

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Plan to invite international observers for upcoming election

The Iranian Ambassador-designate presents credentials to SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the credentials from Dr Nassereddin Heidari, Ambassador-designate of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Myanmar yesterday.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing underscored friendly relations, diplomatic relations and promotion of bilateral trade between Myanmar and Iran.

Ambassador-designate of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Myanmar Dr Nassereddin Heidari presented his Credentials to State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Credentials Hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, they exchanged views on the enhancement of friendly relations between Myanmar and Iran, promotion of diplomatic relations, bilateral trade, and cooperation in science, technology, agriculture, and defence sectors.

Both sides cordially discussed preparations for holding a free and fair election, the need to ensure the rule of law, peace, and stability, and a plan to invite international organizations to observe the electoral process.

Moreover, the discussions focused on the exchange of culture, further promotion of friendly ties and cooperation, and the progress of Myanmar's political landscapes.

Also, present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Director-General U Zaw Tun Oo of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA/TTA

Article

Warmly Welcome to the Newly Appointed Trained Nurses

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

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Efforts underway to generate electricity from LNG power plants

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Moeyungyi Sanctuary welcomes over 20,000 migratory birds of 115 species this winter

BUSINESS

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CBM sells \$25M, 2.8M baht on 6 Jan

NATIONAL

Congratulatory messages from foreign heads of states on 77th Anniversary of Independence Day

Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President of Republic of Nicaragua and Rosario Murillo, Vice-President of Republic of Nicaragua send Congratulatory Messages to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar

ON the occasion of commemorating the 77th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, 4 January, we convey our Fraternal Congratulations to you and the Brotherly People of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

On this special date, we send from our Nicaragua, Always blessed and Always Free, our most sincere wishes of Prosperity, Peace and Well-being, reaffirming our will to continue consolidating the Bonds of Fraternity, Brotherhood and Cooperation that unite our Peoples.

Receive, Brother Prime Minister, our Fraternal and Revolutionary Embrace, with the affection of the Nicaraguan People for the Beloved People of Myanmar.

Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, President of Lao People's Democratic Republic sends a Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the people of the Lao PDR and on my own behalf, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through Your Excellency to the entire people of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 77th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I firmly believe that with our joint efforts, the long-lasting friendly ties and close cooperation between our two countries and peoples will be further strengthened and developed in the years to come for the benefit of our peoples as well as for peace, stability and cooperation for development in the region and the world at large.

On the occasion of New Year 2025, may I wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and greater success in your noble tasks, and the entire people of Myanmar continued prosperity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic sends a Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I wish to convey my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through Excellency to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 77th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am delighted to note that over the past seven decades, the traditional friendly ties and good cooperation existing between our two countries have been developed. I look forward to working closely with Your Excellency in both bilateral and multilateral frameworks to further strengthen and enhance such friendly ties and cooperation between our two countries for the mutual benefit of our two peoples, as well as for peace, stability and development for cooperation in the region and the world at large.

On the occasion of the New Year 2025, I would like to convey my best wishes to Your Excellency for good health, well-being and greater success in leading the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its people to further progress and lasting prosperity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mrs Pany Yathotou, Vice-President of Lao People's Democratic Republic sends a Congratulatory Message to Vice-Senior General Soe Win, State Administration Council Vice-Chairman and Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar

I have great pleasure in extending my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the entire people of Myanmar on the occasion of the 77th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am confident that the good traditional friendly relationship and long-lasting close cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come, both in bilateral and multilateral frameworks for the advancement and prosperity of our two peoples, as well as for the strength of the ASEAN community, the regional and international fora.

On the occasion of the New Year 2025, may I wish Your Excellency good health, well-being and greater success in your noble tasks.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr Thongsavanh Phomvihane, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao People's Democratic Republic sends a Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Republic of Union of Myanmar

ON the auspicious occasion of the 77th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I have the great pleasure of extending my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through Your Excellency to the entire staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am delighted to note that over the past seven decades the traditional friendly ties and good cooperation between our two countries, as well as our two Ministries have been enhanced and strengthened. I strongly believe that such existing good bonds of friendship and cooperation will continue to be enhanced in the years to come and look forward to working closely with Your Excellency in order to bring about tangible benefits to our two countries, peoples, as well as our two Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

On the occasion of the New Year 2025, I would like to extend my best wishes to Your Excellency and all officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for good health, happiness and greater success in your noble tasks.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Daily newspapers
available online**

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



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)

Efforts underway to generate electricity from LNG power plants

EFFORTS are being made to allocate available electricity efficiently and smoothly to users by categorizing it into groups based on time usage in the supply of electricity, said Admiral Tin Aung San.

Chairman of the Electric Power and Energy Development Commission State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister at the Prime Minister Office Admiral Tin Aung San delivered a speech at the Electric Power and Energy Development Commission's meeting 1/2025 at the SAC Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Admiral said that electricity and energy are crucial infrastructures for improving the daily lives of the people and attracting increased domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI).

In the electricity sector, he continued, Myanmar primarily relies on hydropower and natural gas to generate electricity. It is also necessary to expand the use of renewable energy sources beyond current levels.

He noted that as the country immediately needs electricity, efforts are being made to generate electricity from power plants using liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted that the destruction of national grids and substations by acts of sabotage prevent power plants from generating and supplying electricity, causing a decline in natural



The first meeting of the Electric Power and Energy Development Commission in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Commission Chair Admiral Tin Aung San, who is also SAC Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister at the Prime Minister Office.

gas production, maintenance of natural gas pipelines, and the impacts of natural disasters like flooding have led to significant challenges in fully operating power plants and generating electricity.

He disclosed that efforts are being made to allocate available electricity efficiently and smoothly to users by categorizing it into groups based on time usage in the supply of electricity.

In the implementation of development projects, he added that human resources, technology, and investment are crucial factors. Therefore,

it is necessary to invite both domestic and foreign investments and technologies, while creating frameworks that can attract and protect investors. As such, it is important to review and evaluate relevant laws, policies, and procedures.

He urged relevant Union ministers and experts to recommend the generation of electricity from the most appropriate location for building low embankments among four prioritized venues out of 16 in the Ayeyawady Region.

He stressed that all meeting participants have to discuss the potential for the con-

struction of new buildings to generate electricity from solar energy to be fed to the national grid with more steps to release laws and notifications.

All attendees were urged to discuss the energy sector to implement upgrades for onshore and offshore oil fields, enhance existing fields, and improve processes for oil refining operations.

Vice-Chairman 1 Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun and Vice-Chairman 2 Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin reported on measures being taken to generate electric power and energy,

risks in the work process and plans.

Members of the commission Union ministers also discussed the participation of relevant ministries in the development of electric power and energy sectors.

Chief ministers from regions and states explained the generation and supply of electricity and energy in their plans and future tasks.

The meeting was also attended by the president of UMFCCI and an official from the Myanmar Engineering Council. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

National Prosperity: Building a Peaceful and Stable Future for All

NATIONAL prosperity involves creating a peaceful and stable country where citizens can live, learn, and work with confidence under the rule of law.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Union government meeting 4/2024 on 22 April 2024)

DPM MoFA Union Minister addresses Myanmar diplomatic staff on overseas assignments

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe met diplomatic staff assigned to Myanmar embassies, permanent missions, and consulate-general abroad yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo and U Ko Ko Kyaw, the permanent secretary, directors-general, deputy directors-general, and officials designated for overseas postings.

During the session, officials introduced the countries where they had previously served and their upcoming duty locations.

In his guidance, the Union minister underscored the importance of loyalty to the nation and people, urging diplomats to possess the qualification and reasoning



The meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Than Swe and diplomatic personnel on overseas assignments in Progress yesterday.

skills to empower themselves. He also called for efforts to be good diplomats in

serving duties, and to study the history of the countries where they are going to

assigned in advance in order that they can perform duty perfectly.

He continued that the diplomats should have continuous insights into the changing world, perform duty for the country's interests and strengthen bilateral ties. They should also learn the good points of other countries and take lessons from their weaknesses. Being diplomats, they should have perfect negotiation skills and awareness of rules, and should not misuse their authority. He then mentioned the honorary titles and medals conferred by the government to those who work hard in serving duties.

He highlighted the vital skills of diplomats, including language proficiency, and urged them to strive for unity. — MNA/KTZH

Iranian Ambassador calls on DPM MoFA Union Minister



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe receives the Iranian ambassador yesterday.

