

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This photo captures hibernating birds at the Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary in Bago Region.

Moeyungyi Sanctuary hosts 29,000+ wintering birds, 132 species

The wintering birds from the Asia-Australian, Middle Asian, and West Asia-East Africa flyways typically arrive in Myanmar from late October to March. Some years, they stay until April before returning to their breeding grounds.

MORE than 29,000 birds from 132 species arrived at the Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary in Bago Region between October 2024 and January 2025, according to Daw Thin Thin Yu, the warden of the sanctuary.

Bird species from the North Pole enter their wintering grounds in the world's southern regions via nine different migratory routes. The wintering birds from the Asia-Australian, Middle Asian, and West Asia-East Africa flyways typically arrive in Myanmar from late October to March. Some years, they stay until April before returning to their breeding grounds.

“From October of last year to Jan-

uary of this year, 38 species of migratory birds, 23 species of local water birds, and 71 species of amphibious birds – a total of 132 species, or more than 29,000 birds – have arrived and spent the winter in the Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary,” said Daw Thin Thin Yu.

The 25,600-acre Moeyungyi Lake is home to a variety of wintering bird species this year, including the common grebe, blue wagtail, common coot, red-wattled lapwing, grey heron, wild duck, Pacific golden plover, purple swamphen, red jay, river tern, whistling

duck, and common curlew.

Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary is home to 120 species of mammals, 28 species of amphibians and reptiles, 33 types of insects, 77 species of domestic birds, 44 species of fish, and 74 species of aquatic plants. — ASH/TH



Nay Pyi Taw seeks proposals for new condominium project

NAY Pyi Taw Development Committee called for developers and real estate companies with whole investments to submit Expression of Interest for condominium projects on 30 acres of land near Diplomatic Zone in Danatheikdi Ward, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, the tendering committee stated.

EOI forms and guidelines can be available at the Engineering Department of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee from 28 January 2025 and EOI forms must be submitted by 4 pm on 11 February 2025

Developers and companies can contact the Engineering Department via 067 8108212 for further enquiries. — NN/KK

OPINION

Take preventive measures against seasonal flu

PAGE 8

NATIONAL PAGE 3



Govt-Private Trade Council convenes for 2025 kickoff meeting

BUSINESS PAGE 7



ITC Mandalay accepts trainees for industrial skills training 13

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)



Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Professor Dr Moe Wint Aung, Professor/Head of the Endocrinology Department of the University of Medicine 1 (Yangon) of the Department of Human Resources for Health under the Ministry of Health, as Rector of the University of Medicine 2 (Yangon), on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

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.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Ministry of Defence
https://www.mod.gov.mm | 3. Ministry of Information
https://www.moi.gov.mm | 5. Myanmar National Portal
https://myanmar.gov.mm |
| 2. Ministry of Legal Affairs
https://www.mlis.gov.mm | 4. Myawady Webportal
https://myawady.net.mm | |



This image showcases pilgrims at the Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda.

Surge in day and overnight trips outside Yangon

PEOPLE have gone on day or overnight trips outside Yangon and nearby towns said Myanmar Tourism Federation Vice-Chair U Naung Naung Han.

Visitor arrival to places around Yangon has visibly increased such as resorts and camps located in Hlinethaya and Hlegu townships, and at the same time, pilgrimage tours to Bago and Zalun and days to Saleaintan Beach have also risen, he said.

“Rather than a long-distance journey which takes several days, people have now enjoyed day or overnight trips, during their holidays, to places within a short distance of Yangon so they can go easily,” he said.

At present, visitor arrival to

destinations near Yangon has elevated and people go in family or friend groups. In addition to nearby villages and towns, many Yangon residents have come to visit Sal Eain Tan Beach which they can get in a day, especially on weekends and public holidays, according to Kansat Sesar restaurant at the beach.

People can go to Bagan-NyaungU, Popa, Kyaiktiyo, Taunggyi, Kalaw and Inlay where local visitor arrival dramatically mounted during Thadingyut and Tazaungdine festivals, he said and added that encouraging the local travel sector can help the regional economic growth and the situation can make visitors feel relaxed.

— 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)

Govt-Private Trade Council convenes for 2025 kickoff meeting

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, who is also Chairman of the Government-Private Trade Promotion Council, presided over the 1/2025 meeting of the council yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the General highlighted the formation of the Government-Private Trade Promotion Council to supervise the implementation of the National Export Strategy 2020-2025 and review the reports of the Government-Private Export Promotion Committee on the export sector for policy guidance and trade development strategies.

He added that the relevant departments and organizations



The first meeting of the Government-Private Trade Promotion Council in progress yesterday, presided over by SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo.

should make efforts to curb the trading along illegal routes and

explore new products and markets to increase export volumes.

The trading includes both exports and imports so it needs

to work hard to increase the exports and balance the trading by importing the supportive materials for increasing the exports.

General Mya Tun Oo continued that the relevant departments and private organizations should be encouraged to meet the estimated trading volume for the 2024-2025 Financial Year per the policies of the country.

Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein and Council Secretary Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn reported on the implementation of the National Export Strategy (2020-2025) and completed work plans.

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

Union Minister for Home Affairs focuses on eradicating child labour

SAC Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae underscored child labour eradication at the seventh meeting of the Myanmar National Committee on the Elimination of Child Labour, held at the Ministry of Labour's combined hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Union Ministers, deputy ministers, senior officials, chief ministers from states and regions and committee members joined the meeting, with some participating via video conferencing. Discussions include

challenges in addressing child labour due to poverty, lack of education, and family financial pressures.

The Union minister emphasized that child labour eradication must be treated as a national responsibility with a long-term action plan aligned with the 2024-2028 national strategy. The committee also reviewed progress on resolutions from the sixth meeting and outlines steps for effective implementation of the second five-year plan.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae urged all



The seventh meeting of the Myanmar National Committee on the Elimination of Child Labour underway yesterday, addressed by SAC Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

stakeholders, including government bodies and civil soci-

ety organizations to cooperate openly to overcome obstacles

and achieve tangible results. — MNA/KZL

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

People's Military Servants Summoning Central Body holds 2025 inaugural meeting

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants attended the 1/2025 coordination meeting of the central body in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the General said that false information regarding the summoning of people's military servants is circulating among the public, and the weaknesses of ward, village, township and district levels are being pointed out by the individuals as well as to the media. Most of them exaggerate to mislead the people and defame the summoning procedures based on a few pieces of true information.

Therefore, the relevant officials should take effective actions against those who commit destructive actions against the People's Military Service Law, and there are also completed le-



The first meeting of the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants in progress yesterday, chaired by SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoD Union Minister General Maung Maung Aye.

gal actions and ongoing actions. Similarly, it needs to uncover and take action against misinformation, propaganda and false reports.

Moreover, the responsible officials should supervise the ward, village and township ad-

ministrators who make direct communication with people to ensure proper communication, curb financial fraud, and work following the procedures. The central body also reviews the applications for exemptions, reductions and postponement of

military service. Every citizen must defend the country, and arrangements should be made for eligible individuals to serve for a designated period.

Moreover, the central body is implementing the National Service Information Management

System (NSIMS) to achieve correct and accurate data.

Then, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin, members of the central body and Nay Pyi Taw, Region/State committees' chairmen and officials reported on the matters related to the military training.

General Maung Maung Aye then concluded that the number of people eligible for military training should be compiled in advance and informed to the individuals. Only then will all accept the situation and can no one engage in unscrupulous actions.

The summoning of military servants is a long-term programme, so there must be systematic work procedures with good management systems. He stressed the need to summon the military servants correctly and systematically under the People's Military Servant Law, rules and regulations, and not to summon them by force. — MNA/KTZH

MoST Deputy Minister discusses EV development measures

THE working committee on EV Research Development and Technology organized its first meeting via hybrid format yesterday evening.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya, chairman of the committee, director-general and the Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training officials joined the meeting.

