

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

**SUNDAY  
EDITION**



**NATIONAL PAGE 6**

Thukha Dagon Public Housing units available for rent



**BUSINESS PAGE 7**

Customs Dept sets dollar-kyat rate at K3,590 for tariffs



Natural earthen pots have gained increasing popularity in the market.

## Consumers opt for local earthen water pots

According to the Myanmar handicraft market, an increasing number of consumers are now using natural earthen water pots, a popular local handicraft. These pots are particularly sought after during the hot summer months due to their natural cooling properties.

The manager of a handicraft shop in Nyaunglebin, Bago Region,

stated, "People are using earthen pots more frequently. They sell better in the summer. We will resume production soon due to high demand. These pots are often placed near monasteries. Consumers prefer them because the water is colder than bottled, filtered water, negating the need for refrigeration. The pot water is naturally cold."

Natural earthen water pots are

beneficial for health but may leak slightly, which is expected with earthen pots. "The slight leakage is natural. The pot gets a bit wet when filled, but it's good for health. The water is always cold and refreshing," noted a user in Bago Township.

Earthen pots are available in various sizes, including 10, 15, and 20 litres. Clay pots are also available in 10 or 20 litres. — Thit Taw/ZN

## MAI adjusts Delhi flight schedule for India's Republic Day

MAI said in an announcement that some flight schedules have been changed as the Republic Day celebration is going to take place and Delhi airport will be closed from 10:20 pm to 12:45 pm on 19 January.

During the temporary close, some flight schedules to Delhi on 20, 22 and 24 January 2025 will be changed.

Hotline 9787 is provided for help.

The 82-page MAI's Mingalaba Inflight Magazine includes unique features of neighbouring countries including Myanmar, the travel sector, food and local specialities. It can be read on board or downloaded at <https://mai-air.com/plan-your-journey/onboard-experience/inflight-entertainment>. — Htun Htun/ZS



A woman is reading Mingalaba Inflight Magazine Vol 30 online.



## Pwe Gauk (BE.FALLS) Waterfalls Resort



# NATIONAL

## Investing in Agriculture and Livestock: A Path to National Prosperity and Food Security

- Agricultural and livestock products have a robust market.
- These products bolster national food security and boost income through exports.
- Entrepreneurs with financial capacity should invest in the stable agriculture and livestock sectors.

*(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 Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday, 18 January 2025)

**BAY Inference:** Weather is a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and Eastern Central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until noon of 19 January 2025:** Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

**State of the Sea:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**Outlook for Subsequent Two Days:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah and Shan States.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 19 January 2025:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19 January 2025:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19 January 2025:** Partly cloudy. — DMH



### Gold Market Rate as of 18 January 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,410,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

### National Objectives for 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2025

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

### Daily newspapers available online

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



News and Periodicals Enterprise

### Mottos for 78<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2025

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



# 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)*

## MoE Union Minister discusses HR development in energy sector

Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin met rectors and pro-rectors of Yangon University, Yangon Technological University, Technological University (Thanlyin), the Professor Dean of Geology Department of Yenangyoung University, faculty members, retired officers of the ministry and other relevant experts at Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, Lower Myanmar branch (Sein Lae May) yesterday.

During the meeting, the union minister said the energy sector is the focal one for State economic growth, and the min-

istry is working hard per the theme “2025, the Year of Myanmar Energy” to ensure an innovative energy sector. The relevant stakeholders will support building up the capacity of new geologist generations, oil engineers and industrial and chemical engineers, and plans are underway to offer scholarships to students of relevant subjects. Moreover, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Energy will jointly open a four-year degree in petroleum geology course at Yenangyoung University starting in the 2025 academic year. Moreover, the



A meeting between Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin and faculty members of universities and retired officers of the ministry in progress at Lower Myanmar branch of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise yesterday.

ministry will also arrange job opportunities for the graduates.

Afterwards, attendees reported on their respective subjects and tabled suggestions for a better teaching system based on experience and knowledge.

The union minister added that training of trainers (ToT) programmes for faculty members of universities will be launched after the establishment of the Energy Skills Training School in PyinOoLwin.

There will be also a committee comprising relevant stakeholders, and all should participate in developing the human resources, essential for energy sector development. — MNA/KTZH

## Ayeyawady Region emphasizes boosting agri businesses



Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and officials inspect the model farm during their tours in Ayeyawady Region.

AYEYAWADY Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win made an inspection tour in townships of Ayeyawady Region yesterday. He viewed a thriving sunflower model farm in Wakema Township and inspected agricultural tasks.

At Kyaphyu Village in Wakema Township, he looked into the growth of plants and pollination at the 10-acre model plot of Super Sun 42 sunflowers and instructed officials to prevent pests at the plantations.

The Chief Minister also visited the Super Sun 41 model sunflower farm

planted on 10-acre croplands in Aukkaba Village of Pyapon Township and heard reports on dredging of Kyishwinyoe drain and potential benefits for farmers in growing 200-acre second crops and installation of the sluice gate at the drain. The Chief Minister viewed the cultivation of sunflower plants on the embankment.

He also inspected the construction of the Aungchantha sluice gate at the embankment for Kyetphamwayzaung Island in Pyapon Township and the dredging of Tinhle Creek

for proper flow of water. According to reports from officials, Tinhle Creek can irrigate some 4,000 acres of summer plantation in the township.

The Chief Minister also viewed round dredging of the drain along the 11,000-foot-long embankment of Kyetphamwayzaung Island to benefit 175 acres of arable land. Moreover, he inspected the cultivation of summer paddy using a solar water pump and the reclamation of 40-acre advanced farmlands. — Regional IPRD/TTA



# NATIONAL

## Union Industry Minister inspects MSMEs in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than inspected UK crispy fried onion workplace in Kyaukpongon Village, Thazi Township in Mandalay Region and met township-level departmental officials and entrepreneurs yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister highlighted the guidance of the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister to produce

value-added finished products using agricultural products. The UK's crispy fried onion industry, rooted in agriculture, requires collective efforts to achieve greater success. It needs to prioritize food safety for public consumption.

The government has established a fund to promote the MSMEs and grants loans to the business persons. Those who receive loans should invest



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than visits UK crispy fried onion workplace in Kyaukpongon Village, Thazi Township, yesterday.

properly only in MSMEs.

The Union minister in-

spected thriving onion field of Daw Mon Mon Htay in Ku-

phyu Village, Thazi Township. — MNA/KTZH

## Farmers urged to expand sown acreage of oil crops

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw on 16 January inspected the supply of water from the right canal and its tributary of Wegyi Dam to farmlands in Paungde Township of Bago Region and left instructions on minimizing waste of agricultural water, and use of solar-powered pumping system and the automatic water turbine pump for the highland farmlands.

