

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Union government meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Politics and national causes intertwined

Only when the economy is strong, will political, economic, social, and defence sectors become robust.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unveiled that a plan is underway to allocate necessary support from the National Natural Disaster Management Fund to internally displaced people due to terrorist attacks.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the meeting of the Union government at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Senior General highlighted that politics is not economics, but economics is indeed intertwined

with politics and state affairs, adding that only when the economy is strong will political, economic, social, and defence sectors become robust. Therefore, everyone must collaborate to strengthen the State economy.

He gave guidance **the government will accelerate economic growth by providing capital loans from the National Economic Promotion Fund to potential MSME businesses.**

He stated that efforts are being made to produce quality processed products from industrial raw materials such as cotton, bamboo, rubber, and coffee in the

MSME sector.

He noted that the rice and beans, especially Pawsan rice, have already gained market access, so it is necessary to work towards exporting rice and beans of even better quality than what is currently available.

Regarding rubber, he highlighted that if efforts are made to produce a large number of tyres and tubes used in bicycles and motorcycles – which do not require advanced technology or significant investment – it can greatly contribute to the country's economic development.

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Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Union government meeting: -

1. A plan is underway to allocate necessary support from the National Natural Disaster Management Fund to internally displaced people due to terrorist attacks.
2. The government will accelerate economic growth by providing capital loans from the National Economic Promotion Fund to potential MSME businesses.
3. As efforts are being made to ensure stability, peace, and the rule of law as part of preparation for the upcoming election, emphasis must be placed on the creation of a situation to hold the election.
4. He continued that Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region and state Hluttaws must be capable of convening relevant Hluttaw meeting sessions, and it is necessary to ensure that these Hluttaws must be dignified.

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Corrected JLPT certificates available by 20 January

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LBVD: Livestock farmers to receive insurance coverage for contagious diseases

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Booming Ayeyawady salt production delights farmers

NATIONAL

United Strength Needed to Stop Internal Threats Undermining National Progress

- While many citizens work to improve the country, some engage in obstructionism, undermining progress.
- Terrorists, often from within the region, commit destructive acts.
- Outsiders cannot destroy a region; the threat often comes from within.
- It's like those who take shelter under a tree but cut off its branches.
- These terrorists must be stopped through the united strength of the people.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC Meeting 3/2024 on 7 June 2024)

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

| Name | Appointment |
|--|---|
| (a) U Htet Aung Director-General Department of Youth Affairs Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs | Director-General Revenue Appellate Tribunal Ministry 3 at the State Administration Council Chairman Office |
| (b) U Kyaw Soe Moe | Director-General |

| Name | Appointment |
|---|---|
| (a) U Thet Tun Deputy Managing Director Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Ministry of Energy | Managing Director Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Ministry of Energy |
| (b) U Myo Kyaw Thu Ministry of Defence | Director-General Union Minister Office Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs |

Indian Ambassador inspects KMMTTC project in Sittway

INDIAN Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur, accompanied by Shri Sunil Mukundan, Managing Director of India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL), officials of the Embassy of India, Yangon and the Consulate-General of India, Sittway, visited Sittway in Rakhine State on 16-17 January.

During the visit, the Ambassador visited the Sittway Port of the Government of India-assisted Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Corridor (KMMTTC) Project. The Sittway Port has handled more than 150 vessels, carrying cargoes of food, agriculture commodities, medicines, fuel, vehicles, construction materials, machinery and equipment, since its inauguration in May 2023.

The ambassador also met with Rakhine State Chief



Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur poses for a group photo with the India Ports Global Ltd MD and officials during their inspection tour of the Indian-aided Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Corridor Project.

Minister U Htein Lin and discussed the matters related to bilateral development coop-

eration, capacity building and humanitarian assistance under the Rakhine State Devel-

opment Programmes, meeting the local needs and priorities of the people of Rakhine State.

The two sides agreed that the Sittway Port, an India-Myanmar Friendship Project, will help strengthen coastal, regional and international connectivity, as well as enhance travel and tourism, particularly in the context of the age-old civilizational and people-to-people connection between the two countries, in coming years.

The ambassador highlighted the importance of an early return to peace and stability, which would pave the way for exploiting the full potential of the KMMTTC project.

He then visited the Sri Sri Moha Dev Bari Temple in Sittway and met with members of the Indian-origin community. He informed them of consular services for PIOs and support for strengthening their links with India. — MNA/KTZH

Gold Market Rate as of 17 January 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,420,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General underscored that as efforts are being made to ensure stability, peace, and the rule of law as part of the preparation for the upcoming election, emphasis must be placed on the creation of a situation to hold the election.

He continued that **Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and region and state Hluttaws must be capable of convening relevant Hluttaw meeting sessions, and it is necessary to ensure that these Hluttaws must be dignified.**

Significantly, the Senior General approved that **it has been planned to provide necessary support from the National Disaster Management Fund for people temporarily displaced due to terrorist attacks.**

In the education sector, the Senior General stressed that in connection with the current

Politics and national causes intertwined

distance education system, officials need to systematically oversee that students genuinely acquire knowledge and skills.

He added that the students who are learning the essential knowledge and skills required for the country must also be supported with stipends. Furthermore, he unveiled that plans are underway to establish more agricultural and veterinary universities.

Regarding healthcare, he spotted that although a policy has been adopted for every hospital to have doctors, it has been found that some hospitals lack doctors. Therefore, it is necessary to review and

... the government will accelerate economic growth by providing capital loans from the National Economic Promotion Fund to potential MSME businesses.

address this issue according to the respective regions and report the findings.

In the electric power sector, the Senior General confirmed that the **government will provide support for the financial requirements need-**

ed for electricity generation businesses utilizing solar energy.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, region and state chief ministers reported on plans to grow monsoon paddy and oil crops, expansion

of sown acreage, production and export measures, basic and higher education sectors, more coverage of healthcare, operation of industrial zones, foreign trade and earning of foreign currency, taxation, enhancement of tourism sector, electrification process, and disbursement of loans from the State economic promotion fund.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, union ministers, union-level dignitaries and officials together with region and state chief ministers through videoconferencing. —MNA/TTA

Deputy PM MoD Union Minister inspects Lahe, Khamti

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, who is currently in Lahe township, paid homage to Sayadaw Baddanta Sumana of Lahe Theravada Buddhist Missionary (Central) Monastery, on 16 January. He donated alms rice and offerings to the Sayadaw. He also visited the Lahe Baptist Convention, met officials and presented foodstuffs to them.

On arrival at the Naga Cultural Museum, the General met departmental staff and members of the Naga Traditional Literature and Culture Associations and discussed regional development measures.

Naga Self-Administered Zone Administration Body Chairman U Tun Tun Win first

reported on administration, economy, social and project-related matters, and the Naga Traditional Literature and Culture Committees raised the need to develop the region.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tin Htut coordinated the discussion.

The Deputy Prime Minister then made proper instructions and gave presents to the relevant regional and township-level officials.

At noon, General Maung Maung Aye and the party met district and township-level departmental officials at the meeting hall of the district general administration department in



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Maung Maung Aye offers presents to the regional military station.

Khamti township.

The General heard the reports regarding the administration, health, education, economy, social and regional affairs presented by the Khamti administrator, Naga Traditional Literature and Culture Committee and Shan Literature and Culture Committee, and made proper instructions. He also gave gifts to district and township-level departmental officials.