At the meeting, the deputy minister highlighted the need to accelerate the measures to

develop EV research and technology, develop IT Applications that ensure the practical use of EVs for people, research two and three-wheeled EVs, farm equipment EVs, solar EV charging systems, EV Metrology and EV batteries, offer proper skill training meeting the needs and standards at EV training, cooperate with departments concerned to draft the EV standards and policies and conduct public awareness programmes for people and EV Stakeholders regarding the



The first online meeting of the working committee on EV Research Development and Technology underway yesterday, joined by Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya.

safe use of EV and battery management.

Then, the attendees coordinated the discussion and the

Deputy Minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Advertise with us/ Hotline: 09 454237515, 09 255597511

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING (+95) (01) 8604530, Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm
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.
gnlmnews@gmail.com, newsroom@gnlm.com.mm, www.gnlm.com.mm
Write for us
We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Taunggyi launches campaign to develop libraries, boost reading habits

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, accompanied by Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung, attended a ceremony to launch the “Developing Libraries and Raising Reading Habits” campaign at No 4 BEHS in Taunggyi yesterday.

The Union minister first cut the ribbon to inaugurate the campaign together with the relevant officials and presented cash prizes to dance troupes.

He then observed the sports competitions and book sales, distributed nutrient food to students and also gave them gifts. He also inspected the Pyinya Beikman Library.

During the second session of the event, the Union minister said everyone seeks knowledge and creates their lives in a beautiful structure nowadays. The youths should seek knowledge and education and try to develop their lives and benefit the country.

He also mentioned the guidance of the Head of the State highlighting “an illiterate person is like a person sitting who don’t move forward while a literate person is like a walking person”,



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn (L) is pictured during the inaugural event for “Developing Libraries and Raising Reading Habits” in Taunggyi yesterday.

and he urged the students to read as much as they can.

The Union minister presented 165 DTH dishes and 200 DVB T2 Set Top Boxes for the Shan State government, regional military stations and basic education schools in Taunggyi.

The chief minister, who is also the Shan State Libraries Development Cooperation Committee Patron, briefed the government’s efforts in establishing

the new libraries and donated books and publications for school libraries.

After the Shan traditional dance performed by students, the Union minister and the Shan State chief minister presented them with cash awards.

The Union minister and the chief minister observed the booths displayed marking the campaign.

Union Minister U Maung

Maung Ohn met students at Taunggyi University at noon.

During the meeting, he said the insurgents intentionally spread misinformation and false reports to mislead the people, and the youths should consider the right things. The youths are also reliable human resources for the country’s future, and they should read to expand their knowledge scope.

He presented 10 DTH dishes

for the universities in Taunggyi to Rector Dr Kay Thi Thin of Taunggyi University and organized drawing lot sections for the students with 10 DTH dishes and 10 DVB T2 Set Top Boxes.

He attended the donation ceremony of the MRTV DTH dish and DVB T2 Set Top Box at the Hopong township administration office.

Speaking at the event, he said the people use media for their own sake and express false information based on their ego. Therefore, all should work together to fight against misinformation and disinformation and to spread the true information. The government employees should be loyal to the country and be protected from the destructive actions of insurgents.

He donated 130 DTH dishes and 50 DVB T2 Set Top Boxes for the development of the PaO Self-Administered Region and PaO people’s militia (local).

The Union minister also inspected the newly constructed Aungthaya Library in Aungthaya Village, cordially met with the locals, and donated books and publications. — MNA/KTZH

Tatmadaw successfully performs 8th liver transplant

TATMADAW successfully carried out its first liver transplant operation on 27 and 28 September 2022, treating two patients.

Subsequently, three transplant procedures were performed in 2023 for nine patients, and another nine patients received successful transplants in 2024.

Currently, the eighth series of liver transplant procedures is underway, involving three patients. On the first day, the procedure was conducted at the Special Treatment Centre of the Tatmadaw 1,000-bed Hospital in Mingaladon Township yesterday.

This liver transplant was conducted collaboratively by the Tatmadaw liver transplant team and their counterparts from India. The procedure involved Corporal Nay Lin Oo as the recipient and Sayadaw



Yesterday the Tatmadaw 1,000-bed Hospital in Mingaladon Township conducted its eighth liver transplant operation.

U Manita as the donor.

The liver was retrieved from the donor at 9:30 am and the transplant it into the recipient was completed at around 5 pm, taking approximately 11 hours in total. Both the donor and recipient are in good health following the surgery and are under close monitoring at the inten-

sive care unit, receiving necessary treatment from specialists, medical officers and trained nurses.

Senior Tatmadaw officials observed and encouraged the team during the operation. The remaining procedures will be carried out on 29 and 30 January, according to reports. — MNA/KZL

Tatmadaw vessels provide healthcare in Kyone Mange

TATMADAW deployed two hospital vessels – Shwepuzun and Saku – accompanied by a mobile medical team comprising specialists, medical officers and nurses to deliver healthcare services to locals along the Ayeyawady River. This team arrived yesterday in Kyone Mange Village, Kyaiklat Township, Ayeyawady Region. Upon arrival, local officials, departmental representatives and residents warmly welcomed the team.

The mobile medical team operated from the Basic Education Middle School in Kyone Mange Village, providing healthcare services to 216 people from the village and nearby communities. Treatment was provided for 61 general cases, 13 surgical cases, three obstetrics and gynaecology cases, 18 paediatric cases, 28 orthopaedic cases, seven (eye, ear and nose) ENT cases, 62 ophthalmology cases and 24 dental cases.

Diagnostic services were also performed, including X-rays for nine patients, ultrasounds for 13 patients, ECG tests for 11 patients and laboratory tests for 13 patients. Four patients requiring further medical attention were referred to nearby Tatmadaw or regional hospitals for follow-up treatment. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Renowned writer Sayagyi Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) passes away

NATIONAL Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement winner writer Sayagyi Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) (aka) U Khin Aye (1940-2025) passed away at 0:30 am on 28 January at Yangon General Hospital, according to his daughter Ma Thu Thu Nwe Aye.

On her social network page, Ma Thu Thu Nwe Aye posted, "My beloved father Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) unexpectedly passed away at 12:30 am on 28 January."

As the Sayagyi turned 85 in January, his pupils, sons and daughters made birthday wishes for the Sayagyi on the social network pages on 24 January.

Sayagyi Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) was born of U Yama and Daw Saw Tin in Kyontanee Village of Danubyu Township on 2 January 1940.

He stood first in passing the fourth standard examination managed by the Yangon Municipal Education Board in 1954 and passed the seventh standard and the middle school scholarship exams with the highest marks in 1957. He also passed the matriculation examination in 1959 with the highest mark in Myanmar subject.



Eminent author Sayagyi Maung Khin Min (Danubyu), writer of 'Myanmar Sarpay Khayee' (The Journey of the Myanmar Language), has passed away.

U Khin Aye obtained a Bachelor of Arts (General Distinctions) from Yangon University in 1963 and began his career in 1963 at the Myanmar Language Department at Patheingyi College. He served in various positions, including Assistant Lecturer, Lecturer, Associate Professor, and Professor, at institutions such as Patheingyi College, Yangon University of Arts and Science, Dagon University, Pyaw Degree College, and Yangon University, fulfilling responsibilities at different levels.

The esteemed teacher was awarded the Master of Arts (Honours) in 1969. Excelling in

the fields of literature, linguistics, and education, he was conferred the honorary Doctorate of Literature at the 105th Convocation of Yangon University on 19 October 2002. Moreover, the esteemed teacher served as the visiting professor of the Myanmar Language at the Osaka University of Foreign Studies in Japan for a two-year term from 1997 to 1999.