The deputy minister looked into 5,000 duck farms in Natpadee Village and thriving 150-acre cold-season black gram farms. He urged officials and farmers to broadly raise farmer awareness in growing crops using quality seeds and agricultural water supply to meet the standards. He fulfilled the needs of farmers and provided agricultural



Thriving irrigated crops are under inspection in Bago on 16 January.

inputs for farmers who grow cold-season black gram.

In Pyay, the deputy minister met departmental officials at the Construction Task Force 2 of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department and stressed the need to grow the crops in the irrigated ar-

reas to meet the target production, operate triple crops and expand sown acreage of oil crops in addition to emphasizing development of the livestock sector through collaborative efforts of departmental personnel and local farmers. — MNA/TTA

## Efforts exerted to reopen departmental offices in Loikaw

KAYAH State government is leveraging up regional development and rehabilitation measures. Yesterday morning, Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin inspected the beautification of Nawngya Lake in Loikaw and preparations to reopen the departmental office.

He viewed round the participation of Tatmadaw members and departmental staff in beautifying Nawngya Lake and its environs for public relaxation.

The chief minister inspected the repairing of ethnic affairs units and ethnic literature and cultural

committee office damaged by terrorist attacks. He instructed officials of the ethnic literature and culture committees to reopen their offices and cooperate with officials to implement literary and cultural development for ethnic in the state.

Moreover, the chief minister urged officials to supervise the timely completion of repairing the office building for the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration to operate its functions and invite investments for the development of the state. — Kayah State IPRD/TTA

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.  
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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.







# NATIONAL

## Weekly Roundup

12 January

### MSME urged to generate electricity for businesses

Power plants are struggling to supply electricity at full capacity due to ongoing terrorist attacks on power plants and towers, resulting in a significant decline in the electricity supply, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with MSME businesspersons in PyinOoLwin.

15 January

### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sends message to Kayah State Day

Unity and strength of Kayah State's national brethren is crucial for peace, SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing remarked in his message sent to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Kayah State Day.

### Endorsement of Myanmar Standards Adoption

Under the duties and functions of Section 5, Article B and the vested mandate of Section 33, Article (b) of the Law on Standardization, the National Standards Council endorsed the following 70 standards for adoption as Myanmar Standards.

16 January

### Animal Health and Livestock Development Amendment Law enacted

The State Administration Council has enacted the Animal Health and Livestock Development Amendment Law as SAC Law No 2/2025.

18 January

### Union government holds meeting

At the Union government meeting, SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed 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.

### A meeting emphasizes MSME exhibitions and competitions

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win underlined that businesspeople and officials need to organize discussions to understand changes in customer behaviours, technology, information, investment, market trends at home and abroad, and the holding of the Union-level MSME exhibitions and competitions in Nay Pyi Taw on 10-14 February. — GNLM/TTA

## Thukha Dagon Public Housing units available for rent



This picture shows the Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

FOUR hundred fifty units of Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing, being developed in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, will be rented for the public, the Department of Urban and Housing Development (Yangon Region) under the Ministry of Construction said.

The electricity meter fa-

cility is yet to come for those 450 apartments. The resident permit will be granted after the utility facility has been provided. A drawing lot system will be practised for rental housing.

More vacant apartments that were previously rented and returned will be added to this. Therefore, the number of apart-

ment units will be increased.

More apartment units will be developed and rented in 2025. Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing provided 1,168 units in 2023 and 1,488 in 2024 for civil servants, retired government service personnel and the public. — ASH/KK

## Over 1,000 register for 10<sup>th</sup> free Sitagu eye donation

SITAGU Cakku Dana Hospital (Yangon) has announced that over 1,000 people have registered for the 10<sup>th</sup> Sitagu eyesight donation event, which will be held at the hospital, according to a statement from the hospital.

Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital, located in Yangon's Dagon Myothit (North) Township, will provide free medical tests and surgeries during the 10<sup>th</sup> round of its eyesight donation programme for patients who have been listed. This will take place in the second week of February, the hospital announced.

"The 10<sup>th</sup> Sitagu eyesight donation programme will be organized by the hospital to provide free eye tests and surgeries to patients from across the country. So far, the number of people who have registered for eye surgeries has reached 1,300. The Sitagu Sayadaw has requested that the eye donation event start on 11 February. The date for the eye tests will be announced later," said an official from the hospital.



Patients receiving medical tests at the Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital (Yangon).

The first round of the eyesight donation programme began on 5 April 2023, during which 11,364 patients received medical tests and 3,759 were provided with treatment. — ASH/MKKS

## Rice, warm clothes donated to 300 households in North Dagon

THE Roger and Van Hall Foundation (USA), in collaboration with the Wailukyaw Foundation, donated rice and warm clothes to 300 households in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region, on 16 January, with each family receiving two Pyi (about 4.26 kilogrammes) of rice, along with warm clothes for children and the

elderly, according to actor Wai Lu Kyaw.

"Today's donation is a joint effort between the Roger and Van Hall Foundation (USA) and the Wailukyaw Foundation. I want to thank all the donors who came together to contribute. I am also very happy to be able to donate to places that need it. May all the donors live

long, enjoy healthy lives, and fulfil their wishes," said actor Wai Lu Kyaw.

For this donation, the Roger and Van Hall Foundation (USA), actor Wai Lu Kyaw and his wife actress Yay Kyi Chan Mya, from the Wailukyaw Foundation, donated 25 sacks of rice and 100 warm clothes. — ASH/MKKS



## CBM sells \$150,000, 1.14 million yuan on 17 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold \$150,000 and 1.14 million yuan on 17 January.

CBM injected one million baht on 16 January again after pumping over \$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 within 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 with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM



The office building of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon.

allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online for foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

## Gold Trading Licences: Noncompliance by 17 Feb will face actions



A display of gold ornaments is seen at the gold outlet in Yangon.

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has notified gold shop owners to obtain a gold trading licence by 17 February 2025, warning that failure to do so will result in legal action.

The ministry stated that those who run gold transaction service businesses must comply with rules and regu-

lations following Notification 055/2024 released on 25 October 2024.

Entities that fail to obtain a licence within the set timeframe and conduct gold transactions without adhering to reference prices will face actions under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law.

The Mineral (Gold) Ref-

erence Price Determination Committee issues daily gold reference prices for a tical of pure gold (16.329325 grammes) with 19.25 grammes of the density of gold starting from 6 December through MRTV, MWD, Myanmar Radio and website of the MoNREC (www.mining.gov.mm) and Facebook page of YGEA. — NN/KK

## Customs Dept sets dollar-kyat rate at K3,590 for tariffs

THE Customs Department announced weekly foreign exchange rates to be exercised in levying Customs tariff and a US dollar is set to be exchanged at K3,590.5. The exchange rates for Customs duty from 19 to 25 January are K3,590.5 against a US dollar, K103.85 against a Thai baht and K490.055 for a yuan, the Customs Department announced. This 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.