General Maung Maung Aye, accompanied by Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), visited the local military station and met officers, other ranks and families. He offered foodstuffs to them. The General also cordially greeted them. —MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Union-Level MSME product exhibitions and competitions to start 10 Feb

Businesspeople and officials need to organize discussions to understand changes in customer behaviours, technology, information, investment, and market trends at home and abroad.

VICE-SENIOR General Soe Win noted that MSME businesspersons have to know the demands of importer countries and their disciplines, international trade measures, and trading restrictions of countries.

A meeting to hold the Union-Level MSME product exhibitions and competitions took place at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the MSME Development Work Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General pointed out that businesspersons and officials need to organize discussions to understand changes in customer behaviours, technology, information, investment, and market trends at home and abroad, digital system transformation, and implementation of online banking systems.

He noted that they have to study the transformation of the in-person purchase system to an online marketing system, and the use of products by the people.

He continued that those businesspersons need to apply online marketing and online payment systems on a wider scale if they follow the market transformation process.

The Vice-Senior General underscored that advanced products will emerge from MSME exhibitions and competitions, and the export of these products can earn foreign exchange.



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win chairs the meeting to hold the Union-Level MSME product exhibitions and competitions yesterday.

With regarding efforts to export their quality products, he highlighted that MSME businesspersons have to know the demands of importer countries and their disciplines, international trade measures, for example, requirements of permit from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) to export products to China and trading restrictions of other countries.

Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than reported on plans for the MSME exhibitions and competitions, products to be displayed by ministries, regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw, prizes for competitions, and implementation of the guidance of the Prime Minister.

Chairman of the Organizing Work Committee Deputy Minister for Industry U

Yin Maung Nyunt presented the formation of subcommittees and arrangements for the exhibitions and competitions.

After hearing the successful holding of the event in their respective sectors presented by officials, the Vice-Senior General gave necessary remarks.

Also present at the meeting were Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo and officials.

The exhibitions and competitions will take place at Tabaung Ground, south of Uppatasanti Pagoda, in Nay Pyi Taw from 10 to 14 February. It will accommodate some 80 booths of ministries, regions and states, traditional ethnic foods, business-to-business linkages, technological booths, foreign machinery and product booths, small-scale industries and manu-



facturing cooperative booths, and 31 kinds of products will be honoured with awards.

Union-level MSME product exhibitions and competitions aim to continuously enhance the products and services of MSME businesses, to use new value-added products at home and penetrate foreign markets, and enhance collaborative efforts among MSME businesses in regions and states to supply the needs of regions each other in the production chain and seek weak and strong points of processes, encourage relevant one region-one product businesses to have success, further create linkages between MSME businesses and internal and external investors, award Union level MSME model product prizes and enable MSME businesses to operate in the long run. — MNA/TTA

Tripartite MoI for Training in Chinese Language Proficiency signed

MYANMAR Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce, Huaqiao University and Yunnan Commercial Representative Office entered into a tripartite Memorandum of Intent (MoI) to conduct Training in Chinese Language Pro-

ficiency on 16 January 2025 at Jasmine Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The MyanTrade director-general gave an opening remark at the signing ceremony that MyanTrade opened Chinese Language Training (Level

1) from 6 June to 2 September 2024 for 35 civil servants, with assistance from the Yunnan Commercial Representative Office. This tripartite MoI is to keep offering Chinese language courses. He expressed appreciation and honoured dedication

and efforts to reach this tripartite MoI.

Under this MoI, Chinese Language Training Programmes will continue to Level 4. Exchange programmes on education and training, business research and educational

talk shows will be implemented. Continued efforts will be exerted to attend Huaqiao University under the Silk Road Chinese Government Scholarship. The MoI also reaffirmed strengthening business and trade ties. — NN/KK

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NATIONAL

Corrected JLPT certificates available by 20 January

THE last batch of JLPT certificates for correction can be available as of 20 January, announced by the JLPT organizing committee, Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni.

An original copy of the candidate's ID card is required. It is the arrival of the last round of corrected certificates for JLPT in December 2023, it said.

For Yangon candidates, corrected certificates are available at JLPT Centre- No 2B-3, Snow Garden, Thumingala Road in

Thingangyun Township, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, during office days and Mandalay branch -first floor, Building 1, Room 6, 67th Street, Mingalar Mandalay, Chanmyathazi Township from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm on office days.

Corrected certificates will be available within a year, and no further corrections will be allowed. Correction is allowed one-time only so candidates must ensure a thorough check before requesting correction, it said. — MT/ZS



JLPT candidates at the exam in the previous year.

YESC to open power bill payment counters from 8 am to 3 pm

YANGON Electricity Supply Corporation announced that from 18 to 24 January 2025, electricity bill payment counters will be open daily from 8 am to 3 pm in Yangon.

On 15 January, a team led by YESC chair U Aung Kyaw Oo visited electricity offices in Kamayut and Sangyoung townships to conduct a field inspection into unpaid power bills and the electricity supply in rotation.

He highlighted electrical safety, prevention of fire hazards, and ensuring accurate statistics on electricity bill payments to prevent the government from losing revenue.

Total power generation on 16 January is 37,040.6 megawatts per hour, according to the Ministry of Electric Power. — Htun Htun/ZS



YESC chair U Aung Kyaw Oo and his team are seen conducting a field survey in Kamayut and Sangyoung Townships.

Conserve Popa Langur inhabitants in Mount Popa region

POPA langurs reside in the volcanic valley of Mount Popa, the extinct volcano, about 11 miles northeast of Kyaukpadaung Township in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region. Wildlife lovers and nature lovers can observe their nature with the permissions, according to U Tin Ohn Kyaw, warden of the Popa Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary.

Officials encouraged the locals to participate in conserving the inhabitants of langur, reforestation, banning hunting and natural resources conservation in order to prevent them from extinction.

Monkeys only found in volcanic valleys are called dusky leaf monkeys, also known as Cantor's Langur, were listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List in 2016, and a new species on 11 November 2020 called Popa Langur. They also reside in Nwalaboh Hill, Hmanpya Hill



Popa Langur, locally known as 'Myauk Zeekwet' (capuchin monkey and dusky leaf mokey) inhabit the Mount Popa region.

and Saymon Hill in addition to the volcanic valley. According to the data collected in 2019-2023, there are about 116 Popa langurs and about 150 in 2024.

Locals call Popa Langur only found in Myanmar as 'Myauk Zeekwet' (capuchin monkey, and dusky leaf monkey). They do not eat the crops

from the fields of residents, and they eat only tender leaves in the jungle. They do not live near human beings but on the steep hillsides. In the morning, they

bask with their family or in groups, according to the camera traps.

The existence of Mount Popa in the central part of Myanmar brings benefits regarding weather to the vicinity areas. There is proper forestation, watershed system and natural springs. Therefore, all should conserve the natural land areas without felling the trees and slash-and-burn. — Dipa Linn/KTZH



NATIONAL



This image shows a press briefing on the upcoming 78th Union Day pre-event MSME Promotion Fair at the Secretariat Yangon.

Secretariat Yangon to host 78th Union Day pre-event MSME Promotion Fair

THE 78th Union Day pre-event MSME Promotion Fair will be held at the Secretariat Yangon in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region. The event is organized by the Union of Myanmar Bamar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association (UMBEEA), according to UMBEEA Chairman U Kyaw Dewa.

The fair will take place from 25 to 27 January at the Secretariat Yangon, featuring over 70 stalls selling various products, including food and beverages, consumer goods, clothing and general merchandise.

U Kyaw Dewa stated, “The Union Day pre-event MSME Promotion Fair is jointly organized by UMBEEA and the Secretariat Yangon. It will run for three days from 25 to 27 January (10 am to 6 pm). The fair will showcase and sell traditional ethnic foods, consumer products, clothing and food items from 78 stalls.”

