

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Tatmadaw officers during his inspection tours in Taungnyo Station, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

## Continuous study of military strategies, weaponry encouraged for Tatmadaw members

It is essential to continuously learn and adapt in alignment with the age of technology and the AI era.

**S**enior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed his appreciation for the efforts of those serving in national defence and ensuring the security of the nation and its people.

It is necessary to continuously research, study, and expand the teachings on evolving military strategies, weaponry, and military

sciences that have advanced with the passage of time, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of the local training depot in Taungnyo Station of Nay Pyi Taw Command yesterday morning.

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### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General during the inspection tour of the training depot and Tatmadaw Broadcasting Unit (Taungnyo)

1. Tatmadaw members were urged to constantly study the development of military science, undergo training to have better skills in military tactics and follow the prescribed rules and regulations.
2. Administrative leaders need to correctly fulfil the deserved rights of individual Tatmadaw members and resolve their requirements.
3. It is essential to observe and study the broadcasts of other local and international news agencies to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their own broadcasts, derive lessons, and take action to improve and enhance broadcasting activities.
4. Broadcasting activities should be carried out with a broad perspective, contributing to the nation's interests by disseminating valuable knowledge and necessary information to the public.

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# NATIONAL

## Empowering Citizens with Wisdom: Key to National Strength and Progress

Wisdom equips individuals with the ability to critically analyze right and wrong, good and bad, and cause and effect. When every citizen possesses wisdom and knowledge, the nation can cultivate true strength that advances the interests of the State.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of presenting awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination 2024 with distinctions in all subjects on 22 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

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 22 January 2025)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is generally fair over the North Bay, a few cloud over the Central Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 23 JANUARY 2025:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Shan States.

## MCHT to host "Together Through Thanaka" performance competition

THE Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust (MCHT) announced that it will hold a "Together Through Thanaka" performance competition on Union Day.

A briefing was held at the Green Park on Inya Road, Kamayut Township on 22 January, and actress Daw Swe Zin Htike, one of the five judges, briefed the participants on the competition. Awards include best actor, best team, audience favourite, and honourable prize and each contestant will be awarded one prize.



Photos showcase a briefing for the "Together Through Thanaka" performance competition and its activities.



The proposal of the Myanmar Thanaka to be listed as the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, which has been submitted since 2020, must be completed by the first week of March to be resubmitted, said Daw Sanda Khin, Chairperson of the MCHT.

"The submission deadline is the end of March. So, it must be completed by the first week of March. The Ministry of Culture has written eight pages on Thanaka. We need to fill out this form provided by UNESCO and write its history, value, medicinal value, psychological and physical benefits," she said.

The proposal must be written within the six points required by UNESCO.

"This is the norm set by UNESCO- its usefulness for beauty and health. We must write that it has become a topic of discussion among global researchers and environmentalists. Thanaka contains collagen. It protects against UV damage. It has been proven that it has these properties and it cools down. Thanaka's medicinal properties have been shown according to research made by Korea, Thailand and Myanmar," she added. — MT/ZN

## Cold weather forecast for Yangon and Ayeyawady after 23 Jan

THE temperature has risen again recently in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions but it is forecast to be cold again after 23 January, said meteorologist U Win Naing.

Including Htaukkyant and Mingaladon townships, some wards in Yangon Southern District and Maubin, Pyapon, Bogale, Dedaye, Mawlamyinekyun and Laputta townships in Ayeyawady Region, the temperature will slightly elevate until 23 January but will be cold slightly again afterwards, he said.

In the rest of regions and states, the temperature in the early morning will continue declining and cooler, he said. Day temperature will be 30-31 degrees Celsius to the maximum until early February and will continue declining in the early morning throughout the country.

It has a 59 per cent chance to lead a weak La Nina from February to April and a 60 per cent chance to happen neutral climate from March to May, he said referring to NOAA - Climate Prediction Centre CPC's announcement issued on 13 January.

Under the announcement, the duration of Myanmar's winter will be longer and cold until early March 2025, he said. — MT/ZS



# 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)*

## Continuous study of military strategies, ...

### FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General accompanied by Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, inspected the local training depot in Taungnyo Station and Tatmadaw TV Broadcasting Unit (Taungnyo) of Nay Pyi Taw Command.

At the meeting hall, the commandant of the depot reported on the brief history of the depot, conducting training courses, operation of agricultural and livestock farms of the depot and welfare measures.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General stressed the need to give physical training to trainees depending on their age and rank.

He underscored that Tatmadaw members have to continuously research, study, and expand the teachings on evolving military strategies, weaponry, and military sciences that have advanced with the passage of time, to systematically produce qualified trainees capable of serving the defence and security of the State.

The Senior General viewed round the booths of the depot and lecture halls and left necessary guidance.

In meeting with Tatmadaw members, families and trainees at the training department, the Senior General urged them to constantly study the development of military science, take training to have better skills in military tactics and follow the prescribed rules and regulations.

He continued that as today is the age of knowledge, all Tatmadaw members have to accumulate knowledge from internet pages and books for the



State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing joins Tatmadaw members and service personnel for lunch at the Tatmadaw TV Broadcasting Unit (Taungnyo).

development of their lives and the improvement of individual capacity.

The Senior General noted that administrative leaders need to correctly fulfil the deserved rights of individual Tatmadaw members and resolve their requirements.

The Senior General highlighted that officers and other ranks are diligently serving their duties in national defence and security on the front lines of the battlefield while families are supporting them.

He expressed his appreciation for the efforts of those serving in national defence and ensuring the security of the nation and its people.

He added that if one adheres to the rules and regulations set forth by Tatmadaw and conducts themselves as a disciplined and exemplary soldier, they will be able to perform their duties

diligently and with satisfaction in their working environment, fostering a sense of happiness and fulfilment.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members, families and trainees of the depot to the station commander and cordially greeted them.

At Tatmadaw TV Broadcasting Unit (Taungnyo), the Senior General had lunch together with Tatmadaw members and service personnel.

The commandant of the Tatmadaw TV Broadcasting Unit reported on the brief history of the unit, accomplishment of the guidance of the Head of State, and broadcasting of news and other programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General underlined that in carrying out broadcasting operations, it is essential to observe and study the broad-

casts of other local and international news agencies to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their own broadcasts, derive lessons, and take action to improve and enhance broadcasting activities.

He gave guidance that the unit needs to broadcast programmes on health knowledge, and agricultural and livestock techniques for the people.

The Senior General viewed round the screening of a health knowledge programme, news reading, and other operations and gave instructions to relevant sections.

He inspected the site chosen for the construction of the TV Museum and responded to the reports of officials.

In meeting with Tatmadaw members and service personnel from the Tatmadaw TV Broadcasting Unit, the Senior General stressed that this era is the age

of technology, an era of AI, and it is essential to continuously learn and adapt in alignment with the evolving times.

He underscored that broadcasting activities should be carried out with a broad perspective, contributing to the nation's interests by disseminating valuable knowledge and necessary information to the public. Tatmadaw members of the unit have to accumulate knowledge and share it with the audiences.

To effectively carry out the duties assigned, he pointed out that it is necessary to analyze and explore ways to perform tasks successfully, thereby contributing to the overall progress of the entire operation.

After the meeting, the Senior General presented foodstuffs and cash awards for Tatmadaw members and service personnel from the unit to the commandant. — MNA/TTA



# NATIONAL



The Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods meeting 1/2025 in progress yesterday, chaired by SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo.

