

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Myanmar, Thai Tatmadaw leaders maintain strong relations



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives General Direk Bongkarn, Advisory Board Chairman of the Office of the Royal Thai Army Chief and Head of Army Operations Centre, Neighbouring Countries Coordination Centre (NCCC), and his delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

### Myanmar and Thai Tatmadaws plan to eradicate human trafficking and online scams in the border region.

**V**ICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received a delegation led by Advisory Board Chairman of the Office of the Royal Thai Army Chief and Head of Army Operations Cen-

tre, Neighbouring Countries Coordination Centre (NCCC) General Direk Bongkarn at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed good conditions in diplomatic relations and friendly ties between the two countries and the two Tatmadaws, improvement

of relations between leaders and senior Tatmadaw officers of both Tatmadaws, promotion of cooperation, successfully holding the yearly meetings between Tatmadaw officers at different levels of both countries, the measures which should be taken in cooperation between governments and Tatmadaws of the two countries in the eradication of human trafficking and online scams in border areas, action taken against illegal fishing trawlers and fishermen from Thailand in Myanmar's territorial waters and plans, exchange of information to ensure peace and stability in the border region, exchange of goodwill visits of senior Tatmad-

aw officers from both Tatmadaws and the enhancement of cooperation.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin, and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief were also present at the meeting.

The Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Office of the Royal Thai Army Chief and Head of the Army Operations Centre, Neighbouring Countries Coordination Centre (NCCC) was accompanied by senior officers of the Royal Armed Forces, and Royal Thai Army Attaché to Myanmar Senior Colonel Thanwit Yomchinda. — MNA/TTA

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Coord meeting on repair and maintenance at Loikaw University, damaged by terrorist attacks in Kayah State

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National Cancer Treatment Centre launches operation of Linear Accelerators

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140+ lodgings completed for Mann Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival



# NATIONAL

## Boosting GDP: The Interconnected Growth of Agriculture, Industry, and Services

Agriculture, industry, and service sectors all support the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The agricultural sector, which includes agriculture, livestock, and forest products, is interrelated with the other industries and must be developed.

Successfully advancing the agriculture and livestock sectors will help develop the industrial and service sectors, thereby increasing the State's GDP.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting 5/2024 on 5 July 2024)*



Ministry of Health

### 53<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Health Research Congress

20 to 24 January 2025

Department of Medical Research (Head Office)

No 5, Ziwaka Street, Dagon Township, Yangon

## 15 political parties approved, KySPP seeks registration

THOSE who are seeking to establish political parties have submitted their applications to the Union Election Commission (UEC) with their desired party names. To date, 18 groups have applied for permission to form political parties and 15 of them have been granted permission.

Among the 15 approved parties, the Kayah State People's Party (KySPP) led by U Zaw Min Oo has applied for official registration as a political party. This application was submitted within 30 days from the date of approval to form the party under Article 7 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The Union Election Commission is currently reviewing the Kayah State People's Party's registration application to determine whether it meets the requirements for formal registration. — MNA/KZL

**Y**EPOKEGYI Village in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, has become famous for its children who preserve the traditional 'Sanyitwine' hairstyle (a top knot and a circular fringe). Travellers across the country visit there to observe their culture in the non-rainy season.

"The number of visitors to our village was very low due to transport challenges previously. The transport system is not good, and there is no access to electricity. The development is at low grade and the children have to attend only the primary level. If they want to join the middle school level, they have to go to Shauttaw, seven miles away from here. There

## Yepokegyi village awaits travellers



Yepokegyi Village damsels adorn traditional Myanmar Thanaka, Pathein parasols, and unique 'Sanyitwine' hairstyles.

are over 3,400 people and 704 households living in 673 houses in the village. There are over 700 children who have 'Sanyitwine'. Most villagers do farm work. But they can plant only in the rainy season not in cold and hot

seasons as the village lies on high land and it is not easy to get irrigation water. Therefore, they mainly run their traditional weaving industry," elaborated village administrator U Lu Win.

"With the development of the village, a middle school was

established in 2015 while the red soil road and electricity in 2020. The ancient lake was dug in April 2023, and the solar power water pumping project is being implemented. Now, the school has been upgraded into a high school (branch). Village pagodas and temples are also renovated. The village sees modern developments possessing proper access to water, electricity and roads including the high education system," explained village elder U Sein Htay.

The natural scenery around the lake in front of the village, along with the YadanaU Pagoda and other religious buildings, makes the village picturesque. Moreover, travellers might



not miss Yepokegyi Village in Pwintbyu Township for its famous 'Sanyitwine' hairstyle in the dry season. — Zeya Naing (Shwe Kan Myay)/KTZH



## 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)*

# Coord meeting on repair and maintenance at Loikaw University, damaged by terrorist attacks in Kayah State

Ruthless and inhumane terrorist attacks on educational facilities, innocent teachers, staff, and students are strongly condemned.

**K**NP/KNDF and PDF terrorists launched destructive actions taking shelter in houses, religious buildings, and health and educational infrastructures starting in December 2021 aiming at deteriorating the government administration mechanism in Kayah State. Moreover, they intentionally attacked Loikaw University, the non-military target, using heavy and small weapons, destroying the educational buildings, abducting education staff and students including the rector, deploying them as human shields in the attacks and opening fire taking shelter in the educational buildings of the country. They committed such doings aiming to destroy the future of the country and continued these inhumane attacks.

Currently, Loikaw in Kayah State has returned to normal due to the concerted efforts of the government and Tatmadaw, and the local ethnic people have returned to their places. Meanwhile, the relevant officials conducted rehabilitation processes, and the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister also instructed to reopen the Loikaw University as quickly as possible so that locals would not lose their learning opportunities.

To implement the directive of the Prime Minister, the coordination meeting to repair the damaged buildings of Loikaw



State Administration Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe chairs the coordination meeting to repair Loikaw University's buildings damaged in terrorist attacks, following SAC Chairman's Directive.

University in terrorist attacks was organized in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SAC Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and departmental officials attended the meeting, and the Kayah State chief minister and Kayah State social affairs minister joined via videoconferencing.

Speaking at the meeting, the SAC secretary said it is known how the global society values education that 15 member states of the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2601 (2021) that restricts the at-

tacks on schools and the use of schools for military purposes. That resolution also condemns the attacks on children, schools, and teachers, urges the conflict parties to protect the right to education in armed conflicts, create the schools as safe places for children, respect the schools as civilian spaces and promote the right to education in armed conflicts.

The Safe Schools Declaration also states the commitment to protect students, teachers, schools, and universities from violence and attacks during armed conflicts, protect the right to ed-

ucation without fear of violence or attacks, and every teacher, professor, and school administrator should be able to teach and research in conditions of safety, security, and dignity. Every university must be a safe place for students, scholars and experts.

In Myanmar, there is at least one university in each region and state for the students to pursue higher education. There are Loikaw University, Technological University, University of Computer Studies, Education Degree College and Government Technological Institute in Loikaw, Kayah State.

Moreover, Loikaw University offers bachelor's and master's degrees in science and arts, and faculty members from the mainland serve duties there, and day and distance students also study higher education there.

On 13 and 14 November 2023, KNPP/KNDF and PDF terrorists intentionally attacked the Loikaw University which is not a military target, and arrested the security forces members of the university with excessive force. Due to their attack, the educational facilities of the university were seriously destroyed.

**SEE PAGE 4**



# NATIONAL

## Every citizen must have legal knowledge: DPM MoTC Union Minister



The legal education session for MoTC civil servants in progress yesterday, attended by SAC Member Deputy PM MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo.

EVERY citizen must be knowledgeable about law, said Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo during a legal education session held for civil servants at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Deputy Prime Minister aimed to promote legal knowledge among citizens to prevent crimes due to ignorance of the law. He emphasized the need for every citizen to have a good knowledge of

relevant laws and their principles to ensure peaceful living within the legal framework. He also urged civil servants to apply the legal knowledge gained in their work, emphasizing the importance of law-abiding conduct for national development.

The session also included discussions on various key laws, such as the Constitution, Civil Service Law, Election Laws, and Transport Safety Regulations. The event was designed to enhance legal awareness among public servants and ensure their actions align with the law. — MNA/KZL

## Coord meeting on repair and maintenance at Loikaw ...

### FROM PAGE 3

They arrested 132 faculty members and educational staff including the rector, 64 family members, totalling 196, and also students. During their attacks, the teachers hid in the nearest classrooms and houses.

The security forces focused on the safety of faculty members, staff and students, and conducted counterattacks in a controlled manner not to affect the main building, convocation hall and classrooms of Loikaw University. However, the KNPP/KNDF and PDF terrorists attacked the educational facilities and abducted the teachers, staff and students instead of allowing them to go to safe places and using them as human shields committing war crimes.

