

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This drone photo depicts aerial scenes from the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival, which has been held in previous years in Minbu (Sagu) Township in Magway Region.

1,400+ lodgings, stalls built for Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Mann Shwesettaw

The festival, traditionally held annually, will run for 75 days from 2 February to 17 April 2025.

MORE than 1,400 lodgings and food stalls are being constructed to accommodate travellers attending the Mann Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, according to U Aye Ko, Chairman of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The festival, traditionally held annually, will run for 75 days from 2 February to 17 April 2025.

“We are building over 600 lodgings and 800 food stalls to cater for the anticipated influx of visitors from across the country during this year’s festival,” U Aye Ko said. — ASH/MKKS

Ganankyun Mangrove Conservation Forest designated in Mon State



An aerial view of the Ganankyun Mangrove Conservation Forest in Thaton Township.

THE Union Government of Myanmar, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MNREC), has officially designated a 9,284-acre area in Thaton Township, Thaton District, Mon State, as the Ganankyun Mangrove Conservation Forest. This declaration, issued under Notification 1/2025, takes effect on 2 January 2025 (4th waxing day of Pyatho, 1386 ME), under Section 6 Subsection (G) of the Forest Law of 2018.

The Ministry’s initiative aims to ensure the long-term sustainability of **SEE PAGE 10**

OPINION

Welcome preliminary population statistics for the nation

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Special emphasis placed on tourism development

NATIONAL

Promoting Forest Establishment: A Collaborative Effort to Reduce Disaster Risk and Combat Deforestation

- Establishing forests can help reduce disaster risk; therefore, forest plantations should be developed in relevant village-tracts. Officials must collaborate with the community to successfully establish forests nationwide.
- A united effort is needed to prevent deforestation and to promote stewardship with a national spirit.

(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)

National Objectives for 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025

- To strive for the perpetual development of the Union through the Union spirit, patriotic values, a sublime state of mind and a genuine nationalist spirit.
- To encourage collaborative efforts among all ethnic nationals to pursue dialogue for durable peace and to end armed conflicts.
- To collectively advance cooperation amongst all national people, the government, and Tatmadaw to ensure stability, peace and the rule of law.
- To enhance collaborative efforts to ensure nationwide stability and tranquillity, enabling the successful conduct of multiparty democratic general elections.
- To promote equitable development across all regions and states, as well as enhance health, education and job opportunities for ethnic nationals.

Mottos for 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025

- When all ethnic national brethren stand in unity, hand in hand, the Union will firmly stand.
- Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float; Bound together in communion, the heart of the Union.
- United in heart and soul, Marching towards the Union's goal.
- Let's build peace to achieve prosperity.
- Strong in unity, ethnic national brethren ensure the nation's strength.



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

Mr Anura Kumara Dissanayake, President of Sri Lanka sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and on my own behalf, I extend my congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 77th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Our two countries are bound by historical ties going back many centuries. In the post-independence era, we have enjoyed over seven decades of formal diplomatic ties characterized by a multifaceted and robust partnership deeply rooted in Buddhist traditions and culture. The people of our two nations have greatly benefited from our close cultural connections and strong people-to-people ties.

As we celebrate your independence day, I reaffirm my commitment to working closely with you to further strengthen our cooperation and to consolidate our efforts in regional and multilateral fora.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration, and my best wishes for the continued peace and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Mr Vijtha Herath MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism of Nepal sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT is with great pleasure that I extend my warm congratulations to you on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sri Lanka and Myanmar have a bilateral relationship embedded in longstanding Buddhist heritage, a deep history of cultural exchange, and strong people-to-people ties. With over 75 years of diplomatic relations, our areas of bilateral cooperation encompass trade, agriculture, defence, tourism, education, and culture. Our multilateral ties are reflected in our cooperation with the United Nations (UN), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

On the joyous occasion of the 77th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I convey good wishes for the progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration, and my warm wishes for your good health and, personal well-being.

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)



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order 5/2025
10th Waxing of Pyatho 1386 ME
8 January 2025

Retirement from duties allowed

THE State Administration Council has granted U Sai Lone Seng retirement from his duties as a member of the Central Advisory Body of the State Administration Council, due to health conditions, under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
General Secretary

Special emphasis placed on tourism development

MYANMAR is focusing on tourism development to promote the State economy, said General Mya Tun Oo.

Central Committee on National Tourism Development Chairman SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo delivered a speech at the 1/2025 meeting of the Central Committee on National Tourism Development in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking on occasion, the General said the international countries expand their investment in the tourism sector including visa relief, flight expansion, market promotion, exploration of tourism products in tours and holding of events. Therefore, the country focuses on tourism development like other countries to support the State's economic growth, facilitation of local transport and receiving more tourist arrivals.

Regarding the tourism development programmes, the local products, food and souvenirs should be used widely, and the



State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo delivers a speech at the 1/2025 meeting of the Central Committee on National Tourism Development in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

techniques, knowledge, training, workshops and exhibitions should be conducted in regions and states to produce more finished products.

Moreover, the relevant region and state tourism committees follow the guidance of the tourism working committee for offering services of trav-

el guide and sustainability of destinations, cleanliness, local food, ethnic traditional food to be hygienic, and work with the relevant officials and locals.

He then called for making efforts to share the actual situation for travellers to know the safety of travelling in Myanmar in a short time, and express the

unique tourism products and services on the digital platform.

Vice-Chairperson Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine and Secretary Deputy Minister U Phyto Zaw Soe reported on measures regarding the tourism development, current situation and future work plans.

Members of the committee Union ministers, chief ministers from regions and states, deputy ministers and relevant officials discussed the tourism development-related matters.

After hearing the reports, the General made proper instructions and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Deputy PM: Grid integration of solar power surplus requires more legislation



Officials inspect the Thabyaywa Solar Power Plant.

TO be of efficient use of renewable energy that is practised globally, the country needs to ensure that solar systems are featured in new buildings and extra power generation to be supplied to the national grid, said Electric Power and Energy Development Commission Chair, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San during the commission meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 January. In such implementation, they will need to work until legislations are enacted, he added.

In his Magway Region trip, the State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister emphasized the implementation

of solar power generation projects and the construction of low dams to generate hydropower in the Ayeyawady River, he said. He added that of 16 potential locations for hydropower generation in the Ayeyawady River, the SAC Chairman instructed to submit a feasibility study proposal about the ideal one out of four prioritized locations.

He said that electricity and energy demand will continue to rise further in the future and urged the commission members to present their ongoing projects, what difficulties they have been encountering and the future electricity and energy plans. — Htun Htun/ZS

Northern cold winds cause January temperature drop

COLD winds which are forecast to continue to enter will make the weather cooler in January, said meteorologist U Win Naing.

The country felt the hottest summer at the end of 2023 and early 2024 due to the El Nino effect and encountered water-related hazards in the middle and end of 2024 resulting in many losses.

This year, there is a 59 per cent chance for La Nina to happen in January and February and will be neutral in March, April and May, he said on his Facebook page referring to the Climate Prediction Center.

Extreme cold weather occurs in the Himalayas in the

north of Myanmar, Tibet Plateau and Canada in northern America and the northern United States, so there will be no possibility of extreme cold weather happening in Myanmar.

The temperature at night has continuously fallen in January and southern Myanmar — Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region, Mon State, Kayin State and Taninthayi Region. Temperatures have dropped below 20 degrees Celsius in the early morning and in the rest states and regions. The temperature has already declined below 20 degrees Celsius since mid-December 2024. — MT/ZS

Belarusian Foreign Minister arrives in Myanmar

A delegation led by Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, arrived in Yangon at 9:15 pm yesterday by air.

The visiting delegation was warmly welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, Director-General U Zaw Phyo Win from the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Also in attendance were representatives from the Yan-



Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, is seen being welcomed on his arrival at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

gon-based Belarusian Honorary Consulate and officials from the Union of Myanmar

Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). — MNA/KZL

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

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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

