

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that Meiktila is a focal point capable of quickly transporting and selling fresh meat, dried meat, frozen meat, and leather across the nation.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing talked about regional and economic development measures at the meeting with district and township level departmental personnel and MSME businesspersons from Meiktila District at Kandaw Mingala Hall in Meiktila of Mandalay Region yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Senior General highlighted

Approved power projects to generate electricity in Meiktila

Green Zone Areas must be implemented in Meiktila District without fail and perennial trees must be systematically conserved.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General in the meeting with MSME businesspersons in Meiktila

1. While the government is implementing the electric power project, businesspersons can operate solar projects to generate electricity in Meiktila region on a manageable scale.
2. The agricultural products derived from farming activities within the Meiktila District can also be successfully utilized in animal feed production.
3. If the region's meat production capabilities are further developed and succeed as the central hub for meat production within the country.
4. As the arrival of many tourists can significantly contribute to the socio-economic development of the local community, Green Zone Areas must be implemented in Meiktila District without fail.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the display of local products and foodstuffs at the meeting with MSME businesspeople in Meiktila yesterday.

that while the government is implementing the electric power project, businesspersons can operate solar projects to generate

electricity in Meiktila region on a manageable scale.

Regarding the supply of electricity and its capacity, the

Senior General explained there are challenges due to the destruction caused by terrorists, the inability of some power

plants to operate at full capacity, and issues arising from insufficient natural gas supply.

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Myanmar-Belarus Business Forum held in Yangon

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2025 Naga New Year Festival to be held on 15-17 Jan

BUSINESS

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Customs Dept sets dollar-kyat exchange rate at K3,588 for Customs tariff

NATIONAL

Continuous Learning and Adherence to Rules Essential for Tatmadaw Members

TATMADAW members must continuously study the ever-evolving and advancing military tactics, consistently practise and improve the skills and techniques already learned, and always adhere to and follow the established rules and regulations.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families from Meiktila and Mandalay stations of the Central Command at the halls of relevant headquarters separately on 10 January 2025.)

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

Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar

I am pleased to convey my warm greetings for the New Year 2025.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar continue to enjoy warm and friendly relations, both bilaterally and through our work together in ASEAN. I look forward to enhancing our efforts towards ensuring peace, security and stability in the region.

I also congratulate the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on their 77th Independence Day.

With my kindest regards and best wishes for the progress and prosperity of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II, Brunei Darussalam sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Union of Myanmar

I extend my sincere congratulations to you and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of your 77th Independence Day.

Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar continue to enjoy good cooperation in areas of shared interest. I look forward to continuing our work in further strengthening these important ties, both bilaterally and as close partners in ASEAN for the mutual benefit of our people and countries.

With my kindest regards and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a Happy New Year 2025 and a joyous Independence Day celebration.

Belarusian Foreign Minister visits Shwedagon Pagoda

BELARUSIAN Foreign Minister Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov and his delegation visited the Bogyoke market in Yangon yesterday afternoon alongside Yangon Region ministers, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives from the Belarus Honourary Consulate in Yangon. The delegation explored traditional handicrafts, ethnic attire and gold-and-silver-embroidered products on sale.

The Belarusian Foreign Minister and the delegation then toured Yangon City Hall, the Secretariat and Kandawgyi Park in a motorcade. They observed the renovation works at the Karaweik Palace in the park.

Later, the delegation visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in Bahan Township, accompanied by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and members



Belarusian Foreign Minister Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov is pictured during tours at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

of the Pagoda Board of Trustees. They paid homage to the pagoda and studied its historical background and pilgrimage guidebooks.

Continuing the visit, the Belarusian Foreign Minister

and the delegation signed the guestbook and the Pagoda Board of Trustees presented them with a commemorative Shwedagon Pagoda picture and a record book as souvenirs. — MNA/KZL

Taung Pinle Dam Buffer Zone designated as protected forest

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has designated an area of 5,861 acres in Pynmana District, Mandalay Region, as the "Taung Pinle Dam Protected Public Forest" through Notification 2/2025 dated 2 January 2025.

This designation is under Subsection E of Section 6 the 2018 Forest Law, granting authority to manage and protect such areas. The establishment aims to mitigate extreme heat and aridity in Pynmana and surrounding regions, ensure favourable weather, enhance greenery, reduce environmental degradation, improve soil quality, prevent soil erosion and protect against natural disasters. It also seeks to ensure a sustainable supply of forest products such as timber, bamboo and firewood for local communities while conserving water catchment areas and tropical forests.

With this designation, the region's native flora, including species like Than (Ironwood Tree), Dahat (Ceylon Oak or Indian Coral Tree), Sha (Mesua Ferrea or Ceylon Ironwood), Htanaung (Conocarpus or Buttonwood), neem and Suphyu (Star Gooseberry or Phyllanthus Acidus) will be conserved. Local people will benefit from increased access to forest resources for agriculture. The area will also serve as a habitat for wildlife such as deer, barking deer, civets, wildcats, rabbits and other species as it is promoting biodiversity conservation. The initiative contributes to combatting desertification, preventing water and wind erosion, maintaining groundwater levels and expanding forest cover. These efforts are aimed to improve climatic conditions and create ecological and socioeconomic benefits for the region.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

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)

Individuals and units must have military awareness and knowledge with farsightedness to make preparations for defence and security measures of the State.



State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets Tatmadaw members and families from Mandalay station yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing recognized those who are serving the defence and security duties of the State at a time when the country is facing internal and external dangers and interferences.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning met Tatmadaw members and families from Meiktila and Mandalay stations of Central Command at the halls of relevant headquarters separately.

In his speech, the Senior General explained occurrences of internal armed conflicts, efforts to perpetuate the Union which has been formed with states and regions since yore, the background history of Tatmadaw in serving the State responsibilities of the State after declaring the State of Emergency for the nation due to the facts that attempts were made to unlawfully grasp the State powers, acts of terrorist groups to undermine

People, government, and Tatmadaw must defend against violence

All Tatmadaw members have to continuously study the ever-evolving and advancing military tactics, consistently practise and improve the skills and techniques already learned, and always adhere to and follow the established rules and regulations.

security, peace and stability of the State in various ways and means due to instigations of external elements.

He also clarified measures of Tatmadaw to appropriately handle these issues, instigation

of internal and external organizations and persons to disintegrate Tatmadaw and the people which are primary defence forces of the State, taking pride in the life of Tatmadaw members in serving the defence and security

duties of the State, and strenuous efforts of the government to develop political, economic, peaceful and overall development measures of the State amid challenges.

He continued that the ultimate aim of the State Administration Council is to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.

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Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General in meeting with Tatmadaw members and families of military stations

1. Historical evidence shows that Tatmadaw has been serving the national duty for the sake of the nation and the people amid different attacks triggered by internal insurgencies, dogmatism and sectarianism.
2. Military stations are to systematically carry out territorial security duties to ensure that there is no violence or armed conflicts in the assigned areas and no oppression of the public by arms.
3. All Tatmadaw members have to continuously study the ever-evolving and advancing military tactics, to consistently practise and improve the skills and techniques already learned.

NATIONAL

Dinner hosted in honour of International Conference on Applied Research in Education (2025)

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the dinner in honour of the International Conference on Applied Research in Education (2025) at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The Vice-Senior General presented gifts to representatives from international organizations namely China Geological Survey, the Guangzhou Marine Geological Survey (GMGS), the Association of Southeast Asian Teacher Education Network (ASTEN) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Technical Education Development (SAMEO TED) which participated in the conference.

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo presented gifts to a representative for the



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents a bouquet and cash awards to performers during the dinner.

members of the chairs of the conference and certificates of appreciation to representatives

for scholars who evaluated the papers and for resource persons.

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung

Aye gave certificates of appreciation to resource persons from the arts and science arenas, Oceanian and geoscience arenas, MSME and TEVT sectors.

SAC Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae handed certificates of appreciation to resource persons of the language resources and technological arenas and young generation scientists and gifts to a representative from the organizing committee, respectively.