Daw Su Su Nwe, wife of the Sayagyi, served as an Associate Professor at the Myanmar Department of Yangon University. His daughter Ma Thu Thu Nwe Aye is also a person who carries on the legacy of great



teachers, contributing to the field of language and literature. She compiles Japanese language teaching books in the Japanese language.

A highly esteemed literary figure, who made significant contributions to the Myanmar literary world, was awarded the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2013. After retiring as a professor from the Myanmar Department at Yangon University in 2002, he continued to work tirelessly for the benefit of the Myanmar Department, Myanmar literature, the Myanmar language, and the broader literary community until his

passing.

Sayagyi Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) resided with his family at Room No 4B-1, Sanda Myaing Condominium, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Reportedly, the funeral is scheduled to take place at 3:00 pm on 30 January at Yayway Cemetery in Yangon, where the cremation will be conducted, and his remaining ashes will be interred in the tomb.

Among various books, notable books Sayagyi wrote are The Nature of Prose, Techniques for the Prose published in 1979, the Myanmar Prose for the People in 1985, the Myanmar Language and Symbols in 1990 which was honoured as the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award in 1987, the Myanmar language scholars and perspectives on linguistics in 1992, the Reflections of a loving heart in 1997, the Swimming across the ocean of literature in 1997, the Ocean of Oratory and Literature in 1997, the One sound, two sound and three-four sounds in 2000, A guide to research in 2001, and the Milestones of a Forty-Year life journey in 2002 which secured the belle-latter genre of the National Literature Award. — Htun Htun/TTA

'Kyaylatka Mee Eain Shin' drama series launched in Yangon



Artistes attending the launch event of the drama series 'Kyaylatka Mee Eain Shin' (The Rural Lamp Owner).

THE launch event of the Myanmar drama series 'Kyaylatka Mee Eain Shin' (The Rural Lamp Owner) took place on 26 January at the Kanthaya Cinema in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region. Actor Nay Min shared this information regarding the event, which introduced the cast and storyline.

The drama series is based on the novel by author Shun Yami Moe and was adapted into a screenplay by Khit Shay Nyo and Seven Day. Directed by Aung Zaw Linn, the series was produced for the Mahar Mobile Application platform.

Speaking about the series, Nay Min said, "The story is set in a rural village

far from urban life, where mysterious events unfold. It revolves around an eerie old house, and during filming, we even encountered some strange incidents, such as the house caretaker unexpectedly joining in. It's a unique experience, and we've poured a lot of effort into this series with a strong cast".

The cast includes prominent artistes such as Nay Min, Nyein Thaw, Kyaw Htet, Min Hein, Ei Chaw Po, May Pachi, Yoon Wint Hlwa Aung, Tin Zar Win Pyae, Wai Phyoo, Nyi Nyi Min Htet and senior actors like Zaw Oo and Zaw Win Maung.

The series comprises 21 episodes and premiered at 7 pm on 23 January. It airs weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the same time on the Mahar Application. — ASH/KZL

Rehearsals begin for 2024 Myanmar Film Awards Academy hosts

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, rehearsals for the Academy Award receptionists for the 2024 Myanmar Film Awards ceremony are currently underway.

The rehearsals were conducted at the organization's cinema hall from 26 to 28 January 2025. The sessions were supervised by veteran film stars Academy Award winners Yan Aung and May Than Nu.

"For the 2024 Academy Awards ceremony, rehearsals were held for 40 selected receptionists over three consecutive days, from 26 to 28 January. The sessions were guided by senior film professionals," said MMPO Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay. — ASH/MKKS

ITC Mandalay accepts trainees for industrial skills training 13



Trainees engage in a practical training session.

THE No 2 Industrial Training Centre (Mandalay) of Department of Industrial Collaboration under the Ministry of Industry, will conduct one-year Industrial Skills Training (Batch 13) from 5 May

2025 to 3 April 2026. The maximum number of trainees for each course is just 30, its Student Affairs Department notified.

The Machine Tools Operator Course, CNC Operator Course, Elec-

trician Course, Welder Course, Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic Course and Automobile & Tractor Mechanic Course will be included.

The application form and admission manual can be available at the Industrial Training Centre (Mandalay) located in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay via 09 447660140 and 09 43015064 and the Department of Industrial Collaboration through 067 3405051, and websites www.industry.gov.mm, www.itc.mdy.com.

Those who have taken the matriculation exam under the old curriculum or Grade 12 under the new curriculum are eligible to attend the course. They must be 17-25 years old. Only unmarried with a passion for industrial training, those fit enough to complete the training and those who can abide by rules are entitled to fill in the form by 21 March 2025. The interview will be held on 7-9 April 2025 at the ITC (Mandalay). — NN/KK

Steady demand for Myanmar maize in livestock feed industry

LIVESTOCK feed processing factories are constantly purchasing maize as raw materials, traders engaged in Mandalay market said.

Myanmar's maize is domestically and globally demanded. Starting from 1 February, maize will be sent to Thailand with the exemption of the Customs Tariff.

Thailand gives the green light for maize imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on maize imports to protect the rights of their growers if the maize is imported during the maize season of Thailand. This being so, traders are stocking them to export under duty exemption.

Myanmar's maize is primarily exported to the Philippines, Vietnam, China and India through maritime trade. They are also sent to neighbouring countries at borders.



This photo features corn feedstuffs, a key raw material for livestock feed.

Additionally, China has been purchasing Myanmar's maize through cross-border trade under the alternative development programme. Legitimate maize trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2023. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted for maize exports.

Myanmar exports around two million tonnes of maize. The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. Myanmar's annual corn output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/KK

MMQR launches digital payment switch for multiple wallets



THE Central Bank of Myanmar rolled out the MMQR (Myanmar Quick Response) digital payment switch and its functions, creating interoperability between payment systems of financial institutions, CBM's governor Daw Than Than Swe said.

CBM's governor gave the remark at the awareness event about the Digital Payment Switch in which multiple payment platforms can be assessed through a single MMQR code (National Level Standard), at the Eravati Sule Grand Yangon on 27 January.

She explained the MMQR that will connect multiple mobile wallets, create a secure and efficient payment system and promote cashless payment. Merchants can accept real-time retail payments of multiple digital wallet users through the MMQR regardless of different wallet systems.

Furthermore, the CBM is aiming to step up to use cross-border QR code payment in the region, she continued.

A representative from PayPlus Co Ltd, the system operator of the MMQR, elaborated on Digital Payment Switch procedures, the benefits of the MMQR for merchants, representatives of the banks, key points of awareness and the do's and don'ts of digital payment. Representatives also addressed the questions raised by the attendees and the merchants. — NN/KK

Gold Market Rate as of 28 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.

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.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

OPINION

Take preventive measures against seasonal flu

THE Ministry of Health has emphasized the importance of preventing seasonal flu infections, which can lead to respiratory diseases and other illnesses like COVID-19 and HMPV during Myanmar's cold season.

Seasonal flu spreads through coughing and sneezing, as well as contact with infected individuals or contaminated surfaces. The virus can easily infect people through the hands, mouth, nose, or eyes. Symptoms include coughing, fever, colds, sore throat, breathing difficulties, respiratory pain, and pneumonia.

To protect yourself, it is essential to take preventive measures. Individuals with flu-like symptoms should wear masks, wash hands regularly with soap or sanitizer, and maintain social distancing. Covering the mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing is also crucial to limit the spread of the virus.