The Customs Department levied tax over export and import goods at K2,100 per US\$ of reference rate in the past.— NN/KK



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# OPINION

## Deeply conserve biodiversity species and habitats

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation designates forest reserves, protected public forests, natural parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and geoparks across Myanmar to conserve and protect flora and fauna species.

Biodiversity and ecosystems provide clean air, water, nutritious foods, nature-based medicines, and raw materials that fulfil the basic needs of humans and society in various ways. Since humans, animals, and plants rely on one another, the existence of diverse species around the world is crucial. Biodiversity includes mammals, birds, reptiles, invertebrates, and trees.

However, biodiversity is being lost in various ways across all regions of the world. Scientists have noted that the planet is currently experiencing the most severe wave of species extinctions since the disappearance of the dinosaurs. Approximately one million out of the estimated eight million species of trees and animals are now at

risk of extinction. Additionally, 75 per cent of the Earth's land surface, including 85 per cent of wetlands, has been altered by human activity. Meanwhile, the fishing industry and water pollution have led to the degradation of 66 per cent of the world's oceans.

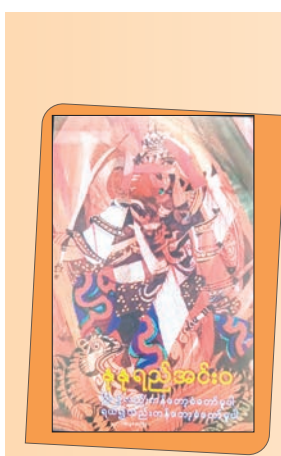
Inappropriate human activities and natural disasters contribute to the degradation of ecosystems, affecting wildlife and forests worldwide. If these issues are not addressed promptly, humanity will face unprecedented challenges. That is why it is crucial to raise global awareness about the need to cherish and protect biodiversity for its long-term survival, while actively pursuing environmental conservation efforts. Moreover, strict measures must be implemented against those who harm ecosystems and the natural environment in any way.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources and biodiversity. According to records, the country is home to over 18,000 species of trees, 1,096 species of birds, and more than 300 species of mammals. Among the tree species, there are over 800 types of orchids, more than 80 species of bamboo, and over 800 species of herbal plants. Notably, Myanmar is also home to six endemic bird species.

However, the country faces challenges due to habitat loss for biodiversity caused by deforestation, depletion of water resources in coastal areas, delays in adopting modern agricultural systems, environmentally destructive mining practices, uncontrolled hunting, and illegal wildlife trade. To improve Myanmar's natural environment, timely efforts must address the loss

and degradation of habitats and biodiversity. By doing so, relevant communities will have access to sufficient food, clothing, and shelter as basic needs of humans.

Inappropriate human activities and natural disasters contribute to the degradation of ecosystems, affecting wildlife and forests worldwide. If these issues are not addressed promptly, humanity will face unprecedented challenges. That is why it is crucial to raise global awareness about the need to cherish and protect biodiversity for its long-term survival, while actively pursuing environmental conservation efforts. Moreover, strict measures must be implemented against those who harm ecosystems and the natural environment in any way.



Book Title - Smile As They Bow  
Writer - Nu Nu Yi (Inwa)  
Publishing House - Seikku Cho Cho  
Publication Date - December 2024 (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)  
Price - K11,000

### Smile As They Bow

THE "Smile As They Bow" novel was among five shortlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize in 2007.

The book is the sixth edition of Seiku Cho Cho Publishing House. The Hyperion Book "Smile As They Bow" was published in English in September 2008 in the US. It has been offered as a curriculum at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, since the 2014 Academic Year. That's why it's reputed as a masterpiece of Sayama Nu Nu Yi (Inwa).

The main character of this book is Daisy Jane. The preface

begins with a warm greeting: "To dear readers and fans of Daisy Jane." The author's literary narrative takes readers on a deep dive into the historical trivia of a medium-like figure (Natkadaw) and spiritual life. She vividly portrays the underprivileged lives of spiritual mediums, their role in bestowing blessings at the Taungpyone Festival, and the rich traditions and customs of Nat festivals.

The story begins with the first day of homage. During the Taungpyone Festival, the streets are dim and blurry, echoing feelings of agony and isolation. A long queue of traffic

lines on the Taungpyone village street from Mandalay-Madaya Road. The winds of the Waso and Wagaung months blow actively. Dark yellow water flows along the canal beside the street, amusing and delighting people. The air is filled with the noise of young people and the prayers of women, both young and old

The customs of the ritual showers at the Taungpyone Festival can be witnessed in the middle of the novel.

"The character described how the ritual shower ceremony was once held in a river with a floating bamboo shaft. Now,

it takes place in a bamboo Nat shrine. Statues of the two powerful brothers of Taungpyone, who became Nat spirits after their deaths, were previously transported to the river using a litter vehicle without wheels. People on the roadside offered flowers and cash to the two Nats along the way. The crowd was so dense that the men carrying the litter had to clear the path forcibly, using sticks. The ritual shower is a delightful event, with people following the bamboo shaft in boats on the river."

The last day of the Taungpyone Festival is honoured with a gold foil offering, filled with prayers from those presenting gold foil to the statues. The attire, turbans, and ornaments of the statues are changed, while Natkadaw's ceremonial dance, folk dance, rituals, and deep reverence are displayed. Natkadaw participates in a series of ritual events, preparing a vibrant celebration of Nats (Yadana Cave ceremony for the stopover of the Taungpyone Nat brothers en route to the Popa Medaw Nat). The book showcases a fusion of spiritual beliefs, spirit worship, the lively and festive atmosphere of spirit mediums (Natkadaw) dressed in traditional costumes, and the true essence of cultural and spiritual life during this extraordinary Taungpyone Festival.



Book Title - Bawa Hnint Yin Ywae (At the Cost of Life)  
Author - Hsaung Win Latt  
Publishing House - Ko Latt  
Publication Date - January 2025 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)  
Price - K7,000

### Bawa Hnint Yin Ywae (At the Cost of Life)

AT 76 years old, esteemed author Sayagyi Hsaung Win Latt has introduced his latest novel, 'Bawa Hnint Yin Ywae'. Known for his literary prowess, Sayagyi Hsaung Win Latt has previously been honoured with three national literary awards. His celebrated works include 'Bar Ko Yway Ma Lae Ywa Kalay Yal and Other Short Stories' (1994), 'Lwan Laut Pay Thi' (2001), and 'Nanat Thone Nar Yi' (2003).