The Vice-Senior General had the dinner together with all attendees.

Also present at the dinner were SAC members, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, diplomats from foreign missions to Myanmar, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, resource persons, scholars and officials. — MNA/TTA

Approved power projects to generate ...

FROM PAGE 1

He noted that the agricultural products derived from farming activities within the Meiktila District can also be successfully utilized in animal feed production, adding that the region's meat production capabilities are further developed and succeed as the central hub for meat production within the country.

Located in a central position of the country, he underlined that Meiktila is a focal point capable of quickly transporting and selling fresh meat, dried meat, frozen meat, and leather across the nation.

He underscored that as more than 10 per cent of the cultivated land within Meiktila District can be irrigated, ways and means must be sought to overcome challenges.

He stressed that due to the poor

quality of agricultural land in the Meiktila District, resulting in low yields, it is necessary to find methods such as increasing the required inputs, using fertilizers, incorporating natural soil preparation, and implementing land improvement techniques to enhance soil quality and improve productivity.

The Senior General instructed local authorities to create opportunities for successfully implementing agriculture and livestock-based businesses in the region.

The Senior General spotted that as onions and chillis are cultivated in Meiktila district with a good yield, value-added products of these crops can also be sold at home and abroad.

He pointed out that as the arrival of many tourists can significantly contribute to the socio-economic development of

the local community, Green Zone Areas must be implemented in Meiktila District without fail and perennial trees must be systematically conserved.

The Mandalay Region Chief Minister and the Meiktila District Administration Body Chairman reported on the operation of MSME businesses in Meiktila District, sector-wise development of the district, and assistance of the regional government for the development of Meiktila District.

MSME businesspersons presented the implementation of their businesses, market shares and difficulties, benefits in the generation of electricity through solar energy, more progress of oil mills, development of cotton cultivation, and operation of goat farms.

Union ministers discussed the dis-

bursalment of loans to MSME businesses, the development of the production chain of textile industries and cultivation of cotton, requirements to showcase quality MSME products at the product fairs, and plans to produce bamboo in Meiktila District.

The Senior General viewed round the display of domestic products, foodstuffs, personal goods, textiles, and cotton products and asked about grasping the market share for these products.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers Admiral Moe Aung, U Khin Maung Yi and Dr Charlie Than, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Central Command, officials and MSME businesspersons. — MNA/TTA

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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.



Chairman of the 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025 Organizing Central Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered a speech at the first coordination meeting of the central committee at the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General stressed that it is planned to organize a large MSME product competition in conjunction with the Union Day celebration in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, including all states and regions to showcase MSME products from various regions, promote competition among products, and enhance quality and production sectors.

He pointed out that the Union Day ceremony, being a national-level event, requires special attention to health and security measures, adding it is necessary to implement stricter security measures compared to previous ceremonies.

He underlined that the competition aims to foster growth and development as a chance for visitors to view local traditional foods from different regions displayed in a variety of types at a single location.

Chairman of the Management Committee for Organizing the 78th Anniversary of Union Day ceremony Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Tun Oo reported on the formation of committees to successfully hold the ceremony and their operations.



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win chairs the first coordination meeting of the 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025 Organizing Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw.

Stricter security measures needed for Union Day Ceremony

Visitors at the Union Day Anniversary Celebration will have the opportunity to explore a comprehensive MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) product competition.

Officials from subcommittees presented the work process of their subcommittees and plans. Central Committee members Union ministers and other attendees discussed their perspectives on the successful holding of the ceremony. The Vice-Senior General coordinated all discussions and fulfilled the needs.

The meeting was also attended by Central Committee member Union ministers, officials from NSPNC, chairmen of subcommittees who are deputy ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers and officials.

The 78th Anniversary of Union Day ceremony must be held in accord with the national objective: to strive for the perpet-

ual 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 and the rule of law; to enhance collaborative efforts to ensure nationwide stability and tranquillity, enabling the successful conduct of multiparty general elections; and to promote balanced development across all regions and states, as well as enhance health, education and job opportunities for ethnic nationals. — MNA/TTA

People, government, and Tatmadaw must defend ...

FROM PAGE 3

Currently, he said that preparations are being made to hold a prestigious election with an enumeration of the population and household census.

The Senior General unveiled historical shreds of evidence showing that Tatmadaw has been serving the national duty for the sake of the nation and the people amid different attacks triggered by internal insurgencies, dogmatism and sectarianism.

The Senior General recognized those who are serving the defence and security duties of the State at a time when the country is facing internal and external dangers and interferences.

Individuals and units must have military awareness and knowledge with

farsightedness to make preparations for defence and security measures of the State.

The people, the government, and Tatmadaw have to defend against acts of violence with collective strength and unity.

Military stations are to systematically carry out territorial security duties to ensure that there is no violence or armed conflicts in the assigned areas and no oppression of the public by arms.

All Tatmadaw members have to continuously study the ever-evolving and advancing military tactics, consistently practise and improve the skills and techniques already learned, and always adhere to and follow the established rules and regulations.

The Senior General urged all Tatmadaw members and families to read literature for the improvement of their lives and live in unity while serving the duties assigned by the State and Tatmadaw.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families from military stations to the Meiktila Station commander and the military command commander while the wife of the Senior General gave foodstuffs for families of the stations to the wife of the station commander and the wife of the command commander.

The Senior General, his wife and party cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families.

Also present at the meetings were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior

General, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Central Command and officials.

The Senior General inspected the reconstruction of the Sishay Bridge in the western part of the royal city in Mandalay and heard reports on the progress of works by officials. He instructed officials to rebuild the bridge in its original style, improve roads connected with the bridge and carry out the beautification of the walls and moats.

The Senior General viewed round the walls of the ancient royal city of Mandalay by car. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Kachin State Day celebrated in Myitkyina

THE ceremony for the 77th Anniversary of Kachin State Day was organized on the lawn in front of the Kachin State government office yesterday.

State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister at the Prime Minister Office Admiral Tin Aung San first read out the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhama Min Aung Hlaing to the 77th Kachin State Day celebration.

State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan remarked, and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung donated 150 sets of panels with 120-watt solar home systems to the Kachin State Security and Border Affairs minister.



The Kachin State Day celebration in progress yesterday in Myitkyina, attended by SAC Member Deputy PM and Union Minister at the Prime Minister Office Admiral Tin Aung San.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn donated 50 MRTV DTHs and 50 DVB T2 Set Top Boxes for

the state government and 30 MRTV DTHs and 50 DVB T2 Set Top Boxes for families of Northern Command.

The Admiral and party participated in the closing event with Manaw dance and posed for documentary photos.

At noon, the Admiral and party attended the honorary certificate, prizes and award-giving ceremony to the outstanding person for their efforts in state development measures and sector-wise activities at the township stadium in Myitkyina.

The state chief minister and state Security and Border Affairs minister explained the awarding event, and the Admiral and party conferred the honorary certificates and prizes on the outstanding ones.

The Admiral and party also joined the dinner event for the 77th Kachin State Day on the same evening.

They had dinner together enjoying the traditional dance and songs of cultural dance troupes. — State IPRD/KTZH



The commemorative group picture taken at the Myanmar-Belarus Business Forum yesterday in Yangon.

Myanmar-Belarus Business Forum held in Yangon

STATE Administration Council Member General Nyo Saw attended the Myanmar-Belarus Business Forum in Yangon yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, Belarusian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, UMFCCI President U Aye Win, departmental officials and businesspersons of two countries.

First, the General highlighted the bilateral cooperation after the establishment of diplomatic relations, further cooperation in trade, investment and special economic zones, the signing of an agreement on the promotion and protection of investment between the two countries and efforts of the two governments to facilitate the

businesses. Then, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus mentioned the Belarusian business people who came along with him talked about the opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the economy and expressed his willingness to start the businesses soon through communication with Myanmar businesspersons. The two sides also discussed the export of Myanmar products, business opportunities and cooperation in fertilizer, car production, medicine, higher education and maritime products.

After the forum, the two leaders exchanged gifts and attended the lunch hosted by UMFCCI.