Seasonal flu occurs worldwide and affects all age groups but is more common during colder months. Although most cases resolve within 7-10 days, children, the elderly, and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of severe complications, which can be fatal. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around 1 billion people contract seasonal flu annually, with 3-5 million severe cases and up to 650,000 deaths from related respiratory diseases.

The Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), which has garnered global attention in the 2024-25 season, has been detected in neighbouring countries of Myanmar. Although different from COVID-19, it poses a concern for public health. Past outbreaks of infectious diseases in Myanmar, such as those from 2014 to 2015, were not severe, but vigilance remains necessary.

As an act of preventing the infectious diseases, it is necessary to keep the society neat and tidy. People need to clean up their homes and environments as well as carry out personal hygienic activities. If people find patients with suspected seasonal flu, they have to inform nearby health units about the infection of the virus in time to comprehensively control the viruses and diseases. If so, the society of people can be safe for all.

As an act of preventing the infectious diseases, it is necessary to keep the society neat and tidy. People need to clean up their homes and environments as well as carry out personal hygienic activities. If people find patients with suspected seasonal flu, they have to inform nearby health units about the infection of the virus in time to comprehensively control the viruses and diseases. If so, the society of people can be safe for all.

The Ministry of Health urges the public to follow health guidelines and avoid panic. Preventive measures, including wearing masks, practising good hygiene, and maintaining physical distancing, can effectively reduce the risk of infection. Cooperation with health authorities is key to managing the seasonal flu and other illnesses during this period. By adhering to these recommendations and staying informed, individuals can protect themselves and their communities from the spread of seasonal flu and related diseases.

ON 24 October 2025, the United Nations (UN) Charter will mark its 80th anniversary. When the Charter came into force, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) had 51 member states. Today, there are 193 member-states in the UNGA, of whom 134 have declared themselves to be developing countries under the banner of the Group of 77 (G-77). Most members of the G-77 are popularly referred to as the Global South.

The interests of the Global South have been brought into the mainstream activity of the UN between 1964, when the G-77 was founded, and 2015, when the UNGA adopted its historic Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs represent a holistic approach to ensuring an interlinked world, bringing together individual, social, economic, and environmental priorities, to be implemented in a nationally-driven effort through supportive flows of multilateral finance, transfers of technologies, and multiple stakeholder partnerships between governments, businesses, academia, and civil society.

The UN's Summit of the Future held in September 2024 sought "a recommitment to international cooperation based on respect for international law,

without which we can neither manage the risks nor seize the opportunities that we face." This applies first and foremost to the development priorities of the Global South, which is the "central objective of multilateralism."

The anodyne Pact for the Future adopted by the UN's Summit of the Future in September 2024 did not contain any new commitments on how Agenda 2030 is to be implemented. The UN Summit on SDGs held in September 2023 attributed the challenges to implementing Agenda 2030 primarily to a breakdown of international cooperation on peace, security, and development. The Pact's silence on a time-bound target for reforming the UN and the UN Security Council (UNSC) casts a shadow on the future of constructive and equitable international cooperation.

Aware of this ambivalence, India took the lead during its G-20 Presidency in 2023 to bring together countries of the Global South to support "reformed multilateralism" and an effective UN system. India convened three virtual Voice of the Global South Summits (VOGSS) in January and November 2023, and in August 2024. The theme of the third VOGSS, in which 123 countries participated, was "An Empowered

A Dawn for the Global South

by Asoke Mukerji

Global South for a Sustainable Future".

Global South countries felt that the outcome of the existing process in the UNGA launched in 2008 to reform the UNSC had been inordinately delayed. Common issues that emerged from this Summit, in addition to challenges in implementing the SDGs of Agenda 2030, included shared concerns regarding climate change, and the application of new technol-

ogies, including Artificial Intelligence, that impacted developing countries. Chairing the Summit, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a Global Development Compact.

The proposed Global Development Compact faces a stiff challenge from developed countries. Speaking in the UNGA on 7 October 2024, the United States asserted that the Pact for the Future and its annexes "do not create or otherwise change any rights or obligations under international law." It questioned the concept of "development as an inalienable human right". This contradicted the UNGA's Declaration on the Right to Development adopted in December 1986.

The 80th anniversary of the UN Charter provides an opportune moment for the Global South to integrate the issues prioritized by the VOGSS process, anchored in the right to development, into the UN Charter. As an international treaty, the Charter contains a specific review provision in Article 109 that needs to be implemented in a sequential three-stage process. In the first stage, Article 109 provides for a "General Conference" of the member-states of the UN to be convened for "reviewing the present Charter". The decision to convene the General Conference requires a two-thirds

majority in the UNGA (129 out of 193 member-states) and nine votes out of 15 in the UNSC (without the veto of the P5). In the second stage, Article 109 provides for the UN member-states participating in the General Conference to recommend any amendments to the UN Charter by a "two-thirds vote of the conference". In the third stage, any proposed amendments to the UN Charter would come into effect when ratified by two-thirds of the members of the UN, including the P5 of the UNSC.

Having coordinated the VOGSS process, India is well placed to take the initiative during the 80th anniversary of the UN in 2025 to call for implementing the first stage of Article 109 of the UN Charter by convening a General Conference. A constructive discussion within the framework of such a meeting, held on equal terms between the Global South and other UN member-states, will ensure that the dawn of the Global South can catalyze a revived and reformed United Nations in the 21st century.

Ambassador (Retd.) Asoke Mukerji was India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York between 2013-2015.

Study finds successful treatment of childhood obesity lowers long-term health risks

Obesity remission and good response groups showed lower rates of obesity-related health outcomes than the poor response group, including a significantly lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia.

IN A recent study published in JAMA Pediatrics, researchers investigated the long-term effects of treatment for long-term pediatric obesity on multiple obesity-related health outcomes.

Their findings indicate that a positive response to obesity treatment, including remission, can significantly reduce the risk of outcomes such as hypertension, depression, and type 2 diabetes, as well as lower the probability of death during young adulthood.

Background

Childhood obesity is now a widespread issue globally, with projections showing that 18 per cent of girls and 20 per cent of boys between five and 19 will be obese by 2035. Obesity in children is linked to health problems like high blood pressure, insulin resistance, liver disease, and mental health issues like anxiety and depression. Additionally, children with obesity face higher risks of poor health during adulthood.

Treatments such as behavioral lifestyle changes, medications, and bariatric surgery have improved short- and long-term health indicators in affected children. In Sweden, evi-

dence-based obesity treatments have focused on lifestyle modifications over the past 15 years.

Researchers have utilized the Swedish Childhood Obesity Treatment Register (BORIS), one of the world's largest databases for treating childhood obesity, in multiple studies to explore the connection between obesity and its related health complications.

About the study

Researchers used a prospective cohort study design, BORIS data, and information from administrative and national health registers to investigate the long-term effects of pediatric obesity treatment.

Participants were adolescents and children (ages 6-17) with obesity who had received one or more years of treatment before turning 18. The study compared these individuals with a matched group drawn from the general population in a 1:5 ratio based on sex, birth year, and location. Key exclusion criteria included individuals who had genetic syndromes, those who went through bariatric surgery, emigrated, or died before follow-up.

The primary exposure was treatment effectiveness, measured by changes in the

standard deviation score (SDS) of body mass index (BMI) from the first to the last visit. Treatment responses were classified as poor, intermediate, good, or obesity remission.

Health outcomes assessed included hypertension, type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, anxiety or depression, bariatric surgery, and mortality. Data were linked to Swedish medical registers to track diagnoses, treatments, and outcomes.

Statistical analysis used Poisson regression to compare incidence rates of outcomes and Cox regression to assess the association between treatment response and these outcomes.

The study controlled for variables such as sex, age, degree of obesity, socioeconomic status, and migration background. Subgroup analyses focused on adolescents aged 12-17.

