

The GlobalNEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vice-Senior General Soe Win remarked that as trainees have recited four oaths by touching the State flag, they have to be loyal to the State, citizens and Tatmadaw members.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win yesterday morning met trainees from people's military service training depots in Indaing Station of Yangon Region.

In the meeting with trainees, the Vice-Senior General underlined that as trainees have recited four oaths by touching the State flag, they have to be loyal to the State, citizens and Tatmadaw members.

He stressed that as the current situation is that both domestic and foreign saboteurs are engaged in various methods of infiltration and attack to cause disunity within the military, all must maintain unity and solidarity.

The Vice-Senior General highlighted that good discipline and obedience are of great importance in learning basic



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win cordially greets trainees from people's military service training depots in Indaing Station, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Discipline and obedience are crucial in military training

As both homegrown and foreign saboteurs are engaged in various methods of infiltration and attack to cause disunity within the military, all must maintain unity and solidarity.

military training. Only when they obey orders will they successfully serve the assigned missions and duties with accomplishments, he added.

He continued to say that despite coming from different backgrounds, these trainees have been trained together with the same attitudes, perceptions, and concepts. They will proudly serve the defence duties of the State, joining hands with

senior Tatmadaw members. As such, they must behave in a manner that earns the trust of both the State and the Tatmadaw, while also being dependable for their families, he noted.

The Vice-Senior General emphasized that the trainees have to uphold a concept that "Once a Soldier, always a Soldier" in their lives as a fine concept of Tatmadaw members while preserving fine traditions

of Tatmadaw with loyalty to the State and Tatmadaw.

He underscored that as all people's military servants who graduated from training depots have to continuously practise and apply military skills, they must strive to become valuable Tatmadaw members for the State, Tatmadaw and their families.

SEE PAGE 3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Vice-Senior General at the meeting with trainees from military training depots

- 1. The current situation is that both domestic and foreign saboteurs are engaged in various methods of infiltration and attack to cause disunity within the military, all must maintain unity and solidarity.
- 2. The trainees have to uphold the concept that "Once a Soldier, always a Soldier" in their lives as a fine concept of Tatmadaw members while preserving fine traditions of Tatmadaw with loyalty to the State and Tatmadaw.
- 3. Despite coming from different backgrounds, these trainees have been trained together with the same attitudes, perceptions, and concepts.

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NATIONAL

Leveraging Agricultural Strength for Export Growth through Nationwide Collaboration

OUR country has a strong foundation for successfully operating agricultural and livestock activities and is strategically positioned to export these products based on market demand. Collaboration among all departmental officials and citizens is essential for the development of agriculture and livestock farms.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the Shan State government and regional- and district-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)



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.

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"

Myanmar enacts Custody and Disposal of Exhibits

THE State Administration Council enacted the Custody and Disposal of Exhibits Law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with Law No 72/2024 yesterday. The law contains 12 chapters expressing the relevant rules and regulations, duties, authorities, formation of the central committee, and regional committees among others. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 28 December 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the north Bay of Bengal and a few cloud over the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal, partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29 December 2024: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Mon State. Degree of certainty is 60 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Kayin and (southern and eastern) Shan states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

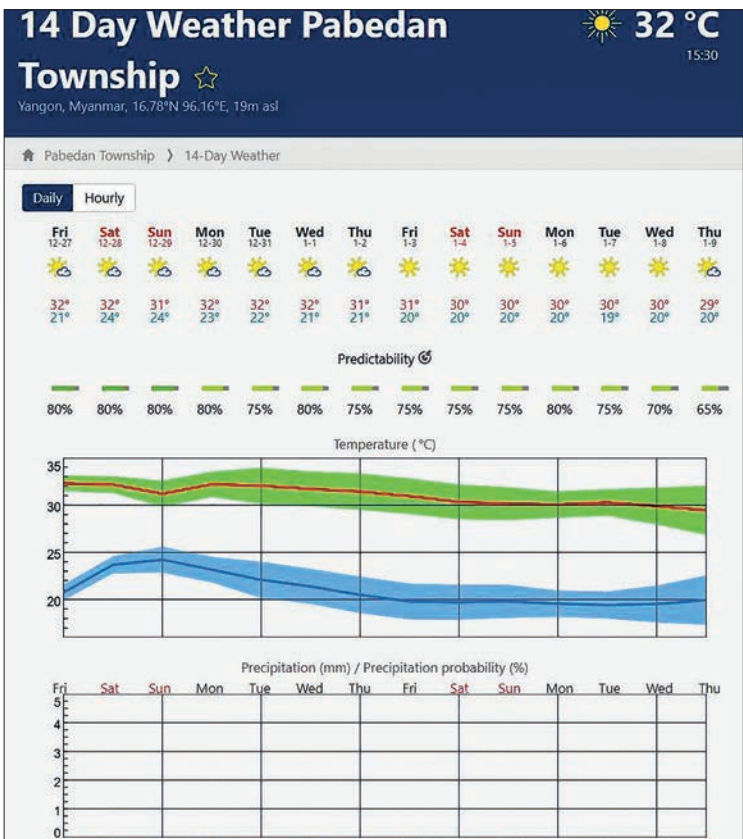
THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about four to seven feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 December 2024: Generally fair weather. — DMH

Yangon's winter forecast slightly colder



14-day weather forecast for downtown Yangon.

NO El Nino effect is predicted to happen in 2025, resulting in Yangon's winter being colder lightly

compared to 2024, according to meteorologist U Win Naing. The night temperature has

now dropped around 20 degrees Celsius in northern, western and eastern Yangon and is forecast to drop around 20 degrees Celsius or below in central Yangon and southern districts (near the coast) in the first week of January 2025.

Normally, the weather is cold in January and February only in Yangon Region but will be colder gently in 2025 as it is not El Nino year, he said. Including Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, areas near the coast will feel the cool winter as of January first week and will be cooler in northern Ayeyawady, he said.

Under the first forecast, there was about a 70 per cent chance to happen La Nina but there is just a 59 per cent chance of reaching the most extreme La Nina effect in January, February and March 2025, and it is impossible to happen extreme cold as the La Nina is predicted to be weak, he added. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

THE fellow citizens need cohesion, unity and discipline. They are necessary to exert efforts not to lose sight of the main goal and not to deviate from the path, regardless of any kind of incitement by the unscrupulous elements.

[An excerpt from the radio speech delivered by
Bogyoke Aung San on 1 January 1947]



Inlay Lake. PHOTO BY MYO MIN HTIKE (IPRD)

Discipline and obedience are crucial ...

FROM PAGE 1

SAC Member Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye spoke on the occasion. He explained measures of giving training to trainees to apply military skills in preventing danger of destructionists, following or-

ders and directives as a good Tatmadaw member in serving duties at assigned regiments and units, the importance of mental strength, loyalty to the State and Tatmadaw, and taking military training at relevant depots to apply these military techniques in battlefields ef-

fectively. After the meeting, the Vice-Senior General presented gifts and cash awards to the trainees and cordially greeted them. Also present at the ceremony were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral

Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Soe Thein, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and officials. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife donate K10M, clothes worth over K12.6M for respect-paying ceremony to doyen literati marking Myanmar Literati Day



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn hands over the donations of the Prime Minister and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla to Myanmar Writers Association Chair U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe).