The forum also focused on sectors of fertilizer, milk and dairy product, healthcare service, medicine production, agriculture, livestock and veterinary medicine production and foodstuffs. — MNA/KTZH

“Optimizing Myanmar’s Role in ASEAN” workshop continues

THE two-day workshop on “Optimizing Myanmar’s Role in ASEAN” continued yesterday at the Lawkanat Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the second day, based on the presentations and outcomes of discussion on the ASEAN Political and Security Community on the first day, the participants from the respective ministries of the three ASEAN Community Pillars reviewed progress under the ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, prioritized key sectors, explored strategies to address challenges, and outlined approaches to strengthen collaboration in ASEAN mechanisms. The two-day workshop has fostered a stronger network among ministries under the three ASEAN Community Pillars. Based on the outcomes of the workshop, a national-level ASEAN work plan will be formulated through close coordination among all ministries. Furthermore, Myanmar has actively engaged in the strategic action plan of various ASEAN pillars to support the implementation of the ASEAN-Community Vision 2045, while openly exchanging views on aligning national priorities with regional interests.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe concluded the workshop by encouraging all the participants from the relevant ministries to coordinate and collaborate efforts in advancing a comprehensive strategic national agenda under the three pillars of ASEAN and to strive to reach the same goal with unity and strength. — MNA/KZL



The concluding event of the workshop underway yesterday.

NATIONAL

Myanmar focuses on Blue Economy development

THE Coastal Resources Management Central Committee held its sixth meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, who is also chairman of the central committee, said the ASEAN states and world countries develop the Blue Economy to achieve UN's sustainable goals. When it comes to the Blue Economy potentials of Myanmar, there are many opportunities for development as the country has a variety of coastal regions and marine ecosystems for environmental services, and can conduct onshore and offshore fishing and breed marine resources and



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Transport and Communications Minister General Mya Tun Oo presides over the coordination meeting of the Coastal Resources Management Central Committee yesterday.

pearls to produce various marine products like fish, prawn and crabs. Moreover, the country also possesses potential for offshore oil and natural gas extraction,

renewable energy like solar, hydro and wind power; international standard jetties as it is located in strategic areas for world marine trade route, tourism develop-

ment for having natural beaches and islands. The diverse cultures of ethnic communities and locals living in coastal regions can also be preserved.

There are not only many opportunities for Blue Economy but also challenges to be resolved.

He then urged the government, private, NGOs and entrepreneurs to work practically for the sustainable development of coastal regions.

Afterwards, the central committee secretary the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation reported on the work plans of the committee.

The General made a concluding remark after hearing the reports submitted by region and state chief ministers, the deputy chief of staff (Navy), deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, and officials. — MNA/KTZH

MoFA Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs receives CAU's Professor Emeritus

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw received Dr Taehyun Kim, Professor Emeritus of International Relations at the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), Chung-Ang University (CAU), yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they discussed strengthening



The Chung-Ang University Professor Emeritus calls on Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw yesterday.

bilateral relations in the context of education and respective sectors between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Korea, the establishment of a professional graduate school in Myanmar, including various short-term capacity building programmes and workshops for Myanmar diplomats. — MNA

Myanmar, Belarus discuss enhancing trade in agricultural and food products

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tin Htut along with responsible officials met Mr Ivan Smilhin, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus and his delegation on 9 January at the meeting hall of the Union Minister's Office.

During the meeting, both sides discussed on-

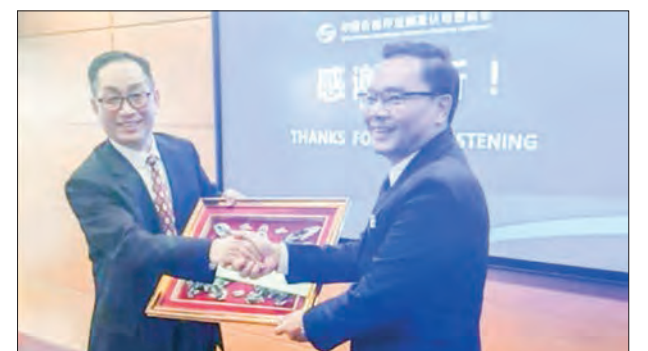
going cooperation in agricultural, economic and research activities, as well as plans for further collaboration. They also explored exchanging experiences, information and modern technologies in agricultural and food safety sectors. They focused on cooperation in services related to the control of livestock and plant pests and diseases, increasing investments



Deputy Minister Dr Tin Htut meets Belarusian Agriculture and Food Deputy Minister Ivan Smilhin on 9 January 2025.

in the agricultural sector and boosting trade in agricultural and food products. — MNA/KZL

MoST Deputy Minister discusses research collaboration with CNAS Chief Executive



Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya meets the Deputy Minister and CNAS Chief Executive in Beijing, China.

DEPUTY Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya led the Myanmar delegation on a visit to the headquarters of the China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS) in Beijing, China, on the afternoon of 7 January. The CNAS chief executive and officials warmly welcomed the delegation with an honorary luncheon.

Following the luncheon, a bilateral meeting was held at the CNAS headquarters. During the meeting, the Deputy Minister and the CNAS Chief Executive discussed key areas of collaboration, including product testing and calibration in testing laboratories, accreditation for inspection bodies and certification organizations and support for proficiency testing providers. They also explored ways to enhance domestic and international quality accreditations.

Discussions focused on strengthening the long-standing China-Myanmar relations and fostering closer diplomatic ties, particularly ahead of the 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations in 2025. Both sides agreed to accelerate joint initiatives in nurturing skilled professionals and sharing research collaborations.

After the meeting, the deputy minister and the CNAS chief executive exchanged commemorative gifts as a symbol of mutual friendship. — MNA/KZL

OPINION

ARTICLE

Forge peace in Kachin State for all national brethren

KACHIN State, rich in invaluable natural resources and blessed with a fine natural environment, fertile soils, and panoramic beauty, should also be blessed with the blossoming flowers of peace. All stakeholders in Kachin State must consider the suffering of the resident ethnic communities, including the bitter lives of their children.

To honour the establishment of the Kachin State government during the first session of the Kachin State Council Conference on 10 January 1948, Kachin State Day was designated on that historic day. It has been celebrated annually, with this

year marking its 77th anniversary. In truth, all ethnic groups residing in Kachin State share the right to enjoy the same prosperity as their fellow citizens across the nation. Therefore, the people of Kachin State should remain focused on addressing the needs of residents within the state.

Now is essential for all national brethren residing in Kachin State to initiate durable peace which should not be a mere promise but a collective effort. Everyone must work diligently to foster peace for all. True peace in Kachin State will allow its residents to live safely and securely. This, in turn, will encourage a focus on development efforts not just for Kachin State, but for the entire nation. Therefore, all should commit to resolving political issues through dialogue in political ways and the Union spirit, while putting an end to acts of terror in the state.

Only when more than 1.5 million people in Kachin State overcome discrimination based on race and religion will they have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of unity, peace, prosperity, and the rule of law. Therefore, they must eliminate the barriers dividing them and unite as quickly as possible. Efforts to foster unity and improve socioeconomic conditions should not be limited to Kachin State but extend across the entire nation.

The State Administration Council is working towards comprehensive development in the political, economic, and social sectors. The government is also committed to building a democratic and federal Union, fostering sustainable peace nationwide, in line with the Three Main National Causes. A message sent by the Head of State for the 77th Anniversary of Kachin State Day stated that the government and Tatmadaw will join hands with ethnic national people to shape a better present, aiming to initiate a peaceful and prosperous future for the State and its ethnic national people.

Now is essential for all national brethren residing in Kachin State to initiate durable peace which should not be a mere promise but a collective effort. Everyone must work diligently to foster peace for all. True peace in Kachin State will allow its residents to live safely and securely. This, in turn, will encourage a focus on development efforts not just for Kachin State, but for the entire nation. Therefore, all should commit to resolving political issues through dialogue in political ways and the Union spirit, while putting an end to acts of terror in the state.