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

Notification 1/2025

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja title

5. Bhaddanta Sumana, Monastic Post-Primary School, Tawyakyaung Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State
6. Bhaddanta Mahindapandita, Waizayanta No 2 Monastic Post-Primary School, Sethmuzone Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
7. Bhaddanta Kodanna, Monastic Post-Primary School, Taungphila Taungbila Aungsakka Monastery, Wachet Village, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region
8. Bhaddanta Vepulla, Maha Sabayon Monastery, Kankon Village, Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region
9. Bhaddanta Vicitra, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School (Central), Monastic Primary School, Pawmaing Ward, Khamti, Sagaing Region
10. Bhaddanta Kesava, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Sanpya Village, Lahe Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region
11. Bhaddanta Narapati, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Monastic Post-Primary School, Aungywa Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region
12. Bhaddanta Uttama, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Padumon Ywathit Village, Khamti Township, Sagaing Region
13. Bhaddanta Kesaramala, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Sappalawshaung Village, Lahe Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region
14. Bhaddanta Pannissara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Rannwe Village, Leshi Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region
15. Bhaddanta Indasara, ShwetaungU Youth Development Parahita Home and Monastic Post-Primary School, Maliwan Village, Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region
16. Dr Bhaddanta Pyinnyasiri, Nyein Chan Aung Monastery, Jalankyun Village, Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region
17. Bhaddanta Indacakka, Sipinhaya YwaU Monastery, Kyitaung Village-tract, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
18. Bhaddanta Khemacara, Kyuntetpe Monastery, Kyuntetpe Village-tract, Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
19. Bhaddanta Javana, Santisukha Shwe Myitta Monastery, Doenwe Village, Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
20. Bhaddanta Sujana, Sujanakari Border Region National Race Youth Development Parahita Missionary Monastery, Khitaye Village, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
21. Bhaddanta Nanobhasa, Myogyi Monastery, Myogyi Village, Paungde Township, Bago Region
22. Bhaddanta Nanuttara, Maha Bodhipin Sagaing Monastery, Ward 3, Indagaw, Bago Region
23. Bhaddanta Jeyasena, Dhamma Linkara Monastery, Myodwingyi Ward, Bago, Bago Region
24. Bhaddanta Paduma, Konwainggyi Monastic Primary School, Konwainggyi Village, DaikU Township, Bago Region
25. Bhaddanta Vepulla, Daesunpa Aung Bawdipin Monastic Post-Primary School, Kanmyint Village, Phayagyi, Bago Township, Bago Region
26. Bhaddanta Sumangala, Sumangala Siri Monastery, Ponnasu Ward, Bago, Bago Region
27. Bhaddanta Pyinnyavudha, Waizayanta Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, ShweOoDaung Ward, Monyo, Bago Region
28. Bhaddanta Sopaka, Abbot Training School, Mazin Ward, Bago, Bago Region
29. Bhaddanta Vimala, Shwenyaungpin Monastery, Chaungdaunt Ward, Kyeethe, Shwedaung Township, Bago Region
30. Bhaddanta Dhammasara, Maha Dekkhinarama YwaU Monastery, Kanthit Village, Yesagyo Township, Magway Region
31. Bhaddanta Bakula, Thiri Mingala Monastic Post-Primary School, Nyaunggon Village, Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region
32. Bhaddanta Vasettha, Pyitawaye Monastery, Htannyauktin Village, Mindon Township, Magway Region
33. Bhaddanta Vinaya, Monastic Middle School, Monpinse Monastery, Monpinse Sanpya Village, Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region
34. Bhaddanta Mahinda, InhteikU Sasana Mamaka Gangaw Tahtaung Monastery, InhteikU Village, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region
35. Bhaddanta Rajinda, Saw Mon Hla Pawdawmu Monastic Post-Primary School, Aungpinlal Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
36. Bhaddanta Silavanta, Kyaunghaung Monastery, Yathedaung Village, Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State
37. Bhaddanta Uttamasara, Maha Buddhagawtha Monastery, Thaegon Village, Paung Township, Mon State
38. Bhaddanta Nayaka, Mayantaung Monastery, North Ward, Kyaikto, Mon State
39. Bhaddanta Naninda, Mingala Kandaw Monastic Middle School, Kawhtin Sanpya Village, Kyaikto Township, Mon State
40. Bhaddanta Khemavudha, Chanmyathaya Tawya Monastery, Uttanta Village, Paung Township, Mon State
41. Bhaddanta Nandamala, Yinbyintaw Monastery, Kinmunchaung Village, Kyaikto Township, Mon State
42. Bhaddanta Sundara, Myatheindan Monastery, North Ywagyi Ward, Sittway, Rakhine State
43. Bhaddanta Tikkanana, Pariyatti New Padetha Theikpa Myintzu Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 15, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
44. Bhaddanta Pakata, Myayagon Monastery, Phomyay Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region
45. Bhaddanta Indavudha, Monastic Primary School, Myittawadi Hinthada Parahita Monastery, Malarmyaing Ward 16, Hline Township, Yangon Region
46. Bhaddanta Nandobhasa, Nigyawdayon Monastery, Kungyan Ward, Twantay Township, Yangon Region
47. Bhaddanta Javana, Thiri Mingala KanU Monastery, Rakhineyoe gyi Village, Htantabin Township, Yangon Region
48. Bhaddanta Sumana, Bawa Htuhtaung Pyingatoetaung Maha Bawdi Tawya Monastery, Kanni Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region
49. Bhaddanta Pandita, Kantha Zeyon Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 4, Hmawby Township, Yangon Region
50. Bhaddanta Vanita, Thiri Mingala Monastery, Ward 14, Yankin Township, Yangon Region
51. Dr Bhaddanta Visuddharamsi, Dhamma Theingi Monastery, Kontalabaung Village, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region
52. Bhaddanta Kundala, Taungphila Monastery, Pyinmakan Sanpya Village, Thongwa Township, Yangon Region
53. Bhaddanta Nayaka, Dhammacariya Monastic Post-Primary School, Ward 20, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region
54. Bhaddanta Candobhasa, YwaU Dana Theikdi Monastery, Ward 107, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region
55. Bhaddanta Kusala, Sandayon Monastery, Extended Ward 4, Hmawby Township, Yangon Region
56. Bhaddanta Vimala, Sasana Mamaka Monastic Post-Primary School, Ward 88, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region
57. Bhaddanta Vijaya, Pathein Monastery, Eaindawya Building, Easy Pyay Ward, Dagon Township, Yangon Region
58. Bhaddanta Cithara, Okpo Monastery, Mula Ooyin Building, South Linlun Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region
59. Bhaddanta Vanita, Aungthitsa Monastic Post-Primary School, Paukgon Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region
60. Bhaddanta Pyinnyasiri, Jotikarama Sirizeyon Monastic Primary School, Ward 13, Hline Township, Yangon Region
61. Bhaddanta Kosala, Phayeehaw Tawsakhan Yeiktha Monastery, Bantbwegon Village, Hmawby Township, Yangon Region
62. Dr Bhaddanta Sirikancana, Thiri Mingala Jotaratha Aungbeikman Monastery, Ward 9, Thakayta Township, Yangon Region
63. Bhaddanta Nanda, Shweyamin Nandarama Monastery, West Myohaung Ward, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region
64. Bhaddanta Vayama, Eiksathaya Monastery, East Gyogon Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region
65. Bhaddanta Sucittasara, Maha Sandayon Mogok Yeiktha Monastery, Parami Monastery, Ward 5, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
66. Dr Bhaddanta Vicara, Shwezedi Wizara Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Ward 18, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region
67. Bhaddanta Vipula, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Sengkun Village, Pekhoun Township, Shan State
68. Bhaddanta Koliya, Maha Myatmuni Phayagyi Monastery, Ward 4, Tanyang Town, Shan State
69. Bhaddanta Siridhamma, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School (Central), Peinsang Ward, Pongping, Shan State
70. Bhaddanta Sobhana, Hmansi Monastery, Ward 2, Thabaung, Ayeyawady Region
71. Bhaddanta Pyinnyacakka, Bodhimyaing Monastery, Lepaw Ward, Eainme, Ayeyawady Region
72. Bhaddanta Tejavanta, Minhse Monastery, Minhse Village, Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region
73. Bhaddanta Dhammasami, Thantayon (Hsar) Monastery, Ward 3, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region
74. Bhaddanta Adiccavamsa, Maniyada Monastic Post-Primary School, New Ward 2, Pantanaw, Ayeyawady Region
75. Bhaddanta Sumangala, Shwehintha Lepaw Buddhism Learning Centre, Central Ward, Pantanaw, Ayeyawady Region
76. Bhaddanta Candima, Nigyawdayon Monastic Post-Primary School, Nyaungkyoe Village, Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region
77. Bhaddanta Indacariya, Maggin Yeiktha Monastic Primary School, Ward 7, Bogale, Ayeyawady Region
78. Bhaddanta Pyinnyasiri, Yadanabonsan Monastery, Phayangu Village, Thaboung Township, Ayeyawady Region

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Notification 2/2025

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

Excellent Performance Medals in Service Business (Third Class)