The study aimed to provide insights into how early treatment of obesity impacts long-term health, considering various sociodemographic and treatment-related factors.

Findings

The study included 6,713 individuals with a median age of 12.1 years at treatment initiation.

Participants were categorized based on their treatment response: poor, intermediate, good, or obesity remission. They were compared to 32,402 individuals from the general population.

The results showed that individuals in the obesity remission and good response groups had lower rates of obesity-related health outcomes than those in the poor response group. For example, those in the obesity remission group had a significantly lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia.

Bariatric surgery rates were also lower in the good response and obesity remission groups. However, treatment response was not associated with a reduced risk of depression or anxiety.

Regarding mortality, individuals with a good response or obesity remission had a significantly lower risk of premature death compared to the poor response group.

No significant link was found between obesity treatment effectiveness and fractures.

Overall, better obesity treatment responses were associated with improved long-term health outcomes, including lower risks of type 2 diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and



The study involved 6,713 individuals, with a median age of 12.1 years at the start of treatment. **ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: CONCEPT ART**

mortality.

Conclusions

This study found that successful treatment of pediatric obesity reduces the long-term risk of obesity-related health issues during young adulthood, including type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, and premature mortality.

The greatest reductions in risk were observed in individuals who achieved obesity remission, although even moderate improvements in obesity were beneficial. However, the study found no significant effect on the risk of anxiety or depression, suggesting these conditions require independent treatment.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

Myanmar Tourism Bank and ATG Systems Group ink MoU

MYANMAR Tourism Bank (MTB) and ATG Systems Group have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate in technical services, the MTB announced.

Their intended cooperation areas cover technical services

including MTB Bank's ICT services, Data Centre, Solar Solutions, e-Commerce, Learning Management System and e-Sport.

The MoU was inked at the MTB's head office on Sule Road, Yangon, on 27 January between

U Win Lwin, CEO of the MTB and U Zaw Myint Oo, Co-Founder of ATG Systems Group, with U Win Ko Htut, CTO of the MTB and Daw Khin Thanda Soe, Senior Business Development Manager of the ATG Systems Group as witnesses, it said. — MT/ZN



The MTB and ATG Systems Group pose for the documentary group photo during the signing ceremony. PHOTO-MYANMAR TOURISM BANK

Thazi Township seizes K2 billion in stimulant tablets

A total of 1.38 million stimulant tablets, valued at over K2 billion, were seized in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

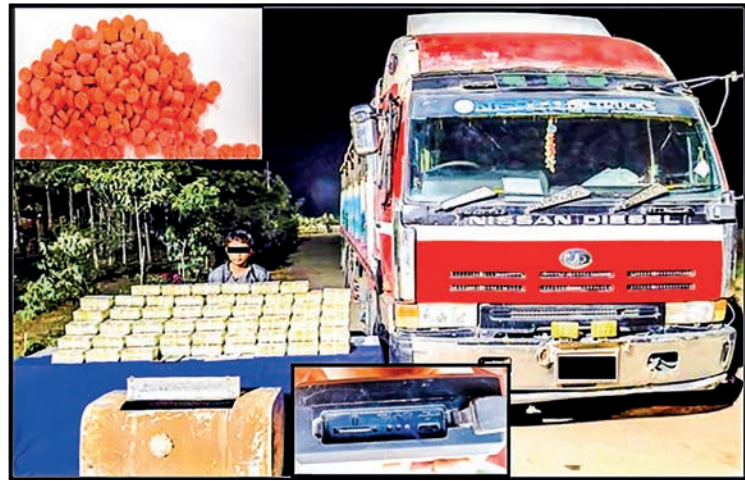
Following a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, searched an I-Zone truck near Kyweltatsone Village in Thazi Township at 11 pm on 24 January. During the search, they

confiscated 1.38 million stimulant tablets. The truck, driven by Myo Min Oo (aka) Megyi, was travelling from Muse to Yangon.

The seized drugs were intended to be transported from northern Shan State to Yangon.

Legal action has been taken against the offenders, and investigations are ongoing to identify and apprehend other individuals involved in the case.

— MNA/MKKS



An offender is seen alongside seized drugs, a vehicle and related items.

8 billion allocated for rural solar systems in 2024–2025FY

DURING the 2024–2025 financial year, solar home systems are being implemented in villages within Shan State (East) and Ayeyawady Region using over K8 billion from the Union Budget Fund, according to the Department of Rural Development.

The Department of Rural Development is implementing rural electrification projects using solar home systems in villages where it is challenging to supply electricity through the national power grid due to factors such as scattered households, long distances between villages, and poor transportation connectivity.

“For this year, rural electrification projects using solar home systems are being implemented in villages within Shan State (East) and Ayeyawady Region, funded by more than K8 billion from the Union Budget Fund. Additionally, two villages in Bokpyin Township, Tanin-



This photo reveals a small-scale solar power plant in Htainpinmyaung village in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Region.

tharyi Region, benefitted from projects supported by the Mekong-Lancang Special Fund 2022. Similarly, under the Mekong-Lancang Special Fund 2023, two projects are planned for Dedaye Township in Ayeyawady Region and Bokpyin Township in Tanintharyi Region,” said U Myo Myo, Director of the Rural Electrification

Division of the Department of Rural Development.

Between the 2016–2017 and 2024–2025 financial years, nearly 10,000 villages nationwide have benefitted from rural electrification projects using solar home systems, reaching approximately 450,000 households, the department further noted. — ASH/KNN

Counter-argument to false information

Fake news alleges security forces torch about 20 homes in Nawngkhio

MALICIOUS media outlets have spread fake news claiming that security forces burned down around 20 homes of residents in Ohmmati Village, Nawngkhio Township, Shan State (North).

A local security official

stated that the news is not true and that security forces are conducting operations under the law to protect the life, and property of the people. The official also emphasized that terrorists have no regard for the live, and property of

civilians, and are burning down villages and wards that do not support them under various pretexts, while also firing heavy weapons. Additionally, illegal media outlets are spreading false information to cover up the actions

of terrorists and to mislead the public about the security forces. — MNA/TH

This screenshot validates misinformation.



Luxor artisans revitalize ancient Egyptian art of alabaster carving

AMIDST the ancient temples and tombs in Egypt's Luxor, skilled artisans continue to transform alabaster — a luminous stone once cherished by pharaohs — into breathtaking artworks, reviving the legacy of their ancestors.

In open-air workshops on the west bank of the Nile, artworks such as sculptures, vases, and figurines take shape as artisans meticulously sculpt rough stones using traditional tools.

Many artisans have dedicated their lives to upholding the craft passed down through generations, finding fulfilment in preserving this ancient tradition. "This is not just a profession but an art form. With precision, I carve alabaster stone into beautiful statues, elegant vases, and other pieces," said Gamal Mahmoud, a 61-year-old master craftsman.

With over four decades of experience, Mahmoud's face bears wrinkles etched by time, while his skills have been honed to perfec-

tion. His deliberate strokes echo the creativity of pharaohs who once commissioned alabaster statues and vessels.

"We use the same techniques, tools, and materials employed in ancient Egypt to craft these artifacts," he told Xinhua, shaping a vase.

Alabaster, found in hues ranging from pristine white to warm browns and emerald greens, presents both challenges and creative possibilities.

"We draw inspiration from antiquity, creating pieces from small scarabs and cats to statues of gods and pharaohs," Mahmoud explained.

The workshops attract tourists who watch artisans at work and browse nearby shops filled with their creations, including replicas of iconic figures like Tutankhamun and Hatshepsut.

