

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

17th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient Sayadaw honoured amidst joy and happiness of disciples

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadde Maha Thray Sithu Thadde Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing on 25 January 2025 offered a congratulatory message to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Setthañanalankara, the 17th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient in the 77th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

I respectfully submit this supplication

I have known that this year's Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is being held at Maha Pasana Cave, which is a prominent monument of the 6th Buddhist Synod on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon at the late of last year and in the early this year.

SEE PAGE 3



This photo shows saltwater prawns, one of Myanmar's exported items. **PHOTO: KANU**

Panamei saltwater prawn farming to be expanded in Taninthayi Region to boost exports

Myanmar exports Panamei saltwater prawns annually, with 5,946.187 tonnes exported by December in the 2024-2025 financial year, according to the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

“To penetrate international markets, it is crucial to raise global awareness of Panamei saltwater prawns. During the 2024-2025 monsoon season, the salinity levels in breeding farms decreased, which slowed prawn growth and led to some disease outbreaks. As a result, prawn farmers are planning to scale back production during the monsoon season of 2025-2026 and increase farming during the summer months. With expanded farming, export volumes are expected to rise. We also anticipate further growth in international market demand,” said U Thet Soe, Secretary of the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

Currently, prawns are exported to China in a boiled form and to Japan in a frozen form. To increase export capacity, breeders

aim to focus more on farming rather than relying solely on marine capture.

Moreover, as Myanmar annually imports prawn larvae and feed from Thailand, producers are trying to establish domestic hatcheries working with technical support of the government. This effort aims to ensure long-term benefits for both the country and local producers.

In the Taninthayi Region, Panamei white prawns are farmed on 2,217.56 acres using the Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) system in Dawei, Kyunsu, Palaw and Kawthoung townships. Expansion is also underway, with an additional 2,662.68 acres in Thayetchaung Township of Dawei District, Myeik, Palaw and Kyunsu townships of Myeik District, Bokpyin Township of Bokpyin District, and Kawthoung Township of Kawthoung District. Furthermore, Kyunsu Township alone has seen an additional 390.12 acres allocated for prawn farming. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KNN

Article

A Green Planet - India leading the way

By Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri

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Funfair and festival market for Chinese New Year in progress in Yangon

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Qualified applicants for Thilawa housing apartments announced

NATIONAL

Government Promotes Political Dialogue to Counter Terrorism and Foster National Peace

A civilized society cannot fully accept resolving armed conflicts through terror attacks without political dialogue. Therefore, insurgents must be recognized as a common enemy, and the government will continue to work towards peace and stability, not only in Shan State (North) but across the entire nation.

(Excerpt from the speech on security conditions of the State delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 6 August 2024.)



National Objectives for 78th Anniversary of Union Day 2025

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

Mottos for 78th Union Day 2025

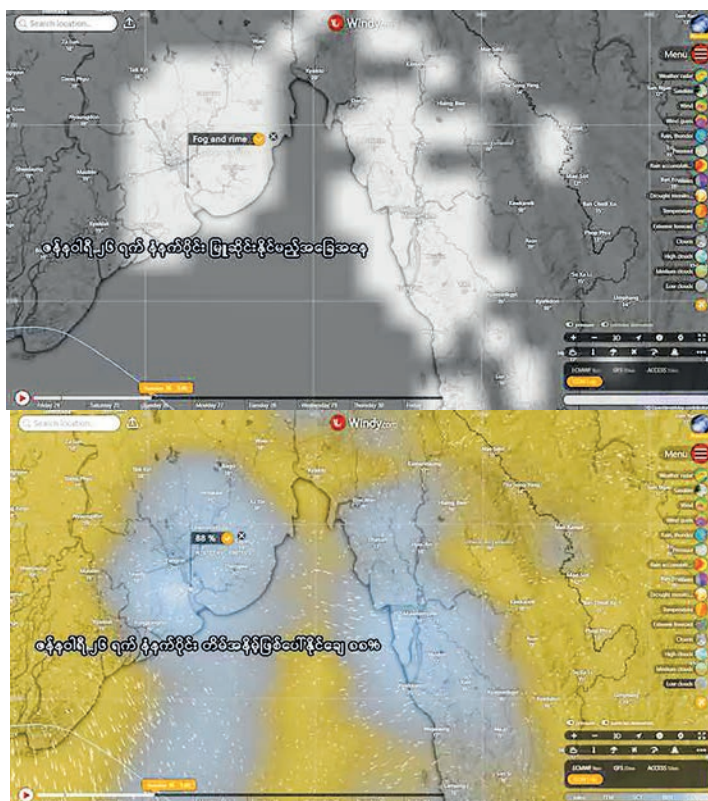
1. When all ethnic national brethren stand in unity, hand in hand, the Union will firmly stand.
2. Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float; Bound together in communion, the heart of the Union.
3. United in heart and soul, Marching towards the Union's goal.
4. Let's build peace to achieve prosperity.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

Morning fog in four regions, including Yangon; Travel warnings issued

METEOROLOGIST U Win Nang said fog in the early morning is forecast in the southern Ayeyawady Region, along Yangon River and Bago River, and southern districts of the Yangon and Bago regions and along Thanlwin River in Mon State. Travel by air and water should be cautious.

Low-level clouds will happen within 2,000 metres (6,500 feet) above the ground in those areas on 26 January from 4 am to 7 am, leading to foggy weather, he said. Fog in the morning generally happens in late January, early February and early March, he said. Due to low-level clouds and fogs, visibility will decline, causing dangerous travel by air and water, he warned.

A chance of a weak La Nina is 59 per cent from February to April and a 60 per cent chance for a neutral climate



A foggy weather is forecast on 26 January 2025.

from March to May. Winter will feel the cold until early March 2025. — MT/ZS

Myanmar delegation led by Dy FM leaves for 4th Political Consultations meeting in Brazil

A Myanmar delegation led by U Lwin Oo, Deputy Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, departed from Yangon International Airport for the Federative Republic of Brazil on the afternoon of 26 January to attend the 4th Political Consultations meeting, to be held in Brasília, Brazil.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Gustavo Rocha de Menezes, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Myanmar, at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Gold Market Rate as of 26 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.

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)

17th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient Sayadaw honoured amidst joy and happiness of disciples

FROM PAGE 1

As my aspiration, I humbly wish for the emergence of venerable monks who will achieve the esteemed titles of Tipitakadhara and Tipitakakovida titles in the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination, which is one of the most prestigious and longest-running examinations, not only in Myanmar but also in the world.

Therefore, I eagerly awaited the final decision and announcement of the examination results from the Sayadaws of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Committee. This year, the examinee Sayadaw successfully passed two profound and intricate treatises namely Yamaka and Pathana which are the two last treatises of Abhidhamma Pitaka during the 77th examination. As a result, the examinee Sayadaw will receive the esteemed title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida, along with the exam pass certificate, and a religious flag bearing the picture of honorary three-tier white umbrella with a yellow pivot. This brings an immeasurable sense of pride and joy, akin to experiencing boundless delight.

According to information from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the revered monk was born in Ywabugyi village, YeU Township, Sagaing Region. In 1361 Myanmar Era, he was ordained as a noble monk under the preceptor Venerable Bhaddanta Indacara of the Sawbwalay Monastery, located at 7th-mile in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region. The revered monk has passed the Ganavacaka Samaneyaw, the Pariyatti Sasanalankara Samaneyaw, the Patiyatti Saddhammarekkhita Samaneyaw, the Mingalabyuha Samaneyaw and the Pariyatti Sasanahita Samaneyaw titles. He also stood the first in the Pahtamagyi (senior Pariyatti exam) in Yangon Region as well as the second in the entire nation in 1361 ME, then Sasanadhaja Dhammacariya, Nikayujjotaka Vinayadhara Dhammacariya, Nikayujjotaka Atthavisarada Dighabhanaka, Nikayavuddhisamiti Vinayakovida, Nikayavuddhisamiti Dighanikayakovida, Pariyatti Sasanahita Vinayadhara, Pariyatti Sasanahita Dighabhanaka, Monastery's Examination for Maha Ganthavamsa Dighagama, Mahaganthavamsa Mula Abhidhammagama, Vinayavidu, Dighanikayavidu, Abhidhammavidu-1/2, Vinayadhara, Vinayakovida, Dighabhanaka, Dighanikayakovida, Mula Abhidhammika, and Mula Abhidhammakovida titles. In continuously making efforts, the revered monk vigorously studied five Vinaya treatises, three Suttanta treatises and seven Abhidhamma treatises which are Tri Pitaka treatises starting from the 70th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination since 1379 ME. During the set period, the monk could orally recite relevant treatises and secured the Abhidhammika title and Tipitakadhara title.