28. Daw Hnin Hayman	Deputy Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
29. U Zwe Marn Shein	Deputy Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
30. U Kyaw Win Soe	Deputy Staff Officer (Mechanical/Electrical)	Ministry of Electric Power
31. U Kyaw Swa	Electrician 2	Ministry of Electric Power
32. U Lum Tun Lin	Electrician 2	Ministry of Electric Power
33. U Min Han Ko	Electrician 3	Ministry of Electric Power
34. U Htin Lin Zaw	Electrician 3	Ministry of Electric Power
35. U Sai Than Shwe	Electrician 3	Ministry of Electric Power
36. U Than Naing	Electrician 3	Ministry of Electric Power
37. Daw Khin Khin Myint	Senior Clerk	Ministry of Electric Power
38. Daw Than Than Kywe	Accountant 3	Ministry of Electric Power
39. U Toe Naing	Vessel Section Leader 4	Ministry of Transport and Communications
40. U Pho Zaw	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
41. U Zaw Lin Tun	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
42. U Kyaw Min Tun	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
43. U Sai Zaw Shwe	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
44. U Soe Moe Kyaw	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
45. U Kyaw Maung Maung Kyaw	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
46. Daw Hnin Wai Lwin	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
47. U April Pyae Sone	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
48. U Soe Min Htaik	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
49. U Zaw Lin Aung	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
50. U Aung Kyaw Htoo	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
51. U Nyein Win Tun	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
52. U Thein Than Htay	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
53. U Win Yu Aung	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
54. U Chit Thet Aung	Electrician 4	Ministry of Electric Power
55. Daw Thanda Htay	Deputy Assistant Computer Operator	Ministry of Electric Power
56. Daw Zin Thida Tun	Storekeeper 4	Ministry of Electric Power
57. U Kyaw Naing Soe	Storekeeper 4	Ministry of Electric Power
58. U Myint Soe	Navigator 1	Ministry of Transport and Communications
59. U Pyae Sone Aung	Coxswain 5	Ministry of Transport and Communications
60. U Aung Myo Zaw	Electrician 5	Ministry of Electric Power
61. U Myo Kyaw	Electrician 5	Ministry of Electric Power
62. U Sai Ko Ko	Electrician 5	Ministry of Electric Power
63. U Aye Min Oo	Electrician 5	Ministry of Electric Power
64. U Wai Phyto Naing	Electrician 5	Ministry of Electric Power
65. U Win Naing	Helper Sailor	Ministry of Transport and Communications
66. U Tun Tun Thein	Helper Sailor	Ministry of Transport and Communications
67. U Kyaw Hsan Than	Worker	Ministry of Electric Power
68. Daw Zin Myo Thu	Worker	Ministry of Electric Power
69. U Tun Lin Win	Worker	Ministry of Electric Power
70. U Tint Naing Win	Worker	Ministry of Electric Power
71. U Aung Nyunt	Worker	Ministry of Electric Power
72. U Nyi Nyi Soe Wai	Worker	Ministry of Electric Power
73. U Cho Win	Deputy Factory Manager (Admin) (Retd)	Ministry of Energy
74. U Bo Ni	Deputy Factory Manager (Admin) (Retd)	Ministry of Energy
75. U San Lin	Assistant Factory Manager (Production) (Retd)	Ministry of Energy
76. Daw Sein Win	Head of Workshop (Item) (Retd)	Ministry of Energy
77. U Salai Tun Thein	Head of Workshop (Production) (Retd)	Ministry of Energy

Medals for outstanding in professions

Excellent Performance Medals in Arts (First Class)

1. Dr Bhaddanta Paninda	Chairman, Myanmar Calendar Advisory Board	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
2. Dr Aung Chit	Vice-Chairman 1 Myanmar Calendar Advisory Board	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
3. Dr Pyay Nyein	Vice-Chairman 2 Myanmar Calendar Advisory Board	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture

Excellent Performance Medal in Arts (Third Class)

1. U Tin Aung Tun	Director (Retd)	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
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Excellent Performance Medals in Medicals Science (First Class)

1. Brig-Gen Kyaw Zeya		Ministry of Defence
2. Brig-Gen Saw Yan Naing		Ministry of Defence
3. Brig-Gen Khin Aung Tun		Ministry of Defence
4. Colonel Daw Tin Moe Mya		Ministry of Defence
5. Colonel Daw Khin Phyu Pya		Ministry of Defence
6. Colonel Daw Yu Aye Latt		Ministry of Defence
7. Colonel Soe Moe		Ministry of Defence
8. Colonel Thet Aung		Ministry of Defence
9. Colonel Yan Naung		Ministry of Defence
10. Lt-Col Thurein Kyaw Myint		Ministry of Defence
11. Professor Dr Than Lwin		Ministry of Defence
12. Lt-Col Khin Maung Maung Than (Retd)		Ministry of Defence
13. Lt-Col Kyaw Soe Tun (Retd)		Ministry of Defence

Excellent Performance Medals in Medical Science (Second Class)

1. Professor Dr Kyaw Soe Kyaw	Professor/Dean	Ministry of Health
2. Professor Dr Win Win Hlaing	Professor/Dean	Ministry of Health
3. Professor Dr Win Win Kyaw	Professor/Dean	Ministry of Health
4. Professor Dr Mu Mu Naing	Professor/Dean	Ministry of Health
5. Professor Dr Aye Aye Gyi	Professor/Dean	Ministry of Health
6. Professor Dr Khin Thida Htut	Professor/Dean	Ministry of Health
7. Professor Dr Sai Aung Nyunt Oo	Professor/Dean	Ministry of Health
8. Professor Dr La Min Win	Professor/Dean	Ministry of Health
9. Professor Dr Khin Yupa Ko	Professor	Ministry of Health
10. Professor Dr Thazin Than	Professor	Ministry of Health
11. Professor Dr Khaing Shwe Wah Pwint	Professor	Ministry of Health
12. Professor Dr Thazin Khaing	Professor	Ministry of Health
13. Professor Dr Nu Nu May	Professor	Ministry of Health
14. Professor Dr San Sanda Khin	Professor	Ministry of Health
15. Professor Dr Khaing Shwe Wah	Professor	Ministry of Health
16. Professor Dr Yi Yi Khaing	Professor	Ministry of Health
17. Lt-Col Aung Thaw Hein		Ministry of Defence
18. Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Tun		Ministry of Defence
19. Lt-Col Min Aung Shan		Ministry of Defence
20. Lt-Col Myo Htet Aung		Ministry of Defence
21. Lt-Col Chan Myae		Ministry of Defence
22. Lt-Col Yan Naing Win		Ministry of Defence
23. Lt-Col Kyaw Thura		Ministry of Defence
24. Lt-Col Daw Aye Min Soe (Retd)		Ministry of Defence

Excellent Performance Medals in Medical Science (Third Class)

1. Dr Thi Thi Tun	Associate Professor/ Senior Specialist	Ministry of Health
2. Dr Maung Maung Swe	Associate Professor/ Senior Specialist	Ministry of Health
3. Dr Yin Muya	Specialist	Ministry of Health
4. Dr Aung Moe Tun	Senior Specialist	Ministry of Health
5. Dr Tin Tun Aung	Senior Specialist	Ministry of Health
6. Dr Aung Ko Ko Htet	Specialist	Ministry of Health
7. Dr Zin Ko Ko Oo	Assistant Surgeon (Orthopaedic)	Ministry of Health
8. Dr Khaing May Oo	Assistant Surgeon (Orthopaedic)	Ministry of Health

Excellent Performance Medal in Technology (First Class)

1. Colonel Khin Maung Oo		Ministry of Defence
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Excellent Performance Medals in Technology (Second Class)

1. Colonel Aung Kyaw Oo		Ministry of Defence
2. Colonel Min Aung		Ministry of Defence
3. Major Min Maw Han		Ministry of Defence
4. Air 21939	Warrant Officer 2 Win Soe	Ministry of Defence
5. Dr Maung Hlaing	Professor (Retd)	Ministry of Science and Technology

Excellent Performance Medals in Technology (Third Class)

1. Colonel Nyi Nyi Latt		Ministry of Defence
2. U Myat Tun Oo	Director	Union Election Commission Office
3. Daw Sanda Myint	Director	Ministry of Immigration and Population
4. Dr Kyaw Zin Phyto	Deputy Director (Gas)	Ministry of Energy
5. U Myint Zaw	Chief Geologist Officer	Ministry of Energy
6. Lt-Col Nyi Nyi Aung		Ministry of Defence
7. U Thet Naing Win	Senior Geologist	Ministry of Energy
8. U Aung Mya Than	Senior Geologist	Ministry of Energy
9. Major Thiha Win Sein		Ministry of Defence
10. Major Kyaw Swa Tun		Ministry of Defence
11. Major Nay Myo Win		Ministry of Defence

TO BE CONTINUED

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

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

38. The relevant operations committee may seize and analyze cyber resources from following any individual believed to be associated with a cybersecurity threat, cyberattack, or cyber misuse, in accordance with the prescribed regulations –
 - (a) A user or a person suspected of having used or currently using a cyber resource that is believed to be associated with a cybersecurity threat, cyberattack, or any cyber misuse process
 - (b) The individual who connects with any person mentioned in Sub-Section (a)
39. If the relevant work committee has analyzed the cyber resource and conducted a digital forensics investigation, it shall return the cyber resource to the designated party in compliance with the specified terms.
40. The ministry may, with the approval of the Union Government, assign relevant individuals or organizations to conduct data analysis and send it for digital forensic examination in order to proactively detect and prevent cyber threats or cyberattacks within the national cyber domain.
41. The ministry is required to support companies and organizations providing telecommunications services under the Telecommunications Law by enabling them to perform information verification and send for examination to digital forensic labs as required under Section 40.
42. The ministry may, for matters related to national defence and security, or for the public's benefit, take action under the law, in coordination with relevant government departments or organizations. If necessary, it may conduct inspections or exercise control over cybersecurity services or digital platform service operations.
43. The Ministry may, for the public interest, carry out the following with the agreement of the Union Government:
 - (a) Temporarily suspending digital platform services or electronic information;
 - (b) Temporarily controlling materials related to digital platform services;
 - (c) Closing or declaring a digital platform service as unsuitable for public use.
44. Anyone wishing to establish a VPN or provide VPN services within the national cybersecurity domain must obtain permission from the Ministry pursuant to the regulations.