The launching ceremony for Sayagyi Hsaung Win Latt's new book 'Bawa Hnint Yin Ywae' (At the Cost of Life) was held on 7 January at the Information and Public Relations Department's book sale centre in Kyauktada Township. The event was well

attended by book lovers and the author's colleagues.

During the ceremony, the author expressed his desire for young people to embrace reading, even in the face of poverty. He warmly welcomed both the print and online media, extending his best wishes to them. He also conveyed his empathy for publishers, mentioning that although he has completed two novels, they have yet to be published due to certain reasons. He added that the publishers will proceed with printing when they are ready.

The newly released novel is a creation of author Hsaung Win Latt. He draws inspiration from the ageing (Jara) and illness

(Byadhi) of his family members as themes of contrition. The novel begins with a visit to a yard with a house outside the Yangon area, accompanied by my wife, Daw Amy. This yard was purchased with the cash prize I won for my national literary award (second time) for the novel 'Lwan Lauk Pay Thi' in 2001. In 2006, I moved to Yangon with my son, Ko Ko Aung, and my wife, Daw Amy, but I did not sell the property. Instead, I rented it to an honest couple from the same ward, Ko Saw Tun and Ma Thwe from Hinthada, without any deposit. The couple, who have no children or grandchildren, had lived in the ward before us and needed a place to stay...

The author mentioned his support for Ko Saw Tun regarding his job aspirations. Ko Saw Tun expressed his interest in working at the railway department if there was a vacancy; otherwise, he preferred a position at the port. The author reminisced about his own experiences working as a mechanic and helmsman for YLA and 304 ships in Myanmar's waters and delta regions between the years 1971 and 1974. He shared that he hadn't seen Officer U Tin Win, his former friend and colleague from the same ship, in many years. However, he had heard that U Tin Win was still working at the jetty division without retiring. Therefore, the author took Ko Saw Tun to his department one fine evening...

The author stated, "This book encapsulates my life experiences and challenges. I also want to honour those who supported me during difficult times. I created this novel to share certain knowledge, akin to making films with subplots. It features breathtaking events from my life, which I faced courageously. It also recounts the health battles of my wife and son. While my wife survived, my son did not."

### Virtue မင်္ဂလာ

By Chit Ko Pe

Surrounding with a shady forest, the village's monastery is located, at the edge of a mountain track. It's a venue to get body and mind relaxed.

The striking sounds on a log alert all early in the morning to get up, as a new day is about to start with mindfulness of Buddha's Dhamma.

Wearing well the saffron robes, the novices and monks go out on the roads, and pause at the gates of the abodes to collect the morning alms and loaves.

The procession of the novices and monks alike, with laymen offering and sharing merits, makes a pleasant and virtuous morning for a delight.

တောရကျောင်းလေး၊ တောင်စွန်းဘေးမှာ  
ငြိမ်းအေးသတိတော်၊ သစ်ဖြူငုံရိပ်နှင့်  
ကိုယ်စိတ်ရွေ့ရာ ဌာနေသော၏။

တံးမောင်းထုသံ၊ အရုဏ်ယံမှာ  
ချိန်မှန်နံ့နိုးထ၊ နေ့သစ်စကာ  
ဗုဒ္ဓတရား ဦးထိပ်ထား၏။

သင်္ကန်းဝတ်ငြိမ်၊ ကိုယ်ပေါ်တင်ကာ  
ကိုရင်ရဟန်း၊ မနက်ဆွမ်းတွက်  
ရွာလမ်းအိမ်ပေါက်၊ ကြွလှမ်းလျှောက်၏။

ဆွမ်းလောင်းပျံ၊ ဆက်ကပ်သူနှင့်  
အလှူရေစက်၊ မျှဝေဆက်သည့်  
မနက်ခင်းသာ၊ မင်္ဂလာတည်း။

ချစ်ကိုဖေ

### Pardon Me

By Mya Thae (Research)

- January fifteen is our Father's Day.
- About thirty-seven years ago he passed away.
- Every year we donate money to Jivita Sangha
- Hospital for my parents.
- They liked to donate all of my siblings together to get merits.
- But this year, I could only go because of the thieves' bad habits.
- They are always peeping to steal from our home.
- I am sorry for leaving my sister but I want alone.
- Pardon me, I could not implement your desire.
- If the thieves move away from our home,
- I will effort to attain what we're required.

### ဖန်မီးအိမ် The Lantern

By Maung Swan Yi, Translated by Myint Zan

ဟိုဘက်ကမ်းက မီးထိန်ထိန်  
ဒီဘက်ကမ်းက မီးထိန်ထိန်  
လင်းပါတီ ဖန်မီးအိမ်။

ဖန်မီးအိမ်  
မှောင်ချိန်ကို ခွင့်။  
မှောင်လေ လင်းလေ  
လင်းထက်လင်း။

မီးအိမ်ရှင် ကွယ်ကာပျောက်ပေမယ့်  
ဖန်မီးအိမ် ထိန်ထိန်တောက်ပလိမ့်  
ထိုးဖောက် ညတွင်း  
မိုးသောက် လမင်း။  
မှောင်စွမ်းရည်  
၂၂ ရက် ဇန်နဝါရီ လ ၂၀၀၇ ခုနှစ်  
(တင်ဦးကွယ်လွန်တဲ့နေ့)

on the other side (of the river)  
lights are shimmering  
on this side also  
the lights remain bright  
our elder brother has  
lighted the lantern  
oh, how bright are the lights!  
the lantern  
pierces the darkness  
the darker it is  
the brighter the lights are:  
Light, more light!  
although the lantern-lighter  
disappears, is no more  
the lantern will breakthrough  
the night  
like the moonlight at dawn

Composed on 22 January 2007 on the day of poet Tin Moe's demise. Translated on 13 January 2025.

TRANSLATOR'S note. The poet Tin Moe (19 November 1933-22 January 2007) passed away at a teashop near Los Angeles, in the United States. He and a companion (who passed away a few years ago) had, on the day of his passing, looked around the city by train and was having tea or soft drinks at a tea house when Saya Tin Moe collapsed and died. Poet Maung Swan Yi (born around 1936) based in New York composed this poem on the day of Tin Moe's passing on 22 January 2007. This translation commemorates the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tin Moe's passing which falls on 22 January 2025.



# NATIONAL Entertainment

## 'Candy Friends' film with Yair Yint Aung's first lead role

THE new film 'Candy Friends', featuring Yair Yint Aung in his first lead role, is set to be screened in January. Directed by Pyae Phyo Naing for Mote Thone Film Production, the script was written by MSY. It is a romantic drama.