In the time of the State Administration Council this year, the Sayadaw passed complex and profound meanings in Atthakatha, Tika, Anutika, Yojana, Ganti, and Nissaya which are modified texts of the curriculum in the 77th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination through the power of the faith, mindfulness, concentration, and wisdom. As such, the Sayadaw would accept the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title to be offered by the State. The venerable Sayadaw is lecturing religious scriptures to the disciples, monks, and members of the Sangha for the preservation and propagation of the Pariyatti Sasana (the study of Buddha's teachings). It is our wish and prayer that these noble religious activities may continue to be carried out with good health and well-being. On this occasion, as Sayadaw has achieved the prestigious title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida and now becomes the 17th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaw, a great stalwart of the Buddhism, we express our utmost joy and pride with deep reverence.

*Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council*

Congratulatory message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to 17th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaw



A ceremony to offer a congratulatory message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the Sayadaw who is the 17th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient took place at Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Myothit (East) Township of Yangon Region yesterday afternoon.

The Sayadaw has secured the title in the 77th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.

Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin offers the congratulatory message sent by the SAC Chairman Prime Minister to the 17th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaw.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, the regional minister, the director-general of the Religious Affairs Department and officials.

The Union Minister read out and offered a congratulatory message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title winner Sayadaw Bhaddanta Setthañanalankara. The Union Minister and the Chief Minister donated alms and cash for nine prerequisites to the Sayadaw. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Yangon Zoo commemorates its 119th anniversary



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi and officials cut the ribbon of the 119th anniversary of the Yangon Zoo opening ceremony in Yangon on 25 January 2025.

THE opening ceremony of the 119th anniversary of the Yangon Zoo was held on the morning of 25 January at the Yangon Zoological Gardens in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, Yangon Region Minister for Natural Resources U Zaw Win, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Htay Aung, Yangon Region Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Jacob Htoo, departmental officials and invitees. The Union minister first cut the ribbon to open the 119th anniversary of the Yangon Zoo and delivered a speech that the Yangon Zoo has now celebrated its 119th anniversary and it is

a place of pride and a place to preserve the natural ecosystem and wild animals. He urged all to continue to maintain it at international standards and maintain it for many years to come.

He inspected the booths of the exhibits in the Zoo, the stalls and the beautification measures.

In the afternoon, the Union minister visited the Shwe Thantha Hein Wood Finishing Factory in Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and the Glorious Family Rattan Finishing Factory in South Dagon Industrial Zone-II of Dagon Myothit (South) Township to inspect the processes of production from raw materials to produce finished products. — MNA/MKKS

Union Construction Minister discusses collaboration with China on urban development

A Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant, who is in Chongqing, People's Republic of China, met with the Vice Mayor and officials of the Chongqing Municipal People's Government on 21 January.

During the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the 75-year diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China, discussed the Ministry of Construction's efforts in balanced urban-rural development under the National Spatial Development Framework Plan, including the drafting and implementation of town plans and master plans for industrial zones, and expressed interest in exploring collaboration on urban development and modern technologies for road and bridge construction.

Then, the Vice Mayor Mr Jiang Duntao of Chongqing



Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant meets the Vice Mayor of the Chongqing Municipal People's Government on 21 January.

expressed strong support for China-Myanmar friendship, emphasizing the Chongqing Municipal People's Government's commitment to continued investment in Myanmar, including the construction sector, and outlined

plans for the Myanmar delegation to meet Chinese construction investors and technology companies, as well as explore Chongqing and its surroundings.

Afterwards, the Union Minister visited the Commerce De-

partment of the Chongqing Municipal People's Government and met with Mr Zhang Yongwu, the Director-General of the Chongqing Municipal Commission of Commerce, as well as officials from the Chongqing Municipal

Foreign Affairs Department, the Urban Planning and Natural Resources Bureau, the Construction Commission, and business owners.

During the meeting, Mr Zhang Yongwu discussed the geographical situation of China and Myanmar, economic and infrastructure cooperation, and exchanged views with the Chinese officials and entrepreneurs, as well as the Myanmar entrepreneurs who attended.

During their visit to Chongqing and Shenzhen, the Union Minister and his team observed the construction and operation of expressways, bridge construction sites, urban roads with trees and flowery plants, pedestrian platforms, factories producing and distributing platform blocks, and urban and housing construction project sites. They returned to Yangon via Guangzhou yesterday. — MNA/TH

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Funfair and festival market for Chinese New Year in progress in Yangon

THE opening ceremony of the funfair and festival market for the Chinese New Year celebration, held yesterday evening on the main road in Latha Township, Yangon, was inaugurated by the chairman of the Kyauktada District Administration Body and officials from Chinese temples, who cut the ribbon and watched a performance of traditional Chinese cultural dances.

The Chinese New Year market features a wide range of cosmetics, consumer goods, and foods, as well as traditional lion and dragon dances, song performances by famous singers, boat rides, children's playgrounds, and photo opportunities. The market will be held from 25 to 31 January, according to reports. — Ko Ko Zaw-MNA/TH



Crowds are seen at the funfair and festival market for the Chinese New Year celebration in Latha Township in Yangon yesterday.

Japanese UTA Contest 2025 takes place in March

THE Japan Foundation in Yangon will organize Japanese Uta Contest 2025 jointly with Japan Embassy to Myanmar and Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni in March.

Registrations are welcomed from 24 January and will be closed by 31 January. The singing contest is scheduled on 2 March 2025 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in Yangon.

Only 100 early applicants will be eligible for preliminary contest. Contestants will need to create a video of a song out of 50 listed Japanese songs with background music or in a cappella, uploaded on own YouTube account. The organizing committee will nominate videos and only 10 finalists are eligible to compete in the contest and judging will be made on Japanese singing skill as well as presentation and expression.

Name list of ten finalists will be announced on the embassy's official website and social media page on 24 Febru-

ary, and the avenue and other information will be informed to nominees exclusively. Judging criteria will be based on Joy-sound scores as well as presentation skill and expression skill. Requirements are- must be Myanmar national living in Myanmar and able to come to compete in Yangon.

Contestants will have to submit their YouTube video link to <https://forms.office.com/r/XDOa7RjUVs>. — MT/JS

JAPANESE UTA CONTEST 2025 日本語うたコンテスト2025 SONG LIST					
No.	Song Name	Singer Name	No.	Song Name	Singer Name
01	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	31	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
02	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	32	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
03	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	33	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
04	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	34	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
05	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	35	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
06	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	36	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
07	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	37	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
08	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	38	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
09	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	39	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
10	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	40	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
11	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	41	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
12	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	42	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
13	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	43	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
14	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	44	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
15	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	45	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
16	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	46	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
17	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	47	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
18	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	48	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
19	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	49	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko
20	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko	50	Utsukushiki	Haruhiko

Japanese UTA Contest2025 "UTACON" 2025, Song List.

Illegal goods and vehicles worth more than K700 million seized nationwide

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts continue to effectively prevent and take legal action against illegal trade in accordance with the law.

On 24 January, a combined team under control of the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections near Sandawut Village, Myeik Township, seizing 5.825 tonnes of illegal hardwood (estimated value at K582,520) and is processing legal action under the Forest Law.

On the same day, the Rakhine State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 20 barrels of illegal diesel (approximately K20 million) near Innidin Village, Maungtau Township. Legal action is underway in line with the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Similarly, the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized three species of prohibited wildlife (estimated value at K8 million) in Tinteik Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region on 24 January under the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law. On the same day, an unlicensed Honda Vezel vehicle (estimated value of K18 million) was seized in Tagaung Ward, Sagaing under the Import and Export Law.

Furthermore, an unlicensed Mitsubishi Canter truck (estimated value at K20 million) was seized at the Yadanabon Bridge checkpoint on 25 January. The total value of seized goods and vehicles is estimated at K46 million and legal proceedings are ongoing.