Though alabaster carving once faced decline, it now enjoys a resurgence fuelled by younger generations' interest. — Xinhua



An artisan works on an alabaster artwork at a workshop in Luxor, Egypt, on 10 January 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA



File photo taken on 9 September 2024 shows the site where Fujiwara Palace stood in Kashihara, Nara Prefecture. It is one of the "Ancient Capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara" for which Japan seeks UNESCO World Heritage listing. PHOTO: KYODO

Japan to recommend ancient capitals in Nara Pref for UNESCO listing

JAPAN decided Tuesday to recommend ancient capitals located in current-day Nara Prefecture, western Japan, as candidates for UNESCO's World Heritage list to be inscribed in 2026.

By the end of this month, the government will submit the recommendation for recognition of the "Ancient Capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara" for the period between the late 6th century and early 8th century, consisting of 19 assets, including ruins of imperial palaces and burial mounds.

The site is a testament to "how the cen-

tralized administrative framework was formed during East Asia's ancient state establishment period," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Keiichiro Tachibana said in a press conference Tuesday.

If all goes smoothly, a UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization advisory panel will conduct an on-site survey around this fall, and a session of the World Heritage Committee, to be convened in the summer of 2026, will discuss whether to approve the listing. — Kyodo

Australian parents warned of rise in AI-generated child abuse material

THE Australian Federal Police (AFP) has issued a warning to parents over the rise of AI-generated child abuse material.

The AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) on Tuesday said it has noticed an increase

in the use of AI-generated abuse material, including a rise in students creating "deepfakes" to harass or embarrass classmates.

The federal police asked parents and guardians to talk to their children about the poten-

tial dangers and harms caused by using AI.

AFP Commander Helen Schneider said anything depicting the abuse of a minor is considered child abuse material under the law "regardless of whether it is 'real' or not".

"The AFP encourages all parents and guardians to have open and honest conversations with their child on this topic, particularly as AI technology continues to become increasingly accessible and integrated into platforms and products,"

she said in a statement.

The warning comes one day after the AFP urged parents and carers to exercise caution when posting photos of children on social media to celebrate the start of the 2025 school year on Tuesday. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Hokkaido city posts guards at tourist hotspot ahead of Lunar New Year

SECURITY guards were deployed Tuesday at a popular tourist spot in Otaru, Hokkaido, famed for its appearance in an acclaimed movie, to prepare for an expected surge of visitors during the Lunar New Year holidays.

The move comes as the city has been grappling with increasingly troublesome behaviour from foreign tourists on film location tours, including a recent incident where a Chinese woman died after being hit by a train while taking photos on the train tracks.

The spot, Funamizaka slope, is a key location for the 1995 Japanese movie "Love Letter", which enjoyed great popularity in China and South Korea. Complaints have risen over tourists blocking narrow roads to take photos of the slope, which has



A security guard (L) holds up a sign with warnings as tourists take photos at Funamizaka slope in Otaru, Hokkaido, on 28 January 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

a view of the sea as a backdrop.

Guards in three locations were seen Tuesday holding signs in English, Chinese, and Korean advising visitors not to trespass on private property or take photos in the middle of a road. The measures will stay in place until the end of March, with local police also increasing patrols in the area. "People are even entering private property without permission to take photos," said Hidetoshi Itagaki, an 80-year-old local resident. But he acknowledged that the security presence so far has reduced the number of people obstructing roads.

Wang Haishu, a 23-year-old university student from China's Sichuan Province, said that it was sad to see Chinese tourists causing trouble in Japan. — Kyodo

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka ends ban on vehicle imports

SRI Lanka announced the lifting of a five-year ban on vehicle imports Tuesday as the country showed further signs of emerging from its worst economic meltdown.



Visitors look at cars at a motor show in Colombo on 6 December 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Information Minister Nalinda Jayatissa said buses, trucks and utility vehicles will be allowed in from Saturday under a phased removal of restrictions in place since 2020.

"We are moving very cautiously because we don't want a surge of imports that will deplete our foreign reserves," Jayatissa told reporters in Colombo.

"Depending on the demand, we will open imports of other categories of vehicles such as cars, motorcycles and three-wheelers." He said the imports were necessary to generate much-needed tax revenue, and the government hoped to cap imports at about \$1.2 billion this year.

Current tax rates on vehicles are over 300 per cent. — AFP

Direct flights between Chinese mainland and India to resume

CHINA and India agreed Monday to resume direct flights between the Chinese mainland and India, according to a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement on Tuesday.

Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Sun Weidong and Indian Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri held a meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism between China and India on Monday in Beijing, focusing on promoting the implementation of the common understandings reached between Chinese and Indian leaders at their meeting in Kazan and discussing measures to improve and develop China-India relations, the statement said.

The two sides reached common understandings on the following specific measures:

First, India is willing to fully support China's work as the rotating chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and will actively participate in

various activities hosted by China under the framework of the SCO.

Second, the two sides agreed to utilize bilateral and multilateral occasions to carry out active interactions at all levels, strengthen strategic communication, and enhance political mutual trust.

Third, the two sides agreed to jointly commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India in 2025, and carry out media and think tank exchanges, Track II talks and other people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

Fourth, the two sides agreed to resume direct flights between the Chinese mainland and India, support the coordination and promotion of the competent departments of the two countries, and take measures to facilitate personnel exchanges and mutual dispatch of journalists between the two countries. — Xinhua

Spain jobless rate falls to lowest level since 2008 crisis

SPANISH unemployment fell last year to its lowest level since the 2008 global financial crisis as the tourism-driven service sector performed strongly, official data showed on Tuesday.

The jobless rate in the European Union's fourth-largest

economy at the end of 2024 was 10.61 per cent, down from 11.76 per cent the previous year, the National Statistics Institute said. A buoyant economy added 468,100 jobs in the last 12 months to reach a total of 21.8 million, the highest level ever

registered.

A dynamic service sector slashed unemployment by 100,000 during 2024, a year in which the world's second most-visited country received a record 94 million tourists. — AFP

Ghana sees improved macroeconomic environment: central bank governor

GHANA witnessed an improved macroeconomic environment in 2024 due to the impact of reforms backed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and strong gold exports, according to Ernest Addison, governor of the Bank of Ghana, the central bank, Monday.

Addison said at a press briefing that one of the areas that showed positive signs of recovery was the external side, where the country was able to build strong reserve buffers, contributing to relative stability in the local currency.

He said the build-up of international reserves in 2024 exceeded the targets under the IMF-backed reforms, with gross international reserves increasing to US\$8.98 billion.

The external sector's performance was mainly driven by strong growth in gold exports,

which also largely impacted economic development positively, said Addison, adding that the external sector is expected to continue on a strong growth path with favourable commodity prices amid improved production.

The governor said growth exceeded expectations, with the economy expanding at an annual rate of 6.3 per cent during the first three quarters of 2024.

"The stronger-than-projected growth and generally improved macroeconomic conditions are spilling over positively to the banking sector," Addison added.

Facing a severe economic crisis, the Ghanaian government secured approval for a US\$3-billion loan from the IMF in 2023 to implement reforms and steer the economy towards recovery. — Xinhua

US new-home sales up at end of 2024 to post 2nd annual gain

SALES of new US homes ended 2024 on a high note in December as customers took advantage of incentives from builders, leading to a second straight year of increased purchases.

The annual pace of new single-family home sales accelerated 3.6 per cent to 698,000 last month, reflecting a sharp advance in the West, government figures released on Monday showed.

The median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists predicted 675,000 annualized sales. For the full year, custom-

ers purchased 683,000 homes, up about 2.5 per

cent from 2023's total.

Median sale prices,

meantime, rebounded despite a gradual cooling trend, increasing 2.1 per cent to US\$427,000. Prices continue to pinch consumers, up nearly 30 per cent since the end of 2019.