## Deputy PM MoTC Union Minister calls for efficient trade flow

THE first meeting of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods was held yesterday at the Union Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, who chairs the committee, attended the meeting and delivered a speech.

In his address, the Deputy

Prime Minister emphasized the importance of expediting and facilitating trade operations. Attendees presented and discussed matters related to ensuring the accuracy and efficiency of trade and goods flow within relevant sectors.

General Mya Tun Oo then provided extra comments, summarized the meeting and officially concluded the session.

— MNA/KZL

## Saleaintan Beach sees increased visitors on day trips from Yangon

MORE people are visiting the Saleaintan Beach in Yangon Region, a day trip from Yangon City, than ever before, according to an official from the Kanzasat Restaurant.

It is visited by people from nearby areas as well as Yangon, and the most visitors are on weekends, and public holidays, he said.

“This beach is the closest to Yangon, so people visit it all year round, and it is most crowded on weekends and public holidays. Some trips are far away, so this nearby beach attracts a lot of attention. It is a short trip in a day. Some people also visit Twante and nearby pagodas. They check when the water is high and come to swim at high tide. There are hundreds of tourists on weekends,” he said.

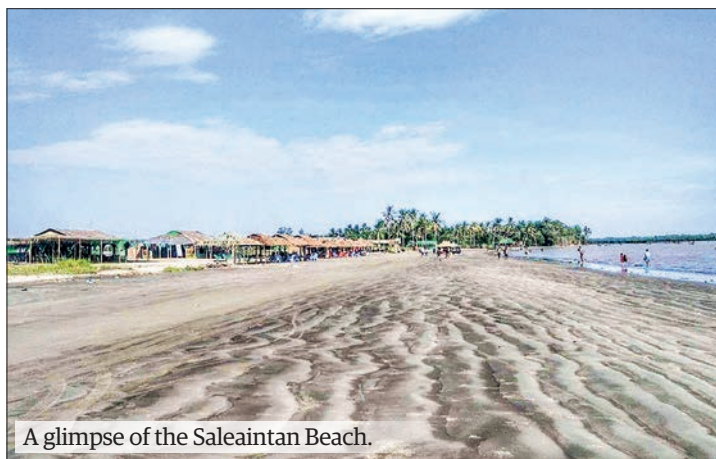
There are many visitors every year during festivals, and it is expected to be more crowded during the Thingyan.

The tide is highest during the full moon and the new moon, and those who plan to swim and play on the beach should call ahead to inquire about the tides before visiting.

“The one thing about this beach is you can only swim at high tide. People who come without knowing it have to wait for high tide and they can wait while eating at seafood shops. Now, there are more visitors. Our restaurant is more crowded. The tide is highest on full moon and no-

moon days,” he said.

The Saleaintan Beach Resort is located in Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region, and is only about 60 miles from Yangon. It takes two and a half hours by car from Yangon (Dala) and Hlinethaya Highway Bus Terminal to reach it, and it is only about 20 miles from Kungyangon. Now, YBS buses from Dala are running to Kawhmu and Kungyangon towns, so people can visit the beach by YBS buses. — MT/ZN



A glimpse of the Saleaintan Beach.

## SAC Chairman's Office Ministry 2 Union Minister receives UNOCHA Head of Office



The UNOCHA Office Head calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing.

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister of the Ministry 2 at the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council received Mr Sajjad Mohammad Sajid, Head of Office of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) yesterday at the State Administration Council Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially discussed

extending humanitarian assistance to those in need, to provide proper support to affected people, in doing so, the government and international agencies should foster mutual understanding to strengthen cooperation and coordination and expand ongoing humanitarian assistance in 2025. — MNA

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# NATIONAL

## MoI Union Minister inspects printing houses, discusses 2024 Film Academy Awards

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the printing of school textbooks at the printing houses of the Department of Printing and Publishing in Insein Township, Yangon yesterday.

At the meeting hall of the GTC Printing House, the director-general of the department explained the printing processes of Aung San, GTC and Sarpay Beikman printing houses.

The Union minister said the offers to print are received from various ministries including the Ministry of Education, and so it needs to complete the printing processes in time. All should work together when facing the challenges. The staff also should need to work with full responsibility, accountability, understanding and trust at various levels. Moreover, they need to know the



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks at the coordination meeting on the 2024 Myanmar Film Academy Award Ceremony.

current situation of the country.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn then observed the three printing houses.

He addressed the coordination meeting on the 2024 Myanmar Film Academy Award Ceremony held at the meeting hall

of the Bahan Township IPRD on the same evening.

At the meeting, he urged the attendees to participate in dis-

cussing the completed plans for Myanmar Film Academy Award Ceremony 2024 and ongoing work plans.

He appreciated the efforts of various organizations for the coming ceremony using the experiences gained from the previous Film Academy Award ceremony.

He instructed the attendees to make proper arrangements for transport, accommodation, health and food as elderly artistes were invited to the event. He called for proper coordination of subcommittees to complete the work in time for the ceremony.

After hearing the reports of the IPRD director-general, the chairman of Myanmar Motion Pictures Organizations and attendees, the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

## Golden Palace Monastery preserved in authentic style

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay Branch) continues the preservation of Golden Palace Monastery in its original artworks of the Yadanabon era for public observation in Mandalay, according to Daw San San Pyone, staff officer of the department. Among the work plans for this year, the department completed

six repair works- recreating the signboard letters in front of the Monastery, renewing the historical documents of the palace, applying oil dregs underneath the pillars, conserving the pillars at the western and eastern chambers of Satawun Hall, replacing the damaged pillars and pruning.

“The king donated the Shwenandaw Kyaung, so it is one

of the first-class ancient monasteries. The department conducts conservation works every year. We explain the historical importance to the local and foreign travellers. The palace survived intact during the Second World War. It offers an opportunity to study ten Myanmar traditional arts just in one place. Therefore, I would like to invite all domestic



Myanmar handicraft artisans diligently restoring the Golden Palace Monastery.



The majestic beauty of the Golden Palace Monastery.

and foreign travellers, students from universities, colleges and basic education schools,” she said.

The 10 Jataka stories of Buddha are depicted on teak plates, which are six feet long and three feet thick, sticking on the pillars of the shrine room of the palace, and they are fenced to prevent people from touching them.

“The Department of Archaeology and National Museum conserved the Shwenandaw in 1995. The entrance fee is K500 per head for locals and free for

children under 12, while K15,000 per head for foreigners. The admission is free for students,” she continued.

The Shwenandaw was situated in the Myanansan Shwenandaw compound and separate hall of King Mindon. After the death of King Mindon in 1878, King Thibaw, son of King Mindon, rebuilt the palace at the current site in 1883. The 150 pillars span 116 feet from east to west, 71 feet from south to north, and stand 60 feet tall. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/KTZH



# NATIONAL

## 'Art of Cloud' team donates K110 mln on behalf of fans



Cast and crew members of the 'Art of Cloud' movie donating alms cash.

THE cast and crew of the film 'Tein Pachi' (Art of Cloud) donated K110 million as an electricity donation to the Aungmyay Zeyyanizawtayama Monastery (Thitaga) in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, on 20 January.

The donation was made on behalf of the audience who supported the film. Brave Empire Entertainment and Production, the director and actors participated in the charitable event, according to actor Aye Chan Maung.

"On behalf of the audience who supported and enjoyed the movie, Brave Empire Entertainment and Production family including the producer, director and actors donated K110 million to assist in the construction of a new monastery in Bago. This donation specifically covers the cost

of electricity installation. May all the viewers who watched the movie equally share in this merit," said actor Aye Chan Maung.