Chapter XII

Seizing evidentiary materials and submitting expert's witness

45. The Investigation Unit shall seize electronic equipment evidentiary to investigate cybersecurity or cybercrime under this law and any existing law as per the procedures.
46. The Investigation Unit can keep the cyber resource or similar system or materials related to the investigated cybercrime cases, and analyze or submit them to Digital Lab.
47. The relevant governmental departments and organizations can establish the National Digital Forensic Lab and the Digital Forensic Lab with the approval of the central committee to explore, receive, manage, analyze and report regarding the electronic evidentiary materials saved in an electronic system according to the provisions of this law and any existing law.
48. The Leading Committee shall support the National Digital Lab and the Digital Lab established with the approval of the central committee regarding human resources and technological assistance.
49. The Investigation Unit shall send the electronic evidentiary materials saved in an electronic system to the National Digital Lab and the Digital Lab to explore, receive, manage and analyze the data, and submit the findings and opinions to the leading committee or relevant court as expert's witness per the procedures.
50. (a) If any dispute regarding the submission of electronic letter marks occurs, it shall be submitted to the National Digital Laboratory.
(b) The findings and opinions of the National Digital Laboratory are final approvals.

Chapter XIII

Administrative Actions

51. The department can issue the following administrative orders if a cybersecurity service provider fails to follow the provisions in Sections 29 or 35-
 - (a) warning
 - (b) fine
 - (c) temporary suspension of licence with a time limit
 - (d) cancelling of licence
52. The department can issue the following administrative orders if the digital platform service provider fails to follow the provisions in Sections 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35
 - (a) warning
 - (b) fine
 - (c) temporary suspension of a certificate with a time limit
 - (d) cancelling of certificate and adding to blacklist
53. The Leading Committee shall dissolve the cybersecurity industry which is organized without approval or does not follow the regulations, and nationalize

the finance, moveable or immovable properties including funds of that industry.

Chapter XIV

Appeal

54. If the department refuses to issue the licence under Section 21, extend the licence under Section 23, register under Section 25, or extend the licence under Section 27, the dissatisfied person may appeal to the ministry within 30 days from the date of that decision or order is made.
55. If the person is not satisfied with any of the administrative orders made under Sections 51 or 52, he can appeal to the ministry in accordance with the procedures within 30 days from the date that decision or order is made.
56. The Ministry can approve, amend or demolish the decision or order regarding the appeal under Sections 54 or 55.
57. If the person is not satisfied with the decision or order made by the Ministry under Section 56, he can appeal to the central committee following the procedures within 60 days from the day that decision or order is made.
58. The decision of the central committee is final and approved.

Chapter XV

Offences and Penalties

60. If the authorized person, who is not a government employee, to manage critical information infrastructure fails to follow subsection (a) or (b) of Section 17, he or she will be imprisoned for a minimum of one month to a maximum of six months or a fine of at least K1 million to a maximum of K10 million, or both punishments will be imposed.
61. If any person convicted of tampering destruction stealing or damaging electronic information of critical information infrastructure without authorization or unlawful delivering, roaming, distribution and disclosure committing or attempting to commit the modification or alteration, he or she shall be imprisoned for a minimum of six months and a maximum of three years or a fine of at least K5 million to a maximum of K20 million, or both punishments will be imposed.
62. If anyone who conducts cybersecurity services without a licence,
 - (a) he or she shall be imprisoned for a minimum of one month to a maximum of six months or a fine of at least K1 million to a maximum of K10 million, or both fines shall be imposed, and the evidence related to the case shall be confiscated as a national treasure.
 - (b) If the perpetrator is a company or organization, the company or organization shall be fined not less than K10 million, and the evidence related to the case shall be confiscated as a national treasure.
63. If anyone is convicted of continuing to provide cyber security services without a licence renewal, that person shall be fined a minimum of K1 million and a maximum of K5 million.
64. If a digital platform service operator with 100,000 users or above in the country is convicted of operating without registration, it shall be fined at least K100 million, and the relevant evidence shall be kept as a national treasure.
65. If anyone is found guilty of continuing to operate digital platform services without renewing their registration, they will be fined not less than K50 million.
66. Any person convicted of any form of cybermisuse mentioned in Subsection (a), (b), (c) or (d) of Section 36 shall be imprisoned for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years or a fine of at least K1 million to a maximum of K10 million, or both punishments.
67. Any person convicted of any form of cybermisuse mentioned in Subsection (e) or (f) of Section 36 shall be imprisoned for a minimum of one year to a maximum of three years, or a fine of at least K5 million to a maximum of K20 million, or both punishments must be imposed.
68. Any person convicted of following offences intentionally or attempting to make others commit shall be imprisoned for a minimum of one year to a maximum of two years, or a fine of at least K5 million to a maximum of K20 million, or both punishments must be imposed;
 - (a) damage the cyber resource or install or access malware
 - (b) making it impossible for the person who has the right to access the cyber resource to enter the system
 - (c) destroy information in cyber resources, exclusion or altering or changing its usefulness or effect
 - (d) stealing to damage the source codes in the computer or make it impossible to use or destroy or changing
 - (e) using cyber resources to defraud
 - (f) using electronic information to harm or discredit another person or repair or change or otherwise distribute the information
 - (g) sending unsolicited messages, emails and information using the network
69. Anyone convicted of stealing or destroying the online financial status of another person using cyber resources or forcing others to do so shall be imprisoned for a minimum of two years and a maximum of seven years or a fine shall be imposed.

TO BE CONTINUED

OPINION

Welcome preliminary population statistics for the nation

IN THE tenure of the government of the State Administration Council, the 2024 population and housing census was successfully conducted nationwide from 1 to 15 October 2024. The preliminary population statistics from the comprehensive census were published on 31 December 2024 by the Ministry of Immigration and Population to ensure the public could access and utilize the data.

Recently, the government released preliminary population data from the 2024 Population and Housing Census, as of the night of 30 September 2024, the population residing within Myanmar was estimated to be 51,316,756 people. This figure comprises 32,191,407 individuals counted during the census enumeration and an estimated

19,125,349 people from unremunerated areas. Of the total population, there were 15,105,215 males, accounting for 46.9 per cent and 17,086,192 females, at 53.1 per cent.

Looking at the population distribution, Yangon Region has the highest proportion at 14.4 per cent, while Kayah State has the lowest at 0.6 per cent. Myanmar's population, which was 51.5 million in 2014, is now estimated to be slightly over 51.3 million according to the 2024 preliminary census, including estimates for uncounted areas. This reveals a slight decrease in the population over the past 10 years.

The changes in population dynamics, such as births, deaths, and migration, will be analyzed in detail as they are key factors considered in compiling the main census report. According to preliminary census announcements, the

results will be examined step by step and systematically released. It is noted that the capability to conduct a preliminary census is essential for understanding the nation's demographic transitions, socioeconomic changes, and development plans. These results will serve as a precise and effective tool for guiding national policies and fostering socioeconomic development.

The result revealed precise and timely information in alignment with key areas such as addressing developmental challenges, making policy decisions based on evidence, promoting peacemaking processes, supporting democratic transitions, determining investment strategies, conducting research, and understanding various situations. These efforts aim to rebuild the foundational strengths of affected nations and restore the socioeconomic livelihoods of citizens by creating favourable conditions on the ground.

The timely release of accurate preliminary population data in 2014 can be attributed to the united strength and collaborative efforts of all ethnic communities across the country. The achievement of accurate and comprehensive demographic data stems from the dedication and hard work of those responsible for conducting the census, the patriotic spirit of the people, and the unity and cooperation among all ethnic groups. This serves as a testament to the combined efforts and harmony of all involved.

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

EPISODE: 55

By THAN HTUN
(GEOSCIENCE
MYANMAR)

The Southern Volcanic Occurrences on the West Bank of the Chindwin River.

This article continues from Episode 54, which discussed the explosive craters on both banks of the Chindwin River, as described in *The Geology of Burma* by Prof HL Chhibber, published in 1934.

Songyaung: On the right bank of the Chindwin River, opposite Alon and two miles east of Songyaung, is a low hill extending in a north-west-south-east direction, with gentle slopes on all sides except the north, where it ends abruptly over a shallow lake, with a scarp about 100 feet in height. This lake is deeply truncated near the northeastern side and marks the site of an extinct crater. That part of the hill that abuts the river, according to Sondhi, is composed of highly jointed, comparatively fresh, dark, olivine basalt. A little way from the river, the basalt becomes highly scoriaceous and vesicular. Farther west, it is replaced by a very characteristic bed, about six feet thick, of lapilli cemented by a sparse amount of volcanic ash. To the southwest of the lapilli bed occur several unconsolidated beds of basaltic tuff, with many quartz pebbles, sand, and fossil wood.

Kyaukmyet Hill: The Kyaukmyet hills are composed of very compact rhyolites and quartz-porphyrines with interbedded quartzites. A liparite from this locality was first described by Kelterborn. It is a dense rock that shows some iron pyrites and biotite to the naked eye. The microscope reveals the biotite to be corroded with the formation of opaque ore, while sections of corroded quartz are also present. The groundmass is micro-felsitic and consists of quartz and slightly turbid felspar. The texture must originally have been vesicular, but the cavities are now all filled with a coarse-grained quartz mosaic. Hydrothermal silicification must have brought about this after the consolidation of the rock.

Myayeik Taung: The main hill is composed of silicified rhyolite with blocks of quartzite, while the small hill to the west is built of shattered quartzite and highly altered basalt. In the Yinmadaw chaung (creek) to the southwest are masses of epidiorite, which appear to rest against a decomposed holocrystalline rock composed of white felspar and small black biotite crystals. East of Myayeik there is another small hill of purple quartz-porphyrine.