Translation of and Commentary on the Poem *Worldling* by Mya Myint Moh

WORLDLING

By Mya Myint Moh
Translation by Myint Zan

Translator's comments:

The translator is unsure whether this enigmatic poem published in January 1992 can be described or classified as belonging to the genre of modern Burmese poetry (ခေတ်ပေါ်ကဗျာ), post-modern poetry or contemporary poetry (ခေတ်ပြိုင်ကဗျာ).

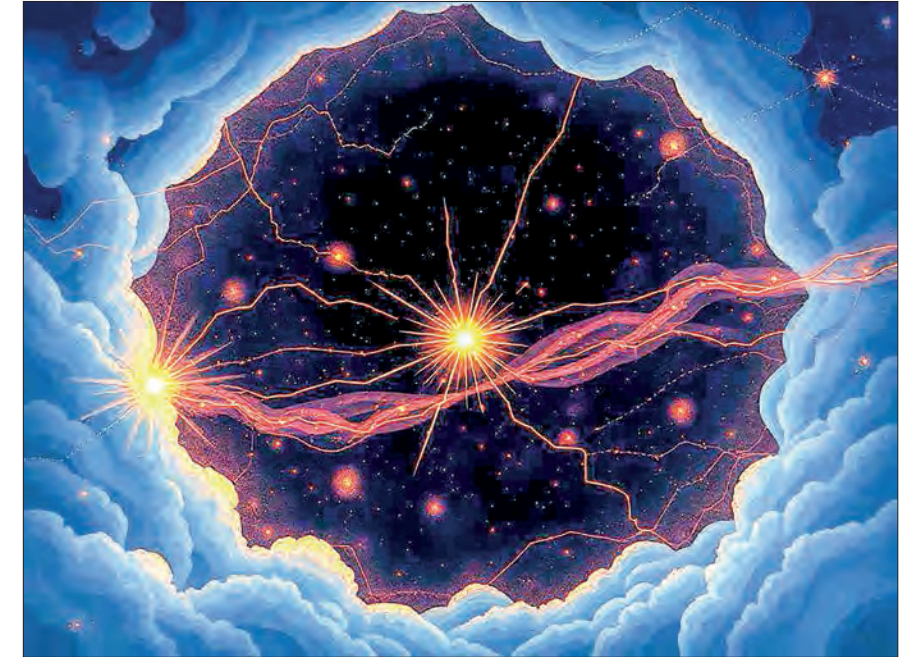
The last line of the poem အရိုမေဠုယျ ဘုရား အဖူးရဝေ can be found in some stone inscriptions during the Bagan era dating back to 12th to 13th century Common Era (CE). The phrase usually appears at or near the end of the records of donations on stone made by the donors. Among others, the phrase could mean 'if anyone in the future would deface or deliberately damage the records of the donors' good deeds may those persons not have the chance, in future lives, to pay homage to the future Maitreya Buddha. It is almost a 'curse word' or phrase since one of the major, lofty aspirations of Buddhist 'worldlings' ဖုရဝေဠု

during the Bagan era is to be reborn during the time – indeed in the aeon – where the future Maitreya Buddha 'flourishes' so that they can pay homage and hear the future Buddha's sermons. Hence the phrase connotes the curse or the 'wish' of the donors that those who destroy the record of the meritorious deeds of the donors may not have the chance to pay homage အဖူးရဝေ to the future Maitreya Buddha. This curse can be said to be in the 'soft' sense. It pales in comparison with some of the frightening curses of the 'worldlings' of the Bagan era which can also be found in some stone inscriptions.

In the Bagan era, the word အ (the last word of the Myanmar alphabet) can, in modern usage, be equated with ဝ. Hence ordinarily and in the context of the Bagan era of about seven to nine centuries ago the phrase အဖူးရဝေ in modern parlance, becomes မဖူးရဝေ (May they never had the chance to pay homage to the Maitreya Buddha). There is a remote possibility though that the poet used the phrase အဖူးရဝေ not in the negative sense but in the positive sense of အဖူးအမြင်ရလို၏ as a verbal noun: 'May I have the chance to look upon, give homage to the Maitreya Buddha' (as described in the stanza marked by two asterisks **). However, in light of the preceding arguably negative and enigmatic phrases of the poem it perhaps makes more sense that the poet in the year 1992 used the word အဖူးရဝေ in the same way our ancestors in the Bagan era used about 750 to 900 years earlier. Hence the last phrase in the poem can perhaps be 'proximately' translated as 'May one never had the chance to pay homage to Maitreya Buddha' as stated in the stanza marked with a single asterisk*.

For the exposition in the above paragraph, I would like to express my thanks to Dr Aung Myint Oo, Retired Professor of Myanmar at the University of Yangon for his insightful comments on the last phrase of the poem through our discussions on social media.

There is a Pali saying ပုဗ္ဗန္ဓုနော ဥဗ္ဗတ္တကာ roughly translatable as 'all worldlings are fools or ignoramuses' since they are ignorant of the Buddhist Dhamma and their ignorance makes them to be worldlings and 'fools'. The speaker of the poem makes a few statements which, at first view, for those 'worldlings' (pun intended) not familiar with modern, post-modern or contemporary Burmese poetry can be described as 'nonsensical' if not 'foolish'. These statements permeate the poem



this unsynchronised, ill-fitting (phenomenon) is such that reliance is made on the darkness stealing the light of the Sun and 'marrying' /using it

what sort of Moon is that? the interfering hands and the neck that comes forth is too bold

the earth is being beaten by the cold, big hand of the searing light 'tis not a view that merits seeing and watching since (one) hates the moonlight (one also) hates the bright (Sirius) star

the Milky Way galaxy the guest comet oh how (one) wishes to darken the entire sky to tumble it down

may one never has the chance to pay homage to the Maitreya Buddha*

OR (alternatively)

may (I) have the chance to pay homage to the Maitreya Buddha**

First published in the vernacular in Mahaythi magazine January 1992

Why Not Choose the University for Life?

AS USUAL, all students who have passed the matriculation examination tend to choose and go to a university per their scores, especially the entrance scores set by relevant universities. Since the university is a paradise for most students and teachers as far as I can see, they almost always enjoy a university life in their bones. Basic education is quite different from higher education in which students mainly study all by themselves rather than with the help of their teachers. In other words, university students lead an independent life in many cases and use self-directed learning in their studies. From time immemorial, the university has been deemed a place where a child is taught to have grown into an adult to the core. Hence, choosing and going to a university becomes as important

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)



Despite challenges, university can be a transformative experience, offering opportunities for personal growth, social connections, and future career prospects, making it essential to choose a university that aligns with one's interests and goals. **ILLUSTRATION: VISUAL ART**

as having passed the matriculation examination. Of course, university students are betwixt and between, that is, they are neither children nor adults. In the main, university attendees come from different backgrounds and situations such as regions, nationalities, religions, beliefs, and cultures. Thus, university students can meet a culture shock or culture bump either consciously or unconsciously, particularly in their university and hostel lives. Also, university teachers are not the same as school teachers at all. University teachers are given to treat their students like adults or even friends instead of like a child. Most of them use the lecture method or sometimes the lecture-discussion method in their instruction as a teacher-centred approach or an authoritative style of teaching.

However, university students usually feel free to do their major studies, assignments, and tutorial exams all to themselves as described above. Because the students have to dedicate their priceless time in decades to attending university as in school, they should choose and go to university pretty carefully. So, the choice of a university to join is of great importance to every student. Some students can attend the university that they want to. They are also happy with their educational success in university to the full extent that they can achieve. The more success these students wish to get in education, the better they will be trying throughout their academic terms. But for some students who cannot go to their selected universities, even any educational achievement in university will pos-

sibly be nothing strange to them. Sometimes, they like to fall out of their education; they have no desire to try it on. Here, the exception proves the rule. Sad to say, some students have no chance of attending their dream university simply due to their home socio-economic conditions, especially educational fees. Other students choose to go to their desired universities by mistake. Only after a few years of their educational terms do they get to know that their university choice was wrong. What I want to say herein is that their wrongly selected universities, major subjects in particular, do not match up with their very likes and satisfaction in education. Accordingly, university students should have set their distinct educational aims and goals even while they are studying in basic education schools.