On 25 January, under the management of the

Customs Department, various inspection teams made significant seizures. At Thilawa Port, equipment worth K28.63 million lacking valid documentation was confiscated. Similarly, at the Asia World container checkpoint intermediate materials valued at K81.8 million were seized. Likewise, three vehicles transporting 13 types of equipment, two types of consumer goods and one type of foodstuff worth K114.48 million were intercepted at Ywathagyi Dry Port.

In Shan State, inspections near the Malipakaw detour in Tachilek found five types of raw chemical materials worth K103.69 million transported by three Nissan Diesel trucks (approximately K115 million). The total value of the seizure reached K218.69 million, with action taken under customs regulations.

In Bago Region, inspection teams near the Shwe Thanlwin Tollgate in Bago seized five types of foodstuffs (valued at K5 million) transported in a vehicle traveling from Myawady to Pyay. Legal proceedings are ongoing in compliance with relevant laws. One King Long bus worth K30 million carrying these illegal foodstuffs was also seized. Two unregistered vehicles worth K22 million were confiscated in Toungoo District while 3.65 tonnes of teak, 0.074 tonne of hardwood and 4.95 tonnes of other timber worth K2.58 million were also seized in Bago, Toungoo and Nyaunglebin districts.

On 24 and 25 January, illegal goods and unregistered vehicles worth more than K719 million were seized in 26 cases. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

MRCS reviews Red Cross dissemination and communication



This photo showcases attendees of the Red Cross knowledge dissemination and communication review meeting held on 23-24 January at Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon.

A discussion to review Red Cross knowledge dissemination and communication activities was jointly held by the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 23-24 January at the Summit Parkview Hotel in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, according to the MRCS.

At the meeting, Professor Dr Myo Nyunt, President of the MRCS, and Ms Bonny Foo, Cooperation Coordinator of the ICRC, delivered the opening remarks.

The discussion was attended by full-time and part-time

executives of the MRCS, chairpersons and secretaries of the Supervisory Committees of Yangon and Mandalay regions, as well as Mon, Kayin, Shan (South), and Rakhine states.

Also present were deputy secretaries-general, assistant secretaries-general, directors, deputy directors, heads of departments, and officials from the MRCS headquarters, along with officials from the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Danish Red Cross, and the Finnish Red Cross. — ASH/TH



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 26 January 2025)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 27 January 2025: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and (Northern and Eastern) Shan 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 4-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 January 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 January 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 January 2025: Generally fair weather. — DMH

Twelve awards earmarked for 2024 Myanmar Academy Awards

THE Myanmar Academy Awards for 2024 are set to present 12 awards, with final preparations currently underway. According to U Zaw Myint Oo, Chair of the Myanmar Academy Awards Assessment Board, the evaluation process for the final 18 shortlisted films has been completed.

The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on 9 February 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw. This year's assessment process reviewed a total of 49 films, with 18 being shortlisted for detailed assessment. From this selection, 12 awards will be presented to honour outstanding achievements in Myanmar's film industry.

"Our evaluation process has concluded. In the first phase, we reviewed all 49 films, narrowing the selection to 18 finalists. Each of these 18 films was then meticulously evaluated and we are now prepared to present 12 Academy



U Zaw Myint Oo, Chair of the Myanmar Academy Awards Assessment Board.

Awards," said U Zaw Myint Oo.

The 18 shortlisted films include Bodaw Kin, Chitthu Thitha Pann Tabwint Phyt Kae Hlyin, Asoe Maya Anatta, Youkkyka Kung Ataug Hnahse, Thanyawzin Twaytha Kyihsandwe Phyt Kae Yin, Takote Taya, Phone Shwe, Mi Tin Sein, Noh Htamin, Seik Ka Kyoe, Mee, Ayet Setsone Anann, Thabin Thel Mya Hninsi, Hnaung, Ma Yae Ayeke Thwar

Kya Thu Mya, Eikmet Karyan, Tein Pachi, and Metta.

The Myanmar Academy Awards 2023 ceremony was held on 3 February 2024 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 (MICC-1) in Nay Pyi Taw. Artistes and professionals awarded at the ceremony received gold brooches. — ASH/KZL

Myawady orders most ginger from Naungtaya

MYAWADY made the most orders for ginger from Naungtaya in the southern Shan State, according to the ginger market in the town.

Yangon, Mandalay, and Myawady are making ginger orders, and Myawady tops among them.

"The price of old ginger is K 2,800 per viss, and that

of new ginger is K 2,000. Sales are good, and we send it to Mandalay, Yangon, and Myawady. Myawady ordered more. The selling price has not increased. Ginger season nearly ends," said a ginger trader in Naungtaya.

Ginger's price may rise slightly in the coming months as its season nearly ends. "I think the price of ginger will

improve a little in the coming months. Its season nearly ends. If it goes up, it can be around K 3,100-3,200 from K 2,800 a viss. Not very much," he said. Ginger farmers said that the price they sold to the warehouses in last October fell slightly, and they are relying more on the local market due to the low export. — Thit Taw/ZN

NATIONAL

Over 240,000 international visitors, 1.9 million domestic tourists visit Yangon in 2024

FROM January to December 2024, over 240,000 international visitors and approximately 1.9 million domestic tourists travelled to destinations across Yangon Region, according to U Aung Thet Htun, Deputy Director of the Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Most international visitors, primarily from China, Thailand, and South Korea, arrived via air through Yangon International Airport, holding various types of visas. U Aung Thet Htun stated, "In 2024, Yangon Region received over 240,000 international tourists, with the majority arriving by air. Visitors from China, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, India, Vietnam, the United States, Chinese (Taipei), and Singapore contributed to the largest numbers".

Regarding domestic tourism, over 600,000 tourists arrived in Yangon by air, primarily as returnees to the region. Moreover, around 1.9 million domestic tourists entered Yangon via various modes of transport, including rail, road, and air, during the year.



Sule Pagoda in Yangon Region that most of the foreign and domestic travellers frequent.

U Aung Thet Htun noted, "Among these figures are domestic tourists departing Yangon for other states and regions".

To further develop the hotels and tourism sector in Yangon Region,

collaboration is ongoing among the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Yangon Region Government, the Myanmar Tourism Federation, the Yangon Zone Hoteliers Association, and other relevant organizations. — ASH/KNN

Myanmar wins two awards at ASEAN Tourism Forum 2025

MYANMAR won two awards at the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2025 held in Johor, Malaysia in January, the Shan State Government said.

Myanmar entered three categories in the competition: Community-Based Tourism (CBT) in Seekyain Village, Pindaya Township, Jasmine Spa at Jasmine Taunggyi Hotel and the Public Toilet at Culamuni Pagoda, Taunggyi Township.

The two awards received were the ASEAN Community-Based Tourism Award and the ASEAN Public Toilet Award.

The Shan State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Taunggyi selected the businesses that most closely conformed to ASEAN standards for submission and announced two awards on 20 January. They can attend the ceremony at their own expense, or the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism delegation will receive and send the awards to Shan State, it said.

At the ATF -2024 in Vientiane, Laos, the ASEAN Tourism Standards Awards were presented, with Myanmar winning five ASEAN Green Hotel Awards, three ASEAN MICE Venue Standard Awards (Meeting Room), two ASEAN MICE Venue Standard Award (Exhibition Venue), three ASEAN MICE Venue Standard Award (Event Venue), one ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Award and ASEAN Clean Tourist City Award for Kengtung and Pathein. — Htun Htun/ZN

Qualified applicants for Thilawa housing apartments announced

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development declared qualified applicants who are entitled to draw lots for purchasing 88 apartment units of the Thilawa affordable housing complex

with low-interest home loans.

There are 1,891 persons who have deposited K3 million at the CHID Bank and 393 of them submitted applications to purchase the units between 20 and 24

January 2024. Out of them, 88 applicants on top of the registration list of the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID) are allowed to draw lots.

Drawing lots will take place on 28 January 2025 at the DUHD in Botahtaung Township. The applicants or their authorized representatives can attend the event to draw lots. The representative must provide an authorization letter and identification of the applicant entitled to draw lots. All the attendees must present the citizenship scrutiny card and arrive on time at 9:30 am.