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donated K10 million and clothes worth over K12.6 million for the respect-paying ceremony to doyen literati marking Myanmar Literati Day or Sarsodaw

Day organized by the Myanmar Writers Association in Yangon yesterday. During the event, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn handed over the donations of the Prime Minister and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla to Myanmar Writers

Association Chair Alinka Kyaw Swa U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe). The Ministry of Information donated K2.5 million, the Yangon Region government K27.6 million, the Yangon City Development Committee K3 million, the USDP headquarters K1

million and the Yangon Region USDP K500,000 at the event. Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, made a speech, highlighting the holding of National Sarsodaw Day since 1306 ME, and it reached 80th in 1386 ME, the focus of the Prime Minister and his wife on literary, and holding of award event for the 2023 National Literary Awards for Lifetime Achievement, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award at national-level marking the 75th anniversary of National Literary Award. He then mentioned the role of great writers and holding respect-paying events for eminent literati reaching their 37th and appreciated that culture. After the ceremonial procedures, the Union minister and attendees paid respect to the doyen literati and presented cash and items. State Administration

Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donated K10 million and men's wear for 241 males worth K10,700,400, and women's wear for 35 females worth K1,960,000, totalling K12,660,400 for the event. At noon, the Union minister attended the event to present honoraum to literary scholars and experts for the National Literature Selection Committee and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee at the Printing and Publishing Department in Yangon. During the event, the Union minister urged leading literary scholars to focus on youths to lead them to the right way with genuine literature. Afterwards, distinguished literary figures discussed proper ways to develop the literature and the country. — MNA/KTZH

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)

SAC Member reviews agricultural projects in Pyay District

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung inspected agricultural projects in Pyay District yesterday morning, accompanied by Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win.

The SAC member and his team first inspected the irrigation system of a special cotton zone, which uses a natural water wheel powered by Nawin Creek in Wuntinseik Village, Pyay Township. By providing improved seeds and ensuring a sufficient water supply to local cotton farmers, the yield of cotton crops is expected to increase.

They then met cotton farmers in Thitchopin Village, Pyay Township, where they delivered speeches and donated mung bean seeds and fertilizer. The



State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung observes the irrigation system of a special cotton zone, which uses a natural water wheel powered by Nawin Creek in Wuntinseik Village, Pyay Township, yesterday.

team also observed the cotton harvesting process at a cotton demonstration farm and the

successful trial cultivation of high-yielding cotton varieties. They expressed their encour-

agement for the farmers' efforts in ensuring a sufficient water supply for cultivation.

They proceeded to the Farmer Training School in Zee-oak Village, Pyay Township, and attended the opening ceremony of the Farmer Development Training Course 3/2024. During the ceremony, they delivered speeches and donated seeds to farmers from eight townships.

Continuing their visit, the SAC member and officials met peanut and sunflower farmers in Kyunmee Village, Pandaung Township, where they delivered an encouraging speech and provided local farmers with fertilizers. The state government's initiative to distribute high-quality seeds for a 2,000-acre peanut farm in Kyunmee Village resulted in a yield of over 122 baskets per acre last year. — MNA/TRKM

Illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K822 mln on 27 Dec

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat illicit trade are being carried out effectively under the law.

On 27 December, the combined teams impounded an unregistered Nissan AD Van (valued at approximately K9.5 million) at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township. They also seized two kinds of foodstuffs, valued at K23.2 million, without official documentation on the Yangon-Mandalay Up train at Mandalay Railway Station. In addition, a Hino Profia truck (valued at approximately K65 million) was impounded at the Singaing checkpoint in Kyaukse Township, carrying three

kinds of consumer goods worth K9.156 million without official documents.

A Nissan Diesel truck (valued at approximately K50 million) was also seized in Paleik, carrying 17 kinds of industrial materials worth K40.896 million without proper documentation. Moreover, a Chenglong tractor head with a trailer (valued at K51 million) was seized near the detour round in Kyaukse Township, carrying 11 kinds of industrial materials valued at K187.146 million, without official documents. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

Similarly, the combined on-duty teams apprehended a Hino tractor head with a trailer



Confiscated illegal items and vehicle in Mandalay Region.

valued at K70 million heading to Yangon from Hpa-an, carrying two kinds of consumer goods worth K13.964 million, without official documents, at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station. They also seized two kinds of industrial materials,

valued at K33.81 million, without official documents from a container at the Thilawa Port, and industrial materials, valued at K268.908 million, from eight containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was conducted following

Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 14 arrests on 27 December, confiscating illegal goods worth approximately K822 million. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Weekly
Roundup

22 December
Govt designates consecutive public days for 2024-2025

The government has designated select working days between gazetted holidays and public holidays in the 2024 and 2025 calendars as consecutive public days to facilitate easier travel and extended leisure periods for people and government employees.

23 December
Christmas Thanksgiving and Fellowship Dinner organized



Religions need to bring peace and prosperity to society, and religious leaders from respective faiths have to guide their followers towards knowledge, wisdom, and positive mindsets, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Christmas Thanksgiving and Fellowship Dinner organized by Christian Church Associations of Myanmar at St Mary's Cathedral Church in Botahtaung Township of Yangon Region.

Yezin University of Agriculture marks centenary celebration

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing emphasized that priority should be given to rural communities

relying on agriculture for livelihoods, at the ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary celebration of the Yezin University of Agriculture.

24 December
OTS army produces female officers in 11 intakes

It is essential to control subordinates fairly and justly, free from corruption, with bold and decisive decisions, accountability, and responsibility, SAC Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance to the graduate cadets at passing out parade of the 11th Intake of Female Graduate Cadet Course which took place at the Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Hmawby) in Yangon.

25 December
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, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to commission war vessels into service, honouring the 77th Anniversary Tatmadaw (Navy) Day.

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, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to commission Frigate King Thalun into service at Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters in Yangon.

28 December
Message sent to 50th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) of Akha National Day

Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiti Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 50th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) of Akha National Day, emphasizing initiatives must be launched to resolve political issues and cease regional armed conflicts. **Tatmadaw members have to uphold loyalty to State**



Medical corps members have to carry out their duties with genuine compassion and dedication, without discrimination based on gender, said Vice-Senior General Soe Win, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army), in his address at the passing out parade of the 22nd Intake of the Nursing and Paramedical Sciences and the ninth Intake of Female Nursing and Paramedical Sciences of the Military Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences at its parade ground in Yangon. — GNLM/TTA

Traditional Myanmar lacquerware sales soar as tourists flock to Bagan

SALES of traditional Myanmar lacquerware are on the rise as tourists flock to Bagan, according to lacquerware market sources.

Reasons for purchasing these handicrafts include exporting, giving them as gifts, and using them at traditional rituals, while online orders from overseas travellers also increased this year.

"Now, local people buy them for gifts, ritual decorations, uses, exports and some purchase them as they like. There are a lot of tourists to Bagan now. They buy lacquerware products. Both online sales and physical sales this year exceeded those of last

year. Some buy them to carry abroad as personal belongings. We sold more lacquerware this year," said Ko Pyae Phyo Aung, from Pyae Shin Min Lacquerware Trading in Bagan-NyaungU Township.

The use of Myanmar lacquerware has been expanded to modern accessories such as tissue boxes and marriage certificates.

"Lately, lacquerware product creation has been seen in materials such as tissue boxes, wedding certificates, and imitations of modern accessories in decorations, gifts, and personal uses. Thanks to those users, the lacquerware experts are still

making products," he explained.

As it is a handicraft, the industry sees some challenges such as low production, unfulfilled demand, late delivery, and low wages, which discourage the young from entering into this business. — Thit Taw/ZN



Photos showcase handmade lacquerware products made in Bagan – many foreign tourists purchase traditional Myanmar lacquerware crafts. This year, both online and physical sales have exceeded those of last year.

NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister watches broadcasting of Friday Night Live Show

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn in the night of 27 December enjoyed broadcasting of “Melodies in Poem of Manaw Beauty” in Friday Night Live Show, a programme honouring the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day and 78th Anniversary of Union day.

At Studio A of Myanmar Ra-

dio and Television (Yangon), the Union Minister watched “Melodies in Poem of Manaw Beauty” in Friday Night Live Show comprising songs of vocalists Maung Bawm Yein, Ma Yone Yone, Ma Bawm Zone Thang, Ma Seng Sa, Maung Samu Ela, and Maung Lawd Oung. All vocalists then presented a song titled “Union”.



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn cordially greets artistes at Friday Night Live Show programme yesterday.

The Union Minister cordially greeted the artistes who participated in the music entertainment programme and presented cash awards and gifts to them. — MNA/TTA

Resort to develop agrotourism in Hpa-an’s Kawmayan village

A resort project will be developed to promote agrotourism in Kawmayan Village, in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State.

Kawmayan is a village which won the Sustainable Tourism Award (2022) from Southeast Asian countries.