Some students attend a university following their parents' wishes only, but they would like to go to another university. A university student has to be given a chance to freely choose the university, relying upon his or her natural hobby. Some seniors are under the illusion that they are getting to feel an enjoyable university life bit by bit as long as their academic years last. Despite this, juniors can be different from them in one way or another. In truth, a university student should not spend too much of his or her time attending the university that they do not want to. Certain students go to university to get a bachelor's degree; they do not have any apparent reason for it. They may or may not live a married life after their targeted education. Whatever is said, university attendance must not be merely a waste of time. It would be best if university degrees go together with a student's future jobs. And he or she will have to be a success in education in the future, following his or her great

resolution. I think that there is no university where students are not happy in the world at all. University students like celebrating freshers' welcome and farewell parties as well as paying homage ceremonies and other events as always. Senior students behave well towards their seniors like their biological siblings. The students share their regional knowledge, religious beliefs, cultural norms, language skills, digital literacy and many others inside or outside the university. What is more, they imitate their close classmates' or flatmates' habits to the letter. Strangely enough, some students unexpectedly find their life partners-to-be at university. As for me, going to a university may be the U-turn of a student's life. Also, university life is the happiest moment together with friends and teachers for all students, I believe. As any student needs to spend nearly one-third of his or her life in education, he or she ought to choose and attend the university for a living. ■

NATIONAL

International Conference on Applied Research in Education 2025 continues



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe and officials support the International Conference on Applied Research in Education 2025 yesterday.

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, along with Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint and Dr Moe Zaw Htun, and other officials, toured and encouraged the International Conference on Applied Research in Education 2025, which was held on 9 and 10 January at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday morning.

In line with the theme of the conference, "Navigating the Future: Education, Science, and Technology for Brighter and More Prosperous Societies," research paper readings continued in six groups and seven sections, according to the relevant subjects.

The resource persons pre-

sented the research papers, which included papers on teacher education in Parallel Session 1, papers on arts and sciences in Parallel Session 2, papers on ocean and earth sciences in Parallel Sessions 3 and 4, papers on MSMEs, enterprises, technology, vocational education and training in Parallel Session 5, papers on

language resources and artificial intelligence technology in Parallel Session 6, and doctoral theses by the new generation in Parallel Session 7. Afterwards, the attendees asked questions and discussed the topics they wanted to know more about.

The summaries of the readings and discussions of the research papers in each Parallel

Session were then presented by Rector of Yangon University of Education Dr Kay Thwe Hlaing, Rector of Mandalay University Dr Tin Htun, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Educational Research, Planning and Training Dr Soe Moe Lwin, Deputy Director General of the Department of Higher Education Dr Nay Aung, and Project Director of the Myanmar Language Development Project Dr Tin Phone Kyaw.

Finally, Deputy Minister Dr Moe Zaw Htun delivered a closing speech, emphasizing the need for future generations to ensure a brighter future through sustainable and improved socioeconomic conditions via science and technology, and to carry forward the benefits for both the country and the region. — MNA/MKKS

Myeik entrepreneurs, Chinese maritime experts discuss fishery cooperation

UNDER the programmes of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central), the Myeik Township Ethnic Entrepreneurs led by Myeik Public Corporation Chairman U Hla Than and Chinese maritime experts discussed the maritime development, fish and prawn breeding and market cooperation in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on 7 January.

They observed the prawn farms, freshwater and saltwater fish and prawn farming areas, feed factories and fish auction markets.

Chinese maritime experts met Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and discussed cooperation in Myeik development programmes.

The Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) chairman also met officials from the Chinese temple and locals of Myeik and discussed the formation of branch associations, objectives of the association, activities of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association and cooperation plans, including the formation of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association Branch (Myeik).

After the meeting, the Myanmar-China Friendship Association Branch (Myeik) was formed. — MNA/KTZH

Four arrested in Mandalay for burglary and false reporting



Four offenders are seen alongside seized vehicle and burglary-related items.

POLICE arrested four offenders involved in a burglary case at Alliance for Microfinance in Mandalay Region following the report of manager U Zaw Zaw Aung of Alliance on 9 January.

According to the investigation, on 8 January, two men arrived at the office while the night-duty man U Khin Maung Kyi was serving his duty at 12:30 pm. The offenders entered the office saying they would check the guest lists and took the LECCO safe containing K100,302,400, CCTV station and cut the CCTV wire.

Then, U Khin Maung Kyi told about the case to the manager. The manager reported to PyinOoLwin Myoma

Police Station and a case was filed under Penal Code Section 457/115.

Dutyman U Khin Maung Kyi confessed that Aung Ko Ko, supervisor of Alliance and Nyein Chan Phyto (aka) Aik Pee, in charge of the loan, arrived at the office at 9:30 pm on 8 January and told him that they would steal the safe of the office. If their plan succeeds, he would get K15 million. They also notified him that the inspection unit for guest lists took the money when he faced the investigation. Then, they tied him with tape and took one safe and a CCTV station. Therefore, U Khin Maung Kyi did not tell the truth to manager U Zaw Zaw Aung for a K15 million incentive.

Based on the confession of U Khin Maung Kyi, the security forces arrested supervisor Aung Ko Ko, in charge of loan Nyein Chan Phyto (aka) Aik Pee, Sunday (aka) Kadar Bai who unlocked the safe using fake key, together with K99,702,400, safe, two laptops, one corded phone, three CCTVs, tape, scissor, one tablet, two backpacks and Honda Fit, at the corner of Sabei Street and Nawarat Street in PyinOoLwin at 4:45 pm on 9 January. The four offenders have taken action under the law. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Malicious media spreads false claims about Kyauknimaw Village

MALICIOUS news media have been spreading false and misleading reports alleging that security personnel set fire to numerous homes in Kyauknimaw Village, Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region.

According to a security official, terrorists have been forcefully recruiting villagers and extorting money in local areas. While security forces were conducting necessary security measures to prevent terrorist intrusions into

villages, terrorists launched attacks using drones equipped with incendiary bombs, destroying residential buildings.

Reports indicate that subversive media outlets are deliberately spreading misinformation to cover up such terrorist acts by publishing false and fabricated news. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

2025 Naga New Year Festival to be held on 15-17 Jan

NAGA New Year Festival will take place from 15 to 17 January in Lahe, Naga Self-Administered Zone on a grand scale, said U Aung Htut, chair of the Naga Traditional Literature and Culture Association (Central). Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun towns of the Self-Administered Zone rotate their turns to host this annual festival after the harvest season.

“The festival is held in Naga’s three towns in turn. The festival is hoped to strengthen ties of Naga ethnic people, promote culture and effectuate socio-development. Naga traditional dance, music, performance and Naga feast will be included,” U Aung Htut elaborated.

Naga traditional dance and performance with

distinctive traditional clothes decorated with silver bangles, hornbills, plumes, goat’s tails, boar teeth and buffalo horns enhance the visitors and tourists with its rich and unique culture. The opening day of the festival coincides with the 35th anniversary of the Traditional Naga Literature and Culture Association. The Naga Traditional New Year Sports competitions are being held between 7 and 14 January to mark the Jade Anniversary. — ASH/KK

This photo shows Naga ethnic people celebrating the New Year Festival with traditional dance in the previous year.



This image shows a poster for the duet song MV.

Wyne Su Khine Thein and Helay release new duet song MV

THE music video (MV) for the duet song named ‘Hna Yauk Hte Taukpa Mel’ (Just the Two of Us, We’ll Shine) by singers Wyne Su Khine Thein and Helay was officially released on 8 January, according to Wyne Su Khine Thein. The song was composed by Helay and marks their fourth duet collaboration.

Wyne Su Khine Thein shared, “At many events, fans keep requesting duet songs with Ko Helay, especially ‘Hmar Pyi Naw’ (Oh, a Mistake). So, we created this new song to brighten up our fans. The lyrics are modern and relatable. Even before its release, fans were already excited about it because Ko Helay’s lyrics are always impressive. I rarely sing love songs, but this one will truly warm the hearts of our fans. It’s about couples going through ups and downs but staying together no matter what”.