West Monywa Group: The conical-shaped hills 994,943 and 937, immediately south of Yama chaung, and hills 1055 and 995, five miles to the south-east and on the south side of the Ywashe-Yinmabin road, which is so prominent in the landscape looking southwards from Monywa, are composed of white and bluish-grey rhyolites, rhyolitic breccias, agglomerates and indurated tuffs. They have undergone hydrothermal and metasomatic alteration. Haematite occurs in the form of veins and botryoidal masses in these rocks. The ores of copper, malachite, and azurite are also present in the form of veinlets and impregnations. Exploitation of the copper ore has been attempted by shafts and tunnels sunk into the volcanic rock, but the ore occurs in quantities too minute to be won on a commercial scale.

Ninth Mile, Yinmabin Road: Just past the ninth mile on the Ywashe-Yinmabin Road, where the road commences the descent to the village of Kaungzin, are outcrops of an interesting rock that seems to differ from all others in the Chindwin region. It is a glassy hypersthene-andesite in which phenocrysts of andesine-labradorite felspar and hypersthene are observed in thin sections. A few miles farther south are the igneous occurrences of the Ingyin taung and Powin taung area, which consist of andesites, rhyolitic agglomerates, and fine-grained ashes and tuffs interbedded with the Pegu Series, and intrusions of coarse diorites and mica-porphyrines. The andesites have locally been silicified and the vesicles of the amygdaloidal rock have

been filled with chalcedony in beautifully radiating fibres. The ashes and tuffs have undergone pronounced metamorphism brought about most probably by the intrusion of adjacent diorites.

Salingyi: According to C T Barber, the intrusive and extrusive rocks of the Salingyi uplands consist of dacites, dolerites, epidiorites, and coarse-grained diorites. There also occurs an intrusion of granitic rock into typical dolerites in the neighbourhood of Saga (95° 8', 21° 57') and the intrusion of a pegmatite dyke into coarse diorite one and a half miles south-east of Kyaunggon (95° 6', 21° 58'). Barber adds, moreover, that the general configuration and petrological characters of the igneous masses are such as to leave little doubt that they were formed as laccolitic intrusions into the Pegus, the sedimentary cover having been removed by denudation.

Linzayet: At Linzayet eight and a half miles to the south of Salingyi is a small mass of lava, a hundred feet or so in diameter, which also to have been appeared to have been intruded into sands of Pegu age, chialstolite developed near the contact. The Pegu rocks dip towards this intrusion at steep angles. This occurrence is of a similar type to Hill 1260,



Twin Taung Crater and Tephra on the eastern rim. PHOTO: CHIT SUM MAUNG

and the other intrusions in the East Monywa Hill Belt, described below.

Shinmadaung: The volcanic rocks of the Shinmadaung area consist of hornblende-andesite, basalts, ashes, and rhyolitic agglomerates and breccias. Occurring immediately beneath the basal read bed of the Irrawaddy Series on the west flank of the Shinmadaung inlier, west of Kabauk village, are to be found conglomerates and rhyolite breccia. Some doubt exists as to the age of these rocks, but according to E S Pinfold and A E Day, they appear to represent a period of specialized volcanic activity contemporaneous with the deposition of the basal beds of the Irrawaddian, while Barber states that they occupy along the Pegu-Irrawaddian boundary and that the presence of ashes and rhyolitic agglomerates interbedded in the Pegu Series has been clearly demonstrated.

There are, in addition, small intrusions of a doleritic rock in beds of Pondaung age, which are exposed in this inlier. They also occur mainly along the line of the strike fault. One of the most interesting volcanic occurrences in this range, also on the line of the main strike fault, is a sheet of lava forming a high plateau-like elevation to the north of Thay-

et-pingan, which recalls the Silaung sheet described above.

The Volcanic Occurrences of East Monywa Hill Belt.

The volcanic occurrences in this belt from south to north are as follows: -

Hill 1260, or Kyaukkadaung (22° 8', 98° 6'): The hill is situated about nine miles east and a little north of Monywa, and occurs close to the western flank of the Pegu inlier. It is elliptical in shape, the longer axis of the ellipse running a few degrees north of east. There are three blunted peaks, the centre or highest rising some 800 feet above the alluvial plain, which stretches away to the west. The core of the hill is composed of a very basic basalt, surrounded by Pegu rocks, and appears to lie on the line of the main fault, which is evident to the south on the west side of Taunggya village. The extent of the actual mass of the igneous rock is

about a mile in length and a quarter of a mile in width.

Hill 779 (22° 13', 95° 18'): This intrusion of igneous rock lies about seven miles to the northeast of Hill 1260, on the south bank of the Thazi chaung between the villages of Thazi and Sulegon. The igneous mass is elliptical, with the longer axis running a few degrees west of north, and is thus slightly oblique to the Pegu sands, in which it occurs and which strike about north 10° east. It is situated well within the Pegu inlier, some three miles east of the main fault. It is half a mile in length and quite narrow. Petrologically, both the Kyaukkadaung, 1260 Hill, and the Hill marked 779 are composed of picrite-basalt, which is a greyish rock, sometimes spotted with phenocrysts of pyroxene and olivine.

Hill 822, or Thazi Hill (22° 17', 95° 15'): This occurrence of igneous rock is conical in shape and lies on the line of the main fault on the edge of the Pegu inlier, apparently within Pegu sands, Irrawaddy sands, and alluvium. The lava of Thazi Hill has also been described as picrite-basalt, though less basic than that of Hill 1260, but not widely differing from it. It is a dark grey rock. The most abundant mineral under the microscope is augite, varying in size from small phenocrysts to gran-

ules in the groundmass. The latter resembles that of the normal rock of Hill 1260, consisting of laths and microlites of felspar, small crystals and granules of augite, grains of magnetite, and a colourless residue. Some of the vesicles are filled with calcite.

Inde Hill, 800 feet (22° 24', 95° 13'): This is the most interesting occurrence within the hill belt, as it bears visible evidence as a centre of volcanic activity: remnants of a crater and deposits of volcanic ash occur, similar in every way to the deposits accompanying the explosive craters about Shwezaye. It can be included as one of the groups as its age and mode of occurrence are identical, but instead of appearing on the same lines as the other craters, it is situated 10 ½ miles to the east of Ywatha, the northernmost of the group, and occurs on the line of the main fault which runs the length of the East Monywa Pegu inlier. The village of Inde rests upon a narrow belt of alluvium, but immediately to the south are beds of volcanic ash which curve round to the spur of Hill 800. In a stream bed about one mile south of the village beds of ash rest upon sands apparently of Irrawaddian age. These deposits of ash are from 10 to 15 feet thick and consist of layers of coarse lapilli between much finer material. In the coarse layers are occasional blocks of lava up to a foot in diameter. These beds are not consolidated, and where they overhang the walls of the chaung they break into heaps of grey cindery powder. The ash deposits on the spur to the north of Hill 800 rest upon Irrawaddian sands, and farther north, where the ash beds have died out, blocks of lava can still be seen strewn about the surface of the sands and extend thus as far as the stream bed to the north-east of Myothit Chaung village.

The inward slopes of Hill 800 and spur present a precipitous face which is evidently a remnant of the crater walls. The northern and western walls have been removed by denudation and the floor is now silted up. The lava ejected from this crater is a normal olivine-basalt with phenocrysts of olivine, rendered opaque red by oxidation on the exposed surface of the rock. The eruptions of this crater were apparently of the explosive type, but the successive layers of coarse ash and fine material throughout the thickness of deposits point to a series of explosive eruptions extending over a while rather than to one violently explosive outburst. The age of this volcano is clearly sub-recent, as is proved by the deposition of the ejected material upon the uppermost Irrawaddian sands.

Okpo Letpan (22° 29', 95° 14'): Okpo Letpan is an isolated hump-shaped hill standing 400 feet above the level of the surrounding plain, which is floored by sands of Irrawaddian age. The hill lies about seven miles north of Inde and three miles north by northeast of the volcanic bed at the twenty-sixth milestone described above. The lava is much decomposed at the surface and can be dug into with a knife blade; it differs from the igneous rocks of the other occurrences, except those of Hill 800 and the twenty-sixth milestone just described, in that it contains visible phenocrysts of white felspar.

The Natyindaung Mass: Natyindaung (22° 30', 94° 59') is an isolated occurrence of igneous rock, unassociated with the East Monywa Hill belt inlier, lying some distance to the west, in an area floored by the uppermost Irrawaddian sands. It is of special interest as contact with the soft sands can be seen. It closely resembles Okpo Letpan in shape, occurring as two hump-shaped hills with an intermediate depression.

Conclusion

A large majority of the igneous occurrences of this region indicate that volcanic activity reached its zenith in post-Pliocene times. The peculiar masses of Hills 1260, 779, 822, Okpo Letpan, and Natyindaung, all appear to have intruded into the country rock, both Peguan and Irrawaddian alike, as sheets or necks. Previous to the recent district examination by Messrs E S Pinfold and A E Day, it was thought that pre-Cambrian granites and Shinmadaung, the pre-Tertiary floor, were exposed in this region. Except for the isolated occurrences of granite at Silaung and Minma, the majority of the holocrystalline rocks belong to a peculiarly basic suite, and there is small doubt that they are the hypabyssal representatives of the surface lavas, intruded into the Tertiary rocks at the same time as the volcanic manifestations at the surface. This is the end of late Pliocene and Pleistocene igneous activity.