Permission has been granted for the alternative use of agricultural land following the required procedures, to implement a resort project in the village area.

Hpa-an Township is also a tourist destination in Kayin State, frequently visited by both domestic and foreign tourists due to its beautiful natural sceneries, including mountains, forests, and rivers. The approval of hotel projects in Kawmayan, which is gaining popularity among tourists, will benefit the local community.

The villages of Kawma-



This photo showcases an agricultural land with the beauty of mountains in Kayin State.

yan, Htuntpadaing, Hlaingka, and Kawnantha in Hpa-an Township are known for their natural beauty, and lush and green plantations, and are popular with domestic and foreign travellers during the rainy season. The Hlaingka Waterfall in Hlaingka village is also a prominent attraction in the Hpa-an tourism area. — ASH/TMT

Thanbyuzayat Township’s 150th Anniversary celebration underway

THE 150th anniversary of the founding of Thanbyuzayat Township, an ancient town in Mon State, is being celebrated from 27 to 30 December at the park in the downtown area.

To commemorate this milestone, the people of Thanbyuzayat gathered to offer alms to 150 monks, donate rice, erect a stone monument, publish a magazine and calendar, hold sports events, present entertainment performances, and organize literary competitions.

Thanbyuzayat was a prominent town during World War II, where the Death Railway began, and it later became a township head office after Myanmar regained independence. Established in 1874, Thanbyuzayat was designated a township by the State in 1964.

Beside the Mawlamyine-Dawei telegram cable, where the market now stands, there was once a rest house (Zayat) with eight corners on each side, a brick foundation, and a tin roof when the first homes and villages were built around 1900s. The town’s name is derived from the tin roof. — ASH/MKKS

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

Customs tariff to be collected based on online market trading rate

MYANMAR Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) division under the Customs Department announced on 27 December 2024 that Customs tariffs imposed on goods being exported or imported will be collected according to the market online trading rate.

This notification 90/2024 of the Ministry of Planning and Finance stated that Customs Department will amend the weekly exchange rate as per the online trading rate, instead of the rate based on the reference rate of the CBM, while collecting customs tariffs starting from 1 January 2025.

Moreover, the notification revealed that the exchange rate based on the online trading rate will be posted on the Customs Department website and Facebook page weekly.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate is K2,100 against the US dollar and the market online trade rate is K3,588 on 27 December 2024. — NN/KK



Export rice bags being loaded onto the overseas-bound merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

CBM injects significant foreign currencies into markets on 27 Dec

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$4.2 million, over 440,000 yuan and 1.3 million Thai baht on 27 December.

It also sold 500,000 yuan and 4.7 million baht on 26 December and over 320,000 yuan and 900,000 baht on 24 December.

CBM announced on 19 December that it would sell 10 million yuan to importers on foreign exchange trading platforms. It sold 1.36 million yuan and 2.48 million baht on that day.

CBM injected \$30 million and 2.14 million baht on 18 December, \$150,000 and over 810,000 baht on 17 December and \$28 million, one million baht and over 710,000 yuan on 16 December, 340,000 yuan and 400,000 baht on 13 December, \$28.51 million and 600,000 baht on 12 December and 500,000 yuan again on 11 December into the financial market.

CBM announced on 10 December that it would sell \$35 million and 40 million baht through foreign exchange trading platforms. Then, it sold about 900,000 yuan on 10 December, \$15 million, over one million yuan and 200 million



The general view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) office in Yangon.

baht on 6 December, over 1.55 million yuan on 5 December after sales of 1.48 million yuan on 4 December and 1.43 million yuan on 3 December.

Furthermore, on 2 December, CBM injected \$38 million, 1.48 million yuan and 107.46 million baht through online foreign exchange trading platforms.

CBM pumped over \$59 million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November and over \$91 million, over 610 million baht and 9.8 million yuan in October into the financial market.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

MoC sets 2025 vehicle import policy as 2024 oldest model

ACCORDING to Notification 1/2024 released by the Ministry of Commerce, regarding the 2025 vehicle import, 2024 will be the oldest model to be issued an import permit for non-commercial vehicles under Section 13 (B) of the Export and Import Law.

The model year must be 2024 and 2025 for non-commercial vehicles. Public service vehicles such as mini-buses, city buses, express buses and commercial trucks manufactured in 2021 and later can be imported. Moreover, fire trucks and ambulances manufactured in 2016 and later are allowed for import. The oldest model of machinery is set for 2016.

Except for machinery, all import vehicles must be left-hand drive under the 2025 vehicle im-



The battery electric vehicles arriving at Yangon Port.

port policy. Heavy equipment that cannot be driven on public roads such as excavators, bulldozers, wheel loaders, vibratory rollers, clamp loaders, motor graders, road roller compactors, bridge cranes, gantry cranes, tower cranes, pilling machines, crawler drills and cranes, overhead travelling cranes, mobile cranes, rough-terrain cranes, forklifts, boom lifts and asphalt finishers are allowed to be brought into the country as long as they are 15 years old or less. The ministry issues the specified model year for vehicle importation yearly. The existing automobile import policies are not modified, the notification stated, as stated by the Commerce Ministry. — NN/KK

Akha: Myanmar's ethnics showcase Union spirit

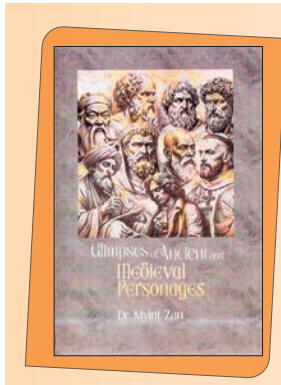
THE Akha National Day, first established in 1975 by the leaders of the Akha ethnic group, has been celebrated annually with unity by Akha communities. Over the years, this event has grown in significance and scale, culminating in its 50th anniversary. This milestone reflects the unity, stability, peace, and prosperity of the Arkha people.

The Akha ethnic group, one of over 130 national races in Myanmar, has coexisted with other national race groups, particularly in eastern Shan State, since the early 11th century AD. Their daily lives are guided by the teachings of the native kind of religion – Akhazangr or Akha Way – Buddhism, and Christianity, fostering cooperation and unity rooted in the Union spirit. These religions and traditions teach them to live peacefully in their regions and associate with other ethnic groups amicably.

The Akha people have played a crucial role in shaping the history of Myanmar, with their contributions marking significant milestones. It is essential for them to continue making valuable contributions to the State. Preserving and protecting their rich history, traditions, customs, and cultural heritage is vital. The Akha people must foster unity, promote pride in their heritage, and work collectively for the progress of their region. Their active participation is crucial to ensuring the continued growth and prosperity of both their community and the broader nation.

As the Akha people have collaborated with and supported the government's path, they have seen improvements in their socioeconomic lives. Therefore, it is crucial for the Akha people to maintain their cooperation with the government, ensuring regional stability and peace while fostering development across various socioeconomic sectors. They should continue to work towards enhancing the benefits for both their region and community.

The Akha people have played a crucial role in shaping the history of Myanmar, with their contributions marking significant milestones. It is essential for them to continue making valuable contributions to the State. Preserving and protecting their rich history, traditions, customs, and cultural heritage is vital. The Akha people must foster unity, promote pride in their heritage, and work collectively for the progress of their region. Their active participation is crucial to ensuring the continued growth and prosperity of both their community and the broader nation.



Book Title	-	Glimpses of Ancient and Medieval Personages
Writer	-	Dr Myint Zan
Publishing House	-	Htee Paung Kar Sar Pay (Mandalay)
Publication Date	-	December 2024
Price	-	K13,000

Glimpses of Ancient and Medieval Personages

DR Myint Zan dedicated the book to his late father orthopaedic surgeon Dr San Baw who passed away in Mandalay 40 years ago in December 1984 and to his late mother physician and author Professor Dr Myint Myint Khin who passed away in Yangon ten years ago in June 2014 and whose 101st birthday was also in December 2024.