Apart from being a singer, Wyne Su Khine Thein is also an actress. She recently won the Melo Most Played 2024 Award for her song named ‘Athel Kwel Yetyaza’ (Heartbreaking Day) on the Melo application. Previous popular duets by Helay and Wyne Su Khine Thein, such as ‘Hmar Pyi Naw’ (Oh, a Mistake) and ‘Nga Eainmet’ (My Dream), have also been well-received by fans. — ASH/KZL

Fourth Cherry Blossom Festival in Loimwe draws over 70,000 visitors

ACCORDING to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Shan State), the fourth Cherry Blossom Festival took place over five days, from 1 to 5 January, in Loimwe, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East). The festival was first held in January 2022.

“The festival was held during the cherry blossom season and lasted for five days. It attracted many locals from eastern Shan State, including people from Mongkhet, Mongyawng, Mongla, and Tachilek, who came in traditional cos-

tumes. Last year, over 90,000 people attended, but over 70,000 people visited this year. Cherry trees were first planted in this area during the colonial era, and over generations, hundreds more have been added. As a result, the entire forest is covered with cherry blossoms during the season. There are over 1,000 cherry trees in the Loimwe area,” said U Htin Aung Naing, Head of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Shan State).

The festival features traditional dance performances

by local ethnic groups, music performances by local singers, and a market offering local products.

In Myanmar, Chin State and Shan State are home to the most cherry trees. In Loimwe, two types of cherry trees – sweet and bitter – bloom alternately, and the cherry blossom season lasts for about a month. Cherry blossom festivals are also held in other Southeast Asian countries, including Vietnam and Thailand, and cherry trees are highly regarded in Japan. — ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases attendees at the opening ceremony of the 2025 Cherry Blossom Festival in Loimwe, Kengtung Township.

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NATIONAL BUSINESS

Customs Dept sets dollar-kyat exchange rate at K3,588 for Customs tariff

THE Customs Department announced weekly foreign exchange rates to be exercised in levying Customs tariffs and a US dollar is set to be exchanged at K3,588. The exchange rates for Customs duty from 12 to 18 January are K3,588 against a US dollar, K2,636.59 for a Singapore dollar, K105.11 against a Thai baht and K491.545 for a yuan, the Customs Department announced.

Notification 90/2024 of the Ministry of Planning and Finance stated that the Customs Department will amend the weekly exchange rate as per the online trading rate, instead of the rate based on the reference rate of the CBM, while collecting customs tariffs starting from 1 January 2025. Moreover, the weekly exchange rate based on the online trading rate will be posted on the website and Facebook Page of the Customs Department weekly, the notification revealed. — NN/KK



Greenbacks spotted at the Forex

CBM sells \$2.2M on 9 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$2.2 million on 9 January 2025.

It injected \$256,000 on 8 January again after selling over \$2.15 million on 7 January, \$25 million and 2.8 mil-

lion baht on 6 January, 510,000 yuan on 3 January, \$25 million, over 670,000 yuan and 2.45 million baht on 2 January into the financial market.

Therefore, the CBM injected \$52 million, 1.2 million yuan and 5.3 million

baht as of this month.

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 general view of the office of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

YUOE to offer online master courses in banking, finance, and insurance

YANGON University of Economics will conduct online master courses (Executive Master of Banking and Finance- EMBF and Master of Insurance — MI) for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Applications can be submitted to the YUOE (Kamayut) by 18 February, said the head of the Student Affairs Department, YUOE.

Those trainees aged over 30 who have five years of management experience in the banking or finance industries are entitled to apply for the EMBF online course. The criteria for the MI course is two years of working experience in microfinance, finance or financial-related industries and the trainees must be over 25 years. They all must hold a bachelor's degree from the relevant universities. They are not allowed to attend other courses simultaneously. They must pass the assessments; university attendance hours and written and interview tests. They must take an oral exam for a research paper to earn a degree.

The entrance exam will be held on 23 February 2025 at YUOE. Those qualified will be selected to take the entrance exam. They will cancel incomplete documents. Individuals can enquire about details through the Department of Student Affairs at 017 526613 and the Department of Commerce at 09 442631898. — NN/KK

Increased tomato production lowers prices for consumers

IT is time that tomato production has been large in highland areas and Inlay areas in southern Shan State's Nyaungshwe Township, making consumers enjoy it cheaply, according to vegetable wholesale trading centres in Nyaungshwe.

Similarly, the tomato trade is doing well now due to being cheap, according to vegetable traders in Monywa Township.

Of the two varieties of tomato, Chinese Taipei species are mainly transported to Yangon, Bago, Pyu, Maw-

lamyine, Bilin and Thaton, while local species, Burmese sour tomato trade have increased as the price has fallen.

"The price of local tomato species has climbed back today, but not too much. Chinese Taipei species, sweet tomato trade is also doing well, with orders from Yangon, Bago and Pyu as well as Mawlamyine, Bilin and Thaton. Both Chinese Taipei species and local species are cheap now so it is time that the trade has been fine," said Ma Shu Shu, a tomato retail and wholesale distributor in Monywa Township. — Thit Taw/ZS



Tomatoes are arranged for sale in the Monywa market.

Sri Lanka to establish intl gem, jewellery centre to boost exports

The centre will include showrooms, museums, quality-testing labs, freight services, and an export hub.

SRI Lanka plans to establish an international gem and jewellery centre to enhance the global recognition of the country's gem and jewellery industry, state media reported on Friday.

Naveen Sooriyarachi, chairman of the National Gem and Jewellery Authority, was quoted as saying that the center will feature comprehensive

facilities, including gem and jewellery showrooms, gem museums, laboratory services for quality testing, freight transport services, and a hub for export-related activities.

Official data shows that Sri Lanka's gem and jewellery sector currently generates approximately US\$ 400 million annually.

Earlier this month, the President's Media Division

(PMD) announced the government's goal to develop the sector further, aiming to exceed \$1 billion in gem and jewellery exports. — Xinhua



People visit a gem and jewellery booth at the FACETS Sri Lanka Premier Edition show in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 7 January 2023. **PHOTO: AJITH PERERA/XINHUA/FILE**

Lufthansa says to add 10,000 jobs in 2025

LUFTHANSA plans to add 10,000 jobs in 2025, the German airline group said Wednesday, as global air traffic continues to recover following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The company said it would seek 800 pilots and 2,000 flight attendants, with technical experts, ground operations staff and administrative posts making up the additional hires.

The group cut over 30,000 jobs during the pandemic and has since been hiring to rebuild capacity. About 1,200 people would be hired at its namesake Lufthansa

Airlines, said the group, which also operates the Austrian Airlines, Swiss, Eurowings and Brussels Airlines. The new hires are nonetheless fewer than last year as the company's business unit continues to implement an efficiency programme launched last July.

Across the group, 13,000 employees were hired last year, board member Michael Niggemann said. Aerospace is one of the few sectors in Germany likely to step up hiring this year, according to a study by the German Economic Institute (IW), a think-tank. — AFP



The company said it would seek 800 pilots and 2,000 flight attendants, with technical experts, ground operations staff and administrative posts making up the additional hires. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

India's industrial production grows 5.2% in Nov 2024

INDIA'S Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 5.2 per cent in November 2024, the government data showed Friday.

The data issued by the federal ministry of statistics and programme implementation

(MoSPI) showed that the growth rates of the three sectors, mining, manufacturing and electricity,

for November 2024 are 1.9 per cent, 5.8 per cent and 4.4 per cent, respectively.

According to the ministry, the quick estimates of the IIP stands at 148.4 against 141.1 in November 2023.

"The indices of industrial production for the mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors for the month

of November 2024 stand at 133.8, 147.4 and 184.1 respectively," the MoSPI said.

The data revealed that within the manufacturing sector, top three positive contributors for November 2024 are manufacture of basic metals (7.6 per cent), manufacture of electrical equipment (37.2 per cent) and

manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products (12.0 per cent).