References: Chhibber, HL, 1934: *The Geology of Burma, Macmillan, and Co Limited, St Martin's Street, London.*

NATIONAL

IRD to sell K1,000 worth of Aungbarlay Lottery in Apr

THE Department of Internal Revenue under the Ministry of Planning and Finance will sell K1,000 worth of Aungbarlay Lottery starting from April of the financial year 2025-2026.

Lottery agents are urged to follow the rules. Those agents must seek sales permits through the Aungbarlay office (Yangon branch), Mandalay branch and the relevant

township IRD. They must sign a commitment letter stating that they would sell the lottery tickets as per the set prices, presenting a citizenship scrutiny card and household registration.

The old lottery agents also need to show a tax clearance certificate for the transactions made in the last FY 2024-2025 from the respective IRD. The applications must be submitted to the relevant offices between 14 and 28 January 2025.

The agents need to deposit K600 for a pack of 11 lottery tickets three months in advance and sell the packs of lottery tickets according to each quota for the entire year. The agents will get their permit revoked for any non-compliance. The State will seize the deposits. They need to make a deposit depending on the number of ticket packs by 4 March 2025. They will get cancelled from the dealers' list upon failing to act the rules. — NN/KK



Aungbarlay Lottery Office.

Wyne Su Khine Their's solo show to be held in Mandalay

SINGER Wyne Su Khine Their will perform her solo concert, 'One Lady Show', at the Space Bar in Mahaaungmyay Township, Mandalay, at 7 pm on 9 January, according to the singer.

The One Lady Show will feature performances by Wyne Su, supported by the Daily Gita band, which will provide musical accompaniment. Speaking about the event, Wyne Su mentioned, "This is part of the Space Bar's Fifth Anniversary celebration. I'll be presenting a solo musical performance to share with fans. Let's gather at the Space Bar on 62nd Street to celebrate the new year with the melodies I'll be bringing".

DJ Aphrodite will join the performance to add support to the event alongside the Daily Gita band. — ASH/KZL



This image features an advertisement for Wyne Su Khine Their's solo show.

Ganankyun Mangrove Conservation Forest designated in Mon State

FROM PAGE 1

mangrove ecosystems, improve management practices, protect biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters like tidal waves and cyclones. The designation also seeks to provide sustainable resources such as fish, crabs, and prawns for local communities.

By establishing the Ganankyun Mangrove Conservation Forest, key mangrove species such as Sonner Atia, Kandelia, and Avicennia will be protected. This initiative will conserve mangrove plantations composed of species like Bruguiera gymnorhiza, Bruguiera cylindrica,

Ceriops tagal, Excoecaria agalocha, Sonneratia caseolaris, and Kandelia obovata.

This conservation effort is expected to enhance the ecosystem for aquatic species, support the socioeconomic development of local communities, stabilize the coastal environment and mitigate climate change impacts. It will also help prevent natural disasters such as soil erosion and shoreline degradation, reaffirming the vital role of mangroves in maintaining ecological balance.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Local petrol stations begin selling Octane 68

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Energy, some refuelling stations have started selling locally produced RON 68 petrol for K2,200 per litre.

Domestically produced Octane 68 has been available at Petrol Station 0354 next to Yazathingaha Road, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, and at petrol stations 0611 and 0614 in Mandalay Region, under the Ministry of Energy, since 4 January 2025, in honour of the 77th Independence Day.

"Compared to the prices of imported fuel, this price is lower, which will help support the motorcycles and tricycles used by the public. RON 68 petrol can be used in homes, businesses, offices, generators, and boats. Since the petroleum produced

by local factories is refined and the resulting petrol is sold back to the public, we can use it with confidence," said Daw Yin Yin Aung, Director of the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE).

In addition, a State-owned filling station in Bago Region and a State-owned petrol station in Shan State will begin distributing and selling locally produced Octane 68 commencing in January, with plans underway to continue its sale at State-owned fuel stations across the country.

Currently, domestically produced fuel is refined at the Thanlyin Refinery in Yangon Region and the Chauk Refinery and the Mann Thanbayakan Refinery in Magway Region. — ASH/TH



A motorcycle refuelled with locally produced Ron-68 petrol.

Gold Market Rate as of 8 January 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,360,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

Myanmar athletes win 4 first prizes in Muse-Ruili Cross-Border Marathon



This image reveals a signage for the cross-border marathon in Ruili.



This picture captures Myanmar nationals who competed in the marathon.

MYANMAR nationals won four first prizes in the Muse-Ruili Cross-border Marathon, according to a statement from the

Chinese Embassy in Myanmar. The 2024 Myanmar Muse-China Ruili Cross-border Marathon was held in Ruili on

5 January. A total of 9,029 athletes from countries including China, Myanmar, and the UK participated

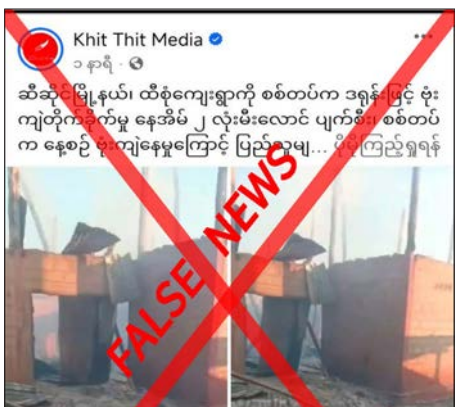
in the competition, which was categorized into four classes — marathon, half marathon, leisure, and warm and comfortable. In the

competition, Myanmar nationals won four first prizes — Maung Myo Min Htet in the full marathon men's race, Ma Htet Yan Pyae Oo in the full marathon women's race, Zaw Khaing in the half marathon men's race, and Ma Aye Aye Thein in the women's half marathon.

The race started at the museum in Ruili and ended at the same museum after going round the border post 81 at the Palace Gate in Myanmar. The Myanmar participants in this race were also awarded Pauk Phaw awards to further enhance the friendship between the two countries and promote goodwill ties. — Htun Htun/ZN

Counter-argument to false information

Security forces accused of using bomb drops in Hsihseng



Screenshot of Khit Thit Media validates misinformation.

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread fake news, claiming that security forces launched drone attacks in Hti-sone village of Hsihseng township, Pa-O Self-Administered Region in Shan State (South) and two houses were burnt down after the attack, on 6 January.

According to a security official, terrorists launched armed attacks, mine attacks and arson attacks. Security forces participate in rehabilitation and maintenance work on damaged houses of civilians and protect their lives and property.

Subversive media outlets intentionally circulate false claims and misinformation to intimidate people and cover the unlawful actions of terrorists and misleading the public about security forces carrying out security duties. — MNA/KTZH

MAI completes renewal of IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) certification

MYANMAR International Airlines (MAI) announced that it has completed the renewal of its IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) certification, the highest standard in the global aviation industry.

For an airline that has been certified by the International Air Transport Association since 2012, the renewal highlights MAI's excellent flight performance and commitment to passenger safety, it said.

The IOSA is a globally recognized programme for its rigorous aviation safety assessments that cover all aspects of an airline's flight operations and quality operational management.

Passing that most difficult assessment is a remarkable achievement for any airline, and all IATA member airlines are required to undergo the assessment every two years.

"We are very proud to have achieved another milestone. This achievement



This picture from MAI's announcement event that the IATA Operational Quality Assurance (IOSA) certificate has been extended.

reflects the tireless efforts of all our team members and the trust of our passengers, who continue to encourage us to do better every day," said U Kyaw Soe Hla, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of MAI.

The renewal of MAI's IOSA certifi-

cation also shows the emphasis of the MAI's commitments to the sustainable reliability and excellence in all operations and to the delivery of high-quality safety and excellent service on every flight. —

MT/ZN

38 tonnes of illegal timber seized; 20 arrested, vehicles confiscated



Officials from the Forest Department measure the timbers seized across the nation.

THE Forest Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been implementing a Community Monitoring and Reporting System (CMRS) to combat the illegal trade of timber and forest products.

According to data provided by the Nay Pyi Taw, state, and regional forest departments, a total of 38.5676 tonnes of illegal

timber were seized between 30 December and 5 January. This included 14.7564 tonnes of teak, 3.0676 tonnes of hardwood, and 20.7436 tonnes of other types of wood. Additionally, 20 individuals were arrested, and eight vehicles and machines used in the illegal activities were confiscated, according to the Forest Department. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Myanmar exports 2M+ tonnes of rice to overseas markets in Apr-Dec

MYANMAR'S rice and broken rice exports swelled to over 2.03 million tonnes in the past nine months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, with an estimated value of \$948 million, statistics of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) showed.

The export volumes are 111,862 tonnes worth \$55 million in April, 71,279.5 tonnes worth \$36 million in May, 162,325.75 tonnes worth \$84 million in June, 165,444 tonnes worth \$81 million in July, 207,369 tonnes worth \$97 million in August, over 219,560 tonnes worth \$104 million in September, 424,784.27 tonnes of rice worth \$189 million in October, over 334,530 tonnes worth \$156 million in November and 337,490 tonnes worth \$145 million respectively.

Myanmar exported over two million tonnes of rice by sea and 30,000 tonnes through border posts during the April-December period.

The federation aims to



Workers meticulously organize rice bags in a warehouse in Yangon.

achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March).