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Nassereddin Heidari, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok yesterday at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on strengthening the existing bilateral relations between Myanmar and Iran, mutually beneficial cooperation including trade and investment sectors, and enhancing collaboration in the regional and international arenas. — MNA

Myanmar, Thai War Veterans Organizations discuss bilateral ties

CHAIRMAN Lt-Gen Sein Win (Rtd) of the Central Executive Committee of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization received the Thai delegation led by Director-General of the War Veterans Organization of Thailand (WVO) General Detnit Luangngamkum yesterday.

During the meeting, the two sides openly discussed the activities of My-

anmar War Veterans Organization, potential cooperation between the two organizations and the signing of MoU.

Also present at the meeting were central executive committee members of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, the War Veterans Organization of Thailand and relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH



The commemorative group picture taken during the meeting between two war veterans organizations of Myanmar and Thailand.

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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.

Notification 1/2025

Continued from yesterday

Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika title

1. Bhaddanta Indobhasa Bhivamsa, Maha Gandhayon Monastery, Hsinswepuk Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region
2. Bhaddanta Tikkha, Taungsalin Taikthit, Bawanahtana Monastery, Pyigy Myetshin Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
3. Bhaddanta Sumangala Bhivamsa, Mongthauk Pahtama Buddhism Learning Centre, Mongthauk Village, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State
4. Bhaddanta Kovida, Myoma Dhammayeiktha Monastery, Ward 3, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region
5. Bhaddanta Pannasami, Sasana Hitayama Pakhan Monastery, East Ward, Pantanaw, Ayeyawady Region
6. Bhaddanta Suriya, Dhamma Winaya Pahtamabyan Taikthitkyauung Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 9, Pyapon, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient abroad

7. Samdech Parel Maha Thumedadipati Kitti Uddesapanditanunneik, Wat Padumavativajavararama (Wat Botumvatey), Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja title

1. Bhaddanta Tissa, Theravada Buddhist Missionary, Kabarankhu Ward, Sumprabum, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Nandaka, Wiwekarama Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State
3. Bhaddanta Sobhita, Mon Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State
4. Bhaddanta Uttama, Monastic Post-Primary School, Taungkalay Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Taungkalay Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State
5. Bhaddanta Kusala, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School (Central), Khawwunlaysan Ward, Tunzang, Chin State
6. Bhaddanta Nandasiri, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Monastic Primary School, Panaw Village, Mindat Township, Chin State
7. Bhaddanta Indavudha, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School (Central), Monastic Post-Primary School, Myoma Ward 1, Kanpetlet, Chin State
8. Bhaddanta Pyinnyavamsa, Yankin Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Yankin Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
9. Bhaddanta Kumarasiri, Zaungkyanpin Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ayethaya Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
10. Bhaddanta Indobhasa, Natpay Monastery, Natpay Village, Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region
11. Bhaddanta Lasana, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Kachinsu Village, Khamti Township, Sagaing Region
12. Dr Bhaddanta Pannayasami, Teikkha Zeyar Monastery, Kin Village, Mingun region, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region
13. Bhaddanta Javana, Monastic Primary School, Sitpyetaik Monastery, Sitpye Village, Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region
14. Bhaddanta Sobhana, Peintaw Monastic Middle School, Peintaw Village, Thayetchaung Township, Taninthayi Region
15. Bhaddanta Acara, Taungthit Monastery, Kyaukmyaung Ward, Thayetchaung, Taninthayi Region
16. Bhaddanta Neminda, Maravijaya Monastery (Shwe Monastery), Dekkhasiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
17. Bhaddanta Pannasami, Shwein Yeiktha Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Saya San Ward, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw
18. Bhaddanta Uttamadhaja, Gainghtauk Monastery, Ywagauk Ward, Pynmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw
19. Bhaddanta Nanabala, Phaya Monastery, Pynpongyi Model Village, Bago Township, Bago Region
20. Bhaddanta Sasana, Dhamma Vihara Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Myothit (C) Ward, Bago, Bago Region
21. Bhaddanta Nanabala, Mogok Vipassana Dhamma Yeiktha Btanch 179, Saddhammayinzi Monastery, Paungtale, Pyay Township, Bago Region
22. Bhaddanta Kodanna, Taikkyauung Pali Tekkatho Monastery, South Zaygyo Ward, Gyobingauk, Bago Region
23. Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara, Monastery Post-Primary School, Minkyauung Pariyatti Patipatti Missionary Monastery, Kyaungsu Ward, Thayawady Township, Bago Region

24. Bhaddanta Pyinnyavamsa, Pyitawtha Buddhism Learning Centre, Pyitawtha Ward, Magway, Magway Region
25. Bhaddanta Panditasara, Mingalathazi Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, Chauk, Magway Region
26. Bhaddanta Vayama, Mawlaik TatU Monastery, Maha Wizitarama Building, Channmyathaya Ward, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region
27. Bhaddanta Nanika, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Monastic Primary School, Yailekway Village, Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region
28. Bhaddanta Vayamikadhaja, Kadoe Mon Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Aukkyin Ward, Shansu Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
29. Bhaddanta Candavamsa, Khemauk Monastery, Khamauk Village, Bilin Township, Mon State
30. Bhaddanta Tejobhasa, Dhammalankara Monastery, Hngetpyawtaw Village, Kyaikto Township, Mon State
31. Bhaddanta Khemacara, Hsinbyukyaung Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Shansu Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
32. Bhaddanta Kundala, Myintha Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Monastic Post-Primary School, Kanthaya Ward, Bilin Township, Mon State
33. Bhaddanta Sobhana, Thamanya-Mogok Meditation Centre, Hsantankyaungthit Monastery, Zaygyo Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
34. Dr Bhaddanta Theinda, State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon), Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
35. Bhaddanta Pyinnyajota, Yemon Phaya Monastery, Ward 9, Kayan, Yangon Region
36. Bhaddanta Varamenda Bhivamsa, Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery, Ward 13, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Region
37. Dr Bhaddanta Pyinnyasiha Bhivamsa, Pyinsa Nikaya Sasana Beikman Monastery, Ward 11, Yankin Township, Yangon Region
38. Bhaddanta Revata, Dhammalankara Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Shwesandaw Ward, Twantay, Yangon Region
39. Dr Bhaddanta Nanavamsa, Eiksathara Bogale Monastery, Kyaukyedwin Ward, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
40. Dr Bhaddanta Nanobhasa, Pariyatti Sasana Gonyi Monastery, Laydauntkan Sanpya Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region
41. Bhaddanta Ghosita, Anandagonyi Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Sawbwagyigon Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region
42. Bhaddanta Punnavanta, NanU Monastery, Banyadala Ward, Dala Township, Yangon Region
43. Bhaddanta Carana, Dhammarakkhita Monastery, Kathapaung Village, Twantay Township, Yangon Region
44. Dr Bhaddanta Vayama, Shwehtanaung Building, KanU Monastery, Ward 15, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
45. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Sasana Rakkhita Dhamma School, Aungmingala Kyaungwaing, Ward 11, West Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region
46. Dr Bhaddanta Vannissara, Shwemyitta Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Ywathagyi Ward, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Region
47. Bhaddanta Sobhita, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Lakinwe Village, Pekhoh Township, Shan State
48. Bhaddanta Asabha, Monastery Middle School, Yangon Monastery, Myasein Ward, Kyonmangay, Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region
49. Bhaddanta Pyinnyasiha, Aletawya Monastery, Ward 8, Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region
50. Bhaddanta Jatila, Monastic Primary School, Seiktathukha Monastery, Ward 5, Kyaiklat, Ayeyawady Region
51. Bhaddanta Visuta Bhivamsa, Maha Maggin Monastery, Wataw Village, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region
52. Bhaddanta Pyinnyajota, Myoyoe Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, Athok, Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Region
53. Bhaddanta Suropati, Pariyatti Swan-ah Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient Sayadaw abroad

54. Bhaddanta Sujanita, Myanmar Shwe Monastery, Lumbini Park, Nepal

Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja title

1. Bhaddanta Pyinnyavara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School (Central), Myoma Ward 3, Machanbaw, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Candanalankara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School (Central), Monastic Primary School, Mudeng Ward, Tanai, Kachin State
3. Bhaddanta Kolita, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Kaunghmulon Village, Machanbaw Township, Kachin State
4. Bhaddanta Sihananda, Shwe Monastery, Shansu Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State

To be continued

NATIONAL

Notification 2/2025

Continued from yesterday

Excellent Performance Award in Social Field (Third Class)