UMBEEA has around 200 members and regularly organizes sales promotion fairs to support the development and market expansion of Bamar ethnic entrepreneurs’ MSME businesses. — ASH/KZL

LBVD: Livestock farmers to receive insurance coverage for contagious diseases

THE Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department stated that livestock farmers can buy insurance to protect financial loss from contagious diseases under the Animal Health and Livestock Development Amendment Law.

The State Administration Council enacted the Animal Health and Livestock Development Amendment Law on 15 January 2025.

Before the recent amendment, Section 22 of the Law stated that LBVD could provide opinions on damage claims, compensation for asset loss or seeking assistance, triggered by infectious livestock disease in the farms of individuals or institutions. Insurance coverage beyond compensation and damage claims is added to the amended law. Those individuals or institutions to establish livestock breeding farms or livestock monitoring camps, those engaged in domestic livestock producing, processing or selling, livestock breeding, artificial insemination equipment, honey bee breeding, livestock products, genetically modified organisms, feedstuff, veterinary medicine, animal equipment, and those executing slaughterhouse or butcher house business on commercial purposes need to seek a permit from the officials concerned following the stipulations of the LBVD. — ASH/KK



This picture captures the milking process at a dairy farm.

Tour packages available for Mon and Kayin States, Bago Region



U Nar Auk Monastery in Kadoekawhnet Village in Mon State.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to sell tour packages for visiting Mon and Kayin states, as well as Bago Region, to both domestic and foreign travellers, according to an official from Heartcraft My-

anmar Travel and Tours.

The tour destinations in Mon and Kayin states, as well as Bago Region, will include colonial-era buildings and sites such as U Nar Auk Monastery, Kyaukthinpone

Village, and Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Mon State; caves, mountain scaling tours, and trekking destinations in Kayin State; and Kanbawzathadi Palace, Shwethalyaung Pagoda, and Wingabaw Elephant Camp in Bago.

“The destinations for our tour packages have been finalized. All included destinations are currently popular with both domestic and foreign travellers. We will soon invite local travel companies to sell these packages,” said an official from Heartcraft Myanmar Travel and Tours.

The tour is a five-night, six-day experience, with the cost for domestic travellers, including hotel accommodation and meals, ranging from K1 million to K1.5 million. For foreign travellers, it will cost approximately US\$600 per person. — ASH/MKKS

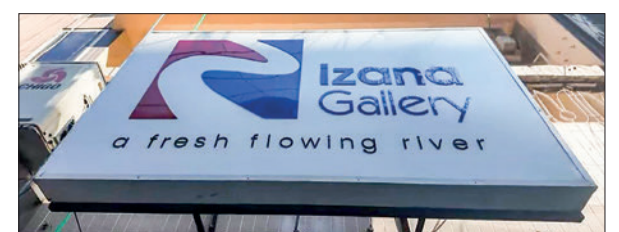
Izana Art Gallery to host 16th Group Art Exhibition

IZANA Art Gallery in Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, will host the 16th Group Art Exhibition titled ‘Layeik Panpwint’ from 18 to 22 January.

The exhibition will showcase the works of 25 male and female artists and will feature paintings on various themes, using different media and styles.

The ‘Layeik Panpwint’ art exhibition has been organized by Saya Ko Maung Kyaw Than and Saya Kyaw Thurein since 2004. It includes both senior and junior artists.

“We aim to host regular exhibitions once a year and have held 16 events since 2004. In some years, we were unable to hold exhibitions due to various reasons. In any case, we would like to express our



The Izana Art Gallery to host the Layeik Panpwint exhibition.

gratitude and respect to all the artists who have participated in the exhibitions over the years. We invite all art lovers to come and enjoy the unique works of these 25 artists,” said the gallery manager of Izana Art Gallery. — ASH/MKKS

Agri Dept calls for bidding for soybean exporting companies



Beans and pulses neatly arranged for sale in the market.

THE Agriculture Department invited soybean companies to submit an Expression of Interest to export soybeans to China.

According to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol (SPS Protocol) signed between Myanmar and China, sanitary and phytosanitary measures

are undertaken yearly, and the department notified the soybean companies.

The submission of the EOI is by 28 February and the EOI form is available at the Department of Agriculture in regions and states.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, maize, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agricultural produce and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Black beans, pigeon peas, green gram, peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans, rice beans and other pulses are grown in the country. — NN/KK

Low-priced realty transactions increase in Thanlyin

REAL estate transactions especially low-priced land and land with houses have been seen in Yangon Region's Thanlyin Township, according to estate agents.

Transactions have increased visibly in property priced around K100 million or below and the market is likely to be better overall in coming months.

“Especially, transactions have been seen in estates - not land-only but those with houses and there are transactions in 20 feet by 60 feet land-only properties. Currently, low-priced estate transactions have happened. But the property market is likely to be active again overall in coming months,” said a Thanlyin-based estate agent, Ko Sai Lin.

At present, transactions have been seen in Thanlyin's



This image showcases the entrance signage to Thanlyin.

Phayagon and Bogyoke village as well as around Thilawa Port where prices are affordable, he said.

“Because prices in these areas are affordable. The majority of buyers are from Yangon. Low-priced lands around K30 million-K50 million in Thilawa are also marketable now. No sudden surge in price has been seen even the new bridge was completed, so it is good for buying and selling,” he added. — Thit Taw/ZS

DICA report: 1,000 companies fail to file AR in Dec

ONE thousand companies were struck off the register in December 2024 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Companies failing to file AR on MyCO were struck off the register from the directive date under Section 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, as per DICA's notification.

The DICA's statistics indicated that 750 companies in January 2024, 600 in February, 1,650 in March and 2,000 each in April, May and June, 2,500 in July, 1,000 in August, 2,000 in September, 1,500 in October and 2,000 in November did not file the AR.

A total of 6,400 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2023. The registration and re-registration of companies

on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit

AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

CBM injects 1M Thai baht into financial market on 16 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold one million Thai baht on 16 January again after pumping over US\$25.35 million and 369,000 yuan on 15 January and over \$1,600 and 556,000 baht on 14 January into the financial market.

CBM announced on 13 January to sell \$25 million to fuel oil importers soon after selling 600,000 yuan on that day.

CBM injected \$3.9 million on 11 January, 714,000 yuan on 10 January, \$2.2 million on 9 January, \$256,000 on 8 January again after sales of 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 into the financial market.

Therefore, CBM injected over \$54 million, 1.3 million yuan and 5.3 million baht with-

in ten days.

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

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.

OPINION

Guide youths to avoid actions of vaping

CURRENTLY, vaping is popular among youths, primarily due to the various forms and colours of vape pens, which make them more appealing than cigarettes. Moreover, the wide range of flavours has contributed to a noticeable increase in vaping among young people and students in Myanmar. Many young people prefer vaping over cigarettes, mainly because they mistakenly believe it is less harmful.

The truth is that the dangers of vaping are significant. It is even more harmful than smoking, with numerous negative effects. Vaping involves inhaling vapour produced by an e-cigarette, which works

by heating a liquid (E-liquid) in a handheld device like an e-cigarette or vape pen. This process produces a vapour that is then inhaled. Smoking involves inhaling the smoke from burning tobacco leaves, while vaping is the act of inhaling vapour produced by heating e-liquid. Devices such as e-cigarettes or vape pens are used to vaporize the e-liquid for inhalation. E-liquid typically contains water vapour, flavouring agents, nicotine and propylene glycol or glycerin. E-cigarettes and vape pens release vapour containing over 4,000 harmful chemicals, including more than 40 substances known to cause cancer. These chemicals can harm the heart and circulatory system, damage the lungs, lead to tooth and oral health deterioration, and impair brain development. Despite these dangers, many teenagers use vape pens as a way to appear fashionable. Therefore, authorities must take effective action to prevent the widespread use of vapes in society.