The Ministry of Commerce has been cooperating with departments and institutions concerned to achieve monthly

export targets and beyond depending on the supply volume of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, rubber and fisheries from the respective companies.

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Un-

ion of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Associ-

ation, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports.

The federation is projected to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the FY 2023-2024, generating earnings of \$1 billion. However, rice exports fell short of the target with 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the chairperson of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million. — NN/KK

Soyabean farmers optimistic if more quality varieties available

IF good soyabean varieties become developed, the number of soyabean farmers is likely to grow over the next years.

Education activities for farmers are necessary to facilitate the development of good varieties and there is potential for soyabean export in the future.

"Farmers will grow soyabeans if they have no problem growing as a substitute crop for black gram. Soyabean plantations are likely to grow more than black grams if soyabean varieties are available in large amounts. Soyabean projects have been slated for next year. When good varieties are available, ed-



A farmer is working on a soyabean plantation in Monghsat.

ucation activities for farmers are required. Soyabean can give more profit

for farmers and the price will be better," said Ko Lin Htet Kyaw from Shwe Pyae Lyan seeds distribution in Pyay.

Expansion in soyabean plantations can help ensure the country's edible oil security as well as income growth for farmers, according to the Agriculture Department.

Soyabean can be grown in May as a monsoon crop, in August and September as a mid-monsoon crop, from mid-October to mid-November as a winter crop and in February as an early-monsoon crop, and the soil should be moist fully to grow the crop. — Thit Taw/ZS

CBM sells \$52M, 1.2M yuan, 5.3M baht in 1st week of Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected US\$52 million, 1.2 million and 5.3 million Thai baht in the first week of January 2025.

It sold over \$2.15 million on 7 January, \$25 million and 2.8 million baht on 6 January, 510,000 yuan on 3 January, \$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 hands 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

Rising black gram prices prompt farmers to expand plantations

THE number of farmers who grow black gram has been large this year, resulting from the price increase.

This year, farmers have expanded the plantation acre of black gram compared to green mung bean, that is because the black gram price has been better this year.

"Black gram acres have expanded

now. Last year, green mung bean prices were good. Now, black gram price has been better compared to previous years, so it encourages farmers to expand their plantation acres," said Ko Lin Htet Kyaw from Shwe Pyae Lyan seeds distribution in Pyay.

Black gram is one of the key export items and a profitable crop for farmers.

Farmers who grow paddy have now preferred 90-day and Sinthukha varieties.

"Paddy is their main crop, but they prefer short-term varieties which can sell internally and make profits in a short period such as 90-day and Sinthukha varieties," he added. — Thit Taw/ZS

France's CPI set to increase by 1.3% in Dec 2024

FRANCE'S consumer price index (CPI) is expected to rise by 1.3 per cent year-on-year in December 2024, the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) announced on Tuesday.

In its preliminary report, INSEE noted that the December CPI should increase at the same pace as in November. The institute explained that a slight rebound in energy prices should be offset by a more marked fall in the prices of manufactured goods, and by a slowdown in food prices.

Over the year, the prices of services and tobacco should move at the same rates as the previous month, the institute added.

Mathieu Plane, deputy director of the Analysis and Forecasting Department at the French Economic Observatory, said high inflation is now "well and truly past" in France.

An unexpected decline in energy prices in 2024 made it possible for France to escape high inflation rates "a little earlier than expected", Plane told Le Monde newspaper.

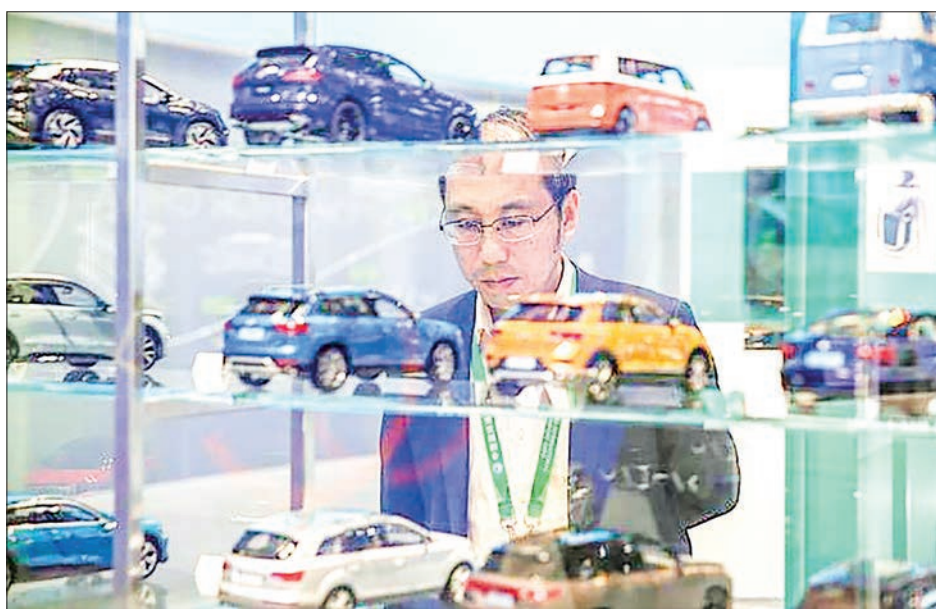
In the latest economic outlook published in December 2024 by France's central bank, Banque de France (BdF), headline inflation in France was revised downwards due to lower oil prices and an unexpected slowdown in prices of manufactured goods and services. — Xinhua

Volkswagen to build superfast charging network in China

The partnership aims to establish over 20,000 charging piles across 420 cities.

CHINESE new-energy vehicle (NEV) maker XPENG and German automobile giant Volkswagen announced Monday that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for strategic collaboration on a superfast charging network in China.

Through the strategic cooperation, XPENG and Volkswagen Group China aim to provide customers with a superfast charging network featuring over 20,000 charging piles and covering 420 cities across China, according to a statement from XPENG. — Xinhua



A visitor looks at car models of Volkswagen at the Automobile Exhibition Area during the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, 7 November 2024. PHOTO: CHANG NENGJIA/XINHUA



Customers spend time at a cafe in Paris, France, 1 February 2023. PHOTO: GAO JING/XINHUA

Australian inflation rises to 2.3%

AUSTRALIA'S annual rate of inflation rose slightly in the year to November, new official figures have revealed. According to the new data, which was published on Wednesday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the consumer price index (CPI) — the headline measure of inflation — rose by 2.3 per cent in the 12 months to November 2024. It marks a slight acceleration from the 2.1 per cent CPI in-

crease reported in the year to October 2024. The Australian Bureau of Statistics identified spending on food and drink, alcohol and tobacco and recreation as the major drivers of inflation over the 12 months to November.

Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices rose by 2.9 per cent, alcohol and tobacco prices by 6.7 per cent and recreation and culture prices by 3.2 per cent in that period. — Xinhua

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Scholarship Opportunities in MBBS & BDS Courses in Bangladesh

Bangladesh offers admission opportunities with tuition scholarship for Myanmar students in the Medical and Dental Colleges of Bangladesh in MBBS & BDS courses for the academic year 2024-25. Applicants must have minimum aggregated GPA 9.00 in 'O'-level & 'A'-level exam with at least 4.0 (70% marks) in Biology in a scale of 5.0. Interested candidates have to submit their application with all relevant documents through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar within 15 January 2025.

For detail information please Email: mission.yangon@mofa.gov.bd
Phone: 01-7515275

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK YOKOHAMA VOY.NO. (451X)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK YOKOHAMA VOY.NO. (451X)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-1-2025** 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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ST. MARY VOY.NO. (0UVBES1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ST. MARY VOY.NO. (0UVBES1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Chinese tech giants deny military ties, call Pentagon designations “mistakes”

Both companies stated that the designations will not significantly affect their business operations and that they will work with US authorities to resolve the issue.

CHINESE tech powerhouse Tencent and leading battery maker CATL are disputing their inclusions on a US Department of Defence (DoD) blacklist over allegations of them aiding China's military, with both companies describing these designations as mistakes.

“Tencent's inclusion on this list is clearly a mistake,” the company said in a statement to Xinhua on Tuesday, rejecting such labelling and affirming that it is “not a military company or supplier”.

Tencent added that this list-

ing has no impact on its business. However, it will work with relevant US authorities to resolve the “misunderstanding.”

CATL also called the designation a “mistake”, saying it “has never engaged in any military-related business or activities”.

The battery maker said in a statement to Xinhua that the inclusion does not restrict CATL from conducting business with entities other than the DoD and is expected to have no substantially adverse impact on its business. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 26 November 2024 shows supercharging solutions at the booth of Contemporary Amperex Technology Co Ltd (CATL) at the second China International Supply Chain Expo in Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: ZHANG CHENLIN/XINHUA**

Europe grapples with extreme weather, travel disrupted

EUROPE is grappling with a powerful wave of extreme winter weather, including heavy snow, sleet, and storms, which has disrupted



A snow plough clears a car park in Manchester, Britain, on 5 January 2025. **PHOTO: JON SUPER/XINHUA**

transportation and infrastructure across the continent, leaving travellers stranded and local communities struggling to manage the chaos.