The book is a collection of articles Dr Myint Zan wrote in various newspapers, magazines, and journals between 1993 to 2024. It is divided into two parts. Part I deals with 'Ancient Personages'. Snippets or glimpses of the personages are discussed, roughly chronologically. It starts with Lao Tzu, the Chinese sage and about the treatise *Tao Te Ching*. A few of the enigmatic statements in the *Tao* are juxtaposed and brief-

ly compared with a few statements made by Socrates in this preliminary Chapter.

The next three chapters deal with Plato/Socrates. Two 'mischievous' statements made in a Chapter on Lao Tzu and another one on Plato/Socrates can be mentioned. The Delphi oracle (a statue of the ancient Greek oracle which occasionally speaks) as narrated by Plato stated that Socrates was 'the wisest man in Athens'. Referring to Lao Tzu Dr Myint Zan asked: 'Was Socrates the wisest man in ancient China too (or not)?'

Socrates did not write anything during his lifetime. Future generations learned about the dialogues and stories by and about Socrates mainly through the writings of Plato. Dr Myint Zan asks: Was Socrates, in part,

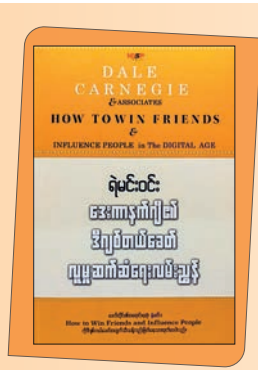
a ventriloquist for Plato?

Comparatively less well-known personages in the ancient period are the Roman Emperor-philosopher Marcus Aurelius and the ancient Buddhist and atheist philosopher Vasubandhu. The author states that Marcus Aurelius' Meditations should be translated in full into Burmese. Dr Myint Zan stated that the 13th-century Catholic theologian Thomas Aquinas's supposed 'proofs' of the existence of God are well-known. More than eight hundred years before Aquinas the Indian Buddhist philosopher Vasubandhu stated his arguments about the non-existence of the Deity. In philosophical circles and in comparative metaphysics Aquinas 'proofs' are more well-known than Vasubandhu's 'dis-proofs'.

Thomas Aquinas, earlier (again by about 800 years), 4th/5th century Catholic philosopher Augustine, and Sufi poet Jalaluddin Rumi (in comparison with the Anglican, English poet George Herbert) are four of the personages discussed in Part II 'Medieval personages'. The article comparing Rumi's and Herbert's two religious poems is the longest in this collection and has a lot of footnotes. Philosophically-bent poetry lovers may benefit from reading it. Another article with footnotes compares the usage and extension of the usage of the Latin word aeterna (eternity) in the writings of Aquinas and 17th-century pantheist philosopher Spinoza.

There are three articles on Augustine, three on Aquinas in Part II of the book; there are three articles relating to Socrates/Plato in Part I. Most of these nine articles contain some comparison with other philosophers of both periods as well as the latter (that is post-ancient and post-medieval) periods.

This collection of essays by Dr Myint Zan, a retired Professor of Law, is informative and well-written. Although it is not limited only to them it is especially recommended for history and poetry enthusiasts as well as philosophical aficionados and comparativists.



Book Title	-	How to Win Friends and Influence People in the Digital Age
Translator	-	Ye Min Win
Publishing House	-	Maha
Publication Date	-	August 2024 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K14,000

Dale Carnegie Ei Digital Khit Luhmu Sethsanyay Lanhnyun

(How to Win Friends and Influence People in the Digital Age by Dale Carnegie)

THIS book sells the best after the Bible. Additionally, this book has been translated into almost all major languages worldwide. In Myanmar, this book was first translated into Myanmar by the late Prime Minister named U Nu under the title, "Meikta Bala Digar". U Nu's translation was first published over 80 years ago. In those days, there was no internet and computers. This book of Mr Carnegie was edited to suit the digital age, and the edited and adapted version was translated into Myanmar by Saya Ye Min Win and published by Maha Sarpaytaik.

Dale Carnegie's original book How to Win Friends and

Influence People was published in 1936 and laid out powerful and timeless principles of human communications that have impacted millions.

It was written when communications were limited to face-to-face, phone and letter interactions. These foundational principles have become even more important in today's digital age, where we are surrounded by constant self-promotion, clever publicity tactics, and "me-ism". Rather than use marketing tactics and technology to replace people fundamentals, we should work on the meaning and intent behind our messages and we can communicate them digitally and mul-

tiply the effect using media. In this new version of How to Win Friends and Influence People in the Digital Age, you will get an overview of ideas from the original book with tips on how to apply them in today's digital age so that you can stand out as a leader and build rich, trusting and lasting relationship.

Three key engagement principles form the foundation of the book, and many of us unknowingly violate them, amplifying the negative impact through digital communication.

Core Principles

- Bury Your Boomerang: Avoid criticizing, condemning, or complaining. Refrain from airing grievances on social

media or via messages; it only backfires.

- Affirm What's Good: Everyone makes mistakes and desires appreciation. Choose to uplift others instead of bringing them down.

- Connect with Core Desires: Influence is about understanding and aligning with others' needs in a mutually beneficial way.

Lasting Impressions

In a digital world full of noise, these six strategies help you stand out:

1. Take Interest in Others' Interests: Genuine interest in others' concerns fosters mutual benefit.
2. Smile: Your voice can convey warmth and friendliness, even in digital communication.
3. Reign with Names: Knowing and using names strengthens relationships.
4. Listen Longer: People want to be heard. Good listening builds trust and connection.
5. Discuss What Matters to Them: Focus on what's important to others rather than pushing your message.
6. Leave Others Better: Building relationships by adding value to others.

မေ့ပါနိုင်

နေ့ရဲ့အလင်း
ညခင်းမှာပျောက်
ဘယ်ရောက်ဘယ်ရွေ့ ရှာမတွေ့၊
ညရဲ့အမှောင်
နေ့ရောင်မှာပျောက်
ဘယ်ရောက်ဘယ်ရွေ့ ရှာမတွေ့၊
နေ့နေ့အလင်း
ညညအမှောင်
စည်းဘောင်မခွဲ
ရင်ထဲသူသာ
ဘယ်ခါမပျောက်
ဘယ်ရောက်ဘယ်ရွေ့ ငါမမေ့။

ချစ်ကိုဖေ

Yet to Forget

By Chit Ko Pe

Day's light dispels night's darkness and vice versa, in fact. None of them gets me restricted with my thoughts to be boundless over my beloved one to reflect, no matter where I stay or trek.

Lovely and Joyous Christmas Day

By Mya Thae (Research)

- Twenty-five December is Christmas Day.
- All the Christians and people are amused to stay.
- Christians go to church early morning, read the bible and donate alms in the church.
- In the afternoon at their houses, they Donate food for lunch.
- In the evening they make fun-fair and Sports for the children.
- They give prizes to the children who are winning.
- They attain merits, and joys from the lovely culture bringing.

Based on what May Thandar said.

နှင်းဆီပွင့်

လယ်တော့ကပြန်
ပန်ချင်တယ်ခရေနူးဆိုလို့
မောင် ခူးကာပေး။

မနက်တုန်းဆီက
ကျောဆုံးကို မောင်မြင်တော့
သူ့ဆံပင် နှင်းဆီပွင့်တွေနှင့်
ဂုဏ်တင့်တယ်လေး။

မင်းသူဝဏ်

Rose Petals

By Minthuwan, Translated by Myint Zan

on your return from the fields
fetch some star flowers for me
so, say my beloved one
and accordingly, it was done
in the morn

I behold my beloved one
her tresses are filled with roses galore
as though on a pedestal
she really looks regal

Composed by Minthuwan on 31 December 1932

Translator's note: Sayagyi Minthuwan (10 February 1909- 15 August 2004) composed this poem on or about 31 December 1932. On the 92nd anniversary almost to the day Sayagyi composed the poem I present my translation. I am aware that there are at least three separate translations of 'Rose Petals' or 'Roses' poem by the late Sayagyi K (U Khin Zaw), the late Sayagyi Mya Zin (Win Pe) and the late Sayamagyi Anna Allott (Daw Khin Khin Chaw). I have not referred to those translations. I have taken a slight poetic / translator's 'licence' or adaptation in my translation. There is no exact word or phrase 'pedestal' or 'regal' in the original vernacular. I have incorporated those words to capture the ambience and projected grandeur of the phrase ဂုဏ်တင့်တယ်လေး in the original poem.