E-cigarettes and vape pens emit vapour containing over 4,000 harmful chemicals, including more than 40 substances known to cause cancer. These chemicals can damage the heart and circulatory system, harm the lungs, contribute to tooth and oral decay, and negatively affect brain development. Both vaping and smoking are substances that can harm the health of users, offering no benefits to them.

Excessive use and trading of vapes and cigarettes beyond legal limits will result in legal consequences. Users will also experience the negative health effects of these products, including oral and lung cancer, respiratory disorders, and nerve and vein issues. While these products may appear attractive or fashionable to users at first, they will ultimately lead to significant social and financial struggles for individuals and their families. The consequences of these harmful behaviours burden families and affect their well-being. Therefore, parents must guide their children toward healthier choices, and young people should avoid engaging in substance abuse.



Commemorating the eighty-fifth anniversary of Sayagyi P Moe Nin's passing

THE 6th of January 2025 is the 85th anniversary of the passing of P Moe Nin (5 November 1883-6 January 1940) on 6 January 1940. For the historical record, this writer will briefly narrate the unfortunate circumstances of his passing as narrated by contemporaneous newspaper reports of January 1940. (The writer thanks the library staff of the Universities Central Library, Yangon for sending me the cuttings of newspaper reports of P Moe Nin's passing.)

19th National Day Lunch at Myanmar Alin Press and its aftermath

On or around 15th December 1939 P Moe Nin at the invitation of then Myanmar Alin Press visited their offices. They have invited Sayagyi P Monin for lunch at their office and awarded him an honorarium of twenty rupees. U Hein Soon (who was later to become a famous cartoonist) in an article published on 12 January 1940 narrated that at the request of the Myanmar Alin editorial board, he fetched P Moe Nin at his house on 126th Street, Rangoon. U Hein Soon (hereafter HS) wrote that almost ominously he felt a certain reluctance to fetch his Sayagyi and walked to and fro for about 20 minutes in his house before deciding to fetch P Moe Nin at his residence and take him to the Myanmar Alin office. P Moe Nin and HS took a 'trolley' and alighted at the corner of Merchant Street and Sule Pagoda Road. They walked to the Myanmar Alin office. HS narrated that P Moe Nin expressed satisfaction that he would be getting a 20 rupees honorarium because he was behind in his house rent. HS mentioned that P Moe Nin said he intended to write an article about World War I (1914-1918) and the winds of World War II which in December 1939 was already blowing in Europe but at that time not yet reached colonial Burma. He stated that during WWI the

then German leader Kaiser's moustache was 'curly' but in the early days of WWII 'dictator' Hitler had a short moustache! HS wrote that P Moe Nin ate Danbauk lunch. When HS had to go on an errand out of the Myanmar Alin office for a while he asked P Moe Nin not to go anywhere and stayed where he was during his absence. When he came back, sadly, HS learned that his Sayagyi was hit by a bicycle when he went out of the

outside the building? Did one have to go out and cross the street to go to the restroom? As a result of the cycle accident P Moe Nin was hospitalized and complications set in. Articles written at the time of his death stated that sometime before his unfortunate accident and hospitalization he had ischemia (လေငန်ဧရာဝါ) and also diabetes. The articles written by other literati such as Mya Myo Lwin (November 1902- 11 September

P Moe Nin's life and life experiences had been variegated. Among others, he had been a teacher at a Roman Catholic school, a pastor, an opium clerk (later it was said that while experimenting with opium he temporarily became addicted to it) seller of traditional medicines, film script-writer, author of political treatise and self-help books, at least one book on what can be described as sexology (ကောသိဒ္ဓိကျမ်း), short stories,



P Moe Nin had a diverse career. SSSHe was a prolific writer, known for his political treatises, self-help books, a book on sexology (ကောသိဒ္ဓိကျမ်း), short stories, novellas, novels, and an autobiography.

newspaper office. P Moe Nin went to the restroom (toilet) which was outside of the Office and was hit by a bicycle. When HS fetched P Moe Nin from his house, he told Sayagadaw (Mrs P Moe Nin) that he would bring Sayagyi home (safely). That, alas, was not to be.

Until a few months ago this writer was under the impression that Sayagyi P Moe Nin passed away after he was hit by a bicycle on his way to attend the 19th anniversary of the National Day. From the article by HS, it was not that P Moe Nin was hit on the way to the newspaper office. After having his lunch and honorarium he went out supposedly to go to the restroom. (Query is the restroom

newspaper office. P Moe Nin immediately after P Moe Nin's demise stated that doctors were of the opinion that he might have to stay in the hospital for a few months. In addition, after his discharge, he would have, at a minimum, used a crutch for the rest of his life. But death intervened and on 12 January 1940 the great writer, pioneer Burmese psychologist (in the non-clinical sense of the word), self-help manuals writer, novelist, short-story writer, political treatise writer and educator's funeral was held at Rangoon's Kyandaw cemetery. It was a grand funeral attended by many eminent literati.

A Variegated life and life-experiences of P Moe Nin

By Myint Zan

home economics so to speak. From this writer's recall, it is a primer on how to save and spend in one's household. Yet it is anomalous, it is ironic, indeed it is sad that this prolific writer was if not financially poor most of his life he was definitely not well-to-do. When he did gain some monies, it was said, that P Moe Nin misspent it on drinks, drugs (opium), gambling and pursuit of other 'pleasures'. The fact of his poor financial status till the end of his life is indicated by U Hein Soon that he was pleased to get a 20 rupees honorarium for it would cover his rent payment in his last days.

Dale Carnegie (24 November 1888-1 November 1955) was a younger American contemporary who wrote self-improvement, public speaking and salesmanship books. P Moe Nin could have read some of Carnegie's books. I am not sure whether P Moe Nin has translated or referred to any of Carnegies' books in his writings. Was Carnegie financially as poor as P Moe Nin. Certainly not!

How about another American author Napoleon Hill (26 October 1883-8 November 1970) whose 1937 book *Think and Grow Rich* sold millions? Was Napoleon Hill financially as poor as P Moe Nin? Again, certainly not. Napoleon Hill was an older contemporary by just 10 days of P Moe Nin but outlived him by more than 30 years.

What force of circumstances or perhaps partly (only) P Moe Nin's doings makes this eminent author to be financially poor? To paraphrase Shakespeare in *Julius Caesar*: Is the fault in the stars or (partly) in himself that P Moe Nin lived most of his life financially poor? Their lives and livelihoods.

A few pithy statements in one of P Moe Nin's self-help books

Several decades ago, I read one of P Moe Nin's self-help books (in contemporary parlance ကာသိဒ္ဓိကျမ်း). I think the title of the book is *Aung Seit* ('A Triumphant Mind'). After all these decades I still recall three remarkable statements that P Moe Nin made.