Those prospective buyers will receive a notification letter to review the bank loan amount. They can still take it out by 7 February. They must contact the CHID Bank to proceed with the loan before 11 February. Failure to do so will lose the chance to buy the apartment units. — NN/KK



Thilawa low-cost housing flats.

Daily newspapers available online

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

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OPINION

Avoid fake news, misinformation and hate speech

FAKE news, misinformation, and hate speech on social media pose serious risks to society. While social media can be a powerful tool for positive engagement, its misuse has led to harmful consequences, especially when users fail to differentiate between reliable and unreliable information.

These issues are widespread globally. Fake news, misinformation, and hate speech are like a disease spreading across social media platforms, causing confusion and destabilizing societies. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to identify false information, as some individuals intentionally spread it to incite division and unrest. The key to combating this “disease” is developing the ability to critically analyze the news and discern fact from fiction.

Ultimately, it is essential for social media users to carefully evaluate the information they encounter. By doing so, they can help protect the unity of the nation and prevent further social unrest. Everyone must work together to ensure that the true interests of society are upheld, promoting peaceful and respectful relations among all citizens. Consequently, all people can enjoy and confirm the fruits of correct and accurate news and information through prestigious news agencies and broadcasting units.

To combat the spread of fake news, misinformation, and hate speech, it is crucial for everyone to approach social media with caution. Users should avoid blindly accepting or sharing information, especially if it seems designed to provoke anger or division. Unscrupulous individuals use these tactics to manipulate the public for their own benefit, often leading to instability and conflict. When users fall for these tactics, they contribute to a cycle of harm and suffering.

Ultimately, it is essential for social media users to carefully evaluate the information they encounter. By doing so, they can help protect the unity of the nation and prevent further social unrest. Everyone must work together to ensure that the true interests of society are upheld, promoting peaceful and respectful relations among all citizens. Consequently, all people can enjoy and confirm the fruits of correct and accurate news and information through prestigious news agencies and broadcasting units.

CLIMATE Change is a defining challenge of our times but as the world hurtles toward an escalating climate crisis, India is stepping into a global leadership role to tackle climate change. Armed with a combination of ambition, innovation, and soft power diplomacy, the country has not only set bold climate commitments but has also delivered on them, emerging as a credible leader on the global stage. India’s efforts, grounded in both action and equity, stand as a compelling narrative of how developing countries can balance climate responsibility with economic growth.

Climate Commitments and Credibility

At 2 tonnes, India’s per-capita carbon footprint is the lowest among G20 countries, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has recognised India as the only G20 economy aligned with the 2°C target. India is the world’s

largest country in terms of population, comprising around 18 per cent of the global population. It is also the fifth-largest economy in the world, on its way to becoming the third-largest economy by 2030. Yet, India accounts for only 3.4 per cent of cumulative emissions.

India’s climate commitments are ambitious and measurable, providing a benchmark for others to follow. In 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a five-point action plan, or Panchamrit, at the UNFCCC meeting in Glasgow. This included a pledge to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, install 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, and ensure that 50 per cent of India’s energy needs come from renewable sources by the same year.

India is well on its way to meeting these goals. Between 2005 and 2020, India reduced its emission intensity of GDP by 36 per cent, demonstrating a rare ability to decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions. More than 46 per cent of India’s installed electricity generation capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources, with renewable energy capacity – including large hydropower – reaching 203.22 GW. Forest and tree cover now span 25.17 per cent of India’s land, with an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent created between 2005 and 2021.

Soft Power Diplomacy: Building Global Alliances

India’s climate leadership is

A Green Planet – India leading the way

By Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri

not confined to domestic achievements. The country has harnessed its soft power to create and lead global coalitions addressing critical aspects of climate resilience, energy transition, and sustainability. These initiatives, often operating outside formal UNFCCC negotiations, amplify India’s efforts to foster collaborative solutions.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA), launched by India in 2015, exemplifies this leadership. By uniting 104 member countries and 16 signatory countries, primarily in the Global South, the ISA seeks to make solar energy a central solution for sustainable development. Its focus on reducing dependence on fossil fuels and promoting technology transfer has cemented India’s role as

a champion of equitable energy transitions.

Similarly, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), initiated in 2019, addresses the growing vulnerability of infrastructure to climate risks. With 41 member countries and seven organisations, it promotes resilience through practical solutions – a crucial agenda in an era of frequent and devastating climate-induced disasters.

In 2023, during its G20 presidency, India launched the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) to accelerate the global adoption of biofuels. With 24 member countries and 12 international organizations, the GBA champions sustainable energy alternatives that reduce emissions while bolstering energy

security.

The Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT), co-founded in 2019, is yet another initiative aimed at decarbonising hard-to-abate industrial sectors. Its 37 members, including countries and corporations, work collaboratively to achieve net-zero emissions in industries like steel and cement by 2050.

India’s Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) further underscores its commitment to behavioural change at both individual and community levels. By encouraging sustainable consumption and production practices, India is not only addressing emissions but also promoting a shift in global attitudes toward environmental stewardship. India’s

presidency of the G20 also saw the launch of the Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC), an initiative with 39 founding member companies aimed at reducing resource extraction and waste. This focus on circular economies is complemented by domestic efforts such as a green credits programme, right-to-repair initiatives, and updated eco-mark regulations.

A Blueprint for Global South Leadership

India unites countries around shared goals to deliver actionable frameworks addressing real-world challenges. By championing inclusive alliances, India empowers developing countries to participate as equal partners in the global climate dialogue.

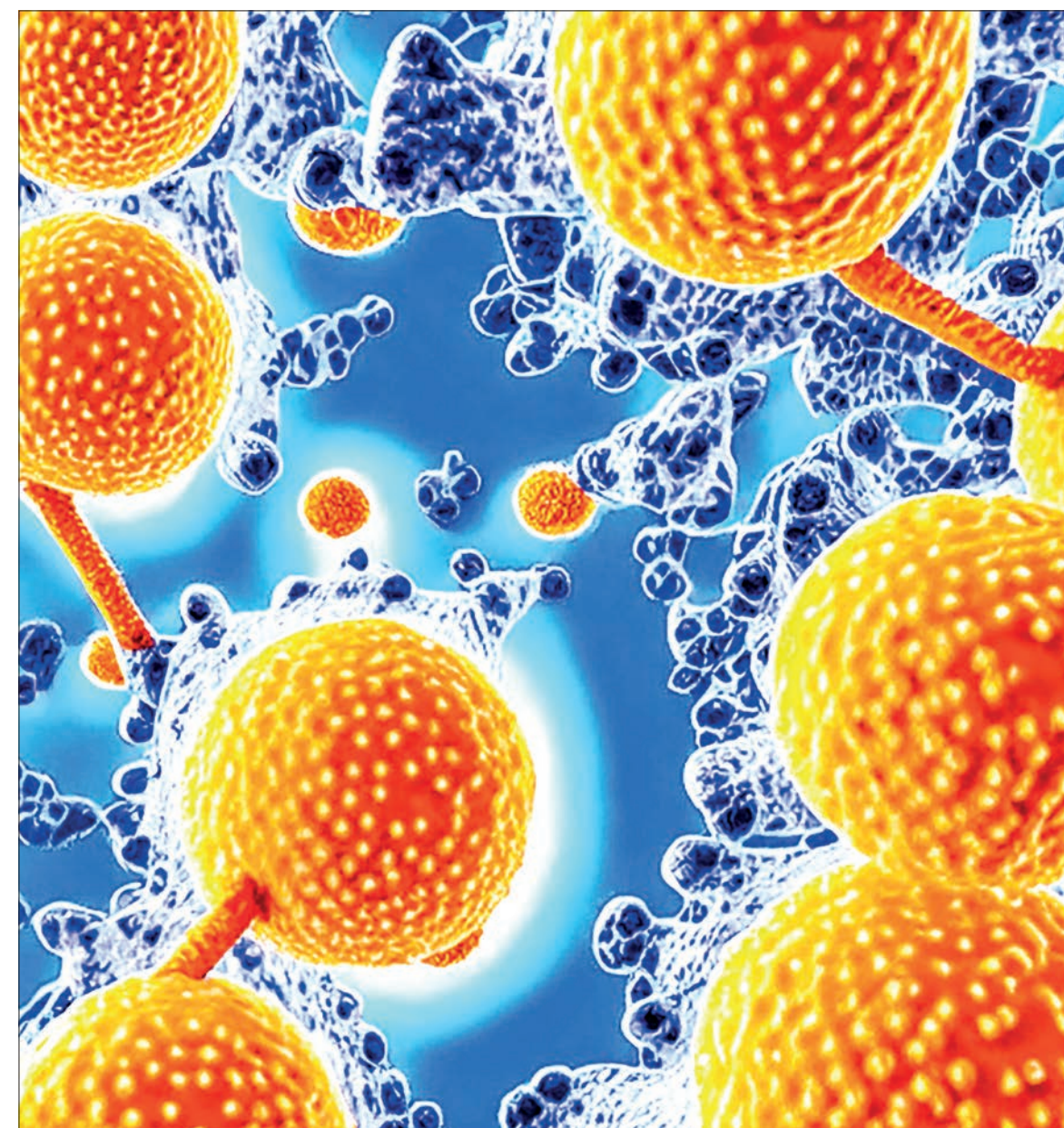
With countries in the Global South disproportionately bearing the brunt of climate impacts despite contributing minimally to global emissions, India’s efforts also demonstrate that leadership