He strongly condemned the inhumane attacks of terrorists on innocent teachers, educational staff and students, saying the examination of the third batch

of distance universities set on 13 November 2023 was postponed, and the Loikaw University has been closed to date.

Currently, Loikaw returned to its normal situation, and Loikaw Technological University, University of Computer Studies, Education Degree College and Government Technical Institute were reopened starting from the 2024-2025 academic year.

He then highlighted the main intention of the meeting to repair and reopen Loikaw University as quickly as possible for thousands of arts and science students who face hardship to join the day and distance courses. The Ministry of Education should explain the damage to the university and the Ministry of Construction should estimate the repair works and cost. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement should discuss the fund status to repair the university and the Kayah State's chief



One of the damaged buildings at Loikaw University.

minister should brief the security measures and administration mechanism.

He continued that the future of the country can be constructed only with education, so the Loikaw University must be repaired as quickly as possible and it is the duty of the government.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe reported on damage to the university – three-storey main building, two-storey convocation hall, two-storey buildings, water purifying system and electronic appliance, two-storey dormitory for teachers, officer housing,

two-storey staff housing with four rooms, four-storey building with four rooms, two-storey building with eight rooms, housings for rector and pro-rectors, two-storey dormitory for students, gymnasium and sports hall, two-storey library and two-storey recreational centre.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win reported on the use of the National Natural Disaster Management Fund for Loikaw University, while Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin about damages and repairs for the university, security measures, plans to reopen the university including administration and security related measures, deputy minister for construction about technological assistance, quality and assessment in construction.

The attendees coordinated the discussion, and the SAC Secretary concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

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# NATIONAL

## Deputy PM MoPF Union Minister stresses importance of accurate, comprehensive data

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein highlighted the critical need for accurate and high-quality data during the meeting 1/2024-2025 of the Central Committee on Data Accuracy and Quality Assurance held at the Ministry of Planning and Finance conference hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his remarks, the Union minister stressed that accurate and reliable statistics on economic sectors such as agriculture, livestock and manufacturing are essential for national economic planning. He emphasized the importance of maintaining consistency between recorded data and ground realities, particularly regarding agricultural areas by region and state, harvested acreage, productivity, consumption, exports and surplus stocks. He then noted that the accuracy of trade, investment, fiscal, monetary and social data is crucial for calculating the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) accurately



The first 2024-2025 meeting of the Central Committee on Data Accuracy and Quality Assurance in progress yesterday, presided over by Deputy Prime Minister MoPF Union Minister U Win Shein.

and implementing effective annual national plans and strategies.

The Deputy Prime Minister also reported that a survey on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) was conducted in November 2024 across Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway, Man-

dalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. He underscored the importance of ensuring the survey results are accurate and comprehensive as they will guide policy and processes to foster growth in the MSME sector and create employment opportunities.

He further pointed out the

necessity of collecting accurate information on current basic commodity prices, market flows, agricultural production, output levels, consumption and stock availability across regions and states. Reliable data is required for assessing disaster-related damages, which can only be ac-

curately compiled and calculated if basic records from relevant departments are complete and regularly updated.

To streamline data collection, U Win Shein called for standardized formats and mechanisms under the "One Mechanism, One Data, One Source" framework. He also highlighted the importance of having detailed and accurate data for short-, medium- and long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts.

During the meeting, the Secretary of the Central Statistical Organization presented updates on the resolutions of the Central Committee Meeting 1/2023, as well as the implementation of statistical tasks. Union ministers and attendees discussed the importance of data accuracy and quality assurance in their respective sectors. The Union Minister concluded by directing the relevant parties to address any gaps through coordinated and integrated efforts. — MNA/KZL

## Myanmar and CITIC coordinate Kyaukpyu SEZ implementation conditions



A coordination meeting between Myanmar and CITIC on Kyaukpyu SEZ implementation conditions underway yesterday.

A business coordination meeting on the conditions precedent that must be fulfilled by both Myanmar and CITIC for the successful implementation of the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone deep seaport project was held yesterday at Meeting Hall 1 of the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Dr Kan Zaw, Chairman of the My-

anmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Committee and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, stated that a concession agreement was signed on 5 November 2020, between the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee and the Kyaukpyu SEZ Deep Seaport Co Ltd, a subsidiary of China's

CITIC Group, to implement the Kyaukpyu SEZ's deep seaport project. An addendum to the concession agreement was signed on 26 December 2023, extending the Long Stop Date by 18 months.

He also stated that the extended long stop date will expire on 26 June 2025 to complete the work by 26 April 2025 – two months before the expiration date – prompting this meeting to coordinate with relevant departments to ensure its timely completion.

Similarly, U Tun Ohn, Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Committee and Union Minister for Commerce stated that, as outlined in the Shareholders' Agreement for the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone deep seaport project, of the 16 con-

ditions to be fulfilled before the project begins, ten must be implemented by Myanmar and four jointly by both parties, all of which must be completed within the specified period. He also added that the extended timeline requires the relevant departments to complete the necessary work by setting a clear timeline before 25 June 2025.

Afterwards, the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee chairman and the attendees discussed in detail the conditions precedent that must be met by both parties and reviewed the status of the work's completion, before Dr Kan Zaw delivered a concluding speech after coordinating the presentations and making the necessary arrangements. — MNA/TH

## Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister leads Myanmar delegation to Brunei

AT the invitation of Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam, the Myanmar delegation led by U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, left Yangon International Airport for Brunei Darussalam yesterday.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Mr Pengiran Haji Irman Pengiran Haji Othman, Chargé d' Affaires ai of the Embassy of the Brunei Darussalam in Yangon and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

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# NATIONAL

## MoI Union Minister warns media against promoting terrorism, fear, or instability, promises legal action

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn delivered a remark at the meeting with the members of the Myanmar Press Council for the development of the media sector held at the Information and Public Relations Department in Bahan Township, Yangon Region yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were Myanmar Press Council Chair Dr Tin Tun Oo, vice-chairpersons, the joint secretary, council members and officials.

In his remarks, the Union minister extended best wishes to the council by expressing confidence that the council members having strong experiences and maturity, would be able to work effectively to develop the media sector. He continued that it is important to consider the current practical situation and both domestic and international political situations to ensure the work is effective while serving the duties.

He added that the influence of the media significantly impacts daily life, and actions are being taken against the publishing of obscene literature. These books are offensive to modesty and lead the thinking skills and



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn holds the meeting with the Myanmar Press Council yesterday in Yangon.



feelings of youths in the wrong direction. Therefore, the prosecution against these publishing is a preventive measure from poisonous literature for the country and people. Similarly, action is taken against obscene music videos.

The council can perform duty freely in line with the law and needs to oppose the destructive actions of terrorists and firmly stand with the public in media means. Moreover, it should express positive news refraining from informal writing

styles affecting the government and Tatmadaw based on misinformation.

News media outlets should not circulate information that supports the terrorists, imposes fear among the public and deteriorates the state's stability. They also should know that they might face lawsuits following the existing laws if they fail to follow the directives.

Moreover, the council should work together to ban such practices.

Next, the Director-General

of the Information and Public Relations Department clarified the legal action taken against printers and publishers who fail to follow the enacted regulations under the Printing and Publishing Enterprises Law.

Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council Dr Tin Tun Oo discussed the development of the media sector and the attendees coordinated the discussion.

The Union minister made proper instructions and concluded the meeting.

In the evening, the Union

minister inspected the construction site of Sarso Beikman in Mingala Taungnyunt township.

Project Director Daw Yu Yu Naing of Myanmar Land & Development Ltd first clarified the completed operations.

The Union minister emphasized the need for the building of Sarso Beikman to be an elegant and modern building and placed the materials systematically after completion.

He then observed the Sarso Beikman construction site. — MNA/KTZH

## Meeting on “Initiative for ASEAN Integration-IAI Annual Review” held

A meeting on “Initiative for ASEAN Integration-IAI Annual Review concerning the Myanmar-Singapore Cooperation programme” was conducted at the Chindwin Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw delivered opening remarks emphasizing the need to optimize Myanmar's role in ASEAN and highlighted the importance of enhancing coordination between ministries, implementing the country's policies, addressing social interests, and national prioritizing programmes through ASEAN mechanisms. He also encouraged the participants to explore ways to strengthen inter-ministerial cooperation.

The deputy minister underscored the

significance of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), a process designed to prioritize the development of CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam) to bridge the development gap within ASEAN and noted that Singapore remains a key donor for development aid and capacity building. Furthermore, the deputy minister encouraged ministries to review the strengths and weaknesses of the IAI courses conducted in 2024 and propose more effective training programmes that align with their needs for 2025.