The 'Art of Cloud' film is an adaptation of a renowned novel by Ham Sai (Saymann). The screenplay was written by Aye Thiri Ko and the film was directed by Pwint Theingi Zaw (Aryon Oo).

The movie features a stellar cast including Aye Chan Maung, Academy Award winner Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi, Nay Myo Aung, Si Phyo, Nyi Nanda, Academy Award winner Melody, and Hnin Ya, artistes among others. It has also been included in the list of 18 films shortlisted for the second round of judging for the 2024 Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy Awards. — ASH/KZL

## MoE to research new oil and gas fields in 2025

THE Ministry of Energy says it will conduct a series of studies and research to discover new oil and gas fields in 2025.

In line with the Ministry of Energy's goal of '2025, the Year of Myanmar Energy', field research will be conducted in collaboration with relevant universities to discover new oil and gas reservoirs and sedimentary basins by 2025, while also producing project-based research papers in partnership with these institutions.

In addition, research and laboratory work will be systematically carried out to obtain quality and accurate results, which are the most important factors in oil and natural gas exploration and testing.

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Energy are currently collaborating to introduce a four-year degree

This photo showcases an oil field.



course in Petroleum Geology at Yenangyoung University in Magway Region for the 2025-2026 academic year, with stakeholders providing support to enhance the capabilities of the next generation of geologists, petroleum engineers, and mechanical and chemical engineers, while arrangements

will also be made to provide stipends to students based on their subjects.

The ministry will also coordinate the appointment of individuals who have obtained degrees in energy-related subjects, should they wish to serve in the Ministry of Energy. — ASH/TH

## Monthly palm oil sales for pensioners in Yangon Region

ACCORDING to the Association of Edible Oil Merchants and Dealers, palm oil was sold to retired government employees in Yangon Region at nine branches of the Myanmar Economic Bank from 22 to 24 January.

It has also been announced that palm oil will be

made available to pensioners monthly, with each individual permitted to purchase up to three visses at K8,500 per viss.

With over 100,000 pensioners in Yangon Region, it is estimated that between 80,000 and 100,000 visses of palm oil will be sold to them each month. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows palm oil being sold to retired civil servants at a branch of the Myanmar Economic Bank.

### Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](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

## Happy 'Spring Festival' celebrated at GESC Chinese Language Centre with cultural heritage programme



ACCORDING to the Chinese Embassy in Yangon, the GESC Chinese Language Centre organised the "Happy Spring Festival" event on 19 January, which featured the programme "Intangible Cultural Heritage Comes to Life in Schools" as part of the celebrations.

Chinese diplomats, members

This photo shows the "Happy Spring Festival" campaign activities.

of the Yangon-based China Media Group's information team, and teachers and students from the language centre attended the event.

The festival included various activities, such as a general knowledge quiz on intangible cultural heritage, student performances showcasing singing and dancing talents, and a segment on speaking Chinese with a tongue twister challenge. — ASH/MKKS



## DICA report: 19,000 companies fail to submit AR in 2024

A total of 19,000 companies were struck off the register in 2024 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

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

DICA notified those companies failing to file their AR on the MyCO were struck off the register from the directive date under 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law.

A total of 6,400 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2023. Companies were registered and re-registered on the MyCO website on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law



The facade of the DICA office in Yangon.

2017.

Under Section 97 of the law, all registered companies must submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one

month after the anniversary of the incorporation).

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneous-

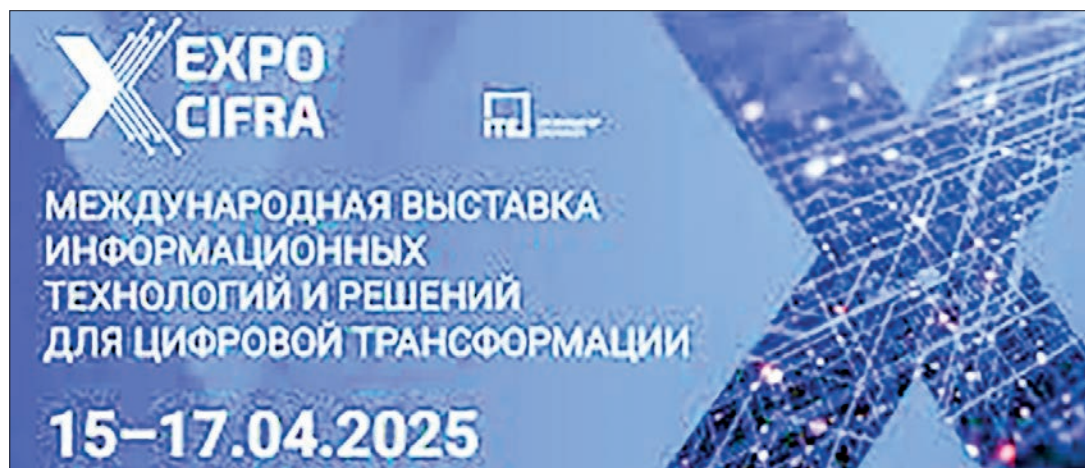
ly. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thou-

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

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

## Russian IT, electronic expos welcome Myanmar business delegates



MYANMAR business delegates have been invited to participate in the 27<sup>th</sup> Expo Electronica 2025, co-located with Expo CIFRA 2025 in Moscow, Russia, on 15-17 April 2025.

It is the largest international exhibition of electronics in Russia and Eurasian European Union states, attracting many exhibitors and visitors and bringing together developers, manufacturers, distributors, and end users of electronic components, service organizations, and other industry representatives interested in

promoting and purchasing relevant products.

The expo is aimed to host over 800 exhibitors from 20 foreign countries and 70 areas of Russia and 23,000 visitors. Russia will participate in the expo with 400 booths.

Expo CIFRA is a platform for specialists related to information technology. Suppliers of software and hardware, automation systems, software developers, solution providers in the field of information technology security, manufacturers of computer systems, equipment

for navigation, communication, landing, surveillance and automation of air traffic control and many others will showcase their products, services and solutions.

Myanmar business delegates can enquire about further information through Rimma Mangusheva's email Rimma.Mangusheva@ite.group and +7 9691927545, and register through the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

## CBM sells 800,000 yuan on 21 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold 800,000 yuan on 21 January after sales of 1.91 million baht on 20 January.

CBM injected \$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, the 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 currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been collaborating 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



# OPINION

## Conduct research process under ethics

RESEARCH plays a crucial role in shaping health policies and improving healthcare systems. Findings from health-related research congresses provide solid and reliable data that guide the development of policies and strategies to enhance public health outcomes. These results contribute to better healthcare initiatives, ensuring accessible and quality healthcare for all individuals.

To maintain good health and promote longevity, it is essential to encourage the consumption of nutritious foods and the adoption of healthy lifestyles. Advancing practical health research in these

areas and widely disseminating findings are key to raising public awareness and fostering healthier behaviours.

Collaboration with senior practitioners of traditional medicine and the Department of Traditional Medicine is also necessary for conducting valuable research. This partnership can strengthen traditional practices and promote the international market for traditional medicine products through evidence-based research.

Health policies should be based on accurate, reliable research findings. Researchers must understand the significance of their work and adhere to ethical standards throughout the process. This commitment to research ethics is vital for maintaining the integrity of health-related studies and ensuring that decisions benefit

the public. As researchers need to take care of their findings which are essential for the improvement of the health standard of society, they have to conduct any health research through collaborative efforts to achieve deserved success.