94. Daw Myat Htoo	Deputy Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
95. Daw Pasu Tha	Deputy Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
96. Daw Naw Hse Hto	Deputy Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
97. U Tun Tun Naing	Junior Clerk	Ministry of Home Affairs
98. U Win Ko Htwe	Junior Clerk	Ministry of Home Affairs
99. U Hsan Htoo Win	Junior Clerk	Ministry of Home Affairs
100. U Aung Zaw Win	Junior Clerk	Ministry of Home Affairs
101. U Tun Tun Oo	Junior Clerk	Ministry of Home Affairs
102. Ma 22535	Fire Sergeant	Fire Services Department
103. U Myo Naing Win	Win Hlaing Htay Surveyor 4	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
104. U Zaw Min Maung	Assistant Immigration Officer	Ministry of Immigration and Population
105. U San Tun Win	Assistant Immigration Officer	Ministry of Immigration and Population
106. Daw Hnin Ei Wai	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
107. U Tin Thu Aung	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
108. Daw Theint Theint Win	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
109. Daw May Thu Tun	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
110. Daw Ei Wai Wai Soe	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
111. Daw Mie Mie Zin Kyaw	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
112. Daw Thaphi	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
113. Daw Zin Mar Win	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
114. Daw Mya Pwint Mon Chit	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
115. Daw Nang Win Pearl Thwe	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
116. Daw Ei Ei Phu	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
117. Daw Hnin Htet Htet Aye	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
118. Daw Naw Hninzi Phaw	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
119. Daw Margaret	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
120. Daw Nang Moe Moe Oo	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
121. Daw Pyone Pyone Yi	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
122. Daw Thi Thi Aung	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
123. U Saw Tar Gay Gay	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
124. Daw Malasa	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
125. Daw Thazin Wai	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
126. Daw Mi Moe Thida Tun	Primary Assistant Teacher	Ministry of Education
127. U Tun Lin Kyaw	General Worker	Ministry of Health
128. Daw Naw Moe Moe Win	Peon	Ministry of Education
129. Ashin Javana (a) U Hsan Tun	Blood donor	Yangon Region
130. Bhaddanta Sumana	Blood donor	Shan State
131. U Zaw Win	Blood donor	Mandalay Region
132. U Sai Kyaw Kyaw	Blood donor	Yangon Region
133. U Tun Tun Aung	Blood donor	Yangon Region
134. U Kyaw Moe Hlaing	Blood donor	Yangon Region
135. U Kyaw Thu	Blood donor	Yangon Region
136. Daw Khin Mar Wai	Blood donor	Yangon Region
137. U Than Aung Moe	Blood donor	Yangon Region

Excellent Performance Medals in Business

Excellent Performance Medals in Agricultural Business (Third Class)

1. Daw Aye Mie Mie Soe	Director	Ministry of Agriculture,
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2. U Hlwan Moe Zaw	Director	Livestock and Irrigation Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
3. U Nyunt Win	Director	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
4. Dr Hlaing Min Oo	Director	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
5. Dr Myo Kyaw Thu	Deputy Director	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
6. Dr Ni Ni Tint	Senior Researcher	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
7. Dr Mar Mar Win	Senior Researcher	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
8. Dr Ohnma Khin	Senior Researcher	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
9. Dr Win Win Nwe	Senior Researcher	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
10. Dr Khin Nyein Chan	Senior Researcher	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
11. Daw San San Myaing	Assistant Director	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
12. Dr Sanda Moe	Research Officer	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
13. U Win Kyaw	Assistant Research Officer	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Excellent Performance Medals in Industrial Business (Third Class)

1. U Ye Lin	Assistant Factory Manager	Ministry of Industry
2. U Tin Maung Lin	Deputy Assistant Director	Ministry of Energy
3. U Nan Aung	Head of Workshop (Admin)	Ministry of Energy
4. U Kyaw Zaw Win	Head of Branch (Admin)	Ministry of Energy
5. U Thaw Ni Zaw	Head of Branch (Admin)	Ministry of Industry
6. U Yan Aung	Head of Section	Ministry of Industry
7. U Aung Thet Oo	Head of Section	Ministry of Industry
8. Daw Moh Moh Aung	Head of Section	Ministry of Industry

Excellent Performance Medals in Service Business (Second Class)

1. U Htay Lwin	Senior Engineer (Pipeline)	Ministry of Energy
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Excellent Performance Medals in Service Business (Third Class)

1. U Myo Khaing Oo	Director	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
2. U Lay Naing	Director	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
3. U Myo Thant	Senior Engineer (Transport/Mechanic)	Ministry of Energy
4. U Thein Htay	Head of Workshop (Admin)	Ministry of Energy
5. U Aung Myint Tun	Head of Workshop (Production)	Ministry of Energy
6. U Hla Oo	Head of Workshop (Production)	Ministry of Energy
7. U Aye Lwin	Head of Workshop (Production)	Ministry of Energy
8. U Pe Than Lwin	Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
9. U Hein Lin San	Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
10. U Tin Htay Aung	Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
11. U Aung Bo	Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
12. Daw Than Than Nwe	Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
13. U Kyaw Thu	Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
14. U Thet Maung Oo	Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
15. U Aye Ko Zan	Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
16. U Myint Tun Aung	Assistant Engineer	Ministry of Energy
17. U Tin Maung Shwe	Assistant Engineer	Ministry of Energy
18. U Htoo Eain Lwin	Assistant Engineer	Ministry of Energy
19. U Thura Maung	Assistant Engineer	Ministry of Energy
20. U Soe Moe Aung	Assistant Engineer	Ministry of Energy
21. U Htet Kaung	Assistant Manager	Ministry of Energy
22. U Naing Myo Lwin	Head of Branch (Production)	Ministry of Energy
23. U Tin Htwe	Head of Branch (Production)	Ministry of Energy
24. U Aye Min Naing	Head of Branch (Admin)	Ministry of Energy
25. U Zaw Min Oo	Electrician 1	Ministry of Electric Power
26. U Ye Zaw Tun	Electrician 1	Ministry of Electric Power
27. U Aung Myint Soe	Electrician 1	Ministry of Electric Power

To be continued

NATIONAL

Moeyungyi Sanctuary welcomes over 20,000 migratory birds of 115 species this winter

OVER 20,000 migratory birds of 115 bird species are taking shelter at Moeyungyi Lake, the Ramsar Site, in Bago Region, according to the warden of Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary.

This winter, over 3,700 water birds of 30 migratory bird species are residing at Moeyungyi Lake in Bago Region. This year, the water level of lake is high, and it is over five feet in depth of minimum, and over 10 feet in depth of maximum. Therefore, the arrival of migratory birds is lower than last year, and the officials expect high arrival by the end of this month.

A migratory birds and water birds including black-headed ibis, northern pintail, garganey, Eurasian coot, red-wattled lapwing, grey heron, ruddy shelduck, Pacific golden plover, purple swamphen, sandpiper, river tern and lesser whistling duck and so on, can be seen in the lake and



Photos showcase migratory birds enjoying the Moeyungyi Lake Sanctuary.

surrounding areas of the lake.

“We haven’t seen four migratory species this winter. It might be for high rainfall and rising temperature. We might be able to know the exact bird population by the end of this month. Their grouping style is

strange this year. They come here via central Asian and East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The arrival of migratory birds shows the bountiful food and safety of this region. We have to protect their safety. About 10 rare bird species take shelter here, and



we have found five species this season. We can see them all next month,” said the warden.

The migratory birds start taking shelter in Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary in the last

week of October, and fly to the northern pole in the last week of April.

Wintering and migratory birds migrate and feed in the regions of Indawgyi Lake, Inlay Lake, Moeyungyi Lake, Mainmahla Island, Weththi Lake, Pyu Lake, Paleik Lake, Nantaha Island, Gulf of Mottama, and beaches of Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers.

This winter, the number of migratory birds of four species in Moeyungyi Lake is lesser over 640 birds than last year, the lake is home to over 3,700 birds of 30 migratory bird species, over 8,900 birds of 19 resident species, over 7,500 birds of 66 terrestrial bird species, totalling over 20,000 birds of 115 bird species. It is also home to 120 mammals, 28 amphibians and reptile species, 33 types of insects, 44 fish species and 74 aquatic plants. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Visitors flock to Sea and Lake Garden near Chaungtha

VISITORS flock to the Sea and Lake Garden near Chaungtha Beach in Ayeyawady Region, according to the people who visited the area over the past few days.