NATIONAL

Entertainment

Wah Wah Win Shwe
ACADEMY Awards recipient Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe will turn 84 years old on 30 December. Her pretty and joyous mood can be seen in her live sales. She donated alms food to 120 monks and hosted a dinner event on her birthday (Myanmar Day).



Kyi Soe Tun
MYANMAR Motion Pictures Organization Chair Director Kyi Soe Tun made an honorary speech at the event commemorating the 120th birthday of Playwright Alinka Kyawswa Dagon Saya Tin held at the Mingun Tipitaka Monastery in Yangon on 26 December. The event was attended by artistes from the literary, music, film, and theatrical worlds.

Tun Tun
VOCAL-IST-CUM-ACTOR Academy Tun Tun made a post on his Facebook expressing gratitude to his fans for making birthday wishes on 24 December. He entertained at the Rangoon Downtown Lifestyle Shopping Festival, organized by Altitude Entertainment Group, alongside Mi Sandi, on 28 December.



Myint Myat
THE premiere show for the 'Zawgani' film was organized at the Thamada Cinema on 26 December. Actor Myint Myat starred in the film with other artistes. Director Ko Zaw (Aryone Oo) directed it and Lucky Seven Film Production produced it. He portrayed the role of 'Min Thike', who does not believe in ghosts and witches. However, it is different from his old movie 'Witch'.

Htet Htet Htun
THE 'Love Your Relatives' movie was screened nationwide on 27 December. Director Mee Pwar directed it, and the cast consists of Tyron, Htet Htet Htun and other artistes. The actress said she is a joker for her friends in her real life, but it is difficult to make fun of fans despite making them cry. — Htun Htun/KTZH



Wyne Su Khine Thein
FAMOUS singer Wyne Su Khine Thein held a food donation with her fans for 700 people at Yangon General Hospital marking her 38th birthday on 24 December. The vocalist will perform at Inya Lake Garden with Phyo Pyae Sone, Eaint Chit and Jewell for the New Year Countdown on 31 December.

CELEBRITY

BRIEF

'Better Half' series to be broadcast in Jan

THE 'Better Half' series about marriage will be broadcast on 16 January 2025 via MRTV4, according to academy Soe Pyae Thazin.

"I tried my best in this movie. Marriage is not perfect even if couples do not cheat on one another. Those who appreciate love should see 'Tay Nu Yin' in this movie," said Academy Soe Pyae Thazin, who portrayed the 'Tay Nu Yin' character.

The 'Bilateral Agreement' novel by novelist Lun Htar Htar (Say Tekkatho) was created into the movie. The A Eternum Creative wrote the script and director Pyae Phyo Naing (PPN) directed it. It will be broadcast via Heplay application and MRTV-4.

The cast is composed of Nat Khat, Nay Lin Shein, Nay Htut, academy Soe Pyae Thazin, Naw Phaw El Htar, Wai Lar Yi and other artistes. — ASH/KTZH



Golden Jubilee Akha National Day held in Kengtung



This photo showcases the celebration of the 50th Golden Jubilee Akha National Day in Kengtung.

THE 50th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) of Akha National Day was celebrated in Kengtung, Shan State (East), yesterday evening at the district sports ground. The ceremony was attended by Brig-Gen Soe Hlaing, Commander of the Triangle Region Command, U Aung Kyi Win, the Shan State Minister for Ethnic Affairs, as well as state, district, and township-level officials, ethnic literature and culture associations, and invitees.

The commander and officials inaugurated the 50th Golden Jubilee Akha National Day, which featured a tour of exhibition halls, a performance of the national anthem, and a speech by the Shan State Minister for Ethnic Affairs. The event concluded with the presentation of cash awards and traditional Akha dances. — MNA/TRKM

Malaysian, 2 Myanmar citizens nabbed for drug distribution in Yangon



Photos reveal offenders seen alongside confiscated drugs and related materials.

TWO Myanmar nationals and a Malaysian national were arrested for drug trafficking in Yangon, with over K278 million worth of psychotropic drugs, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team involving an anti-narcotics police force received information about the distribution and sale of psychotropic drugs and found Hla Oo (also known as Hla Myo) in a Toyota Mark X on Bo Aung Kyaw Road, Ward 8, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, at 10 pm on 22 December. During the

investigation, 238.5 grammes of Happy Water, 27 grammes of ketamine, and 400 stimulant pills were seized from the vehicle.

Further investigation revealed that Myat Thu was arrested on Phoe Sein Road, Tamway Township, at 11 pm on the same day, with 129 grammes of Happy Water. Another raid at his house in Ward 10, Pazundaung Township, led to the seizure of 6.125 kilogrammes of Happy Water, 950 grammes of ketamine, and 240 ecstasy pills.

At 8:30 pm on 23 Decem-

ber, a Malaysian citizen Mr Lee Kok Sun living at Ward 61, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, was arrested. He was found in possession of psychotropic drugs, including 75 grammes of ketamine, 450 ecstasy tablets, 600 Happy-5 tablets, and drug-making equipment, including a grinder, a bag sealing machine, 500 bags, 800 grammes of strawberry-flavoured powder used to mix Happy Water and 700 grammes of orange-flavoured powder.

In total, the seized drugs were valued at K278 million, including 6.4925 kilogrammes of Happy Water, 1.052 kilogrammes of ketamine, 690 ecstasy tablets, 400 stimulant tablets, 600 Happy-5 tablets, and the drug-making devices.

The investigation revealed that the suspects were mixing and distributing psychotropic drugs, selling them to young people at KTVs, bars, clubs, and restaurants in Yangon. Legal action has been taken against them, and the perpetrators of this criminal network have been arrested. The investigation is ongoing. — MNA/TKO

Notice

REHEARSALS for the 77th Independence Day ceremony will be held on 2 January, whereas the flag-hoisting ceremony will be at 4:20 am and the flag saluting and Independence Day Message reading session will be at 7 am on 4 January at People's Square in Yangon. Traffic lanes on Pyay Road will be closed until the conclusion of the ceremony. Therefore, vehicles travelling from north to south along Pyay Road should turn right at the Myaynigon traffic light and proceed to Lower Kyimyindine Road. Vehicles travelling from south to north on Pyay Road should turn to University Avenue, then proceed through Khayaybin Road and Alon Road to reach Lower Kyimyindine Road.

Yangon Region Government

Solar energy generation begins in Yenangyoung

GENERATING of solar energy has been initiated at natural gas station in Yenangyoung on 25 December, according to South-East Asia Gas Pipeline Company Limited (SEAGP).

The solar energy system has a maximum capacity of 170 kilowatts and battery energy storage capacity is 480 kilowatt-hours.

SEAGP said in a statement that there are 283 power cuts at Yenangyoung natural gas distribution station plus frequent voltage fluctuation in 2024, causing huge impacts on the factory operation. Through different solutions, SEAGP considered an alternative approach to supply sufficient electricity for the station's power system by using solar which is abundantly available in Myanmar, it said.

The solar energy system can save the electricity bill but also cover the cost in four years and it can also help reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 374 tonnes a year, it added. — Htun Htun/ZS



This photo shows solar power generation being implemented at the natural gas distribution station in Yenangyoung. PHOTO-SEAOP-SEAGP

Gold Market Rate as of 28 December 2024

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,280,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

ECONOMY

WORLD

Vietnam’s banking sector to post 15% credit growth in 2025

THE credit growth for the Vietnam’s banking sector in 2025 will likely be at 15 per cent, equivalent to the target for 2024 and higher than nominal GDP growth of about 10 per cent, Vietnam News Agency cited experts as saying on Friday.

According to analysts of the Asia Commercial Bank Securities Companies, the real estate market in the country has gradually recovered, while the government has also been promoting public investment. These factors will help stimulate an increase in credit demand, which will support banks’ lending yields in the second half of 2025.