Encouraging the next generation of researchers is essential for fostering a thriving research culture. Efforts should focus on promoting the involvement of young people and intellectuals in health research. Moreover, the organization of research advisory committees and the strengthening of research ethics boards will support the growth and sustainability of research activities. Health authorities and any bodies concerning the research process have to oversee the findings of researchers whether they follow the research's ethics or not.

Health research should prioritize the improvement of public health standards. This includes basic healthcare improvement, promoting healthy living, understanding communicable and non-communicable diseases, and implementing preventive measures. Further research into traditional medicine and international collaborations will advance these goals.

As such, research findings must be shared promptly with the public through health research congresses and publications. This ensures that the public is informed about health developments. Practical research focused on medical treatment and hospital management should be enhanced to achieve optimal health outcomes. Health policies should reflect the best available evidence, ensuring everyone has access to high-quality healthcare and promoting ongoing improvements in the healthcare sector.

MYANMAR idioms are beautiful expressions embedded in everyday language, rich in cultural meaning and offering insightful perspectives on life, relationships, and human behaviour.

စည်းလွတ်ဝါးလွတ် / hacaee-lwat wah-lwat/

- Out of beat of cymbal and bamboo clapper

### Rhythm and discipline essential

In Myanmar, when a song is sung, the singer must stay in rhythm with musicians playing small cymbals and bamboo clappers. If the singer loses the timing, it's seen as a sign of poor training. Similarly, someone acting without principle or proper behaviour is called "out of beat" like the singer.

In Myanmar, traditional music requires singers to stay in rhythm with musicians playing cymbals and bamboo clappers.

These instruments create a steady beat, and the singer needs to stay on time. If the singer loses rhythm, it shows a lack of training or discipline. This idea also applies to everyday life.

When someone behaves wrongly or doesn't follow social rules, they are called "out of beat," just like a singer who can't stay in rhythm. This term reminds people of the importance of acting with respect, following rules, and maintaining harmony in life, just as they would in music. Staying in beat – whether in music or behaviour – helps create smooth and respectful interactions in society.

စည်းဝါး(၄)မျိုး

မြန်မာ့ဂီတတွင် အခြေခံအားဖြင့် စည်းဝါး(၄)မျိုး ခွဲခြားထားသည်။၎င်းတို့မှာ- (၁) ဝါးလတ်စည်း၊ (၂) နာရီစည်း၊ (၃) စုံစည်း နှင့် (၄) စည်းသုတ် တို့ဖြစ်ကြသည်။ ဝါးလတ်စည်းသည် အခြေခံအကျဆုံးသောစည်း ဖြစ်သည်။

ရစ်သစ် Rhythm သည် မြန်မာဂီတတွင် အလွန်အရေးကြီးပါသည်။ သီချင်းကို စည်းစနစ်တကျနှင့် သာယာစေရန် ကူညီပေးသည်။ လမ်းကြောင်းမှန်ပေါ် တေးသွား ရှိစေသည်။ မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာဂီတတွင် စည်းမကျိုးအောင် ထိန်းသိမ်းရပါသည်။

- စကားကို ထင်ရာမြင်ရာ စည်းလွတ်ဝါးလွတ် မပြောသင့်ပါ....
- ချစ်သူစုံတွဲတွေ စည်းလွတ်ဝါးလွတ် ပျော်မနေကြနဲ့....
- စည်းလွတ်ဝါးလွတ် အတွေးအခေါ်တွေကို လက်မခံသင့်ပါ....

### USAGES:

#### Out of sync

Definition: When something or someone is not in harmony or working together with the rest.

Example: "Her movements were out of sync with the music, making her performance look awkward."

#### Off-key

Definition: When someone's actions or behaviour are not in line with expected standards or norms.

Example: "His comments were off-key during the meeting, and they made everyone uncomfortable."

#### Hit the wrong note

Definition: To make a mistake or say something inappropriate in a particular situation.

Example: "John really hit the wrong note when he brought up politics at the dinner table."

#### On the same wavelength

Definition: When two or more people share the same thoughts, ideas, or understanding.

Example: "When we brainstormed, we were on the same wavelength and came up with great ideas."

#### In Harmony

Definition: When things or people are in agreement or working together smoothly.

Example: "The team worked in harmony to finish the project on time."

#### March to the beat of one's own drum

Definition: To do things in one's own way, even if it's different from how others do them.

Example: "He doesn't care what anyone thinks; he marches to the beat of his own drum."

# Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

BY AUGUSTIN

### One size fits all

Definition: A solution or approach that is suitable for all situations or people.

Example: "The new software is designed to be one size fits all, adaptable to any business model."

to them.

Example: "He's a square peg in a round hole, trying to work in a job that doesn't match his skills."

### Barking up the wrong tree

Definition: To make a mistake or pursue a misguided course of action.

Example: "If you think she'll change her mind, you're barking up the wrong tree."

### Under the weather

Definition: Not feeling well or being in a bad state of health or mood.

Example: "I'm feeling a bit under the weather today, so I'll stay home."



စည်းလွတ်ဝါးလွတ် / hacaee-lwat wah-lwat/

စွယ်စုံ

/swe-son/

အစွယ်နှစ်ချောင်းရှိသောဆင်။ တောင်ခြေရင်းဝယ် စွယ်စုံတစ်စီး ရတော်မူ၏..... လေ့လာမှုနယ်ပယ်များစွာတွင် ကျွမ်းကျင်သူ

The Myanmar word "စွယ်စုံ" refers to something or someone versatile, multifaceted, and adaptable. It is used to describe entities with many aspects or roles that can be performed effectively.

This term can also mean "encyclopedic" or "comprehensive," suggesting something that includes a wide range of topics or information. For example, "စွယ်စုံကျမ်း" (sway-zun kyan) refers to an "encyclopedia," a collection of diverse knowledge, while "စွယ်စုံပညာရှင်" (sway-zun panyar-shin) describes a "polymath," a person with expertise in multiple fields.

In Myanmar culture, the term holds high regard as it signifies a well-rounded understanding, the ability to perform in various roles, and the capacity to adapt to different situations. The concept of "စွယ်စုံ" emphasizes breadth and depth, representing a holistic, inclusive approach to knowledge, skills, and creativity.

### USAGES:

#### Jack of all trades, master of none

Definition: Someone who is skilled in many different areas but does not specialize in one.

Example: "She's a jack of all trades, master of none, but she's great at everything she does."

#### Renaissance man/woman

Definition: A person with expertise in many areas, typically someone with a broad range of knowledge or skills.

Example: "Leonardo da Vinci was a true Renaissance man, excelling in art, science, and engineering."

#### A little bit of everything

Definition: Involvement in a variety of different tasks, interests, or skills.

Example: "He does a little bit of everything—coding, writing, and teaching."

#### To wear many hats

Definition: To take on multiple roles or responsibilities.

Example: "As a manager, she wears many hats—planning, budgeting, and team coordination."

#### The whole package

Definition: Someone who possesses many qualities or skills that make them well-rounded.

Example: "He's the whole package: talented, hard-working, and a natural leader."

#### Know-it-all

Definition: A person who claims to know a lot about many things, sometimes to the point of being annoying.

Example: "She's a bit of a know-it-all, always sharing random facts at the dinner table."



စုန်းပြူး /hsone pyau/



စွယ်စုံ /swe-son/

### Strike the right chord

Definition: To do or say something that is well-received or appropriate for the situation.

Example: "Her speech about climate change struck the right chord with the audience."