"The market for new homes has held up better than that for existing ones thanks in part to widespread use by builders of incentives, including mortgage rate 'buydowns' in which they make up-front payments on customers' behalf to lower mortgage costs," noted Bloomberg. — Xinhua



A for sale sign is displayed outside of a home for sale on 16 August 2024 in Los Angeles, California. United States real estate industry rules governing agent commissions will change on 17 August as part of a legal settlement between the National Association of Realtors and home sellers.

PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC ZHENGDE VOY.NO. (2502S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-1-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (061N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (061N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-1-2025 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3503S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3503S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-1-2025 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2418S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2418S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-1-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

Uzbekistan to increase green energy share to 26% in 2025

UZBEKISTAN will increase the share of green energy in its energy structure to 26 per cent this year, the press service of the President of Uzbekistan said.

Uzbekistan has designated 2025 as the Year of Environmental Protection and Green Economy, said the press service.

"Thanks to active efforts in recent years, the share of green energy in the country's total capacity structure has reached 16 per cent. This year, it is

planned to increase this figure to 26 per cent," it said.

"This year, the goal is to maintain economic growth at no less than six per cent and increase the gross domestic product to over US\$125 billion. Rationality and efficiency are key factors in achieving this," it added.

Uzbekistan's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 6.5 per cent in 2024, the press service of the Uzbek president said. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Fast-moving fires torch national parks in southeast Australia



A handout photo from VicEmergency/state control centre taken and released on 28 January 2025 shows bushfires in Little Desert National Park in the Australian state of Victoria. Firefighters were scrambling 28 January to control a blaze tearing through rural southeastern Australia, as stranded locals were warned it was "too late to leave" if they had not already fled. **PHOTO: HANDOUT/VICEMERGENCY/STATE CONTROL CENTRE/AFP**

FIREFIGHTERS were desperately trying to stop a cluster of fast-moving blazes in southeast Australia on Tuesday, as thousands of acres of national park burned and a farming community was forced to evacuate. Lightning strikes on Monday evening ignited several fires in the Grampians National Park, a forested mountain range about 300 kilometres (186 miles) west of Victoria's state capital Melbourne.

A separate fast-moving fire in Little Desert National Park in the west of the state has torn through

almost 65,000 hectares (160,000 acres) in less than 24 hours, emergency services said, scorching an area almost as large as Singapore.

That fire had forced the evacuation of rural Dimboola before threat levels were downgraded on Tuesday afternoon.

"I'm incredibly thankful that no lives have been lost and we have no reports of injury either," emergency management commissioner Rick Nugent told reporters.

Chris Hardman from Forest Fire Management Victoria warned

that weather conditions over the next few days are increasing the possibility the fires will spread.

"Right now firefighters are planning to do everything in their powers to protect communities," he said. Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Kevin Parkyn said stifling heatwave conditions would settle over parts of Victoria on Saturday, escalating fire risks.

"When we look at the next seven to 10 days the main message is that there will be a hot dome over Victoria. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Large sinkhole swallows truck near Tokyo, man trapped

A large sinkhole swallowed a truck Tuesday after appearing at an intersection near Tokyo, with a man being rescued following the incident.

Police received an emergency call at around 9:50 am after the sinkhole, which they say is about 10 metres in width and six metres in depth, opened up in the ground in Yashio, Saitama Prefecture.

Rescue authorities said the man was conscious and capable of talking.

According to local authorities, a sewer system runs through the vicinity of the intersection, and the cause of the road collapse is under investigation. — Kyodo

Türkiye detains 100 IS suspects across 24 provinces

TURKISH authorities have detained 100 suspected members of the Islamic State (IS) in the past week, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said Tuesday.

The operations, dubbed "Gurz-41" and "Gurz-42," were carried out across 24 provinces, including the capital, Ankara, and Istanbul, Türkiye's most populated city, the minister said on social media platform X.

The authorities determined that the suspects were carrying out activities within the organization, providing financial aid to the group and making propaganda for the terrorist organization on social media, the minister said.

Yerlikaya said the police seized organizational documents and digital materials during the raids. "With our strategy of destroying terrorism at its source, we continue our struggle with determination, (together) with our police, gendarmerie and intelligence units," he said.

Türkiye designated IS a terrorist organization in 2013, blaming it for a spate of deadly attacks in the country. Ankara has conducted counter-terrorism operations domestically and abroad to crack down on its members and activities. — Xinhua

EU, Britain face off in post-Brexit fishing battle

THE European Union and Britain crossed swords Tuesday at the world's oldest arbitration body over rights to fish a tiny North Sea species, with Brussels accusing London of "inconsistencies" over a key post-Brexit trade deal.

The case over sandeel fishing is seen as a bellwether for other potential litigation between London and Brussels in a perennial hot-bed industry, experts said.

Tuesday's clash at the Permanent Court for Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague also marked the first courtroom trade battle

between the 27-member trading bloc and Britain since it left the EU in 2020.

"The EU's position is that the prohibition of all sandeel fishing in UK waters of the North Sea nullifies the EU's right of full access" to those waters, said Brussels' representative Anthony Dawes as the hearings opened.

"That nullification is inconsistent with the UK's obligation" under post-Brexit trade deals, said Dawes.

Brussels has dragged London before the PCA following a decision last year to ban all commercial sandeel fishing in British

waters because of environmental concerns.

London in March ordered all fishing to stop, arguing that "sandeels are integral to the marine ecosystem of the North Sea".

Because of climate change and commercial fishing, the tiny fish "risked further decline... as well as species that are dependent on sandeels for food including fish, marine mammals, and seabirds".

This included vulnerable species like the Atlantic puffin, seals, porpoises and other fish like cod and haddock, Britain's lawyers said. — AFP



Share Fisherman George Lamplough (L) stacks a fleet of lobster pots having been emptied and re-baited aboard the shellfish boat Good Intent, in the North Sea, near Whitby, north east England, on 16 May 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

IOC head candidate Watanabe eyes more social contribution from sports



International Gymnastics Federation President Morinari Watanabe (6th from L) poses with people involved in the Aging Society Programme at a launch event in Jakarta on 23 January 2025. (Photo courtesy of FIG) **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE International Gymnastics Federation recently launched an exercise programme for the elderly in Indonesia aimed at helping the country reduce healthcare costs and demonstrate that sports can make a social contribution beyond providing entertainment.

FIG President Morinari Watanabe, one of the seven candidates running for the International Olympic Committee presidency in March, on Monday said the idea for the programme sprang from local opposition to the hosting of the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There were many who were against the Olympics or not welcoming of them. That was because the Olympics were seen as entertainment and not something essential to society," the 65-year-old said.

"When we think about turning sports into something society demands...sports are at the core of countermeasures for ageing societies."

Some 115 elderly people, including the oldest aged 93, took part in the FIG Aging Society Programme kick-off event Thursday in Jakarta, where the artistic gymnastics world championships will be staged in Southeast Asia for the first time in October.

The FIG, along with the Indonesian Gymnastics Federation, the country's Olympic Committee and Ministry of Youth and Sport, as well as commercial partner NTT Data Corp, provided devices to measure vital signs and demonstrate gymnastics exercises to be done at home, where the progress and health conditions of the participants will be recorded by a smartphone app. — Kyodo

Soe Moe Kyaw heads to Uthai Thani FC in Thai League 1

MYANMAR defender Soe Moe Kyaw has officially transferred to Thai League 1 club Uthai Thani.

The move comes during the mid-season transfer window of the 2024-2025 Thai League season. Soe Moe Kyaw joined the Thai club after playing for Cambodia's Tiffy Army FC last year. On 27 January, he was included in the reserve list for the Thai League match against Sukhothai FC. Uthai Thani FC, which also features Myanmar striker Aung Thu,

now has two Myanmar players on its roster.