'Don't be afraid of being called "your body is in the bush but your mind is in high heaven". If your mind is not in high heaven, you will never get out of the bush!' (*Lunay choan gyar seik nay boan phyar hu pwaw khan ya myi go mo soe yein hnin seik thi boan phyar hnike ma shi ga lu thi choan gyar hma bei akhar hma htwet taut myi ma hoke pae*)

'The saying that although one has brains (knowledge) if one's luck or *kamma* is lacking one can still be poor is completely wrong'. (*Kan ma shi nyan shi daing mwei hso thore zagar thi loon zwar hmar ei*) (Addendum: P Monin had all the brains -knowledge- but his luck was not that good albeit he was a very successful writer?)

One should not fear death. In the end, there is no greater change than being dead. (*thay ya myi go ma kyauk ahsone hnike thay thaw aya het kyee thaw pyaung lae chinn thi ma shi daut chay.*)

The literary legacy of P Moe Nin lives on

There is in the current Myanmar Sar Text for Grade XI an essay by P Moe Nin. Also, in the Grade XII Myanmar Sar text there is a short story written by him.

I write this narration and appreciation almost to the day on the 85th anniversary of P Moe Nin's passing on 6 January 1940 and his funeral on 12 January 1940. The literary legacy of P Moe Nin lives on.



US announces new funds for mRNA vaccines, fast tracks bird flu tests

Since the outbreak began last year, 67 people in the US have been infected with avian influenza.



In all, 67 people in the United States have been infected with avian influenza since the outbreak began last year. PHOTO: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES/AFP

PRESIDENT Joe Biden's outgoing administration on Thursday announced \$211 million in new funding to develop mRNA vaccines against emerging biotreatments and said it was accelerating bird flu testing, as fears of another pandemic loom.

In all, 67 people in the United States have been infected with avian influenza since the outbreak began last year, including an elderly man who died in Louisiana this month.

While the virus has not conclusively been found to spread from person to person, the amount of bird flu circulating among animals and humans has alarmed scientists, because it might combine with seasonal influenza and mutate into a more transmissible form — potentially triggering a deadly pandemic.

"This latest intended investment illustrates the Biden-Harris Administration's robust response to emerging disease threats such as avian influenza," said health secre-

tary Xavier Becerra.

Companies including Moderna and Pfizer are working on mRNA vaccines for bird flu. This technology trains the body's immune system using genetic instructions, an approach proven highly effective against Covid. Moderna received \$176 million for this effort in July 2024.

The United States also maintains a stockpile of millions of H5N1 vaccine doses based on traditional methods, targeting earlier virus strains but expected to offer solid protection if needed, experts say.

Meanwhile, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention announced that all positive influenza A tests, especially from hospitalized patients, will be fast-tracked for further testing to check for H5N1.

"H5N1 is a subtype of influenza A," said Nirav Shah, a senior CDC official. Subtyping determines whether the virus is a common seasonal strain or a novel version like H5N1, he explained.

SOURCE: AFP

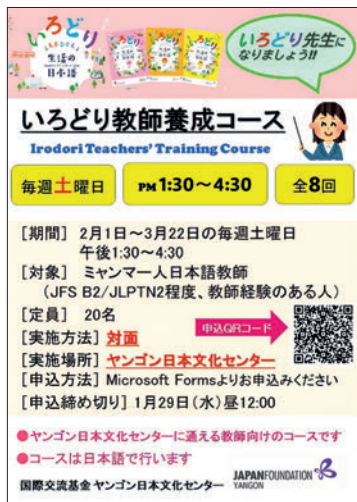
NATIONAL

Japan Foundation to offer second Irodori training course

JAPAN Foundation, Yangon will conduct an Irodori teaching course for the second time at Japan Culture House from February to March.

This course, which was launched in 2024, aims to train teachers who can lead a class which teaches the Japanese language for living in Japan, thinking for teaching support, can-do objective which enables to understand the teaching method and helps communication skills, and teachers can learn an effective teaching model through observation from the aspect of the learner, lecturing and demonstration by each team.

The duration is from 1 February to 22 March 2025, every Saturday from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm at Japan Culture Centre located on Natmawk Street in Yangon's Bahan Township. It is a free course and trainees are limited to 20 and textbooks will be provided.



This image shows a poster for the second Irodori training course.

Application forms can be submitted to provided URL at <https://forms.office.com/r/8X-Z8QKkrGZ> by 12 pm, 29 January.

Candidates will be selected depending on their objective of application and teaching experience and eligible candidates will be informed by email. – MT/ZS

Booming Ayeyawady salt production delights farmers

AYEYAWADY Region's salt production is booming as new salt is available, farmers are happy and more people are working on it, said an official from the regional salt industry.

The current price of raw salt is higher than before, and the market is balanced between producers and buyers, so there may be more interested farmers to work on salt, and there is a high yield potential next year if the price remains stable, he said.

“The salt market was very active this week. Salt farmers are happy and economical to work with the current price. Licensing wasn't as many as that of last month. Some salt is being produced in Labutta and Ngaputaw townships. Since the salt season was late, most farms have not produced yet. Salt production is a little late this year. This is due to the weather conditions,” he added. The market is normal and



This image reveals a salt field and its harvesting workers in Ayeyawady Region.

salt produced in Ayeyawady is mainly bought from Yangon and Mandalay regions.

About 350 salt farms obtained licences for 15,000 acres in the 2024-25 salt season in Ayeyawady, and preparations have been started in the field since September.

Ngaputaw and Labutta are

the townships of the highest and second-highest salt producers and the third one is Pyapon. A total of 21,166 acres in Ayeyawady Region produced 172,818 tonnes of salt last year, exceeding the target, and it is expected to produce more than 168,700 tonnes this year. – MT/ZN

MSF hosts home loan talk for Myanmar seafarers



This photo depicts a talk event on home loans for seafarers.

A talk on suitable real estate for Myanmar seafarers to invest in and home loan access was held at the Myanmar Seafarers Federation office in Kyauktada Township on 17 January.

With an improved banking system, house purchases in instalments are now possible, so real estate agents, MSF and Prime Estate held a seminar on it.

During the discussion, Captain Soe Min Aung, execu-

utive President of the federation, said that the current and previous executive committees have stated three points: social security for seafarers and their families, a sailor pension system, and home ownership for seafarers.

“I was a seafarer too. There are many people among my friends who do not own a house yet. Now, one needs K300 million or K400 million to own a house. In a housing project,

there are many departments involved. Our housing project requires the Government's permission, so it is still in the early stages. We need a large amount of investment and a vacant place,” he said.

The federation has invited not only its members but also any sailors to come to the office at any time to discuss the difficulties, rights, and opportunities that they and their families will face. – MT/ZN

Counter-argument to false information

False reports spread on security forces' actions in Kyaukhmaw Village

MALICIOUS news media spread false reports that two civilians were injured and five houses were destroyed due to heavy weapon fire by security forces in Kyaukhmaw Village, Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region, on 15 January.

Upon enquiry with a local security official, it was confirmed that security forces conducted necessary security operations to maintain peace and stability in the area. During this time, terrorists attacked there from a distance using heavy weapons and drones, causing shells to explode within the village. As a result, some security personnel and civilians sustained injuries.

These malicious news media outlets intentionally circulate misleading information to cover up terrorists' actions and to create misunderstandings among the public about security forces. — MNA/KZL



This screenshot reveals fabricated stories.

New energy vehicles in use in China exceed 30 million: ministry

The artwork depicts a dragon and a cat, which symbolize hope and resilience, particularly in the context of the community's recovery from devastating floods experienced during the previous year's monsoon season.

THE number of new energy vehicles (NEVs) in use in China has continued to increase at a faster pace, reaching 31.4 million by the end of 2024, the Ministry of Public Security announced on Friday.