The beach is located close to Shwethaungyan town, and visitors to Chaungtha are extending their trip to this new beach.

The garden offers zipline

rides, swimming, mangrove exploration and other attractions with arrangements for views and photos, so it attracts a lot of interest because it offers everything in one place.

There are guesthouses for overnight visitors to relax and enjoy the beauty of the mangrove forest. “It is only 15 minutes away from Chaungtha. You can also go there on

a three-wheeler. We have seen many families visiting the site. It is very crowded on weekends and holidays. When I went there on Sunday, it was quite crowded,” said a person who visited Sea and Lake Garden.

Currently, Chaungtha Beach is busy and alive with tourists and many people who come to rest. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



An aerial drone view of the Sea and Lake Garden.

Collectors turn traders in antiques market

COLLECTORS are becoming buyers and sellers in the antique market, according to various antique dealers.

The antique market has not yet recovered from its previous boom, but hobbyist collectors are trading and there are still some activities in the market.

“People collect out of their hobby and sell them back. Buyers like us can get at-cost prices. The market is not as good as it used to be. Buying and selling is a personal matter. For example, if you buy an item for K20,000, you can have a price of K22,000 or 23,000. The market is running on

its own. Some of them are selling their collected items at a loss. Some collectors have entered the trading industry,” said Ko Wai Yan, an antique dealer in Thingangyun Township.

There are various kinds of products in the antique market, including silver coins, Hintha weights, lamps, and surplus old household accessories.

“The antique market is running at its own pace. Some people trade coins, Hintha weights, and lamps. Some sell old household items. They are running on their own,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON APPLIED RESEARCH IN EDUCATION (2025)
9-10 January, 2025
MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw

OPINION

Take good examples to prevent infectious viruses

A TOTAL of 121 primary school students from Southwest China's Yunnan province are recovering from suspected infections of norovirus, local health authorities said on Friday, 3 January, according to Xinhua news agency. The students, from the Yicheng Experimental School in Lincang City, started to seek medical treatment on Tuesday after showing symptoms including abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting.

The report highlighted that after the infection cases were reported, local health authorities initiated an emergency response to ensure proper treatment. Investigations detected norovirus in vomit, faeces, and environmental samples from the school, but food samples were free of both norovirus and bacteria. Moreover,

Human metapneumovirus is spreading in some Southeast Asian countries.

In Myanmar, roadside food vendors often fail to follow the health guidelines set by local authorities and the Ministry of Health. While inspections occur sporadically, vendors temporarily comply with regulations but don't maintain these standards consistently. Many ingredients, materials, and dyes used in their food are not approved by the Department of Food and Drug Administration. This disregard for health regulations and poor hygiene practices poses a significant risk to public health and the community's socioeconomic stability. Vendors, consumers, and authorities must adhere to health guidelines to prevent the spread of diseases and ensure the safe handling and preservation of food.

According to the health guidelines to prevent norovirus and Human metapneumovirus, people need to carefully wash their hands for at least 20 seconds before eating food and returning from toilets, wear masks, and cover their mouths and noses when sneezing and coughing. Infections and diseases often result from improper storage, processing, and formulation of foods. Consuming nutritious foods is essential for improving public health. Therefore, it is crucial to manage food production, crop harvesting, food storage, distribution, processing, and consumption to ensure they are free from risks, preventing the spread of communicable diseases. In this context, proper food storage and preservation must maintain nutritional value, promoting the health of consumers.

Incidents involving unsafe foods are primarily caused by poor hygiene in food processing, inadequate preservation, and the consumption of expired or spoiled foods. The World Health Organization highlights that harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites, and chemicals in food can lead to over 200 diseases, including diarrhoea and cancer. It also reports that around 1.6 million people worldwide fall ill daily from unsafe food, with about 340 children under five dying each day due to its harmful effects.

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MINISTRY of Health (MOH), Myanmar, laid down two objectives: to enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life and to ensure that every citizen is free from diseases. To do that, the newly appointed trained nurses are one of the main implementing human resources.

The healthcare sector plays a crucial role in the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Nurses are the backbone of this system, providing not only medical care but also emotional support to patients. Nurse means that N It is essential to maintain a healthy work-life balance, seek support when needed, and practise self-care to sustain the energy and compassion you need to care for others.

The Union Minister for Health attended the ceremony of appointment of newly trained nurses as Government Staff on 24 December 2024 at MOH. At the ceremony, the Union Minister mentioned that all of you need to conduct duty reports to your respective areas of responsibility and provide healthcare to the public. You are not fully dressed until you wear a smile, and you must be confident in your quality and competence, as well as you must obey professional ethics. In this ceremony, 1,775 trained nurses were newly appointed.

When newly appointed trained nurses begin their careers, they need to focus on several fundamental principles to guide their practice. The following are some basic principles that are typically emphasized:

- ❖ **Patient-Centred Care**
 - Focus on the individual: Nurses should provide care that respects and responds to

Warmly Welcome to the Newly Appointed Trained Nurses

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



The Union Minister offers an appointment order to a new trained nurse.



The Union Minister addresses an opening speech to Newly Appointed Trained Nurses.

- the preferences, needs, and values of the patients.
- Active listening: Pay attention to what patients say and understand their concerns and desires.
- Involve patients in decision-making: Encourage patients to be involved in their care plans.
- ❖ **Clinical Competence**
 - Develop proficiency: Nurses should maintain up-to-date knowledge of nursing practices, treatment protocols, and nursing skills.
 - Adhere to standards of care: Consistently apply evidence-based practices and hospital policies to ensure high standards of care.
 - Skill development: Regularly engage in training and development to improve technical
- skills, such as taking vital signs, administering medications, and using medical equipment.
- ❖ **Effective Communication and Public Relations**
 - Clear communication with patients and families as well as the public: Nurses should explain medical terms and procedures in simple, understandable language.
 - Team collaboration: Communicate effectively with doctors, other nurses, and healthcare team members to provide coordinated care.
 - Documentation: Accurate and clear documentation of patient care and progress is vital for effective treatment.
- ❖ **Ethical Practice and Professionalism**
 - Confidentiality: Nurses should respect patient confidentiality and maintain privacy in all situations.
 - Respect for dignity: Treat every patient with respect, regardless of their background, beliefs, or health condition.
 - Adherence to ethical principles: Follow the ethical guidelines for nursing practice, such as beneficence (doing good), non-maleficence (not harm), and justice (fairness).
 - Patient Safety
 - Prevent harm: Focus on minimizing patient risks such as falls, infections, and medication errors.
 - Follow protocols: Adhere strictly to safety protocols in areas like infection control, hand hygiene, and safe medication administration.
 - Monitor for complications: Be alert in monitoring for any signs of patient deterioration and report them promptly.
 - ❖ **Leadership and Responsibility**
 - Taking initiative: Even as a newly appointed nurse, demonstrate leadership in situations that require quick decisions and actions.
 - Collaboration: Encourage teamwork and support others in delivering care.
 - Accountability: Be respon-



Taking refreshments together with the Union Minister and Newly Appointed Trained Nurses.

Brain map clarifies neuronal connectivity behind motor function: Study

The motor system is a distributed network, with spinal motor neurons shaping muscle contractions through diverse interneuron networks.

MUSCLE movement is enabled by signals conveyed from the brain to motor neurones; however, these impulses often transit through spinal interneurons before reaching their target. How the brain and this highly diverse group of "switchboard operator" cells are connected is poorly understood.

To address this, researchers at St Jude Children's Research Hospital developed a whole-brain atlas that depicts regions of the brain that transmit direct inputs to V1 interneurons, a kind of cell required for movement. The resulting atlas and associated three-dimensional interactive website give a foundation for learning more about the nervous system's physical landscape and how the brain communicates with the spine. The results were reported today in *Neuron*.



Researchers at St Jude created a whole-brain atlas mapping regions that connect to V1 interneurons. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/VISUAL ART**

"We have known for decades that the motor system is a distributed network, but the ultimate output is through the spinal cord," said corresponding author Jay Bikoff, PhD, St Jude Department of Developmental Neurobiology. "There, you have motor neurons which cause muscle contraction, but the motor neurons don't act in isolation. Their activity is sculpted by networks of molecularly and functionally diverse interneurons."

While huge leaps have been made in understanding how different regions of the brain relate to different facets of motor control, precisely how these regions connect to specific neurons in the spinal cord has been a blind spot in the field. Interneurons are difficult to study, mainly because they come in hundreds of different, intermingled varieties.