In Germany, the winter weather caused significant disturbances to air and rail transport over the weekend. At Berlin Brandenburg Airport, the number of arrivals was cut in half on Sunday evening due to the threat of sleet, with landings limited to just 20 planes per hour. Frankfurt Airport cancelled 120 of its 1,090 scheduled flights on Sunday, while Munich Airport operated with only one runway for much of the day, rescheduling 750 flights and cancelling 35 as a precaution. Rail services across Germany, including in Frankfurt, also experienced widespread delays and cancellations. — Xinhua

Switzerland ready to act as mediator in Ukraine peace process

NEW Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter said on Tuesday that she has told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Bern was ready to act as an mediator in the Ukraine settlement process.

“During today's phone call with [Ukrainian] President Zelenskyy, I assured him of

[Switzerland's] ongoing support for Ukraine — most notably through our many long-term humanitarian and reconstruction projects, plus our willingness to contribute to the peace process via Switzerland's good offices,” the president said on X.

In June, Putin proposed

initiatives for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine.

According to his plan, Moscow would immediately cease hostilities and express readiness for negotiations once Ukrainian forces withdraw from the territories of Russia's newly integrated regions. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU Council President speaks to PM Modi

EUROPEAN Council President Antonio Costa held a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, where Antonio Costa called India one of the European Union's (EU) main global partners and emphasized that it was time to strengthen ties and engage in a new strategic agenda.

Costa recalled his meeting with PM Modi during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in 2017 and expressed anticipation for the upcoming EU-India Summit, which is scheduled to take place later this year.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Union President Antonio Costa discussed strengthening the India-EU strategic partnership in a recent call. Costa emphasized the importance of India as a global partner and expressed his eagerness to boost relations with a new strategic agenda. Modi agreed, highlighting shared areas of collaboration including technology, green energy, digital space, trade, and investments. — ANI

Mt Qomolangma reports no geological disasters after Xizang quake

No geological disasters, such as avalanches, have been observed so far on Mount Qomolangma, the world's highest peak, after a 6.8-magnitude earthquake jolted Dingri County in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region on Tuesday, scientists said.

Casualties and house collapses have been reported in Dingri, which is home to the northern base camp of Mount Qomolangma.

Mount Qomolangma was not affected by the earthquake, and no obvious icefalls, avalanches or geological changes were observed, according to Ma Weiqiang, director of Mount Qomolangma Atmosphere and Environment Comprehensive Observation and Research Station under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Ticket sales of Asian Winter Games Harbin 2025 to start

A total of 94 sessions for ice events, including ice hockey, speed skating, short track speed skating, figure skating, and curling, will be available for purchase.

TICKETS for the sport competitions of the 9th Asian Winter Games will officially go on public sale on 11 January, according to the organizers.

Spectators can purchase tickets from the tickets section of the official website of Harbin 2025 (<https://www.harbin2025.com/>), the official ticketing website (<https://tickets.harbin2025.com>), or the official ticketing WeChat mini-programme.

Tickets on sale include all 94 sessions of the ice events: ice hockey, speed skating, short track speed skating, figure skating, and curling. — Xinhua



Performers act during a ceremony celebrating the 100-day countdown to the 9th Asian Winter Games Harbin 2025 in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 30 October 2024. **PHOTO: ZHANG TAO/XINHUA/FILE**

West Ham cancel Lopetegui press conference as sacking rumours swirl

West Ham have cancelled Wednesday's scheduled press conference featuring manager Julen Lopetegui, with widespread reports saying the Premier League club are preparing sack the Spaniard.

Former Brighton and Chelsea boss Graham Potter is understood to be close to agreeing a deal to take over as the new boss at the London Stadium.

Lopetegui took training as usual on Tuesday but his spell in charge looks likely to come to an end less than eight months after he was appointed to replace David Moyes.

The Hammers on Wednesday morning called off the press conference at which the present boss was set to preview Friday's FA Cup third-round tie at Aston Villa. — AFP

France coach Deschamps says will leave after 2026 World Cup



Didier Deschamps has enjoyed a successful spell as France boss since taking over 13 years ago. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

FRANCE'S 2018 World Cup-winning coach Didier Deschamps announced on Wednesday he will leave his post after the 2026 tournament in North America.

"It will be 2026," Deschamps told French broadcaster TF1. "I have been there since 2012, it is planned that I will be there until 2026... the next World Cup. It will end there because it has to end at

some point. It's clear in my mind.

"I have done my time, with the same desire, the same passion to keep the France team at the highest level, but 2026 is good." Deschamps, 56, led France to World Cup glory in Russia in 2018 and guided them to the final of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar where they lost to Lionel Messi's Argentina on penalties. — AFP

Vinicius available as Real Madrid prepares for Supercup semi

REAL Madrid has forward Vinicius Jr available for its Spanish Supercup semifinal against Mallorca on Thursday, after the Brazilian was given a two-game ban in La Liga for his sending off against Valencia last week.

Vinicius committed a clear aggression against Valencia goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski in the game, and then had to be hauled down the tunnel to the dressing room as he protested the subsequent red card he was shown. However, despite aggression usually being punished with a 4-12 game suspension, a ban of just two matches will be served in the league, meaning he can take part in the showcase event.

The news means Vinicius is certain to start as Real Madrid plays last season's beaten Cup finalist, with the winner to face either Athletic Bilbao or Barcelona in Sunday's final.

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has almost a full squad

available after resting key players for Monday's 5-0 Copa del Rey win away to fourth-tier Deportivo Minera.

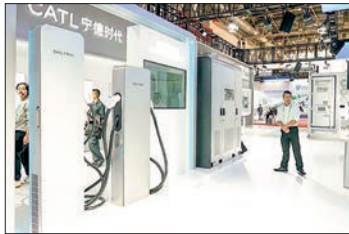
Kylian Mbappe, Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo are also likely to feature as Madrid aims to continue the positive form that has taken it to the top of La Liga. Mbappe looks to be approaching the form that made Madrid work so hard to

complete his signing, while Bellingham has also shaken off the heavy legs that seemed to affect him after a busy summer.

In defence, Ancelotti has to choose between Fran Garcia and Ferland Mendy at left-back, while Lucas Vazquez is favourite to start on the right, with Antonio Rudiger and Aurelien Tchouameni in central defence. — Xinhua



Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior (C) was sent off in his team's win at Valencia on 4 January 2025. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



PM noncommittal over nuke pact in meeting with Nobel-winning Hidankyo

Komeito party chief notes Ishiba acknowledged differing views on participation.

NIHON Hidankyo, the Japanese atomic bomb survivors' group that won last year's Nobel Peace Prize, urged the government on Wednesday to participate as an observer at a convention of signatories to a UN nuclear weapons ban treaty, but said Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba remained noncommittal during a meeting in Tokyo.

The group's co-chair Terumi Tanaka said the roughly 30-minute sit-down with the prime minister, held to congratulate the group on the prize, "did not yield results" on the issue. Another attendee, Toshiyuki Mimaki, described Ishiba's reticence as "regrettable".

Japan's top government spokesman Yoshimasa Hayashi said the government will examine how to take a "realistic and practical" approach in response to the group's call for Japan, the only country to have experienced nuclear attacks, to



Terumi Tanaka, co-chair of Nihon Hidankyo speaks to reporters after meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba at the premier's office in Tokyo on 8 January 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

attend the gathering of signatories to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in March in New York.

Komeito party chief Tetsuo Saito, who was also at the meeting, quoted Ishiba as only saying at the meeting he is aware

that "there is a view" that Japan should participate.

"It was an occasion rather for the prime minister to explain his views on defense and security, and we did not have time to respond. We want (the govern-

ment) to set up another meeting," Tanaka told reporters.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the final days of World War II. — Kyodo

China's lithium reserves jump to second in the world

CHINA has made significant strides in lithium exploration, emerging as the world's second-largest holder of lithium reserves.



This photo taken on 2 September 2024 shows part of a solid-state lithium metal battery in Yibin, southwest China's Sichuan Province.

PHOTO: TANG WENHAO/XINHUA

The China Geological Survey under the Ministry of Natural Resources said Wednesday that the country's lithium reserves have increased from six per cent to 16.5 per cent of the global total, propelling it from sixth to second place in the world rankings.

A world-class spodumene-type lithium belt spanning 2,800 kilometres in west China has been discovered. The lithium resources found in the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau's salt lakes have also seen substantial growth, positioning China as the third-largest salt lake lithium resource base globally.

Moreover, Chinese researchers have overcome significant technical challenges in extracting lithium from lepidolite, a mineral with high lithium content that has been difficult and costly to process. — Xinhua

MILITARY OR ECONOMIC FORCE

Trump refuses to rule out military force for Panama Canal, Greenland, and "economic force" for Canada

US President-elect Donald Trump has refused to rule out the use of military force to take control of the Panama Canal and Greenland, and "economic force" to acquire Canada, CNN reported.

While addressing a press conference at Mar-a-Lago in Florida on Tuesday (local time), Trump was asked whether he would rule out using "military or economic coercion" to achieve his goal of gaining those territories.

He responded, "No, I can't assure you on either of those two, but I can say this, we need them

for economic security." Trump said Denmark should give up its control of Greenland or it would face high tariffs. He suggested people of Greenland could vote for independence or to become the part of the United States.

He said, "I'm talking about protecting the free world." Since his election, Trump has expressed interest in controlling the Panama Canal and Greenland, even suggesting using military force. He later clarified he would only use "economic force" against Canada. — ANI