The meeting was attended by around 52 government senior officials and personnel representing 29 ministries under the three ASEAN Community Pillars. — MNA



The meeting on “Initiative for ASEAN Integration-IAI Annual Review about the Myanmar-Singapore Cooperation programme” in progress yesterday, led by Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw.



# NATIONAL

## National Cancer Treatment Centre launches operation of Linear Accelerators

A ceremony to launch the use of Linear Accelerators (LINAC) took place at the National Cancer Treatment Centre being built in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein cut the ribbon to open the Radixact, Halcyon, CT Simulator and Vital Beam machine rooms.

The Radixact machine enables rapid treatment for brain and spinal cord cancers, pediatric cancers, and large-sized tumours. The Halcyon machine allows for the fast treatment of a wide variety of cancers, enabling care for many patients. The Vital Beam machine offers a range of radiation intensities and energies, allowing flexible usage as needed and effective treatment for various cancers, including skin cancer.

Attendees to the ceremony visited the machine rooms and supporting machines and presented gifts to patients.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister for Health delivered a speech, saying that the Ministry of Health, with the assistance of the State Administration Council, is prioritizing the enhancement of access to high-quality cancer treatment within the country. To address the growing need for cancer care services, short-term and



The launch of the LINAC in progress yesterday in Yangon, attended by Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win.

long-term plans are being developed and implemented.

In the post-COVID-19 recovery period, efforts were made to fully restore the operations of cancer treatment centres. As part of these efforts, new LINAC machines were installed for use – one at Mandalay General Hospital in 2023 and another at Yangon General Hospital in 2024.

He continued that efforts are being made to systematically train and produce human resources, including oncology specialists and medical professionals skilled in cancer treatment. In line with plans

for cancer treatment and research, the National Cancer Treatment Centre has been established and implemented with a structured approach. From now onwards, three LA machines will be operational, and due to the dedicated efforts of healthcare professionals working tirelessly day and night, the number of patients treated per day will increase to a total of 200 to 400.

It has been arranged to ensure convenient transportation and dining for patients to receive treatment with peace of mind, and housing has also been provided for healthcare

workers.

With the nation's extensive investments, efforts should be made to collaboratively maintain and safeguard the machines to ensure their long-term durability, enabling the provision of sustainable treatment for cancer patients. During treatment, healthcare providers are encouraged to act with compassion and empathy, interacting with patients respectfully and gently. Furthermore, it was emphasized to expedite the construction of the National Cancer Treatment Centre to establish it as a more advanced and reliable

institution for the public. Collaborative efforts and unity are urged to achieve this goal.

The regional chief minister made a speech while the Rector (Medical Superintendent/Medical Services) of Yangon General Hospital spoke words of appreciation.

The Union minister and party inspected progress in the construction of the staff housings.

The National Cancer Treatment Centre implemented a project using over K32 billion from the State's allocated funds. This included K9.2 billion for constructing a five-storey inpatient building at Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Hospital, K16.9 billion for hospital machinery and related works, K4.9 billion for staff housings, and K1.4 billion for constructing a concrete storage facility for managing radioactive hospital waste and related tasks. Furthermore, the Ministry of Construction's Task Force 1 is taking responsibility for the construction of an eight-storey inpatient building, which is expected to be completed within 2025.

The value of the three cancer treatment machines inaugurated today amounts to K32.5 billion. Moreover, the value of the CT Simulator, which is used alongside these machines to assist in radiation therapy, is reported to be K2.55 billion. — MNA/TTA

## Day 2 of 53<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Health Research Congress in progress

WITH the supervision of the Ministry of Health, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Health Research Congress continued yesterday at the Department of Medical Research (DMR) headquarters in Yangon.

A total of 29 research papers were presented by various researchers during the event. In the morning session, experts from Yangon General Hospital and Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital shared their research findings. These sessions see senior

doctors, faculty members and researchers who engaged in discussions and gave feedback.

Among the key speakers were health sector leaders such as Professor Dr Hla Hla Win, Professor Dr Nyo Nyo Wah, and Dr Han Win from the Department of Medical Research. Attendees, including specialists, fellow researchers and faculty totaling about 180 participants actively engaged with the paper presenters and offered questions and sugges-

tions.

In the afternoon, several other important papers were presented by researchers from the Health Manpower Department, medical universities and hospitals across Myanmar. Topics included nursing and maternal health, food safety, and public health services. About 150 participants attended the afternoon sessions where they asked further questions and contributed to lively discussions. — MNA/KZL



The second-day session of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Health Research Congress underway in Yangon yesterday.



# OPINION

## Efficiently apply solar energy to generate electricity

ONE of the key necessities for the socio-economic development of the people is access to electricity. To meet the electricity demand, the country primarily relies on its natural resources, such as hydropower and natural gas. To support the provision of electricity, the government is actively promoting and implementing initiatives to harness renewable energy sources for sustainable power generation.

In some regions, renewable energy utilization can be successfully achieved by harnessing solar energy to generate electricity, particularly in areas with low rainfall. While the government is implementing electricity supply projects, private sector entrepreneurs are also developing small-, medium-, and large-scale solar energy systems, which can help meet local electricity demands in various ways. However, regarding the supply of electricity, the public is currently facing difficulties due to acts of sabotage by terrorists, insufficient operational capacity of some power plants, and shortages in the supply of natural gas.

Currently, due to various reasons, there are deficiencies and gaps in the State's main power supply systems, making it challenging to meet the electricity needs of the people. To address the difficulties faced by the public, the state has formed national-level committees and is continuously striving to implement solutions. In some neighbouring countries, extensive solar power systems and wind power systems, which are renewable energy sources, have been established to supplement the main power grid and fulfil the electricity demands of the people.

government support and assistance to facilitate its adoption.

Currently, due to various reasons, there are deficiencies and gaps in the State's main power supply systems, making it challenging to meet the electricity needs of the people. To address the difficulties faced by the public, the state has formed national-level committees and is continuously striving to implement solutions. In some neighbouring countries, extensive solar power systems and wind power systems, which are renewable energy sources, have been established to supplement the main power grid and fulfil the electricity demands of the people.

The development of MSME businesses to further enhance the socioeconomic well-being of the people and the country's economic growth can be successfully achieved by leveraging Myanmar's abundant renewable energy resources. This will require the State to provide support in collaboration with private sector stakeholders to ensure broad and sustainable growth.

regarding the supply of electricity, the public is currently facing difficulties due to acts of sabotage by terrorists, insufficient operational capacity of some power plants, and shortages in the supply of natural gas.

To ease the challenges currently faced in improving people's livelihoods and fostering economic development, citizens are using individual, small, and medium-scale generators and solar systems to electrify their homes as well as industries. At present, the Ministry of Energy is supplying an alternative type of fuel for generators at affordable rates in some areas, with plans to expand sales more broadly.

The solar system is a renewable energy source that utilizes natural resources and provides continuous energy. However, it is evident that the initial setup and construction require significant investment. Therefore, individuals and entities looking to benefit from solar electricity are hopeful for

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

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Geological Survey of India.

Records, Vol. XXVIII, Pl. 1.



A VIEW of the VOLCANO on BARREN ISLAND. Bearing East about one Mile off. Taken on Board the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Company's Ship *Tiger*, March 25<sup>th</sup> 1789.

## Barren Island

According to H.L. Chhibber (1934), the volcanoes of Barren Island and Narcondam are located along the southern extension of the igneous activities of the central line. Therefore, excluding the only active volcano in the Andaman Sea would provide an incomplete overview of the igneous activities in Burma. These volcanoes are part of the Indian Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and are located approximately 86 miles northeast of Port Blair.

FR Mallet, former Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, wrote some early references to Barren Island in the Records of the Geological Survey of India from 1895. The key points are summarized as follows: -

When writing the description of Barren Island that appeared in the twenty-first volume of the Survey Memoirs, I was unable to refer to any accounts of the Volcano earlier than that by Lieutenant Colebrooke, who saw it from a distance in 1787 and that by Captain Blair, who landed during a violent eruption in 1789. The name 'Barren Island,' however, was not originally given by either of those observers: it had been applied before their time to the Volcano, which, by some, had also been called 'Monday' and 'High' Island. It was clear, therefore, that the island was more or less known before Blair's visit, and it seemed possible that someone or more accounts of it, by navigators who had seen or even landed on it, might be in existence, and that perchance some allusions to its volcanic condition earlier than those mentioned above, might be on record.