စုန်းပြူး

/hsone pyau/

အများနှင့်မတူ တစ်စုံကွဲလွဲဖောက်ပြန်မှု မာကျောသော ပုံစံ ရေစိမ့်ပြီးသည့်တိုင်/ ချက်ပြုတ်ပြီးသည့်တိုင် မကျက်သေးသော ပဲစေ့ကို ရည်ညွှန်းသည်။

သိုးမည်း သို့မဟုတ် အကျင့်ပျက်သူ- သွေဖည်သူ၊ အကျင့်ပျက်ခြစားသူ သို့မဟုတ် လူ့အဖွဲ့အစည်း၏ စံနှုန်းများအပြင်တက်တွင်ရှိသူကို ဆိုလိုသည်။ ထူးထူးခြားခြား မူမမှန်သူကို မှောဆရာပိုင်ဆိုင်သော ပဲစေ့ဟု ခေါ်သည်။

### Seed possessed by a wizard

If a bean seed remains hard and does not soften even when boiled, it is believed to be possessed by a wizard. Similarly, anyone who is unusually abnormal or acts in a peculiar manner is referred to as a "seed possessed by a wizard." This term is also used to describe a tense woman who is troubled by the absence of a partner.

In some cultures, the idea of a "seed possessed by a wizard" is used as a metaphor for something that does not behave as expected or is difficult to change.

If a bean seed remains hard even after boiling, it is believed to be under the influence of a wizard, as it refuses to soften like other seeds. This belief extends to people who display unusual or abnormal behaviour.

When someone acts peculiarly or stubbornly and doesn't conform to social norms, they might be referred to as a "seed possessed by a wizard."

Additionally, the term is also used to describe a woman who is tense or uneasy due to the absence of a partner. In both cases, the term implies a sense of unnaturalness or something being out of balance, as if under an external, mysterious influence that prevents normal behaviour or emotional peace.

- ချို ကတစ်ထူး၊ ကံစုန်းပြူးနှင့်၊ ဉာဏ်ရူးမွဲတေ.....
- ကျွန်တော်တို့ရဲ့ မိသားစုမှာ သူက စုန်းပြူး.....
- သူက စုန်းပြူး ပါပဲ.....
- ကျွန်တော် စုန်းပြူးကို ကြောက်တယ်.....

### USAGES:

#### A hard nut to crack

Definition: A person or problem that is difficult to understand or solve.

Example: "John is a hard nut to crack; no one can figure out what he wants."

#### Out of sorts

Definition: Feeling unwell, irritable, or in a bad mood.

Example: "She's been out of sorts ever since the breakup."

#### March to the beat of your own drum

Definition: To do things in your own way, regardless of others' opinions.

Example: "He's always marching to the beat of his own drum, refusing to follow the crowd."

#### Off the rails

Definition: Acting in a way that is unusual or unacceptable, often in a chaotic or erratic manner.

Example: "Since his promotion, his behaviour has gone off the rails."

#### A square peg in a round hole

Definition: Someone who is in a situation or role that is not suited



# NATIONAL

## Tatmadaw vessels offer medical services to Patoke, Kyaiklat in Ayeyawady Region



Dynamic activities of Tatmadaw hospital ships providing medical services to Patoke Village, Kyaiklat Township.

TWO Tatmadaw vessels — the Shwepuzun and the Saku — arrived in Patoke Village, Kyaiklat Township, Ayeyawady Region, with Tatmadaw doctors, specialists and medical officers

to provide healthcare services to the locals. The medical team was warmly welcomed by local officials, Tatmadaw personnel, town elders, teachers and students.

The medic teams stationed at Basic Education Middle School (branch) in Patoke village and conducted health services for 495 locals from the town and surrounding villages.

The services included treatments for 205 individuals with general illnesses, 27 with surgical conditions, 17 with obstetric or gynaecological issues, 39 with paediatric diseases,

47 with orthopaedic issues, 32 with ENT conditions, 83 with eye diseases and 45 with dental problems.

In turn, 13 general surgery patients underwent procedures while two patients received eye surgery, 18 received X-ray tests, 31 were tested in ultrasound and 29 had ECGs performed to assess heart conditions. Furthermore, 49 patients underwent laboratory testing and seven individuals requiring hospital care were referred to nearby Tatmadaw hospitals and general hospitals for further treatment.

The relevant military personnel observed the medical services and comforted the locals under medical treatment. — MNA/KTZH

### Counter-argument to false information

## Media falsely accuse security forces of Yinmabin mortar attack

ACCORDING to reports, malicious media outlets falsely claimed that a shelling by security forces on 19 January set fire to and destroyed an oil mill warehouse in Kyaukhmaw Village, Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region.

Regarding this allegation, a relevant security official clarified that security forces do not conduct any attacks in villages or areas inhabited by local civilians, as these are not military targets. Instead, terrorists have been using various pretexts to launch mortar and drone attacks on villages and wards lacking support for their activities, spreading fear and chaos among residents.



This screenshot invalidates misinformation.

In this instance, the official noted that mortars fired by terrorists struck the village, causing explosions that led to the destruction of homes. Furthermore, it is believed that malicious media outlets are deliberately spreading false narratives to cover up the terrorists' actions and mislead the public into forming a negative perception of security forces. — MNA/MKKS

## Tatmadaw vessel delivers healthcare to Kyunsu residents



Kyunsu locals receiving healthcare services.

THE Thanlwin Tatmadaw vessel, staffed by specialists, doctors and nurses gave healthcare services to 149 residents in Kyunsu Township and near-

by villages yesterday. The ship was stationed at the Kyunsu General Administration Department office in Taninthayi Region as part of its mission

to support communities along the Taninthayi coastline.

Medical care included 69 internal medicine cases, 10 surgical cases, six obstetrics and gynaecology cases, 20 paediatric cases, 13 orthopaedic cases, one (eye, nose and throat) ENT case, 13 ophthalmology cases and 17 dental cases. Electrocardiogram (ECG) tests were conducted for 10 patients while laboratory tests were provided for another 10 individuals.

One patient requiring further treatment was referred to a nearby Tatmadaw hospital, ensuring all necessary medical support was extended to the community. — MNA/KZL

### Gold Market Rate as of 22 January 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,450,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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.



BRIEF: LIFESTYLE

### France warns of surge in 'aphrodisiac honey'

FRENCH customs officials said Monday that they had seized tonnes of illegally imported honey touted as an all-natural sexual enhancement -- but often tainted with erectile dysfunction drugs -- were seized in the country last year.

The packets of honey and gels, sold as "shots" or "sticks" with names like Black Horse or Bio Max, are often sold surreptitiously in clubs and other nightlife spots.

French customs said they had seized the "aphrodisiac honey" after checks on 31,000 tonnes of honey consignments mainly entering by ship from countries including Malaysia, Turkiye, Tunisia and Thailand.

Use of the "aphrodisiac honey" has increased in recent years, with officials warning of potentially serious health risks from ingredients not listed on the labels. — AFP

## Japan 2024 convenience stores sales at record high on inbound tourism

SALES from seven major Japanese convenience store chains hit a record high of 11.8 trillion yen (\$75.5 billion) in 2024, bolstered by inbound tourism and demand for readily consumable snacks and drinks, data by a Japanese franchising authority showed Monday.

The sales were up 1.2 per cent from the previous year, marking a third consecutive year of record highs. The number of stores in the country stood at 55,736 as of December, inching up 23 from a year ago, according to the report by the Japan Franchise Association.