The figure marks a 260-fold surge over the past decade, which is attributed to the country's technological progress in the NEV industry, the improvement of charging infrastructure and Chinese people's growing eco-friendly awareness, accord-

ing to the ministry.

The ministry added that in 2024, NEVs accounted for 8.9 per cent of the country's total vehicle ownership, while the number of newly registered NEVs rose by 51.49 per cent compared to 2023, reaching 11.25 million.

The growth of NEVs in China has accelerated significantly. In 2014, only 120,000 NEVs were on the roads. By the end of June 2022, the number of NEVs in use surpassed 10 million. This figure doubled by the end of 2023 and

exceeded 30 million by the end of 2024. Official data show that Chinese NEVs account for more than half of the world's total. According to the National Development and Reform Commission, China boasts the world's largest NEV consumption market, as well as one of the largest and most open motor markets.

Observers have highlighted the immense potential of domestic demand, noting that it will further drive the development of the NEV industry. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 3 July 2023 shows China's 20 millionth new energy vehicle (NEV), which is produced by GAC Aion New Energy Automobile Co. Ltd, in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province. **PHOTO: DENG HUA/XINHUA/FILE**

Rice fields turned into art in northern Thailand



This aerial photograph taken on 16 January 2025 shows an artwork featuring a cat and dragon by farm owner and artist Tanyapong Jaikham in rice fields in northern Thailand's Chiang Rai province. **PHOTO: KARANWINAT WONGCHAIMUL / AFP**

A two-acre paddy field in northern Thailand has been transformed into an artwork depicting a dragon and a cat, symbols of hope and resilience as the community recovers from floods.

The farm owner, Tanyapong Jaikham, told AFP that the cat represents the residents of his hometown Chiang Rai who faced devastating floods during last year's monsoon season.

The dragon, last year's zodiac symbol, is shown protectively holding the cat.

Tanyapong, himself an automobile engineer, collaborated with 20 other people including friends and family to create the design — using AI technology and satellite imagery — with rice plants as the main medium.

Requiring meticulous planning and execution over the span of a month, the artwork cost him around 500,000 baht (\$14,500) to create.

"The art required great attention to detail, so we had to be very careful," Tanyapong told AFP.

"But with the help of today's technology, it became easier." The artwork was opened to the public in late December, "but we are not ready for many visitors", he said. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Patients 'harmed' as UK hospital standards 'collapse': report

UK patients are "coming to harm" as nurses say they are having to treat people in corridors and unsuitable places because of a "collapse in care standards", a report said Thursday.

In the latest indictment of Britain's beleaguered state-funded National Health Service, nine in 10 NHS nurses surveyed by the country's nurses union said "patient safety is being compromised".

Nearly seven in 10 (66.8 per cent) said they were delivering care in "overcrowded or unsuitable places" on a "daily basis", including in corridors, converted cupboards, car parks and even bereavement rooms.

"The experiences of over 5,000 nursing staff across the UK highlight a devastating collapse in care standards, with patients routinely coming to harm," said the Royal College of Nursing (RCN).

The report condemns the "normalization" of so-called "corridor care", with nurses unable to access life-saving equipment in cramped spaces and patients even dying in corridors.

One nurse in east England said corridor care in their hospital trust was "not an exception, it's the rule". — AFP

Disney-themed Shinkansen to begin service from 21 Feb

DISNEY-THEMED bullet trains adorned with characters from hit films such as "Frozen" will run on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line connecting Tokyo and Osaka from 21 February for a limited time, the operators of the railway and Tokyo Disney Resort said

Wednesday.

The "Wonderful Dreams Shinkansen", themed after Tokyo DisneySea's "Fantasy Springs" area that opened in June, marks the first special wrapping of trains running on the line in its 60-year history, according to Central Ja-

pan Railway Co. and Oriental Land Co.

The special trains will run through mid-September between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka stations, with two round trips scheduled on weekends and holidays.

The train's interior will be decorated with specially designed seat headrest covers and other features.

The onboard melody will be "I See the Light", a song from the Disney film "Tangled." — Kyodo



Supplied photo shows a seat headrest cover design for the Disney-themed shinkansen, inspired by the new "Fantasy Springs" area at Tokyo DisneySea. **PHOTO: DISNEY / KYODO**

ECONOMY WORLD

Osaka Expo participating countries question ticket booking system

The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition expects 28.2 million visitors during the event from 13 April to 13 October.



Masakazu Tokura, head of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition, speaks at the International Participants Meeting 2025 in Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture, on 15 January 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE advance reservation system for admission to the World Exposition in Osaka starting in April was one of the key issues raised at a meeting of participating countries and compa-

nies held in western Japan, officials said Thursday.

The two-day meeting in Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture came as advance ticket sales remained slower than organiz-

ers expected at 7.5 million tickets as of early January, short of their target of 14 million.

The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition expects 28.2 million visitors during the event from 13 April to 13 October.

Some of the participants raised questions about whether the requirement to reserve an admission ticket, then book the date and time of a visit and finally enter lotteries to see particular pavilions and special events makes the process too complex.

An official of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations said, "The complexity (of the reservation system) could impact the number of visitors," but the 10-nation group expects the Japanese organizers to "solve the issue". — Kyodo

Pakistan reduces power tariff for EVs to promote green development

PAKISTANI Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that his country has substantially reduced the power tariff for electric vehicles (EVs) as a propitious step for boosting the emission-less and eco-friendly vehicles in the country.

"EVs are the right step to address air pollution that needs to be scaled up to contain climate change as it will help reduce air pollution, the massive import bill of fuels and preserve the pristine environment," the prime minister said while chairing a meeting on electric vehicles on Wednesday.

Talking about the commercial aspects of EVs, Sharif said that the government is working towards the implementation of an electric vehicle policy to

facilitate the EV manufacturers in rolling out subsidized charge-based automobiles in the country, adding that the new tax reduction under the

EV policy is expected to lower travel costs by up to three times compared to petrol and diesel-powered vehicles. — Xinhua



EVs are the right step to address air pollution that needs to be scaled up to contain climate change. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canadian PM outlines retaliatory tariffs on US\$105 bln worth of US goods

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Wednesday outlined retaliatory tariffs covering about 150 billion Canadian dollars (US\$105 billion) worth of US goods, local media reported.

Trudeau met with provincial and territorial premiers in Ottawa to discuss the tariff threat posed by US President-elect Donald Trump. During the meeting, Trudeau said the retaliatory tariffs are part of Ottawa's planned measures, according to the report.

After the meeting, the prime minister said that "nothing is off the table" in response to possible US tariffs.

Trump has threatened to impose a 25 per cent tariff on all Canadian goods exported to the United States unless Canada tightens border security. On Wednesday, Ottawa and the premiers issued a joint statement demonstrating their collaborative efforts to prevent US tariffs. — Xinhua

New Zealand food prices increase 1.5% annually

New Zealand food prices increased by 1.5 per cent in the 12 months to December 2024, following a 1.3 per cent increase in the 12 months to November 2024, according to the statistics department Stats NZ on Thursday.

The annual increase in food prices was attributed to higher prices for grocery food, and restaurant meals and ready-to-eat food, up 2.7 per cent and 3.1 per cent, respectively, Stats NZ said.

The price increase in grocery food was due to higher prices for butter, standard 2L milk, and olive oil, said Stats NZ prices and deflators spokesperson Nicola Growden, adding the price increase in restaurant meals and ready-to-eat food was due to higher prices for lunch or brunch, hamburgers, and evening restaurant meals. — Xinhua

Mexican president rejects Trump's proposal of creating tariff revenue agency

MEXICAN President Claudia Sheinbaum on Wednesday expressed her disagreement with US President-elect Donald Trump's proposal to create an external revenue service agency to collect tariff income from trading partners.