**Van Linschoten, 1595.** The earliest indication of the island being known, that I am aware of, is to be found in the original Dutch edition of Van Linschoten's voyages. This work contains two maps engraved in 1595, one of India and some adjoining countries, the other of the Malay Peninsula and archipelago. The 'Andemaoon' and adjacent islands are included in both, the configuration in one being identical to that in the other. 'Nacondaon' is placed in lat. 14° 20'. No longitudes are given, but the position is 90 miles E or E ½ N, from the northern end of the Andamans. About 45 miles S by E from "Nacondaon" (Narcondam), in Lat 13° 35', there is a nameless island which is much nearer the true latitude of Narcondam (13° 26') than that to which the name is attached. It is probably duplicating that island through a discrepant and more accurate determination of its position.

A second small and nameless island is marked about 45 miles east

of the Andamans, in Lat. 12° 25'. This is some 10- or 12-miles N W from the true position of Barren Island, for which, I think, there can be no reasonable doubt that it is meant, as there is no other land for which it can be intended.

Linschoten makes no mention of having himself visited the Andaman Islands. In the titles of the above-named maps, it is stated that they were "perfectly drawn and examined with the most expert cards of the Portingales Pilot," which suggests that the island just mentioned was inserted by Portuguese authority. As the explorer who charted them through Narcondam worthy of a name on the map, perhaps if Barren Island had been in eruption, and thus especially attracted his attention, he would have attached one to it also.

**Gough, 1708.** On many charts of much later date than Linschoten's, no land near the position of Barren Island is indicated. Hence, it was a discovery to Captain H. Gough, when he sighted it in 1708. The log of his ship, the *Streatham*, is preserved at the India Office. On the 17<sup>th</sup> December of the year just mentioned, the following entry was made: - "Now at sunrise, we see Land from W b N to N W b N, at seven o'clock ye squall being over we had an Island appearing thus" (small sketch given); then ye another land bore from W to N W by W distance, I judge, 10 to 12 leagues. Now, we have no drafts that anything answers these bearings; therefore, I commenced one. From ye Lat 11°, which will include ye shoal, to Lat. 14°, which will carry me to ye Cocos Islands; see the other side." The last sentence refers to Gough's M S chart, on which the island, without any name, is marked in Lat 11° 53', and 58 miles E S E from the Andaman coast. It is about 23 miles south of the true position of Barren Island, an error which is probably because while Gough obtained his latitude on the 16<sup>th</sup> by observation, that on the 17<sup>th</sup> was by "account". There is, however, a discrepancy between the log and the chart. In the former, his latitude on the 17<sup>th</sup> is given as 12° 30', while on the chart, his position at noon is marked in Lat. 12° 18'. If this difference were applied to the island, it would bring its latitude within 11 minutes of the correct one.

The island, when seen, was at a distance of 8 or 10 leagues from the E S E, and measures on the chart about four miles by two, with the length perpendicular to the line of sight; but his was a mere eye-estimate.

There is a rough free-hand sketch of the island in the log from the point of view just mentioned, which represents it as a very high one, with the culmination near the S S W extremity, a nearly flat top inclining

gently towards the N N E, and steep slopes at the ends; exactly the appearance which Barren Island, at present, would have if viewed from the same position, except that the height, in proportion to the breadth, in the sketch, is a good deal more than in nature. This is so obviously due to exaggeration, which is likely expected in a rough outline dashed off *currente calamo*, that it would be a waste of space to raise the question of whether the volcano was much higher in 1708. Had such been the case, indeed, the truncation of the ancient cone must necessarily have been far less than is implied by the sketch, and the latter would entirely fail to represent the facts. There is no indication in the sketch, of smoke rising from the volcano.

**Various Observers.** Reference to the observations of several navigators may be found in a "Memoir of a chart of the Indian Ocean", 1787 (contained in the first volume of Darlymple's Nautical Memoirs), where on page 36 we read: -

"The island, called *Barren Island* by Captain Taylor and Captain Justice, *Monday Island* by Chenye, from Old Draughts; and *Alto* by Captain Baker and C Alves are in

|     |                       |       |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|
| Lat | 12° 20' N by C Mills, | 1758. |
|     | 12° 23' Alves,        | 1760. |
|     | 12° 20' Justice,      | 1771. |
|     | 12° 20' Taylor,       | 1780. |

Long. by Captain Taylor's Observations of the Sun and Moon 93° 10'E from Greenwich.

**Cheyne, 1748.** The log of Capt. Cheyne's ship (the *Lapwing*) shows that Cheyne passed "Monday" (Barren) Island at the close of October 1748 and saw it from various points of the compass, but he made no nearer approach than eight or nine leagues. His observed latitudes on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, combined with the bearings and estimated distances of the island, respectively made it in lat. 12° 6' and 12° 16'. He remarks "This by some is called Monday Island, but we have no account of it in the draught."

**Mills, 1758.** The year 1758, Captain Mills, of the *Drake*, noticed "Land even with water" in Lat 11° 12', and "he says the land and (Alto, which he calls *Arracondam*, bears of each other N b E ½ E and S b W ½ W distant 21 leagues", which marks the latitude of Alto (Barren Island) 12° 12', or within 4 minutes of the now accepted value. This quotation is of interest from the name *Arracondam* (presumably a corruption of *Narcondam*) being applied to *Barren Island*. However, I do not think Captain Mill's application of the name can prove anything, as he probably used it through imperfect information. Still, the point is worthy of notice in connection with the origin of the term, *Narcondam*, alluded to in my memoir on the volcanoes.

**Justice, 1771.** I have not met with any record by Captain Alves or Baker. The discovery of a dangerous rock was reported by Captain Justice in 1771, which he describes in some detail and at the conclusion says "Imagining I was to the westwards of the Little Andaman I stood to the N N E-wards to get its true place, but on 2 November, at 6 am, I was surprised to see *Barren Island*; it lays by my account, not allowing the current, to be 20 miles to the westwards of Barren Island in the latitude of 11° 07' or 11° 12'."

**Taylor, 1780.** The following remarks by Captain Taylor of the Ship 'Ceres' are perhaps worth reproduction in full as illustrative of the inaccuracy and uncertainty that prevailed about Barren Island until late in the last century: -

"12 January 1780, "per medium of 13 good sights of the longitude

found ourselves in 93° 36' longitude from Greenwich, which is 1° 33' W since the last sights and by the charts nearly the longitude of the Islands, laid down in 12° and 11° 30' N Lat by the name of *Barren Island*. Kept a very good lookout in the night and sounded as per log; next morning at daylight saw a pretty large Island bearing N E ½ E, 10 leagues, the ext of the *Andamans* (just in sight) from W N W to S W by S, 9 or 10 leagues. Till noon, we had a good observation but could not determine whether the island in sight was the northernmost *Barren Island* or *Narcondam*; we observed in 11° 59' N, the lat of the northernmost *Barren Island* as laid down in the charts; the Island bearing N E by N between 8 and 9 leagues distant which makes it come nearest the lat of Barren Island. A day or two afterwards, by a good observation within two or three miles from the northern end of it, find its latitude to be 12° 20' northern (21 miles to the northwards of its situation upon the Charts) and its longitude, by several very good observations of the Sun and Moon, to be 93° 10' E from Greenwich, etc.

"I likewise have it from good authority that Captain Sharrington of the Bahar country ship saw the rocks under its ship bottom and sounded in 4 fathoms *Barren Island* being N N W 5 or 6 leagues. In the charts there is some dangers laid down to the southwards of the southernmost *Barren Island*; I imagine it is meant to be placed to the southwards and the northernmost, as I think it seems doubtful whether there are but one or two Islands. The Island of *Narcondam* bears N by E ½ E from Greenwich, both ascertained from very good observations. The Island *Narcondam* and *Barren Island* appear very different when seen at some distance; so that, independent of their latitudes, with a simple sketch of each Island a man could be at no loss readily to know the one Island from the other. *Narcondam* makes like a sugar loaf, quite flat at the top, and may be seen at least 18 leagues from the masthead, for we saw it 13 or 14 leagues from the poop pretty high out of the water, the weather rather hazy; this distance may be depended upon as it's calculated from the bearings and differences of latitude.

**One Island or two?** In explanation of Captain Taylor's surmise, whether one Barren Island or two existed, I may say that in various atlases of the eighteenth century, two small islands are marked, one nearly due north of the other; on a meridian some 50 miles east of (what appears to represent) the South Andaman. The altitude of one varies from 11° 21' to 11° 30'; that of the other from 11° 59' to 12° 8'. In the French Atlases, these are called the '*Isles Rases*,' while in some English, they are called the 'Barren Islands, and in others, the 'Flat Island.' However, one or two of these names came into use (possibly through some mistranslation from one language to another), the northern *Isle Rase*, as charted, agrees very fairly in position with Barren Island and cannot be intended for anything else. What the southern *Isle Rase* was intended for, I do not know. It was not meant for the rock east of Duncan's passage, for in some Atlases (e.g., *Le Neptune Oriental*), the latter is marked in addition to the *Isles Rases*, in latitude 10° 55' or 11° 0'.