Meanwhile, commercial banks’ pre-tax profits in 2025 are forecast to grow by 14.9 per cent year-on-year. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

US low-income voters fear Trump may slash benefits: report

LOW-INCOME Americans who voted for Donald Trump say they are counting on him to keep their benefits intact even while his Cabinet picks and Republican lawmakers call on him to reduce federal spending, reported The Washington Post on Thursday.

Fifty per cent of voters from families with an income of less than 50,000 US dollars a year cast their ballots for Trump, according to Census data, compared with 48 per cent for Vice-President Kamala Harris. Four years ago, Joe Biden carried those voters by 11 percentage points; Hillary Clinton won them by 12 points in 2016 and Barack Obama by 22 points in 2012.

“Americans of all backgrounds elected President Trump because of his plans to lower costs, end the financial drain of illegal immigrants on our healthcare system, and ensure that our country can continue to care for American citizens who rely on Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security,” said Anna Kelly, a spokeswoman for his transition team. — Xinhua

US dollar’s share in global reserves plunges to 30-year low

THE US dollar’s “weaponization” against countries like Russia and Iran has increasingly fueled the declining luster of the American currency. Nations, particularly in emerging markets, are turning to currencies outside the US sphere of political and economic influence, with international institutions like the BRICS bloc promoting this trend.

The US greenback’s share of global currency reserves hit a three-decade low at the end of the third quarter, according to Sputnik’s analysis of International Monetary Fund (IMF) data.

The decline in the American currency’s share of allocated foreign reserves of central banks and governments has continued for the second quarter in succession, losing 0.85 percentage points in July-September, and 1.8 percentage points over the year as financial flows continue the trend of dedollarization.

US dollar holdings in allocated reserves decreased to 57.39 per cent in the third quarter of 2024, the lowest since 1995. — SPUTNIK

Political turmoil shakes South Korea’s economy

South Korea is facing significant political and economic instability due to the impeachment of both President Yoon Suk Yeol and his successor, acting President Han Duck-soo, following a failed attempt to impose martial law.



South Korea’s ruling People Power Party lawmakers (bottom) argue with National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik (C top) during a parliamentary session. PHOTO: AFP

AFTER South Korea’s president and his replacement were both deposed over a failed bid to impose martial law, deepening political turmoil is threatening the country’s currency and shaking confidence in its economy.

The won, which plunged Friday to its lowest level against the dollar since 2009, has been in near-constant decline since President Yoon Suk Yeol’s attempt to scrap civilian rule in early December. Business and consumer confidence in Asia’s fourth-largest economy have also taken their biggest hit since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to figures released by the Bank of Korea.

Lawmakers impeached Yoon in mid-December on charges of insurrection, and on Friday they impeached his successor, acting president and prime minister Han Duck-soo, arguing that he refused demands to complete Yoon’s removal from office and bring him to justice. That thrust Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok into the additional roles of acting president and prime minister.

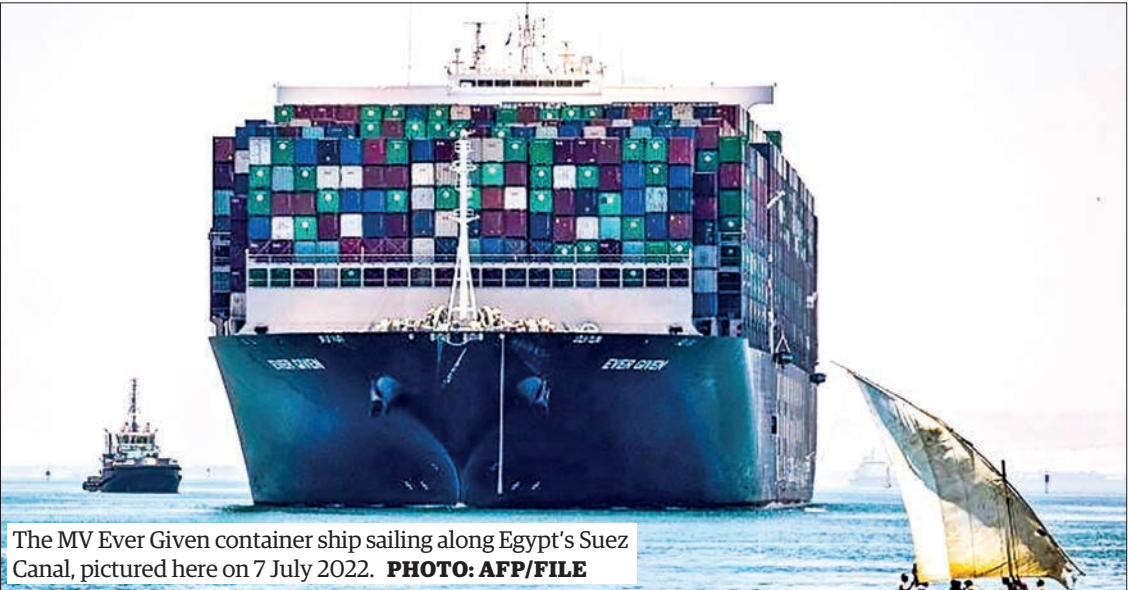
Choi has pledged to do all he can to end “this period of turmoil” and resolve the political crisis gripping the country. — AFP

Suez Canal revenues down over 60% in 2024 amid regional challenges

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said Thursday that the Suez Canal revenues fell more than 60 per cent year-on-year in 2024 amid regional challenges, according to a statement by the Egyptian presidency office.

Egypt lost around US\$ 7 billion of the canal’s revenues in 2024, amid current events in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait region, which negatively impacted the canal’s navigation traffic and the sustainability of world trade, al-Sisi said in a meeting with Osama Rabie, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA).

The Egyptian president instructed the SCA to continue working on the projects of developing the canal, providing the best navigation services, and promoting the canal’s role as an essential pillar for world trade traffic, the statement showed. — Xinhua



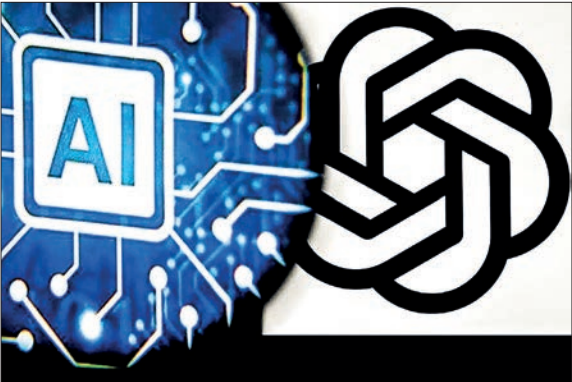
The MV Ever Given container ship sailing along Egypt’s Suez Canal, pictured here on 7 July 2022. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

OpenAI mulls plan for more conventional for-profit business

OPENAI, founded a decade ago as a research organization, is considering a change to the artificial intelligence (AI) company's structure that would create a more conventional money-making corporation alongside a nonprofit arm, reported Bloomberg News on Friday.

The board is evaluating a plan that would turn OpenAI's business into a public benefit corporation, an entity free to pursue income but with the goal of bettering society, while retaining a nonprofit side, according to a blog post. As part of the new structure, the nonprofit arm would hold shares in the money-making entity.

OpenAI's existing for-profit arm is currently controlled by its nonprofit organization. Under the proposal, the business would become a Delaware Public Benefit Corp, or PBC. The nonprofit entity would continue to exist as one of the "best-resourced nonprofits in history" and would then hold a "significant interest" in the for-profit arm, in the form of shares determined by independent financial advisers at a fair valuation, OpenAI's board said. — Xinhua



The board is evaluating a plan that would turn OpenAI's business into a public benefit corporation. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

36 new flat wagons purchased from China arrives in Cambodia

THE second batch of 36 brand-new flat wagons purchased from China has arrived in Cambodia, bringing the total number of delivered flat wagons to the kingdom to 96, the operator of Cambodia's railway said on Saturday.

The Royal Railway Plc, a part of Royal Group, said in a news release that the state-of-the-art wagons arrived at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port on Friday and were successfully unloaded on Saturday morning.