in climate action is not determined by wealth but by vision and resolve.

In a world where trust in multilateralism is eroding, India’s ability to bring diverse stakeholders together offers a model for a cooperative, equitable, and sustainable future. As the sun rises on a new chapter in global climate action, India is lighting the way. It is not merely a participant in the global climate dialogue – it is shaping its trajectory. This is leadership by inspiration.

Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Former Ambassador of India to the EU & Lead Negotiator at UNFCCC; Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi

Shailly Kedia (Senior Fellow and Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi)



Columbia Engineering team discovers key immune cells crucial for successful immunotherapy in relapsed acute myeloid leukemia (AML) treatment. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

Immune cells found to boost cancer treatment in acute myeloid leukemia: Study

The study utilized DIISCO, a machine learning approach, to analyze the interactions between immune cells in the leukemia bone marrow microenvironment. This method helped identify key cellular interactions that may explain why some patients respond better to immunotherapy.

A research team from Columbia Engineering and the Irving Institute for Cancer Dynamics achieved a significant finding in cancer immunotherapy.

The team discovered a unique population of immune cells that is important to the successful treatment of relapsed acute myeloid leukemia (AML). This investigation was done in partnership with the Dana Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI).

AML, which affects four out of 100,000 patients in the US every year, according to the National Cancer Institute, is a type of cancer that first attacks the bone marrow before moving to infect the blood. The current treatment plan includes targeted chemotherapy followed by a stem cell transplant. Unfortunately, up to 40 per cent of these patients relapse after transplant and have a median survival

of six months. At that stage, the only hope for remission is through immunotherapy.

Led by Elham Azizi, associate professor of biomedical engineering at Columbia Engineering, the research explores how coordinated immune networks in leukemia bone marrow microenvironments influence responses to cellular therapy, raising the question: why do some patients benefit from immunotherapy while others do not? The current treatment for relapsed AML, donor lymphocyte infusion (DLI)—a therapy involving donor immune cells—has a 5-year survival rate of only 24 per cent, according to research conducted by Pfizer.

This new study finds that a unique population of T cells found in patients who are responding to DLI might be the key. These cells fight leukemia by boosting the immune response. Addition-

ally, the study shows that patients with a healthier, more active and diverse immune environment in the bone marrow are better able to support these cells and their cancer-fighting abilities.

Utilizing the team’s proprietary computational DIISCO approach, the researchers discovered key interactions between the unique T cell population and other immune cells may lead to patient remission. They also traced these T cells back to the donor product. However, it was discovered that the donor’s immune cell composition has little to no effect on the patient’s success. In fact, the success of this treatment is determined by the patient’s immune environment. DIISCO is a machine learning method used to analyze how cell interactions change over time with a focus on cancer and immune cells profiled in clinical specimens.

The study’s findings can lead to new intervention options such as improving the immune environment before starting the standard DLI treatment and exploring combinations of immunotherapies. This will help patients who don’t typically respond well to find a personalized option that works for them.

“This research exemplifies the power of combining computational and experimental methods through close collaboration to answer complex biological questions and uncover unexpected insights,” said Azizi, who is a member of the Irving Institute for Cancer Dynamics, the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Centre, and Columbia’s Data Science Institute. “Our findings not only shed light on mechanisms underlying successful immunotherapy response in leukemia, but also provide a roadmap for developing

effective treatments guided by innovative machine learning tools.”

“Seeing our findings validated through functional experiments is incredibly exciting and offers real hope for improving cancer immunotherapy,” said Cameron Park, a PhD student in the Azizi lab, who co-led this study with Katie Maurer at the Catherine Wu Lab at Dana Farber-Cancer Institute. Park was also a co-developer of the DIISCO algorithm.

In this particular research’s future, the team plans to explore interventions that enhance the effectiveness of DLI while focusing on modulating the tumor microenvironment. Although exciting, much more work has to be done before the team can head to clinical trials with the hope of improving outcomes for patients with relapsed AML.

SOURCE: ANI

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

US falling behind on wind power, think tank warns

In 2023, wind power provided around 10% of US electricity, slightly above the world average of 7.8%. Trump's policies favor oil and gas over wind energy.



Trump has favoured oil and gas over wind power. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE United States is falling behind the European Union in the rollout of wind power and risks being overtaken by China, a think tank said Thursday, days after Trump announced a crackdown on new wind projects.

Shortly after his inauguration on Monday, Donald Trump signed an executive order pausing the development of new wind energy projects, following up on a campaign promise to no longer fund the sector.

“The United States is diverging from global trends on wind power,” said Dave Jones, a director at climate think tank Ember.

“Major economies are embracing wind as a source of cheap, clean electricity. The United States risks being left behind in the clean industrial

revolution,” he added.

About 10 per cent of the United States’ electricity came from wind power in 2023, or just above the world average of 7.8 per cent. Trump has favoured oil and gas over wind power.

Trump also declared Monday a national energy emergency to significantly expand oil and gas drilling in United States after pledging in his inauguration speech that we will “Drill, baby, drill!”

China is currently right behind the United States, with nine percent of its power coming from wind farms in 2023.

But Beijing is speeding up the building of wind turbines, setting up China “to overtake the United States in the coming years” according to Ember. — AFP

Spain govt to cover full cost of repairing flood-damaged buildings

SPAIN’S central government will cover the full cost of rebuilding schools, libraries and other municipal buildings damaged in last year’s deadly floods, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Thursday.

The central government had initially said it would cover 50 per cent of the estimated cost of 1.7 billion euros (\$1.8 billion). But it will now pay 100 per cent, Sanchez said after meeting mayors from the hardest-hit municipalities in the eastern region of Valencia.

“We are talking about 100 administrative centres, more or less 45 nursery

schools, 58 libraries, 55 sports centres, 40 day centres, 16 markets and many more damaged buildings,” the Socialist prime minister said.

“The media spotlight may have shifted to other issues, but as we said from the beginning of this crisis, the government of Spain will not look away from Valencia,” he added. The central government will also pick up the full 500-million-euro tab to repair the damage done to water treatment, supply and sanitation infrastructure by the floods, Sanchez said. — AFP



Residents walk past piled-up cars following deadly floods in Valencia's De La Torre neighbourhood. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

OpenAI unveils ‘Operator’ agent that handles web tasks

OPENAI on Thursday introduced an artificial intelligence programme called “Operator” that can tend to online tasks such as ordering items or filling out forms.

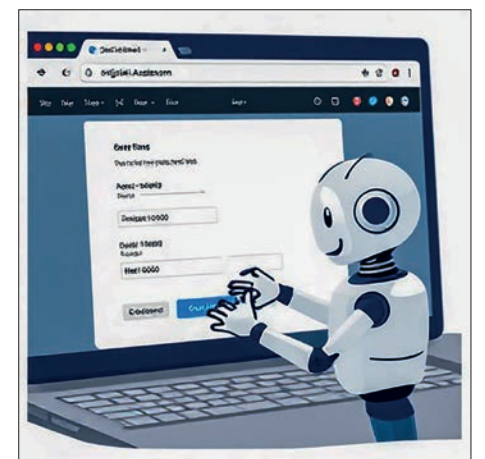
Operator can look up web pages and interact with them by typing, clicking, or scrolling the way a person might, according to OpenAI.