Perhaps the most likely solution is that (like *Narcondam*, as previously mentioned) Barren Island was duplicated on the charts through discrepant determinations of its position. But it is at least a possibility that, like Graham's Island, in the Mediterranean, the southern *Isle* may have been an ephemeral one due to a volcanic eruption, chiefly of fragmentary ejecta. It is conceivable that, after it had been washed away by the sea, the last visible remnants were the rocks reported by Captain Sharrington, five or six leagues S S E of Barren Island, and that even these subsequently disappeared, thus explaining Horsburgh's remark that Sharrington's account "is rendered doubtful, for no signs of shoal-bank in the situation described have been discovered for many years."

Another possibility is that the temporary Island, and Sharrington's rocks, were S S W of Barren Island (the S S E bearing given by Taylor being due to a not uncommon kind of clerical error). This would place them in the line joining Flat Rock, Barren Island, and *Narcondam*, and on the suppositional submarine ridge of Dr Prain, and would account, in another way to the suggested above, for the rocks not being re-discovered to the S S E, as well as for the statement of the Portuguese Captain. It would be useless to pursue this speculation reared on such a slender basis.

*References: Mallet, FR, 1895: Some early allusions to Barren Island; with a few remarks, the Record of Geological Survey of India, Vol XXVIII, Calcutta, India.*



# NATIONAL

## Thailand, Myanmar to cooperate against online fraud gangs



Myanmar's Deputy Prime Minister and Thai Deputy Prime Minister shake hands during their meeting in Bangkok on 16 January 2025. **PHOTO: BANGKOK POST**

THAILAND and Myanmar had agreed to cooperate to combat online fraud gangs, the Bangkok Post reported on 18 January.

The agreement was

reached after Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo and Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Dig-

ital Economy and Social Affairs met separately on 16 January during the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting.

General Mya Tun Oo said online fraud is on the rise in ASEAN countries, including Myanmar, and urged greater cooperation in combatting online scams during the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand on 16 and 17 January.

He also elaborated that the digital transformation needs to be based on security, innovation and all-inclusiveness, and emphasized working together to build trust among users of digital services and focus on digital literacy programmes to enable people and businesses to use digital services meaningfully to achieve inclusive digital connectivity. — Htun Htun/ZN

## Russian Ambassador, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister discuss economic and tourism development



Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko holds talks with the Russian Ambassador-led delegation yesterday.

THE Ambassador of the Russian Federation and his delegation met Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko yesterday morning at the Taninthayi Region government's meeting hall.

Discussions focused on the development of the Dawei Spe-

cial Economic Zone, the local tourism sector, and the condition of beaches and islands in Dawei, Myeik, and Kawthoung districts. They also addressed the increasing influx of foreign travellers and the progress of hotel projects on islands within the Myeik archipelago, funded

by both local and foreign investors.

The meeting was attended by regional government ministers, the chairman of the Dawei Special Economic Zone, officials from the Russian Federation Embassy, and other guests. — MNA/MKKS

## UEC delegation leaves for Belarus to observe presidential election

AT the invitation of the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Belarus, U Aung Saw Win and U Myint Thein, Union Election Commission members, departed for Minsk, Belarus by air yesterday to study presidential election. — MNA

## Royal Thai Armed Forces Day celebrated in Yangon



The commemorative group photo of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day celebration in Yangon yesterday.

THE Royal Thai Armed Forces Day celebration was held yesterday at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon. The event was attended by Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump, military and police attachés, and other distinguished guests.

The ceremony began with the national anthems of Thailand and Myanmar, followed by a

salute to the national flags. The Thai ambassador then delivered a greeting speech. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and the ambassador ceremonially cut a commemorative cake.

Following dinner, guests enjoyed special performances. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Senior Colonel Thanwit Yomchinda, the military attaché, marking the end of the celebration. — MNA/MKKS

## Counter-argument to false information

### False claims of unlawful arrests in Yangon denied

SECURITY forces have been conducting arrests on the pretext of examining guest registration at various men's hostels in downtown Yangon.

On the night of 16 January, they entered and inspected a hostel in the city centre and arrested those who were unable to pay fines. Reports from malicious media outlets are spreading false information about the incident.

According to a statement from a local security officer, the security forces have not been involved in any unlawful arrests or extortion. The security teams are solely conducting searches and investigations following estab-

lished protocols to prevent illegal activities, including insurgents attempting to enter the area and carry out sabotage. Due to the continued day-and-night investigations by the security teams, insurgents have faced difficulties in moving freely within the region.

It has been revealed that the malicious media, which supports these insurgents, is deliberately spreading misleading reports to confuse the public and create negative perceptions of the security forces. These reports do not reflect the actual events and are intended to mislead the public and misrepresent the actions of the security forces. — MNA/MKKS



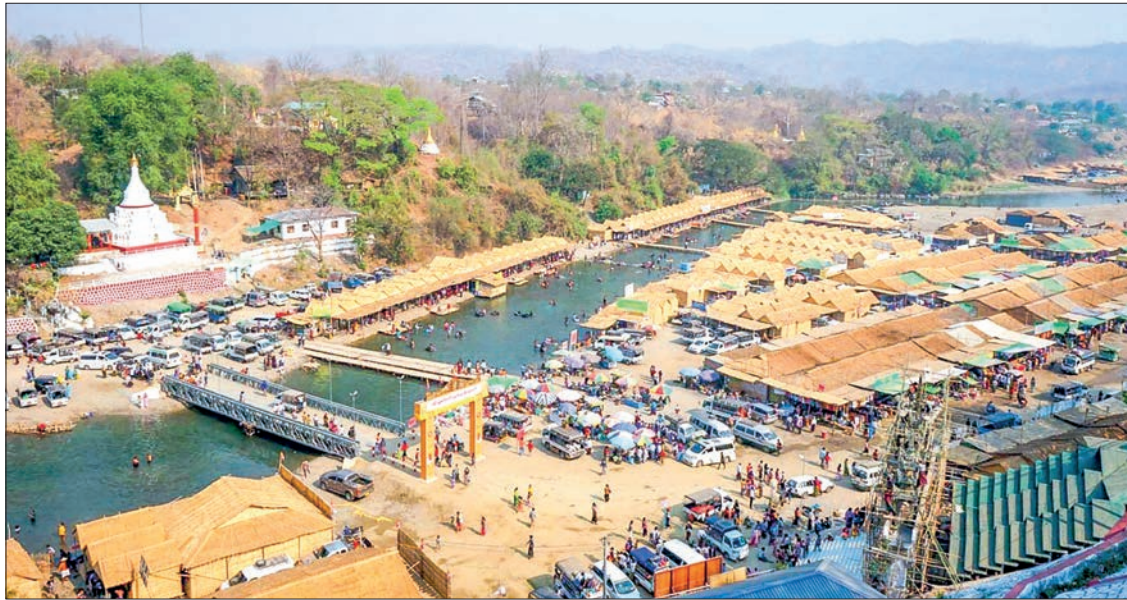
# NATIONAL

## 140+ lodgings completed for Mann Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival

MORE than 140 of the 1,400 lodgings and food stalls being built to accommodate travellers attending the Mann Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, have been completed, according to U Aye Ko, Chairman of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Board of Trustees.

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

“We have scheduled the Mann Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival from 2 February to 17 April. A total of over 140 lodgings have been completed, and we are in the process of constructing more than 600 additional lodgings and 800 food



An aerial drone panoramic view of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival.

stalls to accommodate the expected influx of visitors from across the country,” U Aye Ko

said. Furthermore, a bridge measuring 12 feet and eight

inches wide and 100 feet (approximately 30 metres) long has been constructed to facilitate

the easy passage of pilgrims to the Lower Sacred Footprint of the Lord Buddha during the festival.

The Mann Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival typically sees the highest number of visitors on Saturdays, Sundays, the full moon day of Tabauing, and during Thingyan (the Myanmar New Year celebrations).

During the festival, pilgrims from across the country also visit other popular attractions, including the Mann Chaung Elephant Resort, which features an elephant museum, Myathalun Pagoda in Magway, Sekkaintae Pagoda, Nagabwat Hill, and other notable sites, in addition to the Shwesettaw Buddha Pujaniya Festival. — ASH/MKKS

## Foundation to offer free vocational training for disabled in Feb



This photo showcases a poster for free vocational training courses.