"It's akin to untangling a ball of Christmas lights, except it's more challenging given that what we're trying to unravel is the result of over 3 billion years of evolution", said co-first author Anand Kulkarni, PhD.

- and optimize efficiency.
 - Adaptability: Be flexible in adjusting schedules and plans based on the changing needs of patients.
 - ❖ **Cultural Competence**
 - Respect for diversity: Understand and respect patients' cultural, social, and religious differences.
 - Adapt care accordingly: Modify care practices to be culturally sensitive and appropriate for each patient.
 - ❖ **Lifelong Learning and Professional Development**
 - Continuous education: Keep up with developments in healthcare by attending workshops, and seminars, and pursuing further qualifications.
 - Seek feedback: Actively seek constructive feedback from colleagues and mentors to improve your practice.
 - Engage in research activities to improve the quality of care and contribute to the advancement of the nursing profession.
- It is with great joy and anticipation that we welcome the newly appointed trained nurses to our institution. In addition, we warmly welcome all of you to this dynamic and fulfilling field. The journey ahead will undoubtedly be filled with challenges, but it will also be filled with countless moments of joy, personal growth, and the satisfaction of making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for choosing nursing as your profession, and we look forward to working with you as you embark on this incredible journey.
- Once again, welcome, and best wishes for your future in nursing!

NATIONAL

Cybersecurity Law (State Administration Council Law No 1/2025)

Continued from yesterday

Chapter X Cyber misuse

36. Except undertakings under any existing law, actions of harming cyber resources or the functionality of a computer system, without the authorization of the rightful owner or permission holder, constitute cyber misuse: -
- (a) Changing, amending or deleting computer programme or programme or information or their state or quality with attempts of dishonesty
 - (b) The sale of computer programme or programme or information, relocating or transferring or copying them to other locations or other cyber resources or any storage medium from the original locations in a fraudulent manner
 - (c) Obtaining, accessing, or using computer programmes, software, or electronic information in an unauthorized or improper manner
 - (d) Modifying, adding to, deleting, altering, impairing the functionality of, or otherwise changing a computer programme, software, or electronic data in some way
 - (e) Whether it is a computer system, a computer programme, or software, or whether it involves controlling or connecting and controlling electronic information
 - (f) Analyzing computer programme or software or any item of information in an improper manner

Chapter XI

Exposing cybercrimes and preventing cyberattacks

37. Work committees formed by the Steering Committee under this law shall serve the functionalities under the supervision of the Steering Committee as follows: -
- (a) Preventing cybersecurity threats or cyberattacks or cyber misuse
 - (b) Assisting in investigation of cybercrimes for relevant law enforcement bodies and assessing risks of cybercrimes
 - (c) Preventing potential secondary risks that may arise from cyber threats, cyberattacks, or cyber misuse.
 - (d) Evaluating the likelihood and potential impact of cyber threats, cyberattacks, or cyber misuse incidents
 - (e) Monitoring and assessing the strengths and weaknesses of cybersecurity levels across relevant sectors, and providing recommendations to respective government departments and organizations to enhance cybersecurity levels
 - (f) Identifying, investigating, and taking action against cybersecurity threats, cyberattacks, or cyber misuse
 - (g) Evaluating the services provided by cybersecurity service providers or digital platform service operators
 - (h) Providing technical assistance for the National Digital Laboratory and digital laboratories

To be continued

Human rights awareness-raising talk conducted

UNDER Section 22 (a) of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, the Commission is dedicated to raising public awareness about human rights through the dissemination of information and public education.

To further enhance the understanding of human rights among the executive members of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Interfaith Friendship Organization (Central), as well as members from Yangon Region, districts, and townships, and to support the organization's goal of promoting cooperation and solidarity in public welfare efforts, a human rights awareness seminar was held at the

Esperado Lake View Hotel in Yangon from 2 pm to 5 pm on 7 January 2025.

The event was attended by Chairman U Paw Lwin Sein of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, along with fellow commissioners, officers, and staff, Chairman U Wunna of the Union of Myanmar Interfaith Friendship Organization (Central), vice-chairpersons, executive members, and 250 other guests.

During the opening ceremony, the MNHRC chairman delivered the keynote address. The chairperson of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Interfaith Friendship Organization (Central) then expressed gratitude for the talk.

Commissioner Dr Than Myint subsequently presented on the fundamental concepts of human rights, exploring their broad interpretations, characteristics, and categories. Commission Office Director U Zaw Lwin Htoo shared insights into the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly focusing on the right to freedom of religion as specified in the Declaration. Additionally, Deputy Director Daw Mi Mi Khaing discussed the establishment and activities of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission. The session concluded with a Q&A and discussion session before wrapping up the seminar. — MNHRC

2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1.117B



Confiscated illegal items at Thilawa Port.

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

On 3 and 6 January, the combined on-duty teams confiscated industrial materials (worth approximately K124 million) without official documents from three containers at the Aisa World Port Terminal container checkpoint, industrial materials (worth K173.18 million) without official documents from four containers at the Thilawa Port, industrial materials (worth approximately K421.68 million) without official documents from nine containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, and two Mitsubishi Fuso trucks (worth approximately K120 million) carrying industrial materials (valued at about K43.72 million) without official documents at the East Dagon Township Dry Port. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 6 January, the on-duty teams seized a Higer

bus and a Toyota HiAce (estimated value of K50 million) carrying foodstuffs, consumer goods and industrial materials (worth K12.82 million) without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The joint teams impounded two vehicles (worth approximately K65 million), carrying industrial materials (worth approximately K25 million) without official documents at the Yadabon bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint, and an Isuzu tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K71 million) carrying industrial materials (worth approximately K11.38 million) without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 24 arrests from 3 to 6 January, confiscating goods worth approximately K1.117 billion. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

Security forces accused of torching village in Yinmabin

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread fake news, claiming that security forces torched the houses in Myothit village of Yinmabin township, Sagaing Region, on 5 January.

According to a security official, security forces conducted security measures in the village and its vicinities to curb

destructive actions of terrorists who launched armed attacks and arson attacks in townships and villages.

Subversive media outlets intentionally circulate false claims and misinformation to intimidate people and mislead the public about security forces carrying out security duties. — MNA/KTZH



CBM sells \$25M, 2.8M baht on 6 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected US\$25 million and 2.8 million Thai baht on 6 January.

It sold over 510,000 yuan on 3 January after sales of \$25 million, over 670,000 yuan and 2.45 million baht on 2 January.

CBM pumped \$144 million, 321 million baht and over 12 million yuan in December 2024, 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



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch).

Gold Market Rate as of 7 January 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,330,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

MoC: Mandatory reasonable market prices for rice sales



Varieties of rice are arranged for sale in the market.

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce stated that reasonable market prices of rice for December were issued and non-compliance with the set prices is subject to legal actions.

The Ministry of Commerce issued reasonable prices for all varieties; K73,000-85,000 per 108-pound bag of non-premium rice (Aemahta, Ngasein, Sinthukha, Ngasein Yakyaw, Kayinma, Yadanatone, Tunpu, GW-11, 747, Theepu, Shweman, and Nankauk, among others), K84,000 per bag of locally consumed rice (Zeeya, Ngwetoe, Minaya, Nankauk, Shweman),

K97,000 to K103,000 to Shwethwe, Hmawby -2, 3, 90-day short matured rice, Manawthukha, Sinthuka, Byaw-

tun, Ayeyapadetha, Ayeyamin produced from Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago regions), K95,000-150,000 to moderate quality rice including Magyanta, Ayeyamin and Ayeyapadetha produced from Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and upper Myanmar regions, and premium Pawsan rice (Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan). The retailers are not entitled to make a profit of more than eight per cent of the set reasonable market prices, the ministry announced.

The ministry determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors; fair profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global

market prices and other commodities prices. There are separate prices for modern trade with consumer packaging at mini-marts and supermarkets.

If individuals have difficulty buying rice, they are urged to contact the Myanmar Rice Federation. The buyers can complain about overpricing to the Consumer Affairs Department and MRF.