“Operator can be asked to handle a wide variety of repetitive browser tasks such as filling out forms, ordering groceries, and even creating memes,” OpenAI said in an online post.

“The ability to use the same interfaces and tools that humans interact with on a daily basis broadens the utility of AI, helping people save time on everyday tasks while opening up new engagement opportunities for businesses.”

An AI “agent,” the latest Silicon Valley trend, is a digital helper that is supposed to sense surroundings, make decisions, and take actions to achieve specific goals.

Google in December announced



The AI’s capabilities open up new engagement opportunities for businesses by automating common online actions.

ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART

agent capabilities with the launch of Gemini 2.0, its most advanced artificial intelligence model to date.

AI race rival Anthropic two months earlier added a “computer use” feature to its Claude frontier AI model in an experimental public beta phase.

“Developers can direct Claude to use computers the way people do—by looking at a screen, moving a cursor, clicking buttons, and typing text,” Anthropic said in a post at the time, cautioning that it was a work in progress.

OpenAI described Operator as one of its first AI agents capable of doing work for people independently, designed to complete tasks it is given. — AFP

Fired IT worker partly shuts down British Museum

THE British Museum said it had closed a number of exhibits after a fired IT contractor “shut down” some of its systems, in one of several unrelated incidents targeting European museums on Saturday.

The London venue, one of the UK capital’s biggest tourist draws and best known for housing the Rosetta Stone and the Parthenon Marbles, said police had arrested the suspect.

“An IT contractor who was dismissed last week trespassed into the museum and shut down several of our systems,” a museum spokesman said.

“We are working hard to get the museum back to being fully operational but with regret our temporary exhibitions have been closed today and will remain so over the weekend.”

Meanwhile in the Neth-

erlands, the Drents Museum in Assen said it was closed for the weekend after robbers used explosives to break in and steal three antique bracelets and a gold helmet.

Police were alerted to an explosion early Saturday, with the thieves stealing the golden helmet of Cotofenesti, dating from the mid-fifth century BC, the museum said on its website.

The helmet — the centre-piece of a temporary exhibition — was on loan from Romania’s National History Museum in Bucharest.

And in Paris, the world-famous Orsay Museum was forced to disable its own ticketing system for several hours Friday after falling victim to a fraudulent scheme involving “mirror sites”, it told AFP Saturday. — AFP



The British Museum houses treasures such as the Rosetta Stone. PHOTO: AFP

Sticking with tradition: Vietnam’s glutinous 12-hour Tet cake

She values the process, as it preserves the Tet atmosphere and connects her to the cultural significance of the holiday, even though ready-made versions are available.



Banh chung rice cakes are a traditional Vietnamese delicacy for Lunar New Year, or Tet. NHAC NGUYEN / AFP

EXHAUSTED after 12 hours of cooking, Nguyen Thi Thuy Hong gently unpeels the last of five leaves encasing a squishy, sticky rice cake known as “banh chung” — a Lunar New Year delicacy in Vietnam.

The wrapped cakes of glutinous rice, green beans and pork belly have for centuries been one of several dishes prepared in a frenzy at home specially for Tet, the Vietnamese New Year which begins on Wednesday.

Hong, 55, has laboured over the dish — which must

be boiled for 12 hours over a wood fire — almost every year for the last four decades.

“We can buy ready-made banh chung but it doesn’t create that Tet atmosphere,” she said, explaining she enjoyed the process of cleaning leaves, soaking rice and pre-cooking beans in the very early morning.

“It keeps me busy, and it’s tiring, but I still love making the cake myself.”

According to an oft-told legend, the banh chung recipe was first prepared thousands

of years ago by a Vietnamese prince who wanted to impress his father in a bid for the throne.

Impressed by his son’s respect and the cake’s flavor, the king passed down his crown. In Vietnam, banh chung cakes are offered to ancestors at family altars, honoring Confucian traditions. While many no longer make them from scratch, elders typically maintain the tradition. However, Nguyen Dao Anh Khoi, 23, worries about preserving it amidst modern challenges. — AFP

Rubbish roads: Nepal explores paving with plastic

IN Nepal’s Pokhara, cars drive over roads constructed using discarded plastic, an innovative solution to the country’s growing plastic waste problem. With urban areas generating around 5,000 tonnes of solid waste daily, of which 13 per cent is plastic, much of it ends up in landfills.

High-value plastics like bottles are recycled, but low-value plastics, such as multi-layered packaging, often go unutilized. This challenge presented an

opportunity for young Nepali entrepreneurs like Bimal Bastola, founder of Green Road Waste Management, who found a way to use low-value plastics as a raw material in road construction.

The method, which involves shredding plastic waste and using it to coat road aggregates before adding bitumen, has been proven to make roads more durable, with studies showing plastic roads can last

twice as long as traditional roads.

The initiative aligns with global efforts, as neighboring India has been paving plastic roads since the early 2000s, and countries like Bhutan and Bangladesh are following suit.

Despite initial success, with about 10 small-scale projects completed, Bastola stresses the need for government-led projects to scale up. While some environmental concerns remain,



This road in Pokhara was built with recycled plastic waste. PHOTO: AFP

such as potential microplastic release, experts like Bhushan Tuladhar see plastic roads as a

practical solution to both waste management and infrastructure needs in Nepal. — AFP

ECON: WORLD

China's foreign investment, cooperation remain stable in 2024: official



An aerial drone photo shows vehicles to be exported at Yantai Port in east China's Shandong Province, 2 January 2025. — PHOTO: TANG KE/XINHUA/FILE

Investments in ASEAN countries rose by 12.6%. Key sectors driving growth included leasing, business services, manufacturing, and wholesale/retail.

CHINA'S foreign investment and cooperation saw steady growth in 2024, an official with the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said Sunday.

The country's non-financial outbound direct investment rose 10.5 per cent year on year to US\$ 143.85 billion last year, with investments in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries increasing by 12.6 per cent year on year, according to the official.

Investments in leasing, business services, manufacturing, and wholesale and retail sectors drove the growth. The turnover

of China's foreign contracted projects totaled US\$165.97 billion in 2024, an increase of 3.1 per cent year on year, the official said.

In 2024, the number of workers dispatched abroad reached 409,000, a 17.9 per cent increase year on year, with a total of 594,000 Chinese workers employed overseas by the end of the year.

Non-financial investment in countries along the Belt and Road increased by 5.4 per cent year on year to US\$33.69 billion last year, MOC data showed. — Xinhua

India, Indonesia mutual funds industry collaborate to share best practices

INDIA and Indonesia's mutual funds industry have signed an MoU to enhance bilateral financial and economic best practices through cooperation.

A delegation of 12 top CEOs from Indonesia's mutual fund industry accompanied the Indonesian President on his state visit to India. The MoU was signed on Saturday evening in the presence of India's G20 Sherpa and Former CEO of Niti Ayog, Amitabh Kant.

As per the scope of the MoU, this partnership is set to strengthen the mutual fund sectors in both countries, enrich industry standards, and promote investor education and financial literacy, paving the way for a more dynamic, transparent, and globally integrated mutual fund ecosystem. — ANI

Mexican president says no upcoming trade war with US

MEXICAN President Claudia Sheinbaum said Friday that there is no trade war on the horizon with the United States, after US President Donald Trump's conciliatory remarks on trade with Mexico the day before.

"I do not see a trade war. The US president spoke differently about Mexico yesterday," Sheinbaum told a daily press conference.

Responding to questions at the World Economic Forum on Thursday, Trump said: "We're dealing with Mexico, I think, very well. We just want to be treated fairly." Trump has threatened to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Mexican imports starting 1 February. Sheinbaum also expressed willingness to strengthen collaboration with Washington and work with Trump on some priority issues, such as the distribution of fentanyl and migration. — Xinhua

UK to make case to Trump against whisky tariff: finance minister



Whisky is an important part of the Scottish economy. PHOTO: AFP

BRITAIN will make the case to US President Donald Trump that Scotch whisky and other goods should be spared from any tariffs by the new administration, UK finance minister Rachel Reeves said Thursday. During Trump's first term, his tariffs in 2019 against the European Union — which then included Britain — also targeted the UK's whisky industry.