Although the number of store visitors in 2024 increased by 1.2 per cent to 16.4 billion people, customers felt the pinch of rising prices, and the average amount spent in a single convenience store run was 720.2 yen, down 0.05 per cent from the previous year, the data showed.

Hot weather boosted soft drink sales while over-the-counter foods such as onigiri rice balls and fried snacks also saw a rise in sales.

"The increase in visitors from overseas was a factor that lifted sales," an association official said. — Kyodo

## Marcos denounces 'woke' sex education bill in Catholic Philippines

*The bill, known as the "Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy" bill, aims to address high rates of teen pregnancies and sexual assault of minors by making comprehensive sexuality education compulsory in schools*

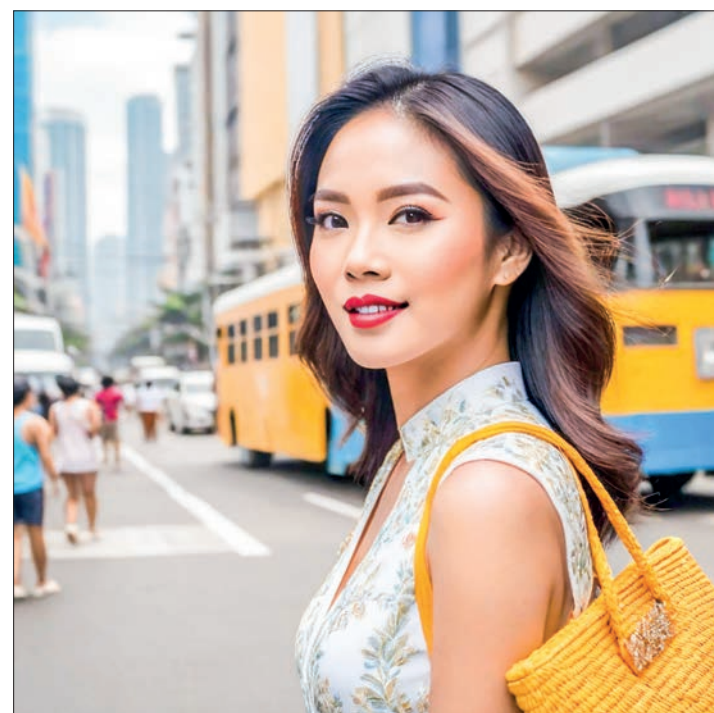
PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand Marcos denounced on Monday a proposed law to make sex education mandatory in schools in the conservative mainly Catholic nation, alleging it would teach four year-olds to pleasure themselves.

Marcos vowed to veto the bill in the event it hurdles Congress, blaming people with a "woke" mentality for what he said was an "abhorrent" and "ridiculous" idea.

Legislators backing the "Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy" bill said making it a mandatory subject in schools would help address a high rate of teen pregnancies, as well as sexual assault of minors.

"Over the weekend, I finally read in detail Senate Bill 1979. And I was shocked, and I was appalled by some of the -- some of the elements of that," Marcos told reporters.

"You will teach four-year-



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr recently denounced a proposed law to make sex education mandatory in schools. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

olds how to masturbate.

That every child has the right to try different sexualities. This is ridiculous," Marcos said.

"If this bill is passed in that form, I guarantee all parents, teachers, and children: I will immediately veto it." — AFP



## Singapore tightens screen time rules for children

SINGAPORE has introduced stricter measures to regulate screen use among children in schools and preschools as part of a broader multi-ministry health initiative launched on Tuesday.

From 1 February preschools will enforce updated rules ban-

ning screen use for children under 18 months and limiting it to teaching and learning purposes for those aged 18 months to six years, according to a joint statement by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Social and Family Development.

Educators will also be guided to prioritize "meaningful experiences" over sedentary activities such as prolonged screen time and sitting.

Primary and secondary

schools have implemented similar measures, requiring students to store their phones in designated areas during lessons and restricting device use to specific times and locations, such as during recess or after school.

The Ministry of Health has also revised its recommendations for parents, advising less than one hour of screen time per day for children aged three to six and less than two hours for those aged seven to 12, excluding schoolwork. — Xinhua

Excessive screen time can harm children's cognitive development, language skills, mental well-being, and physical health. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY



## ECONOMY WORLD

# US President Donald Trump announces plans to impose 25% tariffs on Mexico, Canada from 1 Feb

*Trump claimed that the US is subsidizing Canada by US\$200 to 250 billion a year and that Canada has taken about 20 per cent of America's car business.*

US President Donald Trump announced that his administration is planning to impose 25 per cent tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada from 1 February, The Hill reported.

When asked about his thought process of putting tariffs on two nations while signing executive orders, Trump responded, "We are thinking in terms of 25 per cent on Mexico and Canada because they're allowing vast numbers of people ... to come in,

and fentanyl to come in."

When asked about the timeline, he said, "I think we'll do it 1 February."

During the final days of the 2024 campaign, Trump had threatened to impose a tariff of 25 per cent on all imports from Mexico, which is the top trade partner with the US, unless the Mexican government reduced the flow of migrants at the southern border, according to The Hill report.

He also threatened to impose tariffs on imports from Canada and China. He has indicated that he intends to double down on the use of tariffs, claiming that US will benefit financially even as experts warn it would amount to a tax on consumers.

On 9 January, Trump highlighted how tariffs on Canada will eventually be imposed and brought to attention the "massive deficits" the US is having from Canada. — ANI



Trump expressed a preference for car manufacturing to be done in the US, specifically in places like Detroit or South Carolina, rather than relying on Canada. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE**

## Unmanned driving reshapes China's high-altitude mining industry

AT the Yulong Copper Mine in Qamdo, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, perched 5,000 metres above sea level on the rugged Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, ore transport trucks glide over gravel roads, winding through snow-dusted mountains and the thinning air.

Despite the harsh conditions, these trucks continue their journey unimpeded -- remarkably, without a single driver behind the wheel -- thanks to

a groundbreaking autonomous driving project launched just three months ago.

The initiative is part of China's ambitious drive for unmanned, eco-friendly smart mines, marking a significant leap forward in modernizing the high-altitude mining industry. By enhancing efficiency and reducing environmental impact, the project paves the way for a new era of mining in one of the world's most chal-

lenging environments.

Officially launched on 29 September 2024, the autonomous driving project is a collaborative effort between Xizang Yulong Copper Mining Co., Ltd. under the Western Mining Co., Ltd., China Railway 19th Bureau Group Co., Ltd., and Huawei. This is the world's first unmanned transportation system in an open-pit mine with an altitude above 5,000 meters. — Xinhua



This undated handout photo shows hybrid autonomous trucks at the Yulong Copper Mine in Qamdo, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: WESTERN MINING CO., LTD./HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### S Korea unveils huge export finance support, citing Trump risks

SOUTH KOREA unveiled a \$250 billion support package for its exporters Monday, citing the risk of possible tariffs by incoming US president Donald Trump.

The announcement comes hours after the central bank slashed its growth forecasts, pointing to protracted political uncertainty following President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration of martial law last month.

Yoon plunged the country into political chaos with his 3 December attempt to suspend civilian rule, though lawmakers voted it down just six hours later.

He has since been impeached and became the first sitting head of state to be arrested in a criminal probe on insurrection charges. — AFP

#### UAE participates in International Geological Survey Meeting in Riyadh

THE UAE participated in the International Geological Survey Meeting held during the fourth International Mining Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The meeting aimed to strengthen international cooperation in the mining sector and develop geological capabilities to enhance the production of essential minerals that support energy transition and industrial development.