"These wagons, crafted by a leading Chinese manufacturer, are engineered to handle various cargo types, from containers and heavy machinery to construction materials and more," the news release said. "Their addition reinforces Royal Railway's mission to deliver reliable and versatile freight solutions, empowering industries throughout Cambodia and the region," it added. — Xinhua

Over one-third Americans take on debt in holiday spending: survey

AS much as 36 per cent of Americans took on holiday debt this holiday season, up from 34 per cent a year ago, according to the latest holiday debt survey of LendingTree, the nation's online loan marketplace.

Those Americans who racked up balances added US\$1,181 of debt on average, up from \$1,028 in the same period of 2023.

"While the holidays offer a cheerful reprieve, post-spend regret is still rampant," said the survey.

The survey showed that 60 per cent of those who took on debt felt stressed about it and 42 per cent regretted spending as much as they did, with only 44 per cent of



The survey showed that 60 per cent of those who took on debt felt stressed about it and 42 per cent regretted spending as much as they did, with only 44 per cent of them going into debt as planned. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

them going into debt as planned. Among those indebted consumers, 65 per cent used credit cards for purchases and 21 per cent used buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) loans with 19 per cent using personal loans. — Xinhua

Egypt to engage private sector in airports' management, operation

EGYPTIAN Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said Thursday that the government is willing to engage private entities in the management and operation of Egyptian airports, according to a statement issued by the Egyptian cabinet.

Madbouly said the cabinet approved a deal with the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group and the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets, to offer the management and operation of Egyptian airports to the private sector, according to the statement.

On Wednesday, Madbouly discussed with a group of investors and businessmen the role of the private sector through partnership or alliance with the government to promote the civil aviation field by contributing to establishing airline companies and enlarging the country's air fleet, according to a previous statement issued by the cabinet. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2416S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2416S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-12-2024** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (004N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (004N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-12-2024** 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 K. NAVIGATE CO.,LTD

2024: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



14 Jan: Abdication of Margrethe II

In her New Year's Eve address on 31 Decembet 2023, Queen Margrethe II announced that she would abdicate the Danish throne to her eldest son, Frederik X, on 14 January 2024. This marked the first voluntary abdication of a Danish monarch since Eric III in 1146. The date coincided with the 52nd anniversary of Margrethe's reign, which began in 1972 following the death of her father, Frederik IX. On 14 January, Margrethe signed her abdication declaration at Christiansborg Palace. Frederik X was then proclaimed king, with his wife Mary becoming queen and their eldest son Christian named crown prince.

4 Feb : A global icon

Taylor Swift made history at the 2024 Grammy Awards by winning a record-breaking fourth Album of the Year for *Midnights* (2023). This achievement solidified her place as one of the most successful artists of her generation. In addition, Swift dominated the live performance scene with her Eras Tour, which grossed an astounding \$2 billion by its final show in December. The tour became one of the highest-grossing in history, drawing massive crowds and widespread acclaim for its captivating performances. Swift's ongoing success continues to shape the music industry, reinforcing her status as a global icon.

10 March: Academy Award for Best Picture

Oppenheimer, Christopher Nolan's gripping portrayal of J Robert Oppenheimer, won the Academy Award for Best Picture, capping a remarkable awards season. Nolan described the film as the story of the most important person who ever lived. The film chronicles the life of the physicist who led the development of the atomic bomb, forever altering history. With a \$100 million budget, *Oppenheimer* defied recent trends by bringing a grand, old-fashioned blockbuster to the Oscars. Its victory marks a triumphant return for large-scale, thought-provoking films in a category often dominated by smaller, indie productions. The film's success reflects both its artistic and commercial appeal.



Baltimore's Key Bridge

The Biggest News Stories of 2024

13 April : Iranian strikes against Israel

Fighting in the Middle East escalated as Iran launched hundreds of drones and missiles at Israel during the ongoing Israel-Hamas War. While the strike appeared to be strategically designed to fail, it marked the first direct military confrontation between Iran and Israel. The attack intensified regional tensions, with both nations previously engaging through proxy conflicts. Iran's involvement signals a dangerous shift, as the two powers, which have long been at odds, now find themselves in an open military exchange. The escalation adds to the growing instability in the region and complicates efforts for peace and de-escalation.



President Ebrahim Raisi

7 May : Israel's assault on Rafah

Israeli forces have moved into the city of Rafah, located in the southern Gaza Strip, where over half of Gaza's population had sought refuge during the ongoing Israel-Hamas War. This military action comes despite pressure from the United States and international calls to limit civilian casualties. The operation in Rafah is part of Israel's broader offensive, aiming to neutralize Hamas infrastructure in the area. However, the decision to enter Rafah has raised concerns about the safety of civilians, as the densely populated city becomes a focal point in the intensifying conflict between Israeli forces and Hamas fighters.



A Queen Margrethe II

19 May : Raisi's sudden death

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi died suddenly in a helicopter crash, sending shockwaves through the nation. Raisi, a hard-line leader, had been in office since 2021, overseeing a period of political and economic challenges. His unexpected death left a power vacuum in the country. In July, Masoud Pezeshkian, known for his reformist views, was elected as the new president. Pezeshkian's election marked a significant shift in Iran's political landscape, as he is seen as one of the most reform-oriented leaders in decades. His rise to power raised hopes for potential policy changes and a shift towards greater openness.

20 May : Ship that destroyed Baltimore bridge

Nearly two months after colliding with the Francis Scott Key Bridge and killing six highway workers, the cargo ship M/V Dali was successfully refloated and towed back to port. The operation, which took around 21 hours, involved tugboats and coordination between the Coast Guard, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Maryland authorities. The Singapore-flagged vessel had blocked one of the busiest ports in the US since its 26 March accident, when it lost power and struck the bridge.



Taylor Swift

SPORTS



Burmese Youth and Yangon Taungzalap players in action. PHOTO: MFF

MFF U-15 Youth League (Yangon Zone) begins

THE 2024-2025 Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) U-15 Youth League (Yangon Zone), organized by the federation under FIFA's guidance kicked off its first match day on 28 December at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre.

Royal Yangon secured a dominant 7-0 victory in the morning matches over The Honour, while Yangon Focus edged Mingaladon City 2-1. The afternoon games saw Shwepyitha defeat Southern Yangon Star 3-2, and Burmese Youth claimed a 4-2

win against Yangon Taungzalap. This league has a double round-robin format, with 12 teams competing. Participating teams include Royal Yangon, Mingaladon City, Shwepyitha, Burmese Youth, Mar Rein, Golden Light, The Honour, Yangon Focus, Southern Yangon Star, Yangon Taungzalap, Athawady, and Myathida. The second match day continues this evening with Mar Rein facing Athawady and Golden Light competing against Myathida. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

De Minaur wins but Australia crash to Argentina at United Cup

ALEX de Minaur swept past Tomas Martin Etcheverry to win his first match of the season Saturday but it was not enough to prevent Argentina upsetting hosts Australia at the United Cup, while Switzerland beat France.

The world number nine crushed his opponent 6-1, 6-4 to level the tie after teammate Olivia Gadecki crashed to Nadia Podoroska 6-2, 6-4 in the women's singles rubber at Ken Rosewall Arena in Sydney.

But the home side couldn't lift in the deciding mixed doubles with Etcheverry returning to partner Maria Carle and beating Matt Ebden and Ellen Perez 6-2, 6-4.

Despite losing the tie, De Minaur was happy with his early-season form.

"I've been putting some great work in the pre-season," he said. "I felt comfortable with the way I was playing before the

tournament, so I just told myself to back myself and play the type of tennis I wanted to play". Former Olympic gold medallist Belinda Bencic won her first tour-level match since the 2023 US Open to help Switzerland beat France.— AFP



Australia's Alex de Minaur won his first match of the season at the United Cup. PHOTO: AFP

MFF Futsal League II kicks off

THE 2024-2025 MFF Futsal League II made its opener on 28 December at the MFF Futsal Stadium located within the Thuwunna Football Complex in Yangon.