Soe Moe Kyaw began his overseas career in 2022, playing for Thai League 2 club Kasetsart FC. In the 2023-2024 season, he played for Cambodian clubs Phnom Penh Crown FC and later Tiffy Army FC. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar defender Soe Moe Kyaw. **PHOTO: UTHAI THANI FC**



Spanish teams with different goals in last Champions League group tie

SPAIN'S four clubs in this season's Champions League head into the final group-stage fixtures with different targets.

FC Barcelona sits second in the 36-team group, and with 18 points from seven matches, Hansi Flick's side has already secured a top-eight finish and automatic qualification for the knockout stage.

Flick remains without the injured Dani Olmo as his team welcomes Atalanta to the Lluís Companys Stadium. The Italians must win to ensure they

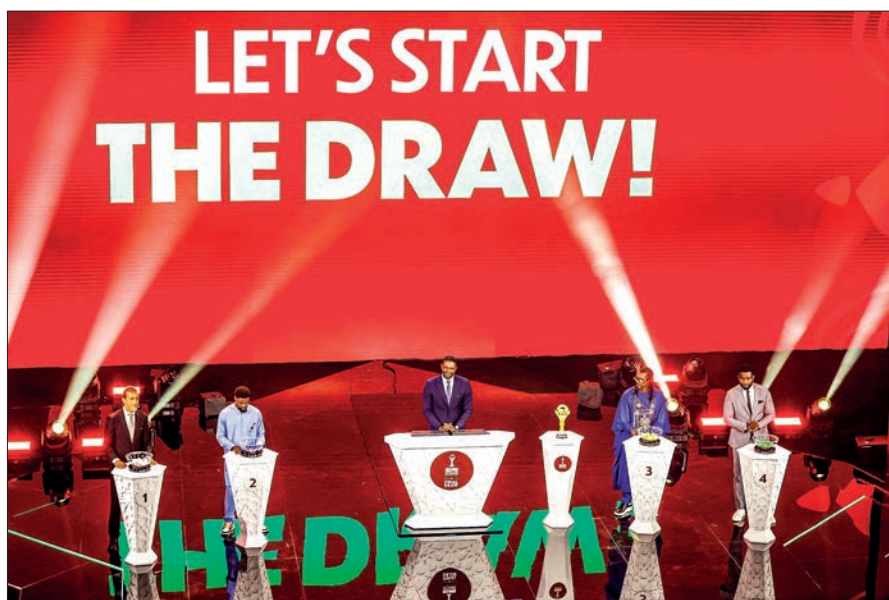
finish in the top-eight, thereby avoiding a gruelling two-leg play-off in February.

Barca thrashed Valencia 7-1 on Sunday, despite Flick resting Robert Lewandowski and Gavi. He may choose to bring Inaki Pena back in goal on Wednesday, after hints that Wojciech Szczesny has moved up the pecking order to become Flick's first-choice goalkeeper.

Atletico Madrid's dramatic 2-1 victory over Bayer Leverkusen last week lifted the side to fifth in the group on 15 points,

putting Diego Simeone's men on track for a top-eight finish as they visit RB Salzburg.

Salzburg, with six defeats in seven outings, has little left to play for other than pride, particularly after its 5-1 thrashing away to Real Madrid last week. Simeone is likely to recall Antoine Griezmann, Rodrigo de Paul, and Javi Galan to his starting 11, with Griezmann and De Paul rested and Galan suspended for Saturday's 1-1 league draw at home to Villarreal. — Xinhua



Mustapha Hadji, Serge Aurier, Aliou Cisse, Joseph Yobo stand on stage during the draw of the CAF 2025 AFCON Africa Cup of Nations football tournament in Rabat on 27 January 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

South Africa to face Salah in AFCON, Nigeria draw Tunisia

SOUTH Africa will face Mohamed Salah-captained Egypt while Ademola Lookman-inspired Nigeria must tackle Tunisia after the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations group stage draw was made in Rabat on Monday.

Hosts Morocco face giantkillers Comoros in the opening match of the 24-team tournament on 21 December while title-holders Ivory Coast will come up against five-time winners Cameroon.

Sudan, a country ravaged by civil war, drew Algeria, and the clash of Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo is set to be another group-stage highlight.

Prolific scorer Salah has won multiple honours with Liverpool, but victory

in the AFCON has eluded him. He came closest by finishing a runner-up in 2017 and 2022.

Apart from South Africa, the record seven-time champions will take on two other countries from the south of the continent, Angola and Zimbabwe, in Group B.

Nigeria, runners-up to the Ivory Coast last year, are blessed with outstanding forwards, including African Footballer of the Year Lookman and his predecessor Victor Osimhen.

Tunisia, making a record 17th consecutive AFCON appearance, and east African contenders Uganda and Tanzania complete Group C. — AFP



Denmark PM seeks European support over Trump's Greenland bid

DANISH Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen sought to drum up support Tuesday from European leaders over US President Donald Trump's threats to take over Greenland, with visits to Berlin, Paris and Brussels.

Trump has signalled his desire for the Arctic island, which is believed to hold large untapped mineral and oil reserves, to become part of the United States.

Trump has talked for years about a possible deal to take over the Danish autonomous territory, and told reporters on Saturday he believed the United States would "get Greenland".

He has insisted his country needs Greenland for "international security".

Frederiksen met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin on Tuesday.

After speaking about Russia's war in Ukraine, Scholz stressed that "borders must not be moved by force" and added the English-language phrase: "To whom it may concern."

The chancellor said "the times we live in are challenging" and require a strong Europe and NATO. He stressed that "Denmark and Germany are strong partners and close friends".

In Paris, Frederiksen met with



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz greets Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen upon her arrival in the garden of the Chancellery on 28 January 2025 in Berlin. **PHOTO: AFP**

French President Emmanuel Macron, before heading to Brussels later in the day to see NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte.

Tuesday's visits followed a weekend Nordic summit where leaders all "shared the gravity of the situation", Frederiksen said.

Denmark announced Monday that it would spend 14.6 billion kroner (\$2 billion) to bolster security in the strategic Arctic region. — AFP

Lab holding Ebola in DRC's Goma at risk amid fighting: Red Cross

THE Red Cross voiced alarm Tuesday over the risk that fighting in the besieged DR Congo city of Goma could cause sam-

ples of Ebola and other pathogens held in a laboratory to escape.

The International Committee of the

Red Cross is "very concerned about the situation in the laboratory of the national biomedical research institute, which is facing a risk of power cuts", ICRC regional director for Africa Patrick Youssef said.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, he stressed the importance of "preserving the samples that may be affected by the clashes", warning of "unimaginable consequences if the (samples), including the Ebola virus, that it contains were to spread".

Youssef highlighted that the laboratory was "very close" to the ICRC delegation in Goma but he had no information about the safety of other labs in the city.

The main city in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has become a battleground since fighters from the Tutsi-led M23 armed group and Rwandan forces entered central Goma on Sunday after a weeks-long advance. — AFP



Protesters gather as smoke billows from burning tires during a demonstration against the escalating conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in Kinshasa on 28 January 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Qatar says nearly 300,000 displaced return to northern Gaza

Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al Ansari said on Tuesday that approximately 300,000 citizens have returned from southern Gaza to their homes in the northern part of the strip.

During the weekly media briefing, Al Ansari highlighted that Hamas has provided mediators with critical information about hostages.

He noted that this development had resolved several issues previously impeding Israeli authorities from permitting displaced Palestinians to return to northern Gaza. "We are working closely with our Egyptian partners through the joint Qatari-Egyptian committee to ensure the safe transfer of citizens back to the north," he added. — Xinhua