Now outside the bloc, Reeves said Britain would

strive to avoid a similar situation.

"I know that President Trump is very proud of his Scottish roots and Scotch whisky is obviously a really important part of the Scottish economy. And so we'll make that case very strongly," Reeves told AFP in an interview at the World Economic Forum.

Ranked by trade gaps not in the United States' favour, Trump on the campaign trail

last year threatened to introduce blanket customs duties, which could include Britain.

"I recognise President Trump's concern about countries that run large and persistent surpluses with the US. But the UK is not one of those countries," Reeves said at the forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"We're not part of the problem that President Trump and the new administration are trying to address and we'll make that case," she said.

Reeves was hopeful that trade ties between London and Washington could be even better than during his first presidential mandate.

Asked if there would be opportunities to increase trade again, she said: "Trade between our two countries and investment flows between our countries increased. I've no reason to believe that that can't happen again in a way that works for both of our economies." — AFP

Trump casts chill over US wind energy sector

DONALD Trump has long ranted against wind energy — claiming turbines are unsightly, dangerous to wildlife and too expensive — with him threatening to upend decades of industry progress just a few hours after resuming power.

“We’re not going to do the wind thing,” Trump said Monday as he returned to the Oval Office for the first time in four years as commander-in-chief.

“Big, ugly windmills,” he said as he signed a series of executive orders that has brought the sector into crisis, adding that “they kill your birds, and they ruin your beautiful landscape.”

Among the measures were a temporary freeze on federal permitting and loans for all offshore and onshore wind projects.

Jason Grumet, president of the American Clean Power Association (ACP), quickly slammed the move, saying it “increases bureaucratic barriers, undermining domestic energy development and harming American businesses and workers.”

After the announcements, wind-related stocks fell into the red.

“It’s had a real cooling effect on the sector,” Elizabeth Wilson, an offshore wind specialist at Dartmouth University, told AFP. — AFP

Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong rank among top 10 innovation cities globally: report

The study highlights global urban innovation trends and cities’ strengths in science and technology.



This photo taken on 26 April 2024 shows an emergency rescue humanoid robot during a permanent exhibition at the Zhongguancun Exhibition Centre in Beijing, capital of China.

PHOTO: LI XIN/XINHUA/FILE

BEIJING, Shanghai and Hong Kong rank among the world’s top 10 innovation cities, alongside other cities from the United

States, Britain and Japan, according to a recently released assessment report on sci-tech innovation.

The report, published

on Friday, was compiled by the Shenzhen International Science and Technology Information Centre, the Centre for Industrial

Development and Environmental Governance of Tsinghua University, and research publishing and information analytics company Elsevier; the Science and Technology Daily reported on Saturday.

The report is based on the collaborative development index of education, sci-tech and talent, and offers an in-depth evaluation of 30 cities around the world. It aims to provide insights into global urban innovation and development trends and highlights the strength of cities in science and technology innovation.

The top 10 innovation cities are Boston, San Francisco, Beijing, London, New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tokyo. — Xinhua



Block Island Wind Farm turbines tower above the water off the shores of Rhode Island. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CHANGING THE NAME OF TRADING

Notice is hereby given that the official trade name has been changed of **LO TA PYAE WA COMPANY LIMITED** for the following product manufactured by **Zhejiang E-Tong Chemical Co., Ltd.**

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	E-T Glyphosate 48 SL	Pawn One	Glyphosate 48% SL	Full	F2018-1489

We invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

LO TA PYAE WA COMPANY LIMITED (Address: No (631-A), Pyay Road & Inya Road Junction, 2 Ward, Kamayut Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09251372886, 09403723854)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0340-789N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0340-789N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2502E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2502E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (927N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (927N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Greek parliament fails to elect country's president in 1st round of voting

Outgoing President Katerina Sakellaropoulou's term ends in March, and presidents serve five-year renewable terms.



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis addresses lawmakers at parliament, ahead of a vote on confidence following a motion of censure submitted by leftist and centre-left opposition parties, in Athens on 28 March 2024. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Greek parliament on Saturday failed to elect the country's next president.

None of the four candidates secured the required minimum 200 votes out of the total 300 members of the assembly in the first round. 297 members participated in the voting.

Constantine Tassoulas, former parliament speaker and nominee of the ruling New Democracy party,

received 160 votes, the most. The other three candidates each secured less than 50 votes.

A second round is scheduled for 31 January with the threshold also being 200 votes, according to the Greek constitution.

If no candidate achieves the required votes in the second round, the threshold will drop to 180 votes in the third round, and to a simple majority of 151 votes in the fourth

round. In the final round, the president will be elected with a relative majority.

The term of outgoing President Katerina Sakellaropoulou, former head of Greece's highest administrative court, expires in March.

According to the constitution, the country's president is elected for a five-year term and can be re-elected only once. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

N Korea conducts cruise missile test, 1st since Trump inauguration

NORTH Korea said Sunday it test-fired strategic cruise missiles the previous day, with leader Kim Jong Un overseeing Pyongyang's first missile test since the inauguration of US President Donald Trump.

The examination of the sea-to-surface cruise guided weapons was aimed to "raise the effectiveness of strategic control against potential enemies in conformity with the changing regional safety circumstances," the official Korean Central News Agency said.

The country's Foreign Ministry also criticized the United States and South Korea over their recent joint military drills in a statement carried by KCNA on Sunday, warning such moves would be met with "the toughest counteraction from A to Z" as long as Washington refuses to recognize North Korea's sovereignty and security interests. This is the "best option" for dealing with the United States, the ministry added. — Kyodo

Mexico blocks US deportation flight

MEXICO refused to permit a deportation flight from the United States to land, marking an obstacle in US President Donald Trump's intensified immigration enforcement measures, the New York Post reported.

The denial on Thursday (local time) followed Trump's renewed efforts to strengthen border security, conduct mass deportations, and execute raids since returning to the White House.

The blocked flight came after two US Air Force C-17 flights successfully transported approximately 160 deportees to Guatemala earlier that day. However, Mexico's refusal to accept the plane raised questions, with no immediate clarification provided.

The White House attributed the issue to an administrative mix-up. A White House official stated via text that "the flights thing was an administrative issue and was quickly rectified." Separately, Fox News' Bill Melugin cited a senior State Department official who clarified that the misunderstanding was related to the Department of Defence flight manifest. — ANI

Red Cross: 2nd phase of Hamas-Israel prisoner-hostage deal completed

THE International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced Saturday the completion of the second phase of a prisoner-hostage exchange between Hamas and Israel, implemented under the initial terms of a ceasefire agreement.

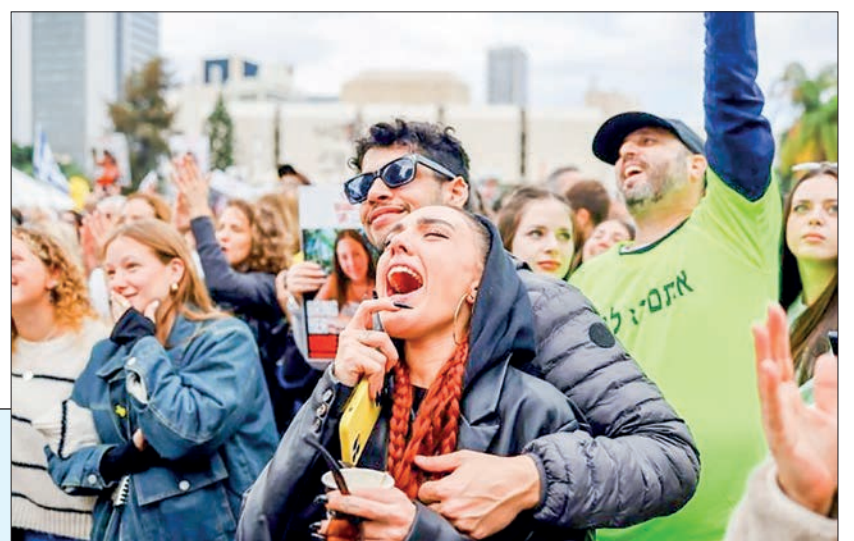
The second phase, including the release of 200 Palestinian prisoners and four Israeli hostages, was carried out after thorough coordination and review procedures conducted by the ICRC, a neutral intermediary that ensured the smooth and secure implementation of the exchange, it said.