"The plot is unique, reflecting common youth experiences but from a different perspective. It may involve love

among three boys and two girls, or explore who breaks the boundaries of friendship. Fans will discover what type of friends they are in the film," said Yair Yint Aung.

The cast includes Yair Yint Aung, Tyron, Shin Mwe La, Khay Sett Thwin, Than Thar Moe Theint, and other artistes. — ASH/KTZH



### Thinzar Wint Kyaw

Actress Thinzar Wint Kyaw recently posted photos on her Instagram. The Red Carpet Show for the film 'Hnin Pwint Say Yar', starring Thinzar Wint Kyaw, will be held at President Cinema on 21 January. Directed by JZ Daung Laung, the cast includes Myint Myat, Yone Lay, JZ Daung Laung, Thinzar Wint Kyaw, and L Bauk Nuu.



### Naw Phaw Eh Htar

THE film 'Hnaung' has been nominated for an Academy Award, and the audience predicts that actress Naw Phaw Eh Htar, who portrayed the character Khit Thit May in the movie, has a strong chance of winning the Best Supporting Actress award. Regarding this, the actress stated, "I am very nervous about my fans' expectations. I don't dare to hope too much. I'm excited, and the character was a challenging role for me. There are so many good films this year."



# CELEBRITY BRIEF

### Thiha Kyaw Soe

The movie 'Ma Yae Aye Khe Thwa Kya Thu Myar' by director Thiha Kyaw Soe has also been nominated for an Academy Award this year. The director emphasized that winning the Academy Award would determine whether he continues his career. Recently, an interview for the film 'Ma Aye Pwint Myint Myint San Lan Thone Sel', directed by Thiha Kyaw Soe in 1990, was broadcast on Channel 9.



### Tun Ko Ko

Actor Tun Ko Ko offered a vegetarian lunch at the Yangon Funeral Service Society to mark his birthday on 16 January. He stars in the film 'Myet Hna Phone' (mask), which will be broadcast on Channel K and the Mahar Application. Directed by Kyaw Thar Gyi, the cast includes Hein Wai Yan, Tun Ko Ko, Academy Award-winner Soe Pyae Thazin, Saung Yoon San, Ella Shwe Sin, Nay Myo Aung, Academy Award-winner Myat Kaythi Aung, and Thar Thar.



### Nay Win

Nay Win, who began his singing career at the age of 13, has gained fame in the acting industry, alongside his success in music, including winning an Academy Award. The film 'The Obsession', in which he starred, was screened on 17 January. He encouraged his fans to review and comment on his acting skills. Director Mel Min Bon praised the balanced acting performances between Shane and Nay Win in the film.



### Sitt Naing Thiha Oo

Sitt Naing Thiha Oo, the son of renowned actor Thiha Tin Soe and Academy Award-winning actress Zin Mar Oo, established the pagoda 'Miba Kyay Zuu Myint Mo Oo' at 214<sup>th</sup> mile and four furlong in Nay Pyi Taw using his earnings from acting. The pagoda was built as a merit-making tribute for all people. He emphasized that facial appearance is not the key to being an actor, but rather acting skill. Sitt Naing Thiha Oo now appears in commercial advertisements.— Htun Htun/KTZH





# WORLD

## Survey highlights concerns over economy, disaster preparedness in Japan

*53 per cent of respondents expressed satisfaction or partial satisfaction with society—a 3-point increase from the previous year.*



Flood waters inundate temporary housing complexes built for people who lost their homes during the 1 January earthquake in September 2024. **PHOTO: JIJI PRESS/AFP**

A Cabinet Office survey has revealed that public concerns in Japan continue to focus on economic issues, with “prices” and “the economy” ranking highest among areas perceived to be moving in a negative direction.

Among the respondents, 71 per cent pointed to “prices” when asked about areas moving in a negative direction, 51 per cent to “the economy”, and 47 per cent to “national

finances”, maintaining last year’s trend of economic concerns dominating the results.

Some 53 per cent expressed satisfaction or partial satisfaction with society, a three-point increase from the previous year.

Meanwhile, concerns over “disaster preparedness” have tripled compared to the previous year.

The percentage citing “disaster preparedness” as

moving in a negative direction rose sharply to 15 per cent, up from five per cent the previous year, reflecting growing public anxiety following a series of disasters, including the Noto Peninsula earthquake.

The survey, conducted via mail from October to November last year, targeted 3,000 people aged 18 and older nationwide, with a response rate of 59 per cent. — Xinhua

## Graft conviction puts Pakistan ex-PM Imran Khan on the back foot

FORMER prime minister Imran Khan, who was sentenced to 14 years for graft on Friday, may be locked away in jail but he remains Pakistan’s dominant political personality.

The former cricket star enjoyed popular support when he became premier in 2018 but fell out with the king-making military establishment and was booted from power in a 2022

no-confidence vote.

He then waged a risky and unprecedented campaign of defiance against the top brass before swiftly becoming embroiled in a legal saga in which he has been accused of wrongdoing in around 200 cases.

Khan says the charges have been trumped up to prevent his comeback and his battle in the courts has become the nation’s

defining political drama, sparking mass protests and unrest.

The 72-year-old’s sentencing on Friday is among his biggest setbacks since he was first jailed in August 2023. His wife and spiritual guide Bushra Bibi was convicted alongside him. Imran Khan has navigated Pakistan’s tumultuous political landscape, often returning to power despite legal challenges. — AFP

## Gaza ceasefire takes effect on Sunday morning

THE Gaza ceasefire will take effect on Sunday at 8:30 am local time (0630 GMT), Qatar’s Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Majed Al Ansari announced on Saturday.

“As coordinated by the parties to the agreement and the mediators, the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip will begin at 8:30 am on Sunday, 19 January, local time in Gaza. We advise the inhabit-

ants to take precaution, exercise the utmost caution, and wait for directions from official sources,” Al Ansari said in a post on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. Israel and Hamas have reached a ceasefire-for-hostage release deal following intensive mediation efforts by Qatar, Egypt and the United States, it was announced on Wednesday. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Norway queen leaves hospital after pacemaker surgery

NORWAY’S 87-year-old Queen Sonja has left hospital after undergoing surgery to fit a pacemaker to correct an irregular heartbeat, the royal palace announced on Friday.

Royal officials said in a statement that the queen was in “good health” but would be on sick leave until 24 January.

The queen was briefly admitted to hospital in Lillehammer in southeastern Norway after suffering from an irregular heartbeat while cross-country skiing. — AFP

#### Australia declares disaster in areas of storm-hit east

AUTHORITIES declared a natural disaster Saturday in parts of eastern Australia where gales have toppled trees and knocked out power to tens of thousands of homes.