MRF warned that overpricing, sales with inaccurate measurement and quality and non-compliance with directives are subjected to fines, taxation and prosecution under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. Thus, rice millers, rice shops, traders and merchants are encouraged to follow the rules. — NN/KK

Myanmar Power & Solar Energy Expo 2025 set for 10-12 Jan

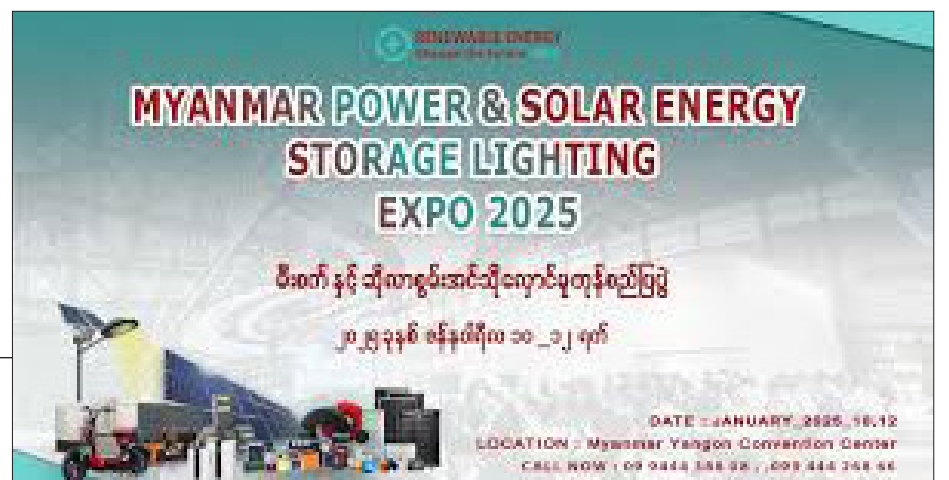
MYANMAR Power and Solar Energy Storage Lighting Expo 2025 will be held at Myanmar Convention Center in Yangon on 10-12 January 2025 from 9 am to 5 pm.

The expo will showcase lithium batteries, inverters, solar panels, solar photovoltaic line DC switches, generators electric bicycles, solar fans, lighting, combined boxes, grid boxes, controllers, junction boxes, material tracking systems, photovoltaic cables, Energy Storage materials, technologies, products and equipment, off-grid inverters; batteries; capacitors; energy storage application

solution; Charging and switching station products; new energy battery vehicles home energy storage systems, solar lights, urban lighting and other lighting products.

More than 80 companies will participate in the expo with 150 booths. — NN/KK

This image reveals an invite to the expo.



NATIONAL

Steel Bailey bridge under installation at Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda

ACCORDING to the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Trustees, a steel Bailey bridge is being installed to provide pilgrims access to the lower golden footprint of the pagoda.

The bridge is 12 feet and eight inches wide and 100 feet long. No 967 Engineer Corps has been installing it since 24 December 2024. As of 2 January 2025, more than 95 per cent of the bridge installation work has been completed and is expected to be finished in the coming days.

This year, the Buddha Puja Festival at the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda will be held for 75 days, from 2 February to 17 April. — ASH/TH



This photo showcases the steel Bailey bridge being installed to provide pilgrims access to the lower golden footprint of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda.

Over 80 Thilawa Housing units for sale



The picture shows apartments of Thilawa Housing on sale.

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development notified that 88 apartment units in five-storey buildings from Thilawa affordable housing complexes developed by the

department under the Ministry of Construction in Yangon Region will be sold this month under a low-interest home loan from the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID).

Those 1,891 people who have deposited more than K3 million as of 31 December 2023 are eligible to register the applicant name through DUHD Sale Housing Facebook Messenger from 9 am to 4 pm on 20-24 January 2025.

They must fill in their name, father's name, national scrutiny card, name of the housing and CHID Bank Down Payment Serial No after observing types of buildings, prices, width of rooms and the location. It will be practised first come, first served. Early birds will be entitled to draw lots.

Drawing lots will be held on 28 January 2025 and housing loans will be granted to the winners who are allowed to buy an apartment unit. — ASH/KK

'Hnyoh' drama series' press conference held

THE press conference for the 'Hnyoh' drama series was held on 6 December at Rangoon Cineplex in the Kanthaya Shopping Mall, located in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region. The series was written by Nya Hmway Pan and produced by the Star Script teams, with Nya Hmway Pan, Mudra and Star Script contributing to the writing and directing. The project was helmed by Director Aung Chan Lu for Mahar Application.

Director Aung Chan Lu shared that although the drama may initially seem like an intense and fiery film, it is actually a family-oriented series about marital life, making it highly relatable and engaging for the audience. He emphasized that the series is a must-watch for those interested in family-themed stories.

The press conference saw notable attendees including Director Aung Chan Lu, Kyaw Htet Aung, Min Arkar, Daung Wai, Aung Lwin Moe, Myat Thurain Kyaw, Zin Zin Zaw Myint, Khin Thazin, Htet Htet Htun, and Aye Thida.

The drama series features actors including Kyaw Htet

Aung, Htun Ko Ko, Banya Bone Pyae, Min Arkar, Zin Zin Zaw Myint, Htet Htet Htun, Khin Thazin, Daung Wai, Ye Yint Si Thu Aung, Aung Lwin Moe, Myat Thurain Kyaw and Aye Thida.

The 'Hnyoh' drama series, consisting of 16 episodes, began airing on Mahar Application starting 1 January. It is released weekly, with new episodes available at 7 pm from Monday to Friday. — ASH/KZL



This image depicts actors and officials attending the 'Hnyoh' drama series' press conference.

'The Obsession' set to premiere in major cinemas on 10 Jan

THE Myanmar film "The Obsession" is set to premiere in major cinemas on 10 January, according to reports.

The storyline for "The Obsession" was written by Akar Soe Oo, with the screenplay crafted by Henry Saw Oo, Akar Soe Oo, and Zeyatu. Directed by Akar Soe Oo for Mee Mee Mway Production, the film explores the horror drama genre.

The plot delves into the unsettling dynamics of a family when imbalances between familial responsibilities and work create mistrust among its members. As suspicion grows within the family, terrifying and nightmarish situations arise. The story follows the transformation of a young woman's faith into doubt, culminating in her horrifying quest for revenge.

The film stars Hlwan Paing, Min Phone Myat, Hmue Hteik Htar, Academy May Myint Mo, Swan Htet Aung, Paing Soe Thu, May Shaing, Di Moe Set, Ye Thu, Soe Moe Kyi, Moe Kham, Khin Pyae Pyae Wint Naing, Cho Ma Di Thwin, Htoo Wint Thanda, Ji Ji, Di La Yaung, Yun Mimi Zaw. Additionally, Academy Award winner Khin Zar Chi Kyaw, and Khin San Win make guest appearances in the production. — ASH/MKKS



The actors and actresses are seen on the film poster.

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Eurozone inflation picks up in December

EUROZONE inflation rose in December as energy prices slightly ticked up, official data showed Tuesday, rebounding for a third straight month but unlikely to stop another interest-rate cut by the European Central Bank.

Consumer prices picked up to 2.4 per cent last month, as predicted by analysts for Bloomberg and financial data firm FactSet, and up from 2.2 per cent in November.

Meanwhile, core inflation — which strips out volatile energy, food, alcohol and tobacco prices and is a key indicator for the ECB — was stable at 2.7 per cent.

The ECB is expected to cut interest rates at the next monetary policy meeting on 30 January, but it will need to tread careful-



Graphic showing change in the inflation rate for the eurozone since 1997. AFP

ly with price pressures still present in the eurozone.

December's rise comes after inflation in the 20-nation single currency area fell to a three-year low of 1.7 per cent in Septem-

ber. Consumer prices have since been inching back up to above the ECB's target of two per cent, the exact figure hit in October.