The Israeli hostages were transferred safely, with their well-being prioritized, whereas the Palestinian prisoners were released

from Israeli detention centers and transported to Gaza and the West Bank following ICRC's interview with them, during which it verified their identities, evaluated their health conditions, and confirmed their readiness for travel, it said.

The ICRC urged ongoing dialogue between the parties and their continuous humanitarian commitments, so as to create the necessary conditions for the safe execution of future operations. — Xinhua

Members of a crowd gathered in Tel Aviv react during the livestreamed release of four women soldiers held hostage in Gaza. **PHOTO: AFP**



SPORTS

MIU winning streak ends as MH Dream Team continues victory run

MH Dream Team maintained their winning streak, while league leaders MIU saw their six-match unbeaten run come to an unexpected halt with a draw against YCDC Marga at the Fixture 7 matches of Futsal League held yesterday at the MFF Futsal Stadium in Yangon's Thuwunna Stadium.

In Fixture 7 results, reigning champions VUC defeated Futsal Lovers 4-1, MH Dream

Team triumphed over Winner Soccer 7-2, M2K bested Generations 3-1 and YRG overcame SGF with a high-scoring 8-4 victory. The match between YCDC Marga and MIU ended in a surprising 6-6 draw, narrowing MIU's lead over second-placed MH Dream Team.

Generations suffered an unexpected loss, while both VUC and YRG secured crucial wins to keep their momentum

going this season.

After Fixture 7, MIU leads the table with 19 points, followed closely by MH Dream Team with 17 points. YRG stands at 12 points, with M2K and Generations tied at 11 points each. VUC follows with 10 points, while Winner Soccer and YCDC Marga have five points each. Futsal Lovers holds 4 points and SGF remains at the bottom with three points.—Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



M2K and Generations battling during their match. PHOTO: MFF

Siniakova wins 10th Grand Slam doubles title at Australian Open

THE Czech Republic's Katerina Siniakova won her 10th Grand Slam women's doubles title Sunday when she and American partner Taylor Townsend clinched the Australian Open crown.

The top seeds and reigning Wimbledon champions downed Taiwan's Hsieh Su-wei and Latvian Jelena Ostapenko 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3 on

Rod Laver Arena. While a 10th major title for Siniakova, it was only the second for Townsend, both of them since she teamed up with the Czech, the world's top-rated doubles player.

"Big thank you to Taylor," said Siniakova. "We are having fun and that is the most important thing". — AFP



Harris English hits his approach at the 18th hole on the way to victory in the US PGA Tour Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines. PHOTO: AFP

English hangs on at tough Torrey Pines for fifth US PGA Tour title

HARRIS English fired a gritty one-over par 73 on the tough Torrey Pines South Course on Saturday, winning the Farmers Insurance Open by one stroke to end a US PGA Tour title drought of more than three years.

The 35-year-old from Georgia conquered his emotions and cold, blustery conditions on the scenic Southern California course, parrying the last 12 holes on the way to an eight-under par total of 280 and a one-shot victory over Sam Stevens.

"I've been doing this for 14 years and it never

gets any easier," said English, his voice breaking with emotion.

"It's hard to win. I might have looked calm out there on the course, but inside your emotions are going crazy".

English started the day with a one-shot lead but gave two strokes back with bogeys at the first and fifth.

He regained a stroke with his lone birdie of the day at the sixth, then put his head down and got the job done. — AFP



Ethiopia's Workenesh Edesa wins the Osaka Women's Marathon on 26 January 2025, crossing the finish line at Yanmar Stadium Nagai in Osaka. PHOTO: KYODO

Athletics: Ethiopia's Edesa wins 2nd straight Osaka Women's Marathon

ETHIOPIA'S Workenesh Edesa ran the final 15 kilometres alone and unchallenged en route to winning the Osaka Women's Marathon for the second straight year Sunday.

Edesa crossed the finish line in 2 hours, 21 minutes at Yanmar Stadium Nagai, 19 seconds ahead of surprise runner-up Kana Kobayashi.

"I'm so happy that I won this race again," the 32-year-old Ethiopian said. "I'll just try to run a better time. That's my goal".

Yuka Suzuki, who placed sixth at last summer's Paris Olympics, finished third in 2:21:33.

The race doubled as a selection event for Japanese runners to September's world athletics championships in Tokyo. Kobayashi and Suzuki ran under the qualifying standard time set by athletics' international governing body of 2:23:30.

Israel's Lonah Chemtai Salpeter was fourth in 2:24:03. Three-time champion Mizuki Matsuda was seventh in 2:27:11.

At last year's Osaka Women's Marathon, Honami Maeda finished in 2:18:59 to break Mizuki Noguchi's 19-year-old national record and finish second behind Edesa. — Kyodo



India celebrated 76th Republic Day showcasing military might and regiments

The event was a magnificent showcase of India's rich military heritage and patriotic spirit.

INDIA celebrated its 76th Republic Day with grandeur on Sunday, showcasing its military prowess along the iconic Kartavya Path. The event featured elite marching contingents, including the Brigade of the Guards, Jat Regiment, Garhwal Rifles, Mahar Regiment, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, and the Corps of Signals.

The parade began with the combined band of Sikh Light Infantry, Bihar Regiment, and Ladakh Scouts, playing the iconic tune Kadam Kadam Bhadaye Ja. The Indian Coast Guard and Navy contingents followed, with the Navy's brass band performing Jai Bharti.

The Garhwal Rifles contingent, led by Lieutenant Rohit Laxman Kudache, stood out with its rich history of 136 years. Known for its valor, the regiment's war cry is Badri Vishal Lal Ki Jai. The Mahar Regiment, established in 1941, also displayed its legacy, with the war cry Bolo Hindustan Ki Jai.

The Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, led by Major Bikramjeet Singh, honored its origins under Maharaja Gulab Singh with the motto Prashasta Ranvirta. Meanwhile, Captain Ritika Khareta led the Corps of Signals, a highly decorated unit with the motto Teevra Chaukas (Swift and Secure), adding pride to the celebrations. — ANI



India celebrated its 76th Republic Day with great grandeur, displaying its military might along Kartavya Path. **PHOTO: ANI**

China's highways to see record-high EV charging volume during Spring Festival holiday

Eight-day holiday sees 52% rise in highway charging demand.



File photo shows electric vehicle (EV) charging piles in a highway service area in Taiyuan, north China's Shanxi Province.

PHOTO: XINHUA

THE electric vehicle (EV) charging volume on China's highways is set to hit a record high during the upcoming Spring Festival holiday, according to data from the State Grid Corporation of China.

Daily highway charging volumes are expected to average over 7.5 million kilowatt-hours during the eight-day holiday which starts on 28 January, marking a 52-per-cent year-on-year increase, the data showed.

The single-day peak charging volume during the holiday period is projected to exceed 9 million kilowatt-hours — expanding by 34 per cent from the same period last year.

Peak travel days ahead of the holiday, namely 26 and 27 January, will see charging demand spike between 9 am and 9 pm, as millions of travelers hit the roads, the data revealed.

To meet rising charging demand, China has accelerated the construction of charging infrastructure. By the end of 2024, 98 per cent of highway service areas had charging facilities — with 35,000 charging poles in place. — Xinhua

CANDIDATES OFFICIALLY REGISTERED

Presidential election kicks off in Belarus

THE presidential election kicked off in Belarus on Sunday with polling stations opening at 8:00 am (0500 GMT) and closing at 8 pm (1700 GMT).

Five candidates, including incumbent President Alexander Lukashenko, have been registered for the presidential election.

Voters will cast their ballots at 5,325 polling stations nationwide and the number of voters stands at about 6.9 million, according to the country's Central Election Commission. Elections are considered valid if more than half of the citizens included in the voter list cast their ballots. The head of state is considered elected if a candidate is supported by more than half of the voters who took part in the voting. — Xinhua