Just days before Trump's 20 January inauguration, Sheinbaum said: "This is something that is not new. He has said it several times, and we... disagree, (but) we respect it."

"There will be time to be able to speak with President Trump's government" once he takes office, Sheinbaum said

during her morning press conference.

On Tuesday, Trump announced his plans to create an external service to collect tariffs, duties and all other foreign revenue to balance what he describes as the United States' unfair trade relationship with partners.

In response, Sheinbaum stressed that the trade agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico has greatly benefited the United States in terms of employment and production and has helped the region compete globally. — Xinhua

EU's ex-tech chief joins Bank of America as advisor

Former EU tech enforcer Thierry Breton joins Bank of America's advisory council, facing criticism for allegedly violating a lobbying ban.



Thierry Breton continues to tussle publicly with tech billionaire Elon Musk over EU regulations. **PHOTO: TERESA SUAREZ / POOL/AFP**

THE EU's influential former tech enforcer Thierry Breton will join Bank of America's advisory council, he told AFP on Thursday, a move denounced by one lawmaker as flouting a lobbying ban. Breton was the Eu-

ropean Union's internal markets commissioner until he abruptly resigned in September but has remained a bete noire of Elon Musk, continuing to tussle with him on social media in response to the tech billionaire's criticism of Europe and its laws.

The former French finance minister served in the powerful EU post between 2019 and 2024 until he was replaced by Stephane Sejourne late last year.

The European Commission gave its approval on Wednesday to Breton's post at Bank of America, according to a decision published online. He had formally notified the commission in October. — AFP

The 'Made in India' first-ever BMW X1 Long Wheelbase All Electric debuts in India

BMW India launched the first-ever BMW X1 Long Wheelbase All Electric at the Auto Expo 2025. The car can be booked at BMW dealerships across India from today onwards.

The BMW X1 Long Wheelbase All Electric becomes the first electric vehicle by BMW to be 'Made in India'. Locally produced at BMW Group Plant Chennai, the BMW X1 Long Wheelbase All Electric is available exclusively in the eDrive20L drivetrain.

Vikram Pawah, President and CEO, BMW Group India said, "Today, BMW has pioneered a disruption in the Indian premium

automotive segment by launching the first-ever X1 Long Wheelbase All Electric. It's Big, it's an SUV, it's an EV and it's a BMW!

The X1 Long Wheelbase is here to dominate every day, your way.

A premium offering that offers practicality and sustainability, all in one package, making it the obvious choice as your first BMW. Exuding space, comfort and versatility, it is the perfect premium SUV for rising aspirations of new Bharat. As the first 'Made in India' EV from BMW, the X1 Long Wheelbase beckons a new era of innovation and excellence. — ANI



BMW India launched the first-ever BMW X1 Long Wheelbase All Electric at the Auto Expo 2025.

PHOTO: ANI

Laos continues to improve service quality in tourism sector

LAOS' Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism will collaborate with partners to improve service quality in the tourism sector. An agreement was signed between the ministry's Institute of Media, Culture and Tourism, Pan-Mekong International Economic Development (Laos) Sole Co Ltd, and

China's Jiangsu Vocational College of Information Technology, to strengthen cultural and tourism cooperation between Laos and China. The agreement outlines key areas, including educational and tourism exchanges to foster academic collaboration between Laos and China. — Xinhua

European carmakers warn against EU-US trade war

EUROPE'S biggest automakers called on the European Union Thursday to avoid a "trade conflict" with the United States, days before Donald Trump officially returns as president.

Trump, who will be sworn in on Monday, has repeatedly threatened to hike tariffs on European products, as well as goods made by China and other allies like Canada.

"If we end up in a trade conflict, our clear assessment is that would be significantly economically harmful to the EU and to the European auto industry," warned Ola Kallenius, Mercedes CEO and new president of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA).

In a letter to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the European automotive lobby urged the EU to "try to avoid a potential trade conflict". — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SHAN HU HAI VOY.NO. (89)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SHAN HU HAI VOY.NO. (89)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 8 VOY.NO. (01)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 8 VOY. NO. (01)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **YIGTL** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK



Denmark proposes military airbase in Greenland; US claims rebuffed

Denmark plans a military airbase in Greenland amid US interest in acquiring the territory, which Greenland's Prime Minister rejects.

DENMARK is taking significant steps to bolster its military presence in the Arctic, with plans to establish a military airbase in western Greenland. This initiative, reported by Danish state broadcaster TV2, is part of a broader strategy to enhance the country's defence capabilities in the Arctic and North Atlantic regions.

The plans are detailed in a confidential

22-page report drafted by the Danish armed forces in September 2024, which emphasizes the need for improved military infrastructure in the settlement of Kangerlussuaq.

The report highlights Denmark's current military limitations, particularly in its ability to identify, recognize, and respond to potential threats in the Arctic, North Atlantic, and Baltic Sea. This acknowledgment of vulnerability comes at a time of heightened geopolitical interest in the region, where climate change is opening new shipping routes and access to untapped resources, raising concerns over territorial claims and security.

President-elect Trump's allies propose a bill allowing negotiations with Denmark to purchase Greenland, despite Danish officials stating the island is not for sale.

SOURCE: SPUTNIK

Nuuk, the capital of Greenland, is known for its mineral-rich resources, which include various valuable minerals such as zinc, lead, gold, and rare earth elements. PHOTO: RITZAU SCANPIX/AFP

Concerns mount over new energy crisis in EU as Russian gas transit via Ukraine ends

The cessation of gas transit could significantly affect European countries that rely on Russian gas for their energy needs.

UKRAINE'S decision to halt the transit of Russian natural gas to Europe, effective after its agreement with Gazprom expires, raises concerns about a potential energy crisis, particularly in countries like Croatia.

As an Arctic cold front exacerbates fuel shortages and drives up gas prices, European nations may become less willing to support Ukraine's demands for military aid, prioritizing their own energy needs.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed the country's refusal to extend the transit agreement

for Russian gas to Europe, which expires soon, while Russian President Vladimir Putin stated no new deal would be made.

This agreement currently facilitates about half of Russia's gas exports to the EU, and its expiration could lead to a significant energy crisis, particularly affecting countries like Slovakia and Hungary.

European leaders, including Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, have expressed concerns about rising gas prices and supply shortages. Despite efforts to reduce reliance on Russian energy, the EU still imports substantial amounts of Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG), complicating its energy landscape.

Analysts warn that without the transit agreement, the EU may face increased economic pressures, particularly in industries reliant on affordable gas, while the need for substantial investments in alternative energy sources remains critical to achieving long-term energy independence.

SOURCE: Xinhua

As LA burns, criticisms and questions about response arise

As the city grapples with the aftermath, experts highlight the necessity of making informed decisions about resource investment to enhance future preparedness and response capabilities.



Members of the National Guard take a break along California's Pacific Coast Highway while assisting with various fires on 10 January 2025. PHOTO: AFP

THE speed and intensity of the blazes ravaging Los Angeles this week have put its firefighting infrastructure to the test — and given rise to questions and criticism surrounding preparedness.

Hydrants ran dry in the Pacific Palisades neighbourhood as it was ravaged by one of the region's five separate fires, while water shortages

additionally hampered efforts elsewhere.

"We need answers to how that happened," California Governor Gavin Newsom wrote in a letter to the heads of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Los Angeles County Public Works.