The UAE delegation was led by Ali Qassim, Director-General of the Fujairah Natural Resources Corporation, and included representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure.

Discussions at the meeting focused on key topics, including enhancing capabilities to expand geological surveys, enabling further exploration, and contributing to scientific advancements to address challenges faced by geological survey organisations. — ANI



# Japan healthcare bankruptcies hit record high in 2024 on price hikes

*A total of 786 medical agencies, including health clinics, went out of business, declared bankruptcy, or disbanded, with clinics accounting for 70 per cent of the cases, according to Teikoku Databank Ltd.*

THE number of bankruptcies among medical institutions in Japan reached a record high of 64 in 2024, due in part to price hikes in medicines and equipment, as well as pay increases to secure human resources, a research firm said Wednesday.

In total, 786 medical agencies went out of business, declared bankruptcy or disbanded last year, marking a record high, with health clinics accounting for 70 per cent of the cases, according to

Tokyo-based Teikoku Databank Ltd.

The rise in such incidents was also influenced by a growing number of healthcare providers facing severe cash flow problems caused by income drops in the wake of reduced subsidies related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan's largest research firm said.

By industry, health clinics topped the list with 618 cases, followed by dental clinics with 145 and hospitals with 23. — Kyodo



In 2024, Japan saw a record high of 64 bankruptcies among medical institutions, driven by rising prices for medicines, equipment, and increased wages to attract staff. **PHOTO: ILLUSTRATIVE PHOTO: NODE/PIXTA**

## Citroen extends car recall over airbag danger

FRENCH car maker Citroen is extending across Europe a recall of its popular C3 and DS3 models due to a dangerous fault with Japanese-made airbags, its parent company Stellantis said on Tuesday. The manufacturer said the recall would target vehicles sold in France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Moldova, Switzerland and Ukraine over the coming weeks, and later be extended to other countries. It will affect 869,000 vehicles overall, including 400,000 in France.

Several deaths have been recorded since 2014 involving Takata airbags, which have projected parts into drivers' faces due to a gas inside them reacting to heat and moisture. — AFP

## EV sales slip in Europe in 2024 in overall stable car market

SALES of electric cars slid last year in Europe in an otherwise stable market, data from car-makers showed Tuesday.

A total of 1.99 million battery electric vehicles were sold in Europe last year, a drop of 1.3 per cent from 2023, accord-

ing to data from the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA).

The figures represent a stall after several years of strong growth for electric vehicles (EVs) in Europe, and raise questions about

the transition away from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles.

According to data published last week by the Rho Motion consultancy, EV sales rose 25 per cent globally last year thanks to a surge in China. — AFP



Electric cars have surged in Oslo and across Norway. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Ubisoft shares sink after 'Assassin's Creed' delay

SHARES in troubled French video game giant Ubisoft sank on Friday after the company said it was exploring its options following another delay in its "Assassin's Creed" franchise.

The company's stock price was down almost

eight per cent at 11.39 euros (\$11.7) in morning trading on the Paris stockexchange after falling by around 10 per cent at the opening bell. Ubisoft said after markets closed on Thursday that it was postponing the release of "Assassin's Creed Shadows" by another month to

20 March.

It was originally due to come out in November during the key Christmas shopping season.

The same statement also announced disappointing sales of "Star Wars Outlaws" during the winter holiday season. — AFP

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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.

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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Trump signs executive order ending diversity discrimination in federal government, private sector

*The aim is to eliminate race- and sex-based preferences that Trump believes violate federal civil-rights laws.*

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order on 21 January 2025, titled “Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity”, with the aim of eliminating race- and sex-based preferences that he argues violate longstanding federal civil-rights laws, in an official statement by the White House.

The order challenges current Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies adopted by federal agencies, major corporations, financial institutions, educational institutions, and other key sectors of American society.

Trump asserts that such policies undermine individual merit,

civil rights protections, and the core values of hard work, excellence, and personal achievement.

In the executive order, Trump describes DEI policies as harmful, claiming they foster an “identity-based spoils system” that unfairly prioritises race, sex, and other protected characteristics over merit and qualifications.

He argues that these policies not only violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964 but also threaten the safety and prosperity of American citizens by diminishing the value of individual merit in critical sectors such as law enforcement, medicine, aviation, and government. — ANI



People held LGBTQ+ flags outside the US Supreme Court on 26 June 2015. This was the day the Supreme Court ruled in favour of same-sex marriage, making it legal in all 50 states. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/FILE**

## Prince Harry’s legal battles with the press

PRINCE Harry, a vocal critic of the British media, has pursued multiple legal battles against UK tabloids, seeking accountability for privacy breaches and unethical practices.



Prince Harry has waged a string of legal battles against British tabloids. **PHOTO: AFP**

Prince Harry has had a turbulent relationship with the media and holds the press responsible for the death of his mother Princess Diana, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997 as she fled from paparazzi.

Harry and his wife Meghan in 2020 stepped back from royal duties and relocated to California, in part blaming relentless media attention for their move.

The prince has vowed to make reforming the British media his life’s mission and has waged several battles with UK tabloids over privacy concerns. The High Court in London ruled in December 2023 that Harry was a victim of phone hacking by journalists working for Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN), and awarded him £140,600 (\$179,600) in damages. — AFP

## Indonesia rescuers search for survivors as landslide kills 19

HUNDREDS of rescuers were searching through thick mud and debris to find survivors Wednesday after a rain-triggered landslide in Indonesia killed at least 19 people and left seven missing.

Intense rainfall in a moun-

tainous area near Pekalongan city in Central Java province sparked the landslide on Monday, collapsing bridges and burying cars and houses.

The worst hit area was Kasimpar village according to a local official, with survivors

recounting the horror of the landslide crashing into a coffee shop where people were sheltering from the rain.

“Suddenly there was a sound of an explosion from inside the cafe. So the land exploded. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Air France to resume Tel Aviv flights from 25 Jan

Air France said on Tuesday it would resume flights to Tel Aviv at the weekend after a Gaza ceasefire agreement was announced between Israel and Hamas.

The airline was among several international carriers to suspend Tel Aviv flights in September over fears of escalating violence in the region. Several have resumed flights following the latest Gaza ceasefire.

The Lufthansa group – whose airlines include flagship Lufthansa, Swiss and Eurowings – and Easyjet have also said they plan to resume flights but not until February and June, respectively. The Israel-Hamas ceasefire entered a third day on Tuesday, with humanitarian aid now arriving in Gaza and a first exchange of hostages. — AFP

#### India welcomes Neutral expert’s decision on Indus waters treaty dispute

INDIA has welcomed the decision of the Neutral Expert on the Indus Waters Treaty, which upholds and vindicates its stance regarding the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) shared on Tuesday.

In an official statement, the Ministry said, “The Neutral Expert has issued a press release on 20 January 2025 on his competence to address certain issues related to projects under the Indus Waters Treaty. India welcomes the decision given by the Neutral Expert under Paragraph 7 of Annexure F to the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960. The decision upholds and vindicates India’s stand that all seven (07) questions that were referred to the Neutral Expert, in relation to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects, are differences falling within his competence under the Treaty”. — ANI



# SPORTS

## Dortmund sacks coach Nuri Sahin

BORUSSIA Dortmund has sacked head coach Nuri Sahin with immediate effect due to poor results, the club announced on Wednesday.

After starting the new year with four defeats in a row, BVB officials decided to move on from Sahin. The 36-year-old took over from Edin Terzic just before the start of the season but has since struggled to live up to the high expectations placed on him.