In the opening matches, TG United defeated Black Cross 5-2, while 7 Brother smashed Maryar 6-2. KKY earned a 4-1 victory over the 7 Dragon team and Pacific Sun Far dominated Shwepyitha United with a decisive 10-2 win. In other matches, JZ Yangon edged Letwe Thondara 3-2 and Gold Dream shared points with YCDC Marga Youth after a 2-2 tie.



TG United and Black Cross teams in a thrilling encounter. PHOTO: MFF

The league features 12 teams competing every Saturday and Wednesday. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Brighton must deliver win for suffering fans, Mitoma says

BRIGHTON and Hove Albion must deliver a long-overdue victory for their loyal fans, winger Kaoru Mitoma said Friday following a scoreless draw at home to English Premier League opponents Brentford.

The Japan national football team star was in the thick of things as Brighton dominated the contest but could not convert any of their 24 shots during a stalemate that extended the Seagulls' winless streak to six league matches.

Mitoma, who created chances with his accurate crossing and dribbling into the middle, shot just wide of the mark with a thundering left-footed strike as he reacted quickly to a loose ball late in the first half.

"It means nothing at all to say it was close," Mitoma said. "I think the supporters have really endured a lot. We have to repay their faith".



Japan's Kaoru Mitoma (L) controls the ball for Brighton and Hove Albion during an English Premier League football match against Brentford at the Amex Stadium in Brighton, England, on 27 December 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

While frustrated at being unable to add to his three league goals this season, Mitoma will have another opportunity Monday when Brighton visit Aston Villa during the Premier League's busy end-of-year schedule.

"We have to use this result as a chance to develop and keep moving forward," he said. — Kyodo

Swiss Monney takes maiden World Cup win in Bormio downhill

ALEXIS Monney claimed the first World Cup win of his career on Saturday after downhill success on a Bormio piste which was heavily criticised following Cyprien Sarrazin's harrowing training crash.

Swiss Monney, 24, had never even taken a podium finish before Saturday but clocked one minute, 53.43 seconds in northern Italy, 0.24 sec ahead of his countryman Franjo von Allmen, with Canada's Cameron Alexander finishing third.

"I don't know what to say, I can't find the words, I am just happy, I came to the start with a plan and I stuck to it," said Monney.

Reigning downhill and overall World Cup champion Marco Odermatt still leads the discipline standings despite finishing 0.80 sec off the



Switzerland's Alexis Monney was the surprise winner of Saturday's downhill at Bormio. PHOTO: AFP

pace in fifth. Odermatt also extended his lead at the top of the general standings to 116 points over Henrik Kristoffersen, who did not compete on Saturday. — AFP

2024 : THE YEAR IN REVIEW

**30 May: Donald Trump Convicted**

DONALD TRUMP is found guilty of 34 felony counts related to falsifying business records, becoming the first former US president to be convicted of a crime. The conviction marks a historic moment in American politics, with legal ramifications impacting his public image and future political career. Trump's legal troubles continue to stir national debate about accountability and justice for public figures.

5 June: Stuck in Space

BOEING'S Starliner spacecraft is launched and successfully docks with the International Space Station. However, after equipment malfunctions, NASA determines it unsafe for astronauts to return aboard the spacecraft. The incident raises concerns about the reliability of space travel technology and prompts a reassessment of future missions involving Starliner, as engineers work to resolve the issues.

25 June: Assange Freed

JULIAN ASSANGE, founder of WikiLeaks, pleads guilty to charges of illegally obtaining and disclosing national security information. Following his plea, Assange is released from a British prison and allowed to return to Australia. His freedom follows years of legal battles and international controversy over his role in releasing classified documents that have shaped global politics and diplomacy.

25 June: Over the Moon

CHINA'S CHANG'E 6 lunar probe successfully returns to Earth, carrying the first samples from the far side of the Moon. This groundbreaking achievement marks a significant milestone for China's space programme and scientific exploration. The samples are expected to provide crucial insights into the Moon's geological history, offering new perspectives on the origins of the solar system.

27 June: The Debate

IN the first presidential debate of 2024, US President Joe Biden faces off against Republican challenger Donald Trump. Biden's poor performance during the debate fuels growing concerns about his campaign. The public reaction contributes to his decision to drop out of the race by July, shifting the political landscape and setting the stage for a dramatic election cycle.

5 July: A New British PM

KEIR Starmer, leader of the Labour Party, becomes the new prime minister of the United Kingdom, replacing Rishi Sunak of the Conservative Party. Starmer's victory signals a shift in British politics, as he promises to address the country's pressing issues, including economic challenges and social divisions, in his bid to lead the UK into a new political era.

13 July: Trump Is Injured by Gunman

DURING a campaign event in Butler, Pennsylvania, Donald Trump survives an assassination attempt when a gunman opens fire. Trump is wounded in the ear but continues to rally, despite the attack. The incident raises concerns about political violence in the US and leads to heightened security measures around political events during the remainder of the election season.

26 July: Paris Olympics

THE Olympic Games open in Paris, showcasing some of the world's top athletes. American gymnast Simone Biles and French swimmer Léon Marchand, along with US swimmer Torri Huske, steal the spotlight with their performances. The two-week event is marked by global unity and thrilling athletic achievements, as Paris hosts the games for the first time since 1924.

5 August: Turmoil in Bangladesh

IN the face of mass protests, Bangladesh's long-serving Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina Wazed flees the country, plunging the nation into political chaos. In her absence, Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, assumes the role of interim leader. The unrest highlights deep dissatisfaction with Hasina's leadership and sets the stage for a potential shift in Bangladesh's political future.

26 September: Hurricane Destruction

HURRICANE Helene devastates Florida and western North Carolina, killing over 230 people and causing widespread damage. The storm's destruction is estimated to cost \$200 billion, making it the most expensive hurricane in US history. The storm underscores the increasing intensity of extreme weather events and the growing need for robust disaster response strategies.

1 October: Making History in Mexico

CLAUDIA Sheinbaum is sworn in as Mexico's first female president and the first Jewish person to hold the post. Her election represents a historic milestone for gender equality and diversity in Mexican politics. Sheinbaum pledges to address the country's economic challenges, corruption, and social inequalities as she takes office with a vision for progressive change.

13 October: Another First for SpaceX

SPACE X makes history with the successful launch of Starship, which is captured mid-descent by large metal pincers, known as "chopsticks". This unprecedented manoeuvre marks a major technological breakthrough in space exploration, significantly advancing SpaceX's reusable rocket technology and bringing humanity closer to sustainable, cost-effective space travel for future missions.

29 October: Deadly Flooding in Spain

MASSIVE flooding hits eastern Spain following heavy rains, leading to the deaths of more than 200 people. The flooding causes widespread devastation, displacing thousands and leaving many regions in ruins. Spanish authorities work tirelessly to provide relief and recovery efforts, while the disaster underscores the vulnerability of Mediterranean countries to extreme weather events.

5 November: A Historic US Election

IN a historic US presidential election, Donald Trump defeats Kamala Harris, becoming the first convicted felon elected to the presidency and the second president to serve two nonconsecutive terms. His victory shakes the political landscape, with many questioning the implications of his past legal troubles and what his return to office means for the country.

19 November: Russia-Ukraine War Continues

THE world observes 1,000 days since 24 February, when Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a special military operation in Ukraine, significantly escalating the ongoing conflict between the two nations.

26 November: A Ceasefire

US President Joe Biden announces a ceasefire deal between Hezbollah and Israel, marking a significant diplomatic breakthrough. The agreement is based on UN Resolution 1701, which originally ended the 2006 Lebanon War but was never fully implemented. The ceasefire aims to reduce tensions and prevent further escalation in the ongoing Middle East conflict.

20 December: Resume search for flight MH370

THE Malaysian government has agreed in principle to resume the search for Malaysian Airlines flight MH370, Malaysian Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook said on Friday.

Loke told a press briefing that the cabinet has agreed in principle to accept the proposal from exploration firm Ocean Infinity to proceed with seabed search operations to locate MH370 in a new area estimated at 15,000 square kilometres in the southern Indian Ocean.