"As per the use base classification, the indices stand at 147.7 for primary goods, 106.8 for capital goods, 158.8 for intermediate goods and 180.6 for infrastructure/construction goods for the month of November 2024," the MoSPI said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SIMONE VOY.NO. (451W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SIMONE VOY.NO. (451W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/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 METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (446N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (446N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Pope warns about AI, fake news and 'manipulating minds'



Francis urged media literacy education to combat misinformation and promote critical analysis. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Pope Francis cautioned against misinformation spread via social media and AI, which can manipulate minds.

POPE Francis warned on Thursday of the dangers of misinformation and its spread via social media and artificial intelligence (AI), cautioning it could be "misused to manipulate minds".

In his traditional New Year's address to diplomats at the Vatican, Francis lamented the increasing ephasized number of society, "aggravated by

the continuous creation and spread of fake news, which not only distorts facts but also perceptions".

"This phenomenon generates false images of reality, a climate of suspicion that foments hate, undermines people's sense of security and compromises civil coexistence and the stability of entire nations," the 88-year-old pontiff said.

Francis regularly rails against fake news. But his comments on Thursday come two days after tech giant Meta — which owns Facebook — announced it was ending its third-party fact-checking programme in the United States and adopting a crowd-sourced model to police misinformation similar to that of the Elon Musk-owned X. — AFP

BRIEF: WORLD

New oil refinery inaugurated in N Afghanistan

A new oil refinery with a daily capacity of refining 600 tonnes of crude oil was inaugurated in northern Afghanistan's Balkh province on Thursday.

Constructed at a cost of US\$50 million outside the provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif city by private sector, the firm has provided job opportunities for 100 people directly and hundreds others indirectly, provincial governor Mohammad Yousuf Wafa said at the inauguration ceremony.

The official also noted that the Afghan caretaker administration would spare no effort to take the war-ravaged country towards progress and prosperity.

A handful of refineries have operated in Afghanistan over the past few years. Meanwhile, some Afghan businessmen have decided to establish a consortium with an investment of \$400 million in a bid to make the country become self-reliance in oil refining. — Xinhua

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan plan Astana-Samarkand train route

KAZAKHSTAN and Uzbekistan hope to bolster tourism with plans for a new railway route between Astana and Samarkand, the Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency reported on Friday.

The announcement, made by Passenger Transportation JSC, a subsidiary of Kazakhstan Railways, came after a meeting in Astana between representatives from Passenger Transport and Uzbekistan's national transport company, Uzbekiston Temir Yullari (Uzbekistan Railways).

Encouraged by the growing popularity of existing routes, both countries aim to expand the project by adding more international connections. The new Astana-Samarkand line is expected to further boost tourism between the two nations. — Xinhua

National funeral service for Jimmy Carter begins, all living former presidents present

THE National Funeral Service for former President Jimmy Carter has commenced at the Washington National Cathedral on Thursday, CNN reported.

President Carter's casket has entered the cathedral, where dignitaries and family members have gathered to pay their respects.

According to CNN, in attendance at the memorial service all living former presidents attend President Jimmy Carter's memorial service.

President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, are seated in the front row alongside Vice-President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff. Former Presidents Barack Obama, George Bush, and Bill Clinton, as well as President-elect Donald Trump, are also present, seated behind the Bidens and Vice-President Harris.

Notably, Trump and Obama are seated next to each other, engaging in a lengthy conversation. — ANI



The National Funeral Service for former President Jimmy Carter has commenced at the Washington National Cathedral on Thursday. **PHOTO: ANI**



The opening of the Rosh Pina Airport is another part of the process of returning civil aviation to normal. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Rosh Pina airport in northern Israel reopens

ON Thursday, 9 January, Rosh Pina Airport opened for operations after being closed for over a year due to the "Iron Swords" War. Rosh Pina is located in the "Finger of the Galilee" near the border with Lebanon.

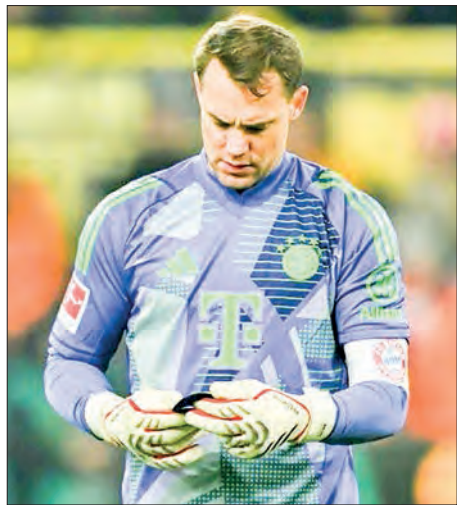
The opening of the airport was made possible after Israel's Civil Aviation Authority (CVA), in cooperation with the Israel Meteorological Service, conducted an inspection of the airport and checked the integrity of the runway infrastructure, the control tower, the auxiliary communication and navigation systems, meteorological systems, and the competence of the fire and rescue forces at the airport, in order to confirm the airport's return to regular operations. — ANI

Neuer returns but Musiala out for Bayern

BAYERN Munich captain Manuel Neuer will return for Saturday's trip to Borussia Moenchengladbach but Jamal Musiala has been ruled out, coach Vincent Kompany confirmed Friday.

Goalkeeper Neuer, 38, has not played since breaking a rib in early December against Bayer Leverkusen.

"Fortunately Manu is back," Kompany said Friday. Musiala, who has the flu, will miss the clash but will "return very soon".

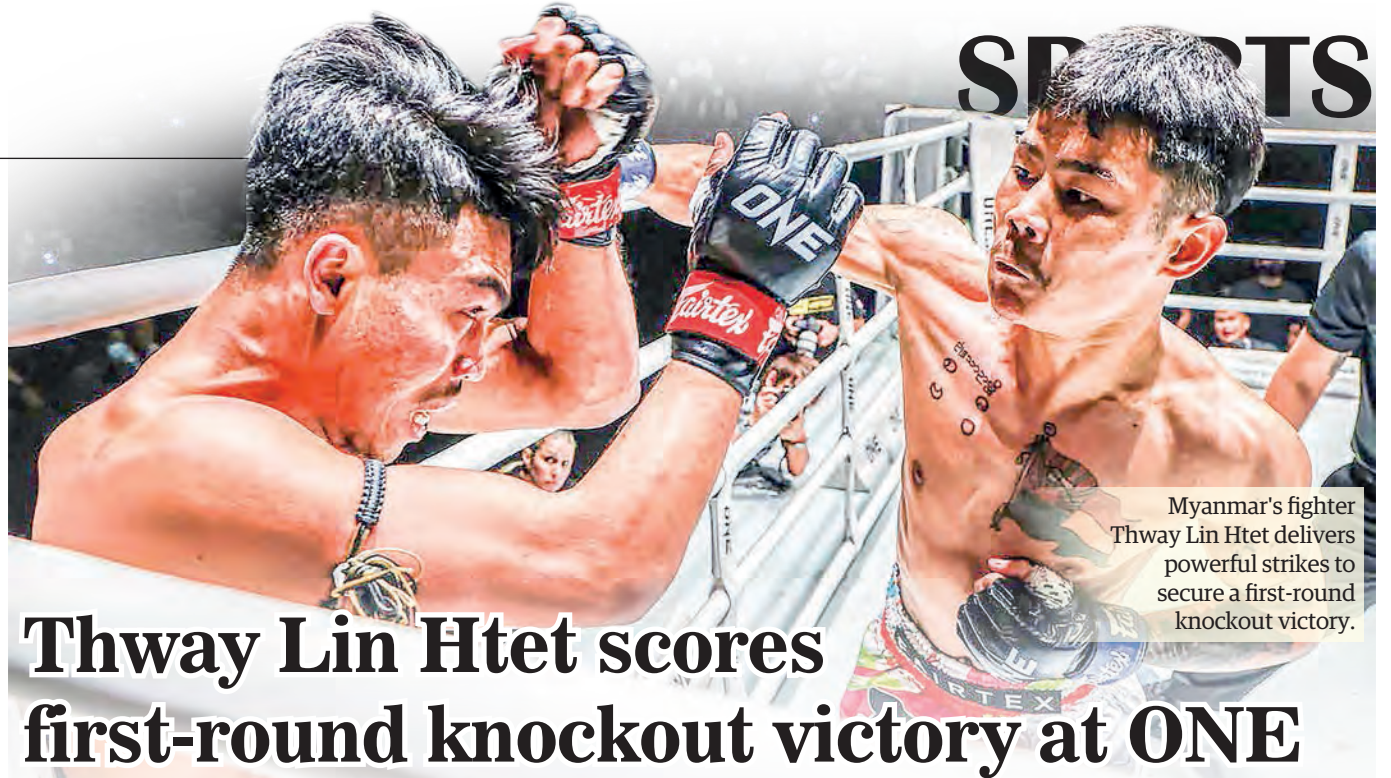


Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer will return from a broken rib against Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kompany said Bayern veteran Thomas Mueller would likely step into Musiala's creative midfield shoes, but added there was "no like-for-like replacement" for the 21-year-old attacker.