The higher reading is due to energy prices rising

by 0.1 per cent in December, a significant uptick after a fall of two per cent in November. Meanwhile, food prices remained stable at 2.7 per cent last month. — AFP

Sony-Honda venture debuts Afeela EV from \$89,900 in US

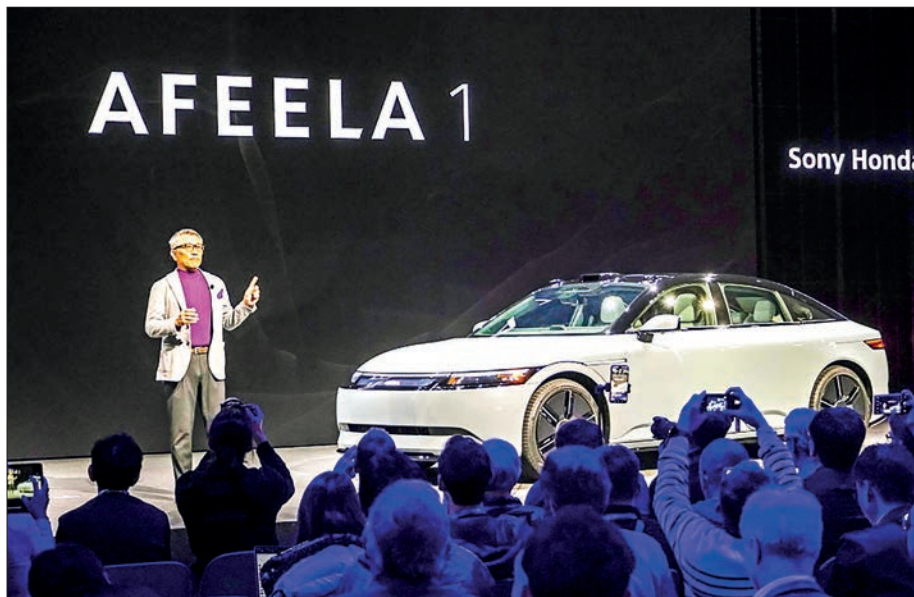


Photo shows the Afeela brand electric vehicle developed by Sony Group Corp and Honda Motor Co joint venture Sony Honda Mobility Inc in Las Vegas on 6 January 2025.

PHOTO: KYODO

SONY Group Corp said Monday its joint venture with Honda Motor Co has started accepting preorders in the United States for its new Afeela brand

electric vehicle, priced from \$89,900, with deliveries scheduled to begin in 2026.

The Sony Honda Mobility Inc four-door sedan,

equipped with a customizable digital display panel between the headlights and dozens of sensors to prevent accidents, is currently available for online

reservations by residents of California.

The announcement was made during a media event ahead of CES 2025, one of the world's biggest technology trade fairs formerly known as the Consumer Electronics Show, which opens Tuesday in Las Vegas.

"We will meet our customers' expectations by providing a safe, secure, and comfortable travel experience," Yasuhide Mizuno, chief executive officer of the Tokyo-based venture, said in a news release.

The Afeela 1 incorporates advanced interactive services powered by generative artificial intelligence through a partnership with US tech giant Microsoft Corp. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

US investment firm KKR mulls sale of major Japan supermarket Seiyu

US-based global investment company Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co is considering selling its stake in major Japanese supermarket operator Seiyu Co, sources close to the matter said Tuesday. Bidding procedures have begun for the sale of shares, with leading domestic retailers such as Aeon Co and investment firms expressing interest in acquiring Seiyu, the sources said, indicating an acceleration of the restructuring of Japan's supermarket industry.

Seiyu operates about 240 stores in Japan. The company was formerly a subsidiary of US retail giant Walmart Inc., but KKR purchased a stake in 2021. Currently, KKR holds 85 per cent of the shares, while Walmart retains 15 per cent. — Kyodo

US factory orders fall in November: data

ORDERS for US manufactured goods fell in November, reversing course after an October increase, said official data on Monday. Manufacturers' new orders totalled US\$586.1 billion in November, down 0.4 per cent from \$588.2 billion in October, according to the Commerce Department. Economists had expected a 0.3 per cent decline in orders.

Orders for durable goods, intended for longer-term use, did worse, declining by 1.2 per cent. Declining orders for ships and boats, some defence equipment and fabricated metal products outweighed gains in orders for photography equipment, metalworking machinery and electric-lighting equipment. Nondurable goods orders grew 0.4 per cent. — Xinhua

Vietnam's 2024 industrial production reports highest growth since 2020

Vietnam's national index of industrial production in 2024 expanded 8.4 per cent year on year, the highest growth since 2020, local media Vneconomy reported Tuesday, citing the country's General Statistics Office. The processing and manufacturing sector went up by 9.6 per cent while the electricity production and distribution sector expanded by 9.5 per cent. The water supply and waste management sector increased by 10.7 per cent. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2408N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2408N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-1-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

6.8-magnitude quake in Xizang kills 126



Rescuers conduct rescue work at a village in Changsuo Township of Dingri County in Xigaze, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, 7 January 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

A total of 126 people have been confirmed dead and 188 others injured after a 6.8-magnitude earthquake jolted southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region on Tuesday morning, toppling thousands of rural houses on the northern slope of the Himalayas.

The earthquake struck at 9:05 am (Beijing Time), with the epicentre located in Tsogo Township,

Dingri County, in the city of Xigaze. There are 27 villages and approximately 6,900 people within a 20-kilometre radius of the epicentre.

A preliminary survey shows 3,609 houses have collapsed, said the city government of Xigaze, adding that 407 trapped people have been rescued and over 30,000 affected residents have been relocated.

The search for trapped victims

is ongoing. Rescuers are also racing against time to set up tents for relocated residents in an area where temperatures are forecast to drop to minus 17 degrees Celsius.

In Tsogo Township at the epicentre and the worst-hit Chamco Township, Xinhua correspondents saw many toppled houses and residents staying in open spaces for safety. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

New York judge rejects Trump's request to delay sentencing in hush money case

A New York judge overseeing US President-elect Donald Trump's hush money case on Monday rejected Trump's motion to delay sentencing set for Friday.

Juan Merchan, justice of the New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan, said in a decision that Trump's motion was mostly "a repetition of the arguments he has raised numerous times in the past". "Therefore, defendant's motion for a stay of these proceedings, including the sentencing hearing scheduled for 10 January 2025, is hereby denied," the decision said. Earlier Monday, Trump's lawyers filed a motion to initiate appellate proceedings based on presidential immunity to challenge Merchan's two recent decisions to uphold his conviction in the hush money case. The commencement of appellate proceedings would mean an automatic stay of further criminal proceedings, argued the lawyers. — Xinhua

First human bird flu death in US reported

A patient in the US state of Louisiana has become the first person dead of bird flu, or H5N1, in the United States, authorities said on Monday.

The Louisiana Department of Health confirmed in a news release that the patient had been hospitalized with the first human case of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The patient was over the age of 65 and was reported to have underlying medical conditions, said the department, adding that the patient contracted H5N1 after exposure to a combination of a non-commercial backyard flock and wild birds. — Xinhua

Powerful tremors shake Nepal's capital Kathmandu: AFP

POWERFUL tremors shook Nepal's capital Kathmandu just before dawn on Tuesday, an AFP reporter said, as a 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck a remote Himalayan region in Tibet in China.

The US Geological Survey said the epicentre of the quake was in China, but buildings shook in Kathmandu, more than 200 kilometres away, with officials saying they were checking for damage.

Areas around Lobuche in Nepal in the high mountains near Mount Everest were also rattled by the tremors and a series of aftershocks.

"It shook quite strongly here, everyone is awake, but we don't know about any damages yet," said government official Jagat Prasad Bhusal in Nepal's Namche region, which lies nearer to Everest.

Nepal lies on a major geological



People gather in an open area following earthquake tremors in Kathmandu, in the early hours on 7 January 2025. PHOTO: AFP

faultline where the Indian tectonic plate pushes up into the Eurasian plate, forming the Himalayas, and earthquakes are a regular occurrence.

In 2015, nearly 9,000 people died and more than 22,000 were injured when a 7.8-magnitude quake struck Nepal, destroying more than half a million homes. — AFP

Malaysia, Singapore announce special economic zone deal

MALAYSIA and Singapore announced an agreement on the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (SEZ) here on Tuesday, with the goal of supporting investment and allowing free movement of goods and people between the two countries.

The agreement was revealed during a visit to Malaysia by Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, who met his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim for the 11th Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat, which began on 6 January and lasted for two days. In a joint press briefing, Anwar stressed that both Malaysia and

Singapore are politically stable, with clear economic policies aimed at attracting investments. He also noted that both governments are selective in ensuring investments align with future demands and priorities. For his part, Wong said the initiative sends a message to investors to consider the complementarities between Johor and Singapore and the many advantages offered by the entire SEZ ecosystem. He said there are many strengths that both sides can harness to enhance the SEZ's value proposition, making it more competitive and attractive for businesses to operate.— Xinhua

SPORTS



AC Milan wins eighth Supercoppa Italiana with comeback derby victory

AC Milan claimed its eighth Supercoppa Italiana title after coming from two goals down to defeat city rival Inter Milan 3-2 on Monday.