SOURCE: AFP

SPORTS

MBC to host 3rd Professional Boxing Tournament

THE Myanmar Boxing Council (MBC) will hold the third MBC Professional Boxing Tournament featuring six Lethwei matches and four boxing matches, totaling ten exciting bouts.

In the Super Featherweight 58.9 kilogramme category, Naing Latt will face Kyaw Swa Moe, while in the Featherweight 57.15 kilogramme category, Ging Shan Mwaung will fight Yein Zone.

For the Lethwei matches, Van Lu will compete against Ye Moe Aung; Ye Min Aung will take on Hein Thu Nyi Nyi and Aung Thu Tun will face Phyo Thu Maung in the Flyweight 50.8-kilo-



Boxers in action during the PBM2 tournament.

gramme category. In the Super Featherweight 58.9-kilogramme division, Htet Win Kyaw will fight Kyaw Thu Ya,

while Myo Khant Kyaw will battle Aung Myint Oo.

In the Featherweight 57.15-kilogramme division,

Kaung Myat Tun will challenge Zine Dant Aung and Kyaw Khant Win will face Hein Teza. In the Super Bantamweight 55.34-kilogramme category, Hein Min Naing will square off against Aung Kaung Myat.

The event is scheduled at 2 pm on 25 January at the Theinbyu Boxing Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon. Ticket prices are set at K5,000 and K15,000.

The Myanmar Boxing Council previously organized the PBM1 and PBM2 tournaments in 2024 and plans to send promising boxers to compete in international events. — Arkar Linn/KZL



Manchester City forward Erling Haaland has signed a contract that keeps him at the club until 2034. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Haaland pens mammoth new Man City deal until 2034

MANCHESTER City striker Erling Haaland ended any speculation about his future on Friday when he signed a mammoth new contract with the club.

The Norwegian has penned a nine-and-a-half-year contract to keep him at Manchester City until 2034, when he will be 33 years old.

The new contract will end any rumours about his future, with Real Madrid and FC Barcelona rumoured to be interested in trying to sign the forward, who has already scored 79 Premier League goals.

"I am super happy. I am proud. It is difficult to put into words because it is a big moment. I am happy and that is the right word to use."

"I am super proud and happy and I am looking forward to staying here for a long time. In the end, speaking with the people I spoke with, the hunger and the support that I have been getting for the last couple of years from the board, from the bosses and from Pep, it was an easy decision. I am delighted," said Haaland on the Manchester City website.

Haaland said he is confident the club could recover from its current dip in form and said his relationship with coach Pep Guardiola is one reason he had decided to extend his stay.

"I have improved a lot. It is so nice to work with him. Not only because he is the best, but he is also the most hard-working person I have ever seen". — Xinhua



Hot seat: Domenico Tedesco watching his Belgium team lose at home to France in the Nations League in October. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Belgium sack national team coach Tedesco

BELGIUM'S football association on Friday announced the sacking of national team coach Domenico Tedesco after disappointing performances at Euro 2024 and in the Nations League.

"Unfortunately, the Red Devils did not perform as we hoped at Euro 2024, just as they did in the next Nations League campaign," the football association (RBFA) said on their website.

Tedesco was appointed in February 2023 to replace Roberto Martinez and rebuild the squad as the country's "golden generation" departed. Tedesco's team qualified for Euro 2024 but were eliminated in the last 16 by France, who then beat Belgium twice more in the Nations League as the Red Devils finished third in their group. They face a relegation play-off against Ukraine in March.

"I was always proud to be the coach of the Red Devils, we achieved great things together," Tedesco said. — AFP

Lone Yokozuna Terunofuji retires after injury-plagued career

LONE Yokozuna Terunofuji announced his retirement on Friday as the 10-time winner of the elite makuuchi division drew the curtain on his roller-coaster career plagued by injuries.

The Mongolian-born 33-year-old was back in action at the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament after missing the last two meets entirely, but he suffered his second loss on Wednesday and forfeited his bout on Thursday to end with a 2-3 record. "I haven't been able to wrestle the way I hoped to, and thought I shouldn't stand on the raised ring with a half-hearted mindset or body," Terunofuji told a press conference at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan after ending his career on a 523-275 record with 231 missed bouts.

"I'm looking back thinking it was a really vigorous sumo career."

Terunofuji lost to Komusubi Wakatakakage on the opening day before claiming two wins but fell to No 2 maegashira Tobizaru in the last bout of his career.

"After losing on the first day, I told (Isegahama) stablemaster that



Yokozuna Terunofuji speaks during his retirement press conference at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan on 17 January 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

I'd like to retire if I lose once more," the ancient sport's 73rd yokozuna said.

The last grand champion to retire was fellow Mongolian-born wrestler Hakuho, who won a record 45 championships, in September 2021. — Kyodo



“SOLAR OUTLOOK REPORT 2025”

UAE leads solar energy growth with strategic projects

A new report highlighted the UAE's leadership in the regional solar energy sector, driven by initiatives like the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, targeting 75 per cent clean energy by 2050, and Abu Dhabi Vision 2030, aiming for 30 per cent renewable energy within five years.

The “Solar Outlook Report 2025” report, launched by the Middle East Solar Industry Association (MESIA) during the World Future Energy Summit 2025 in Abu Dhabi, outlines the rapid growth of solar energy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the UAE's key role in this transformation.

Solar energy's share in the regional energy mix grew significantly, with solar capacity in MENA rising 23 per cent in 2023 to 32 gigawatts (GW) peak, and projected to exceed 180 GW peak by 2030. Growth is driven by technological advancements, government support, and private-sector investment.

The report highlights the adoption of innovative technologies like digital twins and automated cleaning systems, which have enhanced solar plant performance, increased energy output, and reduced costs. Advances in energy storage and automated operations are addressing challenges in expanding solar portfolios. — ANI

Putin holds talks with Iranian President Pezeshkian

The Kremlin indicated that topics of mutual interest will be addressed during the discussions.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands as they pose for photos before a meeting on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in Russia on 17 January for an official visit. He is scheduled to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow for discussions.

The two leaders will sign a new comprehensive strategic partnership

agreement between the countries.

The Russian and Iranian presidents plan to discuss prospects for expanding bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, transport and logistics, and in the humanitarian sphere.

Key issues of mutual interest on the global and regional agenda are also ex-

pected to be touched upon. The leaders are expected to discuss the development of the situation in the Middle East, including in Syria and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in the South Caucasus, as well as the state of affairs surrounding the Iranian nuclear programme, the Kremlin said. — SPUTNIK



This photo shows a view of the Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge in Southwest China's Guizhou province, 17 January 2025. **PHOTO: LIU YELIN/FOR CHINADAILY.COM.CN**

China completes main structure of world's tallest bridge

CHINA on Friday finished the construction of the main structure of a bridge in its southwestern Guizhou Province, which is set to become the world's tallest bridge.

The last steel girder weighing about 215 tonnes was precisely hoisted into place on Friday afternoon, connecting sections of the Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge currently under construction.

Work will continue on the main cable wrapping, painting and the installation of minor facilities.

A project of Guizhou Transportation Investment Group Co Ltd the suspension bridge has a vertical height of 625 metres from the bridge deck down to the river surface — roughly twice the height of the Eiffel Tower.

The 2,890-metre bridge, with a span of 1,420 metres, is also the world's largest span bridge to be built in a mountainous area.

Wu Chaoming, a senior engineer participating in the construction, said the bridge spans the Beipan River. — Xinhua