Heavy rain, lightning and winds as strong as 100 kilometres per hour (60 miles per hour) have swept across Sydney and other areas of New South Wales since Wednesday.

With many power lines felled, about 30,000 properties remained without electricity Saturday — down from a peak of more than 260,000, said the state’s emergency services minister, Jihad Dib. “This is an incident that is affecting the whole state,” he told reporters. — AFP



Police vehicles escort a car (C) carrying an accountability court judge as they arrive at the Adiala prison in Rawalpindi before the graft case hearing. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



# ECONOMY WORLD

## India could become global hub of MRO sector, looking forward to work with Singapore: MEA

*The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) sees India as a future hub for MRO activities.*



The Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) sector in India is rapidly evolving. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PEXELS**

HIGHLIGHTING the “tremendous” potential of employment generation and value addition in the Maintenance, Repair, and Operations (MRO) sector, the Ministry of External Affairs affirmed that India can emerge as a “hub” of MRO, adding that it is looking forward to work with Singapore in the area.

“Maintenance, repair of aircraft is gaining a lot of importance for us... A tremendous amount of employment

can be generated and value addition can be made. India could become a hub of MRO for others as well. Singapore is itself a very strong MRO centre. They too are looking forward to working with us, and we are also looking forward to working with them,” MEA secretary

(East) Jaideep Mazumdar said in a press briefing on Friday.

The MEA Secy also emphasised ongoing collaborations in energy and data sectors between India and Singapore. He said that both nations would sign an MOU in the direction. — ANI

## Trump’s economic plans could cause inflation: IMF chief economist

DONALD Trump’s economic plans risk reigniting US inflation, International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas told AFP, a few days before the president-elect returns to the White House.

Trump’s proposals to hike tariffs and curtail im-

migration would likely constrain the supply side of the economy and push up prices, Gourinchas said in an interview.

Other proposals the president-elect has floated, such as cutting red tape and taxes, could also fuel inflation by boosting demand, he added.

“The bottom line is, when we look at the risk for the US, we see an upside risk on inflation,” he said.

Gourinchas spoke to AFP at the IMF’s headquarters in Washington, a day before the publication of its key World Economic Outlook (WEO) report on Friday. — AFP



Trump’s proposals to hike tariffs and curtail immigration would likely constrain the supply side of the economy and push up prices. Protesters in Chicago marched to demand an end to ICE raids, calling for an end to migrant detention, criminalization, and deportation on 13 July 2019. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Pakistan’s current account records over US\$1 bln surplus

PAKISTAN recorded a current account surplus of US\$1.21 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year from July 2024 to June 2025, as compared to a deficit of \$1.39 billion during the same period last year, the central bank said Friday.

The current account for the month of December 2024 also recorded a surplus of \$582 million as compared to \$279 million of surplus of the same month in the previous year, said the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the central bank the in country.

The positive trend in current account balance has continued for the fifth consecutive month in December 2024, taking the overall current account surplus for the period of July to December of fiscal year 2025 to \$1.21 billion, according to the central bank.

Commenting on the development, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the continuous surplus in the current account reflected the right direction of economic policies of the country. — Xinhua



The Prime Minister welcomed the current account surplus, emphasizing the positive direction of economic policies. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### London’s FTSE 100 stocks index hits record high

LONDON’S benchmark FTSE 100 index reached an all-time high in early trading Friday, lifted by renewed optimism over the global economy. The index jumped 1.0 per cent to 8,475.35 points, slightly surpassing a record achieved in May last year.

Around 0900 GMT, it stood at 8,472.67 points.

British stocks have been boosted in recent days by a drop in UK government bond yields after a spike in state borrowing costs last week sent the pound tumbling.

Sterling was lower Friday, reflecting ongoing strains for the British economy, which is struggling to grow despite falling inflation.

Official data Friday revealed a surprise drop to UK retail sales in December. The FTSE 100 contains numerous multinationals whose revenues are largely earned in dollars, enabling them to profit from a falling pound.

“Weakness of sterling, which makes overseas earnings more valuable on repatriation, has led to the UK’s primary index... (gaining) favour with investors,” said Richard Hunter, head of markets at Interactive Investor. — AFP



# Chinese, Israeli companies strike deal for joint venture battery plant in Spain

SHENZHEN Dynanonic Co Ltd, a Chinese battery materials producer, approved a joint venture agreement with a leading global specialty minerals company ICL on Friday to establish a lithium-ion battery plant in north-east Spain. According to a statement issued by the Board of Directors of Shenzhen Dynanonic, the plant, with an initial investment of 285 million euros, will be located in Sallent, in the Catalan region. Shenzhen Dynanonic will hold a 20-per cent stake in the investment, while ICL will control the remaining 80 per cent. The partnership allows for adjustments based on future investment opportunities.

The new facility will be

built on the site of a former potash production plant and span approximately 100,000 square metres. It will become the first factory in the region to produce lithium iron phosphate for electric battery cathodes, a key component in powering electric vehicles, according to the report of Spain's El Pais newspaper on Friday.

Amid the surging demand for lithium-ion batteries driven by the rapid expansion of the electric vehicle market in Europe, the companies chose Sallent for its proximity to the Port of Barcelona and its railway connection to France, which positions it as a strategic location for distribution, local media commented. — Xinhua

*The initial investment in the plant is 285 million euros.*



A worker operates on a production line at a lithium battery factory in Tangshan, north China's Hebei Province, 29 November 2020. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/YANG SHIYAO/XINHUA/FILE

## Lufthansa-ITA tie-up finalized

THE new board of directors for Italian flagship carrier ITA Airways was officially installed Friday following the formal completion of the airline's merger with German carrier Lufthansa, according to ITA Airways.

Lufthansa's stake in the Italian company was valued at 325 million euros (US\$335 million). By doing so Lufthansa owns 41 per cent of ITA Airways' shares, with the rest held by the Italian Treasury. The German carrier has an obligation to acquire the remaining ITA shares in the following years.

Joerg Eberhart of Lufthansa has been appointed as ITA Airways' new chief executive officer, while Sandro Pappalardo, a former Italian Air Force pilot, will serve as chairman of the company's Board of Directors.

The merger solidifies the Lufthansa Group's position as Europe's second-largest airline by passenger traffic.

The deal, in progress since May 2023, received approval from the European Commission's competition regulator in July 2024. — Xinhua

## Apple launches store app in India

APPLE launched its dedicated Apple Store app in India on Friday.

The app, available for download on App Store in India, lets customers purchase Apple products directly while receiving personalized shopping recommendations, the company said in a statement.

Through the app, users can also customize their Mac with more powerful chips, extra memory or additional storage —

features long sought by Indian customers — and arrange for delivery or pickup of their purchases.

