rating of two following a routine visit.



Visitors walk past Old Trafford, in Manchester, north west England, on 28 October 2024. PHOTO: AFP

"We are now working closely with Manchester United to ensure it complies with the rating and carries out the necessary improvements".

United, who sacked manager Erik ten Hag earlier this season, suffered a 3-0 defeat at home to Bournemouth on

Sunday — a reverse that left the former Premier League kings a lowly 13th in the table. During new boss Ruben Amorim's post-match press conference, a leak from the ceiling of the media conference room at Old Trafford resulted in water dripping onto the front row of journalists. — AFP

Inter beat Como to keep in touch with leaders Atalanta

INTER Milan saw off Como 2-0 on Monday to stretch their unbeaten run in Serie A to 11 games and move back to within three points of leaders Atalanta.

Defender Carlos Augusto headed in from a corner early in the second half before Marcus Thuram wrapped up a fourth successive league win with a thumping finish in stoppage time.

Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer made a crucial save on the hour to deny Nico Paz an equalizer as Simone Inzaghi's side showed signs of weariness at the San Siro in what was their third outing in a week.

Thuram's goal was his 12th of the season and sent him level with Atalanta striker Mateo Retegui for the league lead.

"Marcus is a high-class player who always trains well and has adapted very quickly to the way we play," said Inzaghi.

"You have to congratulate Como for coming here and giving it their all, but we stayed focused and showed great maturity." — AFP



Como's Spanish goalkeeper (25) Pepe Reina (R) gathers the ball at the feet of Inter Milan's Dutch defender (2) Denzel Dumfries (L) during the Italian Serie A football match between Inter Milan and Como at the San Siro Stadium in Milan on 23 December 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Boxing Day fixtures kick off busy Xmas period in Premier League

THE hectic Christmas and New Year fixtures in the Premier League get underway on 26 December with the traditional Boxing Day fixtures opening the door for three rounds of matches in 10 days that stretch quads to the limit, and can be decisive in the title race.

Manchester City is not thinking about the title any more after its 2-1 defeat to Aston Villa on Saturday further deepened its crisis. Pep Guardiola is without injured defenders Ruben Dias and John Stones against Everton on Thursday lunchtime.

Although Everton is stuck in the wrong half of the table, it held Chelsea to a 0-0 draw on Sunday and nobody has kept more clean sheets this season than Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, so this could be another frustrating day for City fans.

Liverpool has a late kick-off at home to struggling Leicester City and the Liverpool strikers will fancy their chances

against a rival that conceded three first half goals at home to Wolverhampton.

Leicester's defence looks vulnerable at the best of times and with Mads Hemansen struggling with a groin strain, out of touch and unpopular deputy goalkeeper Danny Ward will probably start again.

Second place Chelsea was frustrated by Everton, but now has a chance to get back on track at home to Fulham in a south-west London derby. — Xinhua

UN Security Council voices
“deep concern” over
deteriorating crises in Haiti

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WORLD

Multiple bird flu cases detected across England

BIRD farms across England's eastern coast had to enforce preventative bird flu measures starting Monday after a spate of cases were detected in the latest outbreak of the virus.

UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) said “further” cases of bird flu were detected in Norfolk, east England and East Riding of Yorkshire, northeast England in the last week.

On Monday, DEFRA decided to “pre-emptively” cull birds and enforce a three-kilometre (1.8-mile) protective zone in a Norfolk farm following reports of suspected highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), commonly known as bird flu.

A regional avian influenza prevention zone to prevent further cases has been enforced across east England, including in Lincolnshire and Suffolk.

Starting Monday, bird keepers in the zone must keep their birds housed to protect them from the virus.

The assessed risk of bird flu in wild birds has been increased to “very high” in Great Britain, which means that the risk “occurs almost certainly”.

It has also been raised to between “medium” and “high” for poultry.

So far, 11 cases of the H5N1 strain of the virus, and one case of the H5N5 strain have been detected in England in the current outbreak.

The first case in the outbreak was reported in November, and no cases have been confirmed so far in Scotland and Wales.

According to World Organization for Animal Health rules, Great Britain is no longer free from HPAI. — AFP

China stands committed to steady development of China-US ties



A student from Beijing teaches a student from Medgar Evers College Preparatory School of New York to practice Chinese calligraphy during a culture exchange event in New York, the United States, 2 February 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

WHEN meeting with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in the Peruvian capital of Lima, Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated China's commitment to maintaining the steady development of China-US relations.

China's goal of a stable, healthy and sustainable China-US relationship remains unchanged; its commitment to mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation as principles for handling China-US relations remains unchanged; its

position of resolutely safeguarding China's sovereignty, security and development interests remains unchanged; and its desire to carry forward the traditional friendship between the Chinese and American peoples remains unchanged, Xi told Biden.

These statements clearly reflect China's longstanding approach to its relationship with the United States, underscoring its commitment to boosting dialogue and cooperation, and managing differences.

Competition between major countries does not conform to the trend of the times.

Nor is it a solution to America's domestic problems or the urgent challenges facing the world. As nations worldwide are struggling to cope with numerous global crises, there is an increasing expectation for a stable and constructive China-US relationship.

China and the United States should rise above their differences and advance dialogue and cooperation, not only for their shared interests, but also to make a meaningful contribution to global peace, stability and prosperity. — Xinhua



The emblem of BRICS. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Nine countries to officially become BRICS partners from 1 Jan 2025

BELARUS, Bolivia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Cuba, Malaysia, Uganda and Uzbekistan will officially become BRICS partners from 1 January 2025, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said on Monday.

“On the eve of the summit in Kazan, we received 35 applications to join BRICS in one condition or another. Undoubt-

edly, one of the most important results of the summit was the establishment of the category of BRICS partner countries and agreement on a list of 13 countries. Proposals were sent to these countries. To date, Belarus, Bolivia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, Malaysia, and Uzbekistan have

confirmed their readiness to become BRICS partner states,” Ushakov told a briefing, adding that these countries will officially become BRICS partners from 1 January 2025. More than 20 countries show interest in the work of BRICS and the doors of the association remain open for the entry of like-minded nations, Ushakov added. — SPUTNIK