Saudi Arabia hosted the competition for a third consecutive season, and for the second straight year, it featured four teams. In the semifinals, Inter Milan beat Atalanta 2-0, courtesy of Denzel Dumfries' brace, while Sergio Conceicao enjoyed a victorious debut as AC Milan head coach in a 2-1 comeback triumph over Juventus.

With Inter losing the league's top scorer Marcus Thuram to injury, coach Simone Inzaghi opted for Mehdi Taremi to partner Lautaro

Martinez up front. Meanwhile, AC Milan's Rafael Leao was fit only for the bench, leaving Christian Pulisic and Alex Jimenez on the wings around centre-forward Alvaro Morata.

Both sides had early chances. Tijjani Reijnders' angled drive hit the side netting, while Federico Dimarco's powerful effort drew a one-handed save from Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan.

Inter broke the deadlock on the stroke of halftime when Lautaro Martinez fired home with a low strike in the box. Then, just seconds into the second half, Taremi latched onto a long ball over the top to double the Nerazzurri's lead.

Milan responded in the

52nd minute as Theo Hernandez curled a stunning free kick past goalkeeper Yann Sommer to cut the deficit. The Rossoneri continued to press and levelled matters in the 80th minute when Theo's delivery from the left set up Christian Pulisic to tuck the ball into the bottom corner.

Milan completed its turnaround in the dying moments through an interplay of substitutes. Pulisic threaded a smart pass to Rafael Leao, who teed up Tammy Abraham for a simple tap-in.

It is AC Milan's first Supercoppa Italiana title since 2016, bringing it level with Inter on eight trophies apiece. Juventus holds the record with nine titles. — Xinhua

Myanmar fighter Thway Lin Htet to fight in ONE Friday Fights 93

THE ONE Friday Fights 93 to be taken place in Thailand on 10 January will feature the bout of Myanmar fighter Thway Lin Htet.

Thway Lin Htet will face Thai fighter Yodkitti Fi-atPathum, and it is his third event after signing with ONE.

He began his association with ONE Championship in 2024 and finished two events- one win and one loss.

In his first match, he won against Thai fighter Jitmuangnon on points but lost to Thai fighter Brazil on points in the second match. Thai fighter Yodkitti began his association with ONE Championship in 2024 and finished two events by a technical knockout in the first rounds of both events. — Shine Htet Zaw/KTZH



Real Madrid cruises into last-16 of Copa del Rey

REAL Madrid sailed into the last 16 of the Copa del Rey with a 5-0 victory away to fourth-tier side Deportivo Minera on Monday.

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti made several changes to his lineup for the match, but his team had little trouble facing a rival that managed just one shot on target all game, compared to Madrid's 21.

Federico Valverde opened

the scoring in the fifth minute, capitalizing on a poor defensive clearance to fire home. Eduardo Camavinga doubled the lead in the 13th minute, heading in after Fran Garcia eluded two defenders to deliver a precise cross, and Arda Guler added a third in the 28th with a long-range effort that took a deflection to deceive home goalkeeper Fran Martinez.

— Xinhua

Jabeur beats Collins to step up comeback ahead of Melbourne

THREE-TIME Grand Slam finalist Ons Jabeur stepped up her comeback ahead of the Australian Open by beating fourth seed Danielle Collins 7-6 (8/6), 6-2 on Tuesday at the Adelaide International.

The 40th-ranked Tunisian wildcard, who last week reached the Brisbane quarterfinals, had a shoulder injury last year that kept her off court after August.

Collins, the 2022 Australian Open runner-up who cancelled a retirement scheduled for the end of 2024, was playing her first WTA match since September.

Jabeur faces Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva in the last 16 and said she relied on her forehand to earn victory.

"It saved me a lot, this was a really good match for me," she said.

"After being injured I was not expecting to win many matches, but time off helped me physically and mentally.

I was a bit tired from years of tennis".

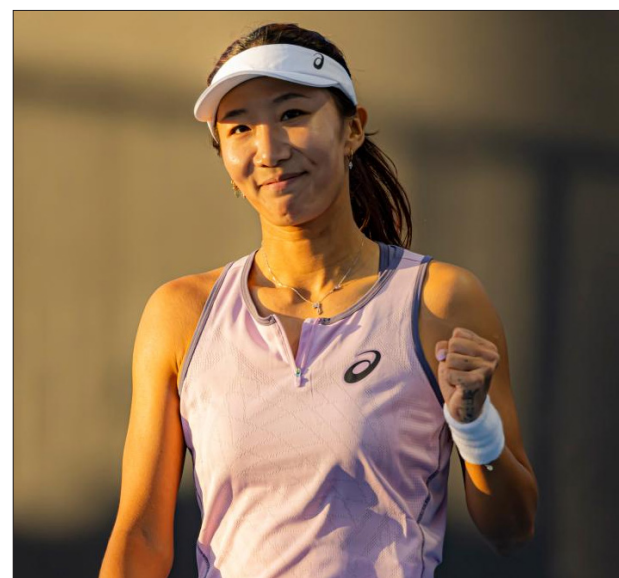
Defending champion Jelena Ostapenko needed a set to get going but kicked up the intensity in a 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 defeat of Magdalena Frech.

The 17th-ranked Latvian, who won Roland Garros in 2017, will meet Madison Keys in the last 16 at the warm-up tournament leading into the first major of the year.

American Keys crushed Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia, ranked four places above her at 16 in the world, 6-2, 6-1.

Ostapenko struggled in a scratchy opening set marred by more than 20 unforced errors against Poland's Frech.

"After the first set I just fought for every point," the 27-year-old said. "I found my game and got better and better". — AFP



Gao Xinyu celebrates after winning the women's singles qualifying round 1 match between Gao Xinyu of China and Anouk Koevermans of the Netherlands at Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, 7 January 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA



Indonesia strengthens global role through BRICS membership, foreign ministry says



(FILES) Handout picture released by the Brazilian Presidency showing Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (L) posing for a picture with Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto before the launch of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty and the first session of the G20 Leaders' Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 18 November 2024. Brazil on 6 January 2025 announced that Indonesia had become a full member of BRICS, a bloc of developing economies increasingly seen as a counterweight to the West. **PHOTO: RICARDO STUCKERT/BRAZILIAN PRESIDENCY/AFP**

INDONESIA welcomes Brazil's announcement as chair of BRICS 2025, which recognizes the Southeast Asian country as a full member, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Tuesday.

"This milestone reflects Indonesia's growing and active role in global affairs and its commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation for a more inclusive and equitable global order," the ministry

said in a statement.

The ministry said Indonesia was actively involved in the BRICS agenda, which includes promoting economic resilience, technology collaboration, and solutions to global concerns, including climate change and public health.

Indonesia's membership in BRICS is a strategic step toward strengthening South-South cooperation and represents

the aspirations of Global South countries in global decision-making processes, the ministry added.

Arsjad Rasjid, chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, saw this a historic moment and an opportunity to expand economic, trade and investment cooperation with other BRICS countries in the face of global competition.

— Xinhua



European Union flags are seen during a face-to-face EU leaders summit at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

EU Commission cancels gas meeting due to absence of Ukrainian officials – Slovak Govt

THE European Commission has cancelled talks on gas transit through Ukraine, which were scheduled for 7 January, due to the decision of the Ukrainian delegation not to participate in the event, the Slovak government said. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said earlier that consultations on the issue of the halted gas transit through Ukraine to Slovakia were to take place in Brussels on 7 January.

"Considering the fact that the Ukrainian side will not participate in the talks, the European Commission has decided to cancel the meeting. However, the European Commission, in cooperation with interested parties, is looking for another date when the meeting could take place," the government said in a statement on Monday. On Wednesday, Russian gas transit via Ukraine stopped, with the expiry of a 2019 contract between Russia's Gazprom and Ukraine's Naftogaz. — SPUTNIK

Iran condemns US official's threat of attacking nuclear facilities

IRAN'S Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei on Monday condemned recent remarks by a White House official about the possibility of the United States hitting Iranian nuclear facilities, calling them "a threat against international peace and security".

He made the remarks at a

weekly press conference in Tehran while reacting to a report published by Axios on Thursday, which revealed that US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan had presented US President Joe Biden with options for a potential US attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, should the Iranians move towards a nuclear weapon before

20 January 2025.

Baghaei said Sullivan's remarks were threats against another country's "peaceful" nuclear facilities. He said that Iran and its people would act decisively and use all available tools to defend their national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and dignity. — Xinhua



Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei attends a press conference in Tehran, Iran, 6 January 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**