THE Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (Myanmar) stated that it will offer free vocational training courses for people with disabilities in February at its headquarters in the MAC Tower, located in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region.

The planned training courses for the disabled, in-

cluding fashion designing, electronics, and basic and advanced computer courses, will start on 13 and 22 February.

“The courses will start in February, with plans to offer them every two months. The types of courses include Fashion Designing, Electronics, and Computer (basic and

advanced). The Fashion Designing training will begin on 13 February and will be held six days a week, from Monday to Friday, for a total of six weeks. The Electronics training course will start on 22 February and will be held on Saturdays and Sundays for a total of five weeks (10 days). Computer training (basic and advanced) will also begin on 13 February, with participants attending five days a week, from Monday to Friday, for a total of six weeks,” said an official from the foundation.

The foundation also connects disabled trainees who have completed the training with job opportunities both locally and abroad. Additionally, it is collaborating with GIC Myanmar to provide overseas job opportunities for people with disabilities. — ASH/TH

## Veteran actor and director Shwe Chan Than Myint passes away at 83

VETERAN actor and director Shwe Chan Than Myint, a senior member of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), passed away from age-related illnesses on the morning of 20 January. He was 83 years old when he passed away, according to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

Shwe Chan Than Myint has a birth name U Chit Than Myint. He was a prolific writer of novels and scripts. In 1995, he served as chairman of the Myanmar Film History Compilation Committee during the Myanmar Motion Pictures Diamond Jubilee. His contributions to documenting Myanmar film history included works on the ‘Silver Jubilee’ and ‘Golden Jubilee’ of Myanmar cinema.

“Director and actor Shwe Chan Than Myint passed away this morning. He was 83 years old. His passing marks a great loss of an experienced artist for the Myanmar film industry,” said MMPO Chair U Aye Kyu Lay.

Shwe Chan Than Myint

entered movie industry at the age of 42, driven by his passion for performing arts. He gained recognition for his performances in radio dramas and cassette dramas as a voice actor while starring in hundreds of video films. He was particularly well-loved for his recurring role as a village head in films and videos, earning him the affectionate nickname ‘Thagy’ from his audience.

The funeral service for Shwe Chan Than Myint will be held at Kyisu Cemetery on 22 January at 1 pm. — ASH/KZL



Shwe Chan Than Myint, Age 83

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.



# NATIONAL BUSINESS



Workers diligently processing and packaging export fishery products.

## Fisheries Dept strives to export freshwater fish to Saudi Arabia

THE Department of Fisheries and the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) plan to export Myanmar's freshwater fish to Saudi Arabia, said U Nyunt Win, director of the Department of Fisheries.

"The department and the federation have been working together to ship freshwater fish like rohu, Catla (carp) produced

from fish farms to the markets of Saudi Arabia through legitimate trade," he elaborated.

The department has been striving for sustainable fishery export and meeting the demand and requirements of the purchasing countries depending on the condition of the fishery market, along with the exporters in the supply chain.

Myanmar makes efforts to meet import criteria of the strict customs rules of foreign customers like China. Myanmar exports seafood to Japan, Middle East countries, European Union members, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Australia. The department has been joining hands with MFF to bolster fishery exports. — ASH/KK

## CBM injects 1.9M Thai baht into financial market on 20 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 1.91 million Thai baht on 20 January.

CBM injected US\$150,000 and 1.14 million yuan on 17 January, one million baht on 16 January, 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 so far 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 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

## Pinlon's butterfly bean grows in popularity in Aungban

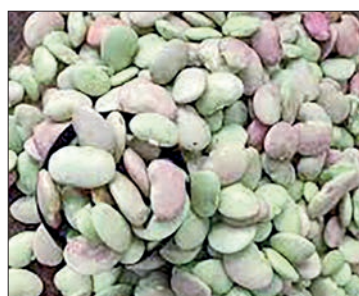
OF two kinds of butterfly beans in Shan State, Pinlon-produced and Hopong-produced, the first one gains more popularity than the latter, according to the Aungban vegetable market.

Pinlon-produced bean has thin skin and is profitable for sellers as it is sold in condensed milk cans.

"Pinlon-produced butterfly bean is more attractive as it has thin skin and more beautiful and more profitable for sellers who sell it in condensed milk can. Its price is higher than Hopong-produced beans. We have loads of orders placed from Yangon, Mandalay, Pyay and Paungde but Yangon is the largest. We ferry Pinlon-produced butterfly beans to Yangon daily. Butterfly bean season is short and it is going to end next month," said Ma Nyo Lae Yi, a vegetable and fruit distributor from Aungban

Township.

In February 2023, a butterfly bean plantation was initiated on trial in Kayin State's Thandaung Township and was successful and the production was even able to fulfil the domestic demand. In January of the same year, it was also tested as a small-scale project by underground water in Magway Region's Pwintphyu Township and also brought a fruitful result and profits for farmers. — Thit Taw/ZS



This image shows butterfly beans arranged for sale in the Aungban market.

## Myanmar pulse exports cross 1.5M tonnes in Apr-Dec 2024



Varieties of beans and pulses being arranged for sale in the market.

MYANMAR conveyed over 1.5 million tonnes of various pulses between April and December of the current financial year 2024-2025, including 700,000 tonnes of black gram, 200,000 tonnes of pigeon pea and 400,000 tonnes of green gram, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association said.

Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green gram is exported to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and

pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/KK





## Australian PM commits \$1.2 bln to incentivize green aluminium production

*The scheme will provide payments for every tonne of aluminium produced with renewable electricity over the next decade, through 2036.*

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday announced a 2-billion-Australian-dollar (\$1.24 billion) plan to incentivize aluminium smelters to transition to renewable power.

PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday announced a 2-billion-Australian-dollar (\$1.24 billion) plan to incentivize aluminium smelters to transition to renewable power.

The funding will be used for a

scheme that will pay aluminum smelters for every tonne of the metal produced using renewable electricity over a 10-year period to 2036.

He said that investing in the local aluminum industry is a "massive opportunity" to create jobs and set

Australia up for the future.

"We've got the resources, the workers, and the know-how — the only thing we don't have is time to waste," Albanese said. "We are building Australia's future, not taking Australia backwards." — AFP

## Japan automakers strengthen collaboration in EV, software

JAPANESE automakers are set to enhance collaboration in the competitive fields of electric vehicles (EVs) and automotive software, focusing on foundational technology development to maintain their global competitiveness.

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) has outlined its "JAMA Vision 2035", which addresses the industry's challenges over the next decade.

In the EV sector, Japanese automakers plan to collaborate on devel-

oping next-generation charging technologies to reduce charging times. They will also work on standardizing semicon-

ductor and battery specifications and designing recyclable batteries to support sustainability. — Xinhua



In the EV sector, Japanese automakers plan to collaborate on developing next-generation charging technologies to reduce charging times. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

## Job cuts report worries employees at Germany's Commerzbank

SUGGESTIONS that German lender Commerzbank was considering cutting thousands of jobs as it fights off an unwanted advance from Italy's UniCredit had unsettled employees, a senior trade union official said Monday.

A plan to significantly reduce the headcount at Germany's second-largest bank would be presented to the works council in the

weeks ahead, the Financial Times daily reported on Saturday, citing two sources familiar with the matter.

Frederik Werning, Verdi trade union official and a member of the supervisory board at Germany's second-largest lender, said rumoured redundancies had caused "uncertainty among employees".

The union's "absolute priority" was to "consistently represent and defend employees", Werning said. Takeover speculation has surrounded Commerzbank since September after Italy's UniCredit revealed that it had acquired 9.5 per cent of the German bank, buying parts of the stake directly from the German government. — AFP

### Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) is transferring from Farm Link Co.,Ltd. to Uni Crop Co.,Ltd.. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township, within two weeks.

| Sr. | Trade Name      | Active Ingredient   | Reg. Type | Reg. No.   |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.  | Dart 25 SL      | Fomesafen 250g/l SL | Full      | F2020-1584 |
| 2.  | Vitabaryl 85 WP | Carbaryl 85% WP     | Full      | F2024-497  |

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch).  
Room 209, Rangoun Business Centre; No. 97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tele: 09-5145328

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| Sr. | Trade Name   | Active Ingredient | Type Reg. | Reg. No.   |
|-----|--------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.  | TRAZEC 20 EC | Amitraz 200g/l EC | Full      | F2018-1556 |

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch).  
Room 209, Rangoun Business Centre; No. 97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tele: 09-5145328

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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC SHUNDE VOY.NO. (2502S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC SHUNDE VOY.NO. (2502S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-1-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