"We hold Nuri Sahin and his work in high esteem and had hoped for a long and successful collaboration, hoping until the very end that we could achieve a sporting turnaround together," said Dortmund sporting director Lars Ricken. "However, after four defeats in a row, only one win in our last nine games and tenth place in the Bundesliga table, we have unfortunately lost faith in our chances of achieving our sporting goals in the current constellation. This decision hurts me personally, but it was unavoidable after the game in Bologna."

Sahin joined BVB in January 2024, initially as Edin Terzic's assistant. He took over in the summer and has since managed just 12 wins in 27 games. Prior to that, he gained coaching experience with Antalyaspor in Turkey.

When Sahin was a player, he began his career at Borussia Dortmund, where he broke through from the youth team to the first team and won a Bundesliga title. — Xinhua



Rangers manager Philippe Clement (2<sup>nd</sup> right) is aiming for a 'special' win at Old Trafford. **PHOTO: AFP**

## 'Worst ever' Man Utd turn to Europa League as saving grace

**B**RANDED possibly the worst Manchester United team in the club's storied history by manager Ruben Amorim, the Red Devils' redemption for a shocking season rests on Europa League success.

A 3-1 home defeat to Brighton that drew Amorim's stinging criticism of the current state of affairs at Old Trafford left United marooned in 13<sup>th</sup> in the Premier League and with little hope of a return to the Champions League next season.

However, winning the Europa League in Bilbao come May is a gateway that United crave back to Europe's elite

competition and would transform the miserable mood that has surrounded Amorim's early months in the job.

The English side sit seventh in the 36-team Europa League table ahead of Thursday's at home to Scottish giants Rangers.

A place in the top eight would secure direct passage to the last 16 and give Amorim some much-needed time on the training ground to embed his style of play.

"Without training it is really hard," said Amorim, who has faced a relentless schedule since taking charge in early November. — AFP

## Inoue unperturbed by month delay to world title defence



Japan's undisputed super bantamweight world champion Naoya Inoue speaks at a press conference in Yokohama on 22 January 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S undisputed super bantamweight champion Naoya Inoue is taking nothing for granted ahead of Friday's title fight against South Korean challenger Kim Ye Joon, who is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> by the WBO.

Speaking at Wednesday's press conference, Inoue said the one-month delay to his bout at Tokyo's Ariake Arena has provided him with a refreshed mindset ahead of the fight with Kim, who will face him instead of Australian Sam Goodman.

"It was a real plus for me to get my body into shape over a longer period of time," said the 31-year-old Inoue, 28-0 in his career with 25 knockouts. "I could realize this was the best way to condition myself."

"I'll give everything I have and fight believing in my 25-year career." — Kyodo

## Dominant Sinner, Swiatek power into Australian Open semis



Iga Swiatek celebrates during the women's singles quarterfinals match between Iga Swiatek of Poland and Emma Navarro of the United States at Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, 22 January 2025. **PHOTO: CHU CHEN/XINHUA**

DEFENDING champion Jannik Sinner shrugged off health concerns with an evisceration of eighth seed Alex de Minaur on Wednesday, while women's second seed Iga Swiatek also stormed into the Australian Open semifinals.

There had been concern over Sinner's fitness after he fought through illness during his gruelling fourth round victory over 13<sup>th</sup> seed Holger Rune.

There was speculation that top seed Sinner might not take his place against de Minaur, but he dispelled those fears with 27 winners in a near flawless 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 victory in one hour and 46 minutes. It was a bitter disappointment for de Minaur, who was Australia's main title hope but he fell well short of his goal of becoming the country's first men's champion since Mark Edmondson in 1976. — Xinhua



Trump signs executive order ending diversity discrimination in federal government, private sector  
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# WORLD

## China always respects Panama's sovereignty over Panama Canal: FM spokesperson

*The Panama Canal is recognized as a neutral international waterway. The Canal is not controlled by any major power, directly or indirectly.*

**C**HINA has not participated in the management and operation of the Panama Canal and has never intervened in the Canal affairs. China consistently respects Panama's sovereignty over the Canal and recognizes the Canal as a permanently neutral international waterway, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Spokesperson Mao Ning made the remarks in response to US President Donald Trump's statement about "retaking" Panama Canal.

China agrees with Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino's statement that the sovereignty and independence of Panama are not negotiable, and that the Canal is not controlled directly or indirectly by any major power, Mao said. — Xinhua



Forty per cent of US container traffic travels through the Panama Canal. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

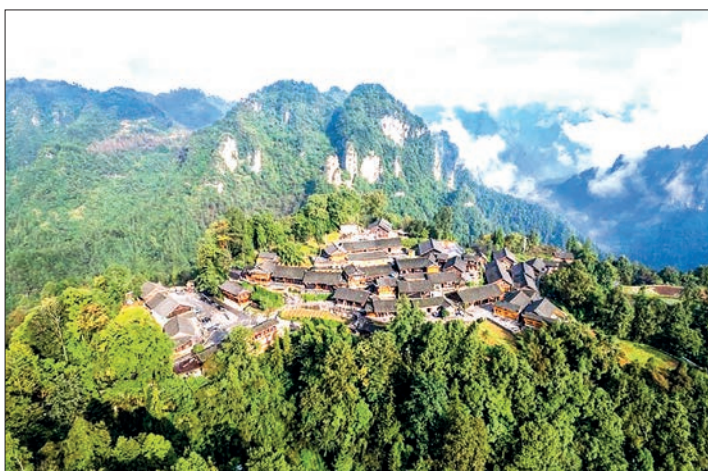
## Global tourism almost returns to pre-pandemic level in 2024

INTERNATIONAL tourist arrivals rose by 11 per cent in 2024, with 1.4 billion people travelling internationally, according to the World Tourism Barometer published by UN

Tourism on Tuesday.

The data, which is published on the eve of the FITUR international tourism exhibition in Madrid, means that numbers have recovered to 99 per cent of levels seen in 2019 just before the COVID-19 pandemic.

UN Tourism Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili welcomed the results. He said: "In 2024, global tourism completed its recovery from the pandemic and, in many places, tourist arrivals and especially earnings are already higher than in 2019." Growth is expected to continue throughout 2025, he said, "driven by strong demand contributing to the socioeconomic development of both mature and emerging destinations." — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 10 October 2023 shows the view of Shibadong Village of Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, central China's Hunan Province. Seven villages in China have been honoured as Best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism) in its 2024 selection  
**PHOTO: CHEN SIHAN/XINHUA**

### PREVENT MISINFORMATION SPREAD

## Japan enlists tech giants to help tackle online disinformation

THE Japanese government launched a project Wednesday to tackle online disinformation in coordination with major tech firms including Google LLC and Japan's NTT Docomo Inc, planning to create a specialized website and producing educational materials.

Titled "Digital Positive Action", the project was created by the communications ministry with the participation of 19 firms and organizations. It aims to stop the spread of false information in a landscape where boosting advertising revenue by gaining more views and engagement is a popular business model.

In addition to outlining disinformation countermeasures

by the participating firms on the website, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will discuss with the public and the private sector how to devise ways for operators to make reliable information more accessible.

"I hope to increase momentum towards a safe and secure information society," parliamentary vice communications minister Hideto Kawasaki said at an event for the project's launch in Tokyo.

"Not only will people develop resistance to disinformation, but they will also become sceptical of the idea that they are allowed to do anything to gain attention," said Keio University graduate school professor Tatsuhiro Yamamoto. — Kyodo