Musiala has been crucial for Bayern this season, scoring nine goals and laying on three assists in 13 league games. Only Harry Kane, with 14 goals and seven assists in 13 games, has more.

Serge Gnabry is also set to return for Kompany's league leaders. — AFP



Myanmar's fighter Thway Lin Htet delivers powerful strikes to secure a first-round knockout victory.

Thway Lin Htet scores first-round knockout victory at ONE

MYANMAR'S fighter Thway Lin Htet secured a first-round knockout victory over Thailand's Yookitti in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday at a ONE Friday Fights 93 event.

The fight lasted just two minutes and 39 seconds into the first round.

Both fighters started cautiously, exchanging low kicks and testing each

other in the opening minute. After a brief feeling-out process, the action picked up with both throwing punches and strikes. Thway Lin Htet's combination of strikes including a powerful right hook followed by a devastating elbow left his opponent in pain. The decisive blow — a right hook to Yookitti's chest — set up a brutal follow-up

elbow that ended the fight.

This victory marked Thway Lin Htet's second win in ONE Championship and his first-ever knockout. The Myanmar fighter also earned a performance bonus of 350,000 baht awarded by ONE Championship CEO Chattri Sityodtong. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Zverev says he has mindset to finally win Grand Slam in Melbourne

WORLD number two Alexander Zverev insisted Friday he has the mindset to win a first Grand Slam — but admitted Jannik Sinner was red-hot favourite to defend his Australian Open title.

The German is approaching the opening major of the year with his confidence high after winning the Rome and Paris Masters 1000 titles in recent months.

Such was his form that he won more matches than anyone bar world number one Sinner last season, propelling him to a career-high ranking.

But a Grand Slam has remained elu-

sive for nearly a decade, with runner-up finishes at the 2020 US Open and French Open last year his best efforts so far.

"Look, I think everybody knows what I'm chasing. Everybody knows what my goal and my dreams are, right? It's to win," he said.

"Going into a Grand Slam as the world number two, you have to have the mindset of: I want to win the tournament.

"That's how my mindset is." Zverev gets his Australian Open under way against French wildcard Lucas Pouille on Sunday, with a huge task ahead if he is to win the title.

He is on course to meet sixth-ranked Casper Ruud in the quarter-finals before a potential semi-final with either 10-time champion Novak Djokovic or third seed Carlos Alcaraz.

Sinner could await in the final.

"I think the usual names. Jannik, Alcaraz, Novak for sure is part of that list. Daniil (Medvedev), because he's done it before," Zverev said on who he saw as his rivals for the title.

"But I think the biggest favourite is still Jannik, who is very far up that list. He's still number one by a big margin." — AFP

Slot wary of Accrington's 'Champions League final' at Anfield

LIVERPOOL manager Arne Slot said Accrington Stanley's trip to Anfield in the FA Cup third round on Saturday will be the League Two side's "Champions League final".

The clubs are 86 league positions apart in the 92-team pyramid with Slot's men leading the Premier League, while Stanley sit just outside

the relegation zone in the fourth tier.

"I think every team that plays against us it is a special occasion, but especially for a lower league team. They will be all up for it, they have looked forward to this game for many weeks," said Slot at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"If you go to a Champions

League final everyone is completely hyped up and ready and, tomorrow, for them that will feel like it is the Champions League final, so we have to be aware of that."

Despite that warning, the Dutchman is likely to take the opportunity to rotate his side during a hectic spell of fixtures in four competitions. — AFP

Liverpool manager Arne Slot is wary of a FA Cup shock against minnows Accrington Stanley. **PHOTO: AFP**



Pope warns about AI, fake news and 'manipulating minds'

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WORLD

CHINA'S commercial space industry entered a fast development track in 2024, as its market volume is expected to exceed 2.3 trillion yuan (about US\$314 billion).

Innovations in the commercial space industry chain, such as reusable rockets in different technical routes, construction of launch sites, and the latest satellite transmission technologies, have boosted the industry's vigorous development in the years to come.

Reusable rockets are a key technology for the commercial space industry. Several Chinese rocket companies are conducting intensive test flights to iterate and improve reusable technologies. Among them, new rockets developed by companies like Space Pioneer, CAS Space, Galactic Energy and LandSpace are scheduled for their maiden flights in 2025, with subsequent plans to achieve first-stage recovery and reuse.

China has opened several commercial launch facilities in the past year, all of which have adopted innovative designs for launching rockets made by different companies.

For example, the Hainan Commercial Aerospace Launch Site completed its first launch mission on 30 November 2024. Its intelligent launch site system integrates multiple subsystems through digital information and intelligent applications, achieving centralized resource management and unified scheduling to accommodate different launch missions.

— Xinhua

Tech innovations boost China's commercial space industry

Reusable rockets are vital for commercial space, with Chinese companies advancing maiden flights and recovery tech.



An aerial drone photo taken on 6 March 2024 shows the No 1 launch pad of Hainan commercial spacecraft launch site in Wenchang, south China's Hainan Province. **PHOTO: PU XIAOXU/XINHUA/FILE**

Lebanon Army Chief Joseph Aoun elected as country's new President

LEBANON'S parliament elected Army Chief Joseph Aoun as the country's new president on Thursday, bringing an end to a prolonged political deadlock and presidential vacancy, CNN reported.

Aoun was elected after two rounds of voting, following extensive efforts by the United States and Saudi Arabia to garner support for him. Both countries have close ties with Aoun, who is aligned

with Washington and Riyadh.

After his election, Aoun stepped down from his military role and arrived at the parliament in civilian attire to be sworn in. In his acceptance speech, Aoun declared the start of a "new era" for Lebanon, vowing to address the country's ongoing economic and political crises. He also made a rare pledge to "monopolize weapons" under the state's authority, signalling his intention to disarm Hezbollah, the Iran-backed militant group, which has significant military influence in Lebanon, as reported by CNN.

Notably, Hezbollah, the most heavily armed militant group in the Middle East, had significant influence in several countries until it suffered heavy losses in a recent war with Israel. This conflict, along with the weakening of its ally, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, has reignited domestic debate on disarming the group. — ANI



Lebanon's parliament elected Army Chief Joseph Aoun as president, ending a prolonged political deadlock. **PHOTO: ANI**

AIRFIELD DEVELOPMENT

US creates infrastructure for nuclear-capable jets in Greenland

THE United States is creating an airfield infrastructure in Greenland for planes capable of carrying nuclear warheads, Russian Ambassador to Denmark Vladimir Barbin told Sputnik. Last month, US President-elect Trump, who is due to assume office on 20 January, called it "an absolute necessity" for the United States to own Greenland, thus commenting on his decision to appoint a new US ambassador to Denmark. Greenland Prime Minister Mute Egede has since responded, saying that the island is not for sale.

The US Pituffik Space Base is modernizing for Arctic nuclear warning, advanced radars, and F-35 nuclear-capable fighter operations. — SPUTNIK