The move comes as Apple works to strengthen its foothold in India, where it opened its first physical stores in Mumbai and Delhi in 2023. The company plans additional four stores in tech hub Bengaluru, Pune and other parts of Delhi and Mumbai. Apple launched its online store in India in 2020. — Xinhua

## EasyJet to resume Tel Aviv flights from June

BRITISH airline easyJet on Friday said it plans to resume flights to and from Tel Aviv from June after a ceasefire agreement was announced between Israel and Hamas. The carrier paused flights to and from its sole Israeli destination in April last year, citing

safety concerns. German carrier Lufthansa on Thursday said it would resume flights to Tel Aviv from February.

EasyJet will restart flights between Tel Aviv and London Luton airport, as well as between Israel and Amsterdam, Basel,

Berlin, Geneva, Milan and Nice. "We are really pleased that as of the beginning of June, we plan to resume flights between Tel Aviv and seven destinations across our network," said Ali Gayward, easyJet's UK and Israel country manager. — AFP



Apple opened its first physical stores in Mumbai and Delhi in 2023. ANI/FILE

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MTT SAPANGAR VOY.NO. (452W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MTT SAPANGAR VOY.NO. (452W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-1-2025 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 SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2418S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2418S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-1-2025 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD



# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

## “World’s First” Ship: Norwegian ship installs carbon capture system to cut emissions



The Clipper Eris, a 160-metre-long ethylene carrier, was retrofitted with this system in a Singapore shipyard. **PHOTO: Solvang**

18 January

*The success of this project could pave the way for broader adoption of carbon capture technology in the maritime industry.*

**THE NORWEGIAN** shipping company Solvang ASA has installed the world's first full-scale Onboard Carbon Capture and Storage (OCCS) system on their ship, Clipper Eris.

The company has announced that it has modified one of its vessels to install the “world's first” onboard carbon capture and storage system to reduce emissions.

According to shipowner Solvang, the Clipper Eris should see its greenhouse gas emissions reduced by up to 70 per cent.

During a retrofit at a Singapore shipyard,

the vessel, a 160-metre-long ethylene carrier, was fitted with an exhaust filtering system that captures CO<sub>2</sub>.

The CO<sub>2</sub> is then liquefied and stored in tanks on board to either be buried in rock or used for other industrial purposes.

“Onboard carbon capture combined with existing cleaning technology is a significant shortcut to decarbonization of the world's deep-sea fleet,” Solvang CEO Edvin Endresen said in a statement Thursday. — AFP

17 January

### Large rare earth deposit discovered in SW China

**THE CHINA** Geological Survey (CGS) announced on Friday that it has discovered a large rare earth deposit in southwest China's Yunnan Province, with potential resources of 1.15 million tonnes.

Critical rare earth elements such as praseodymium, neodymium, dysprosium and terbium exceed 470,000 tonnes in this newly discovered deposit, said the CGS, an institute under the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The deposit is a super-large ion-adsorption type of rare earth, marking another significant breakthrough in China since the first such discovery in east China's Jiangxi Province in 1969, it added.

The new discovery contains key metals for the development of high-tech industries, and is of great significance to consolidate China's rare earth resource advantages and improve the rare earth industrial chain, the CGS said. — Xinhua

16 January

### Beirut blast investigator charges 10 people

**LEBANESE** judge Tarek Bitar resumed his investigation into the deadly 2020 Beirut port blast on Thursday, charging 10 people including security, customs and military personnel, a judicial official said.

The fresh charges come after a two-year hiatus in the investigation into the 4 August, 2020 explosion that killed more than 220 people, injured thousands and devastated swathes of Lebanon's capital.

Nobody has been held responsible for

the blast, one of history's biggest non-nuclear explosions.

The probe stalled two years ago after Lebanese militant group Hezbollah had accused Bitar of bias and demanded his dismissal, and officials named in the investigation had filed a flurry of lawsuits to hamper it from going forward.

The resumption comes with Hezbollah's influence weakened after a war with Israel. — AFP

15 January

### Philippines' Marcos optimistic US alliance will persist

**PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT** Ferdinand Marcos is hopeful Manila and Washington will maintain their “strong and dynamic” relationship under the incoming US administration, a palace statement said Wednesday, less than a week before Donald Trump assumes office.

The United States has a decades-old

security alliance with the Philippines that includes a mutual defence treaty and a 2014 pact which allows the US military to store equipment on nine Philippine bases.

With President-elect Trump assuming office on 20 January, many in the Philippines are wary about the future of Manila and Washington's relationship. — AFP

14 January

### Chinese scientists develop research platform for ‘artificial sun’

**A LINEAR** plasma generator has reached the design specifications, making China the second country in the world, after the Netherlands, to develop such a high-flux plasma generator, the Hefei Institutes of Physical Science under the Chinese Academy of Sciences announced Tuesday.

This cutting-edge device provides a

vital tool for developing key materials for the “artificial sun,” a fusion facility designed to harness clean and sustainable energy.

The device, named Superconducting Plasma Wall Interaction Linear Device (SWORD), features a streamlined design inspired by Chixiao, a legendary sword from ancient China. — Xinhua

12 January

### Gas explosion kills 2 in Indonesia

**A gas** explosion killed two people and severely destroyed five neighbouring houses in the Indonesian province of East Java on Monday.

According to a preliminary report, the incident took place in a house belonging to a local police officer situated in Sumolawang

village in Mojokerto region at around 8:30 am. The deceased victims are a mother and an infant, killed after being hit by house debris, the report said.

The house's owner and his family were not at the location when the incident occurred. — Xinhua

11 January

### 14,700 Mpox cases confirmed in Africa, 2024

**ABOUT** 14,700 confirmed Mpox cases, including 66 deaths, were reported in 20 African countries from January 2024 to 5 January, 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Sunday.

The confirmed cases represent only a subset of suspected cases, the WHO

said.

It previously said that a significant number of suspected mpox cases remain untested and “thus never get confirmed” in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) due to limited diagnostic capacity. — Xinhua



# SPORTS

## Mbappe improving every game: Real Madrid coach Ancelotti

**R**EAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti hailed "humble" striker Kylian Mbappe on Saturday, saying the French forward was improving, and increasingly involved, in every match.

The former Paris Saint-Germain superstar struggled to find his top level after completing his dream move last summer but now has 16 goals in 29 games across all competitions.

Mbappe has scored in all three finals Madrid have played this season, in the European and Spanish Super Cups and the Intercontinental Cup.

The 26-year-old netted fine solo goals in both of his last two matches and will look to continue his recent form when the Spanish champions host Las Palmas in La Liga on Sunday.

"I think every day that passes he looks to be more and more involved, above all for what he does on the pitch," Ancelotti told a news conference.