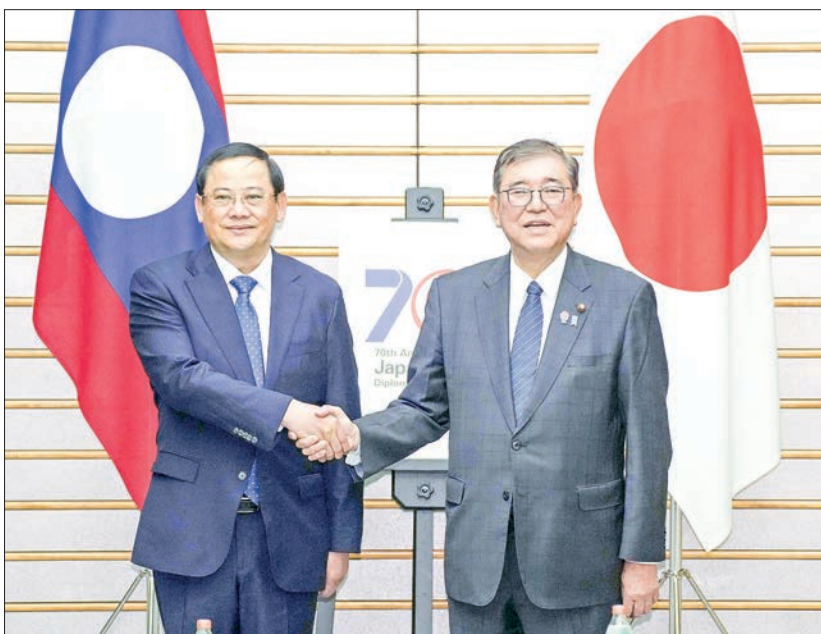
## Japan, Laos upgrade ties to promote comprehensive cooperation

*Japan and Laos, celebrating 70 years of diplomatic ties, pledged to enhance cooperation in politics, trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges.*

THE leaders of Japan and Laos agreed Tuesday to upgrade their bilateral relations to a “comprehensive strategic partnership”, as Tokyo tries to strengthen cooperation with Southeast Asia.

In a joint statement issued after their meeting in Tokyo, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and his Laotian counterpart Sonexay Siphandone confirmed that the two governments will launch a foreign vice-ministerial-level dialogue to promote security collaboration.

With Japan and Laos marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties this year, the two prime ministers pledged to continue “deepening and expanding multi-layered exchanges,” covering politics, economic cooperation, trade, investment and people-to-people exchanges, the statement said.



Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba (R) and Laotian Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone shake hands before their talks in Tokyo on 21 January 2025.

PHOTO: KYODO

The Laotian prime minister is working visit to Japan this year. — the first leader to make an official Kyodo

## “Look forward to working alongside Trump to serve American people”: US Vice-President JD Vance

US Vice-President JD Vance has said that it is an “incredible honour” to take the oath of office as the

Vice-President of the US and he looked forward to working alongside President Donald Trump to serve the

American people.

In a post on X, JD Vance stated, “It’s an incredible honour to take the oath of office as the 50<sup>th</sup> Vice-President of the United States. I look forward to working alongside President Trump to serve the American people. Let’s Make America Great Again!”

JD Vance on Monday took oath as the 50<sup>th</sup> Vice-President of the United States at the US Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh administered oath to Vance.

His wife, Usha Vance, held the Bible in one hand and their daughter Mirabel Rose in the other, as Vance placed his left hand on the religious text and raised his right hand to take oath of office. The couple’s two sons were also present on the occasion. — ANI



JD Vance on Monday took oath as the 50<sup>th</sup> Vice-President of the United States.

PHOTO: ANI

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirms Marco Rubio as US Secretary of State

THE US Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted unanimously on Monday to confirm Marco Rubio as President Donald Trump’s Secretary of State.

The nomination will now be sent to the full Senate for consideration.

During a confirmation hearing earlier this month, Rubio said that the United States’ official position on the Ukraine conflict must be that it should be brought to an end.

Rubio also said that the postwar global order is outdated and allegedly being used as a weapon against the United States. — SPUTNIK

#### Turkiye: At least 10 people killed after fire erupts at ski resort hotel

At least 10 people were killed and 32 others were injured after fire erupted at a ski resort hotel in Turkiye on Tuesday, CNN reported, citing Turkiye’s Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya.

The fire, which erupted at a hotel in the Kartalkaya resort in Bolu province, was reported at around 3:27 am (local time), Ali Yerlikaya said in a statement shared on X.

In a post on X, Yerlikaya wrote, “Unfortunately, the number of deaths has increased to 10 and the number of injured has increased to 32. I wish God’s mercy upon our citizens who lost their lives and a speedy recovery to our injured.” — ANI

#### Trump signs executive order to delay TikTok ban by 75 days

US President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order to delay the TikTok ban by 75 days “to permit my Administration an opportunity to determine the appropriate course of action with respect to TikTok.” — Xinhua

## Trump signs executive order pulling US out of WHO

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday that will let the United States withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO).

According to the text of the executive order published by the White House, it was Trump’s second attempt to exit the WHO, as his first try in 2020 didn’t materialize after he lost the 2020 presidential election to Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump’s decision is again based on his claims that the WHO failed “to adopt urgently needed reforms” and that it “continues to demand unfairly onerous payments from the United States, far out of proportion with other countries’ assessed payments,” as stated by the executive order. — Xinhua



# SPORTS

## Aston Villa completes second January signing

ASTON Villa completed its second signing of the January transfer window on Tuesday with the arrival of young Spanish defender Andres Garcia.

The 21-year-old, who can also play on the right of midfield, joins from Spanish second-tier outfit Levante for an undisclosed fee thought to be in the region of six million euros.

Garcia progressed through the youth ranks at Levante, playing 31 times for its B team and 47 times for the first team, scoring four goals.

Garcia is Villa's second signing of the winter transfer window after Dutch forward Donyell Malen, 25, who completed a move from Borussia Dortmund on 14 January. — Xinhua

## Sabalenka battles 'unbelievable' wind to keep Melbourne hat-trick alive

ARYNA Sabalenka battled through "unbelievable" windy conditions Tuesday to reach the Melbourne semifinals and keep her dream of an Australian Open hat-trick alive.

The world number one faces Spain's Paula Badosa for a place in the final after grinding past Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 on Rod Laver Arena.

"The conditions were unbelievable. The wind was so strong. It was very difficult for both of us," said Sabalenka, who can become the first woman since Martina Hingis in 1999 to win the Australian Open three years in a row.

If she does, she will join a select group of five women who have completed the Melbourne three-peat. The others are Margaret Court, Evonne Goolagong, Steffi Graf and Monica Seles.

"I'm really happy that I put myself in this situation where I have the opportunity to become one of them," said Sabalenka.

"To be next to those names, wow, that's just a dream".

The 11<sup>th</sup> seed Badosa earlier stunned world number three Coco Gauff in straight sets to reach her maiden Grand Slam semi-final at the age of 27.

"She's a great player and she has been through a lot. Now she's back on her best game. I'm really happy to see that," said Sabalenka of Badosa, who a year ago almost quit tennis because of a chronic back condition. — AFP

## Shan United faces BG Pathum in AFC clash



Head coaches and team captains from Shan United and BG Pathum United at the pre-match press conference. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE pre-match press conference for the 2024-2025 AFC Champions League Group Stage (fixture 4) between Myanmar's Shan United and Thailand's BG Pathum United was held on 21 January at the press conference hall of the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre.

Shan United's head coach, Hiroki, stated, "We understand the differences between the two teams, but we are determined to give our best for the club. We have thoroughly studied BG Pathum's foreign players and key players and we are well-prepared. We will

play with courage and aim to secure points."

Shan United captain, Nanda Kyaw, added, "Our coach has prepared us thoroughly. By combining his guidance with our efforts, we are ready to play. We have trained hard and have confidence in our abilities."

BG Pathum United head coach, Supachai, commented, "We have the utmost respect for Shan United. We've brought all of our key players. Shan United's players are highly motivated to win, as seen in their matches against PSM and Terengganu. We have analyzed those games and prepared accordingly."

The match between Shan United and BG Pathum United is scheduled for 6:30 pm today at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. After three matches, BG Pathum United has earned five points while Shan United is yet to secure a point.

BG Pathum United's lineup features Thai national players such as Chanathip Songkrasin and Theerasil Dangda, along with nine foreign players. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Vital game for Real Madrid to ensure Champions League play-off spot

REAL Madrid has a vital Champions League match on Wednesday at home to RB Salzburg, knowing that anything but a win could jeopardize the club's future in the tournament.

Madrid's win away to Atalanta before Christmas lifted Carlo Ancelotti's side to 20<sup>th</sup> in the 36-team group, but with just nine points from the first six group games, Los Blancos are still in danger of not finishing in the top 24 to ensure a place in the play-offs for a spot in the knockout stages.

With Madrid needing a mir-

acle to finish in the top eight and ensure direct qualification to the next round, it has to focus on winning at home to Salzburg and then away to Brest next week to finish as high as possible in the group to ensure the easiest possible tie in the play-offs.

Ancelotti will be without Eduardo Camavinga for Wednesday's match after the midfielder injured his thigh in last week's Copa del Rey game at home to Celta Vigo, and he joins long-term absentees Dani Carvajal and Eder Militao on the sidelines. — Xinhua



Jude Bellingham celebrates scoring Real Madrid's crucial third goal at Atalanta on 10 December 2024. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Manchester City completes signing of Uzbekistan defender Khusanov

MANCHESTER City on Monday confirmed the signing of central defender Abdukodir Khusanov from French side Lens, making him the first player from Uzbekistan to ever play in the Premier League.

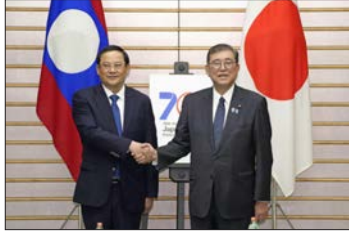
The 20-year-old has agreed a four-and-a-half-year contract until June 2029, and has cost the English club 33.6 million pounds (US\$41.3 million) as they look to rejuvenate their first team squad.

The sale represents a huge profit for Lens, who signed the Uzbekistan international from Belarusian club Energetik-BGU 18 months ago for around 90,000 euros (US\$94,000).

Khusanov expressed his satisfaction at signing for the club coached by Pep Guardiola, saying on the club website that the Manchester City squad was "full of the best players in the world, and I can't wait to meet them and play alongside them".

"And of course Pep Guardiola is one of the greatest coaches ever and I am so excited to learn from him and improve my game even more," he added. Manchester City's director of football Txiki Begiristain explained that Khusanov, who has played 18 times for his country, was "very intelligent, as well as being strong, aggressive and extremely quick". — Xinhua





## AI'S SWEEPING INFLUENCE

### China contributes to AI global governance

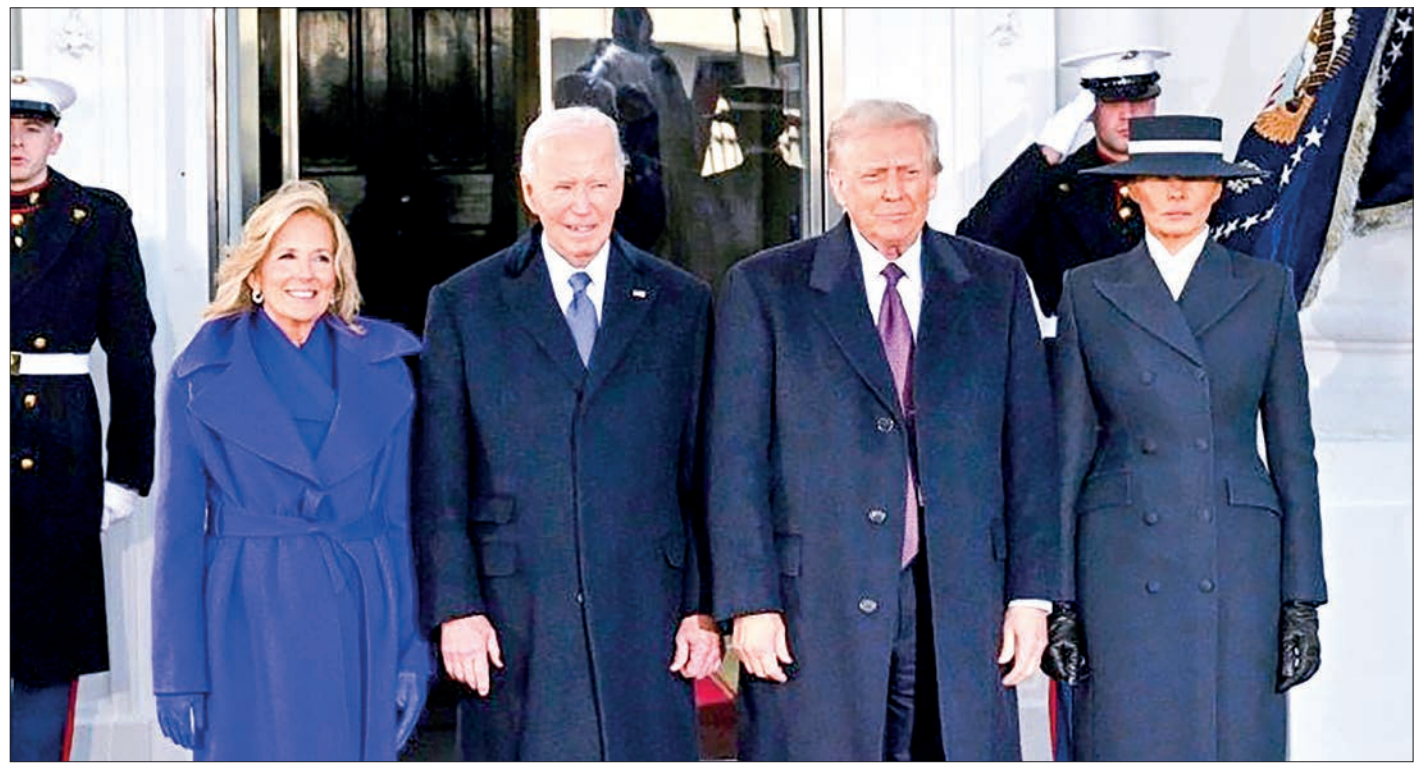
IN addition to significant achievements in AI technology and industry, China has made positive contributions to the global governance of AI, said a senior official of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

On the theme of "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age", the 2025 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting kicked off on Monday in Davos, Switzerland.

In the next decade, AI will have a profound impact on global economic growth, industrial transformation, social livelihood, climate environment and international cooperation, said Chen Liming, chair of Greater China of the WEF, in a written interview with Xinhua. The rapid application of AI in areas like intelligent robots, intelligent creation, smart education and smart medical care has accelerated industrial upgrades and unlocked widespread innovation opportunities across society, he said. Noting that China's core AI industry has reached nearly 600 billion yuan (\$82 billion), covering key upstream and downstream links such as chips, algorithms, data, platforms and applications, Chen said China also actively engages in global AI governance, collaborating with the WEF and other international organizations to share insights and promote cooperation. — Xinhua

## Trump vows new US 'golden age' as second term begins

*He adopted a strongly nationalistic tone, pledging to impose trade tariffs, rename the Gulf of Mexico the "Gulf of America," and reclaim the Panama Canal, which has been under Panama's control since 1999.*



US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden pose alongside President-elect Donald Trump and Melania Trump as they arrive at the White House in Washington, DC, on 20 January 2025, before departing for the US Capitol where Trump will be sworn in as the 47<sup>th</sup> US President. **PHOTO: AFP**

**D**ONALD Trump vowed a new "golden age" as he took the oath for a historic second US presidential term Monday, painting a picture of an America in decline that only his hardline policies can restore to glory.

In an often divisive address in the US Capitol, the 47<sup>th</sup> president promised a blitz of orders including the declaration

of a national emergency on the Mexican border and a policy of only recognizing two genders.

Trump also struck a nationalistic tone as he capped the most extraordinary comeback in US political history, pledging to impose trade tariffs, rename the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America, and take "back" the Panama Canal, which has

been controlled by the Central American country since 1999.

"The golden age of America begins right now. From this day forward our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world," Trump said in the Capitol, where the inauguration was held indoors for the first time in decades, due to freezing weather. — AFP



Iran's main gas fields are concentrated in the south, and large consumers are in the north, in a region with a fairly harsh climate. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Russia-Iran pipeline promises major energy boost

THE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership treaty signed between Moscow and Tehran on 17 January shed light on a new project to deliver Russian gas to Iran.

The gas pipeline's route has been agreed on, it will pass through Azerbaijan, Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev confirmed.

Negotiations are in the final stages, volumes have already been agreed, and the sides are developing an approach to pricing, Tsivilev added. Russia will cover the infrastructure costs.

The project is expected to start with deliveries of up to two billion cubic metres annually, with the prospect of increasing to 55 billion cubic metres.

When Gazprom and the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) signed a strategic memorandum on Russian gas supplies in June 2024, the Iranian side noted that about 300 million cubic metres of gas per day will be supplied daily (109 billion m<sup>3</sup>/year) via the Caspian Sea for domestic consumption and supplies to neighbouring countries. — SPUTNIK