"I think his attitude off the pitch has not changed, he's always very calm, always available, very humble.

"I think his involvement on the pitch has risen a lot, he's showing a very high level and that helps us obviously, it helps everyone... every game it seems like he gets better and better."

Second in La Liga, Madrid are a point behind leaders Atletico Madrid, who visit Leganes later Saturday.

Ancelotti said Austrian defender David Alaba was likely to appear as a substitute against Las Palmas, having not played since suffering a severe knee injury in December 2023. — AFP



Real Madrid's French forward Kylian Mbappe has found his best form in recent weeks for the Spanish champions. PHOTO: AFP

## Shan defeat Yangon to extend Lead



Shan United (red) and Yangon United players (green) in action during their intense MNL showdown. PHOTO: MNL

**DEFENDING** champions Shan United secured a crucial 1-0 away victory over Yangon United and maintained their lead at the top of the 2024-2025 Myanmar National League (MNL) after the second day of Fixture 16 on 18 January.

The decisive match at Yangon United Sports Complex saw Shan United dominate early with midfielder

Myat Kaung Khant scoring the lone goal in the seventh minute. Despite Yangon United's relentless efforts to equalize including several close chances hitting the post and crossbar, Shan United held firm to clinch the win.

This defeat marked Yangon United's first loss of the season, widening the gap to 11 points behind Shan United and diminishing their cham-

ionship hopes. Shan United now lead with 46 points from 16 matches while Yangon United trails with 35 points. Hein Phyo Win of Shan United garnered the Man of the Match award for his stand-out performance.

In another fixture at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, Yadanabon FC overpowered Rakhine United 4-2. Goals from Soe Min Oo at 5 minutes, Pyay Moe at 56 minutes and Kyi Soe at 72 and 83 minutes sealed the win for Yadanabon. Rakhine United's goals came from Moukalu at 15 minutes and Than Kyaw Htay at 25 minutes but the loss increased their pressure in the relegation zone. Yadanabon's Moe Swe picked the Man of the Match award.

Fixture 16 continues today with ISPE FC facing Myawady FC at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Russia's Daniil Medvedev was fined \$76,000 over his Australian Open antics. PHOTO: AFP

## Medvedev fined \$76,000 for Australian Open antics

**TEMPERAMENTAL** Russian Daniil Medvedev was Saturday fined \$76,000 over his behaviour at the Australian Open, where he destroyed a net camera, threw his racquet and skipped a post-match press conference.

The world number five was penalized \$10,000 for a meltdown during his five-set first-round win against Thailand's Kasidit Samrej, when he mangled his racquet and ruined the camera.

He faced an even bigger

penalty — \$66,000 — over his antics in the next round when he crashed out to 19-year-old qualifier Learner Tien. During the match he threw his racquet towards the sidelines, skidding across the court until it reached an advertising panel near his bench.

He also argued with the umpire after being called out for repeated foot faults, then skipped his obligatory post-match press conference. — AFP



## China's newborns rise in 2024, first time in years

*The Year of the Dragon and post-COVID policies led to a spike in marriage registrations.*

CHINA reported rises in both newborns and the birth rate in 2024 after seven consecutive years of decline, buoyed by a baby boom in post-COVID Year of the Dragon and a slew of birth-friendly policies.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said Friday that China recorded 9.54 million newborns last year, an increase of 520,000 compared with 2023. The birth rate for 2024 reached 6.77 per 1,000 people, reflecting an increase of 0.38 per thousand from the previous year.

Yuan Xin, vice-president of the China Population Association and a professor at Nankai University, credited the growth to a spike in marriage registrations after the COVID-19 pandemic, the Year of the Dragon, and improvements in China's childbirth support system.

China is soon to wrap up the Year of the Dragon on the Chinese lunar calendar, which traditionally features a baby boom. The dragon, or loong, is a symbol of good fortune in Chinese culture and considered the most auspicious among the 12 zodiac animals. — Xinhua



A newborn baby, whose Chinese zodiac sign is dragon, is seen with family members at a hospital in Heshan, south China's Guangdong Province, 10 February 2024. **PHOTO: HUANG JIMING/XINHUA**



Police monitor the situation via screens at the Integrated Command and Control Centre, set up to manage and control the crowd, during the Maha Kumbh Mela festival in Prayagraj on 17 January 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

## India uses AI to stop stampedes at world's biggest gathering

**K**een to improve India's abysmal crowd management record at large-scale religious events, organizers of the world's largest human gathering are using artificial intelligence to try to prevent stampedes. Organizers predict up to 400 million pilgrims will visit the Kumbh Mela, a millennia-old sacred show of Hindu piety and ritual bathing that began Monday and runs for six weeks. Deadly crowd crushes are a notorious feature of Indian religious festivals, and the Kumbh Mela, with its unfathomable throngs of devotees, has a grim track record

*An AI algorithm tracks crowd flow and density, raising alarms when safety thresholds are breached.*

of stampedes.

"We want everyone to go back home happily after having fulfilled their spiritual duties," Amit Kumar, a senior police officer heading tech operations in the festival, told AFP.

"AI is helping us avoid reaching that critical mass in sensitive places." More than 400 people died after being trampled or drowned at the Kumbh Mela on a single day of

the festival in 1954, one of the largest tolls in a crowd-related disaster globally. Another 36 people were crushed to death in 2013, the last time the festival was staged in the northern city of Prayagraj. But this time, authorities say the technology they have deployed will help them gather accurate estimates of crowd sizes, allowing them to be better prepared for potential trouble. — AFP

## Pet boar gets to stay with French owner, for now: court

A French woman who has kept a wild boar as a pet since finding and domesticating the animal can keep it for now, a court has ordered, overruling local authorities who insisted the animal had to be removed or killed.

Horse breeder Elodie Cappe found the female boar — named Rillette after a delicacy often made from pork — in 2023 when it was still a piglet near a complex of stables she runs in Chaource, in France's centre-east.

The local prefecture informed Cappe that she had to find "an adapted structure" for the boar, which has

*Cappe domesticated Rillette, a 100-kilo boar, after finding it as a piglet in 2023 near her stables in Chaource.*

grown to weigh 100 kilos (220 pounds), or have it euthanised.

The order caused an outcry among animal lovers in France and abroad, with former film star and prominent animal rights activist Brigitte Bardot weighing in to save Rillette.

Several petitions launched on the Change.org website calling for the boar to be allowed to stay put have

clocked up a total of around 300,000 signatures.

After the prefecture rejected all calls to drop its opposition to Rillette staying with her owner, Cappe took the case before an administrative court in November. — AFP



Cappe said the court ruling made her 'very happy'. **PHOTO: AFP**