

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing inspects the cadet companies at yesterday's passing out parade.

Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing underlined that the Tatmadaw will continue to engage in just military operations, collaborating with residents who desire peace and stability, in response to the unlawful violent actions of armed terrorist groups and their territorial expansion efforts.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the passing out parade of the 128th intake of Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) at its parade ground yesterday morning.

Cadet companies saluted the Senior General who also inspected the cadet companies.

Tatmadaw to uphold citizens with parental respect

People, government, and Tatmadaw must unite to eliminate insurgents and combat terrorism.

The Senior General presented a silver sword award to the best cadet award winner Cadet Thet Naing Soe.

At the passing out parade, the Senior General delivered a speech. He said: Junior leaders who are going to serve in the Tatmadaw must be capable of building their units to be fully equipped with the three essential capabilities. They should also be



Families celebrate the graduation of the 128th Tatmadaw Officer Training School (Bahtoo) Intake.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the passing out parade of OTS (Bahtoo)

1. The entire people, who desire stability and peace, support the legitimate military operations being carried out.
2. The people, the government, and Tatmadaw must work together with unity and determination to eliminate insurgents and combat terrorism.
3. It is necessary to work towards ensuring the successful conduct of free and fair elections and to protect the right of eligible voters to cast their votes without any loss of voting rights.

able to face and overcome any challenges or difficulties while ensuring that their unit is structured to work together in unity and cooperation.

Tatmadaw members have to adopt the mindset of "the people are the mother, the people are the father" while organizing and coordinating their duties. They are

urged to carry out activities that benefit the people with sincerity and goodwill in each respective area.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

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

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

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC Meeting 3/2024 on 7 June 2024)

Cadets from Tatmadaw OTS 128th Intake commissioned

THE commissioning ceremony for the cadets from the Thura Company of the 128th Intake Thura Company of Officer Training School was held at the Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) on the morning of 21 February.

Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Lin Aung, Deputy Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant, Commandant Brig-Gen Naing Win Aung, graduating cadets, their parents, relatives, and instructors attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, the Military Appointment-General presented the officer commissioning certificates to each graduating cadet and delivered a speech, marking the event conclusion. — MNA/MKKS



Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Lin Aung presents the certificate of appointment to a graduate cadet yesterday.

Govt to combat support for terrorism, armed insurgents

THE Constitution stated that the Union is the ultimate owner of all lands and all natural resources above and below the ground, above and beneath the water and in the atmosphere in the Union. Moreover, the relevant laws for State-owned natural resources are enacted following the stipulation of the Constitution – the Union shall enact necessary laws to supervise the extraction and utilization of State-owned natural resources by economic forces, and the exploration of natural resources is permitted under the respective laws.

However, the rapacious business elements extracted the State-owned natural resources unlawfully taking advantage of terrorist attacks and armed insurgency in certain regions of the country to provide terrorist groups and armed insurgents. In extracting the State-owned natural resources unlawfully, it is also found that the poor locals who do not understand the law are persuaded with financial incentives in extracting processes. Such doings are supposed to be encouragement for violence under the Counter Terrorism Law, and so, those working in unlawful extraction should be aware of it.

The government will expose and take effective actions against those extracting the State-owned natural resources to provide terrorist groups and armed insurgents. Therefore, the people should avoid working in the illegal extraction of natural resources that encourage and support terrorist groups and armed insurgents. — MNA/KTZH

Tatmadaw military band competition enters seventh day

THE Level B contests of the 31st Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) Military Band Competition, marking the 80th Anniversary of Armed

Forces Day, continued yesterday morning at the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre parade ground. Participating bands included

Nay Pyi Taw Command Band 1, Nay Pyi Taw Command Band 2, Southern Command Band 2, and North-West Command Band 2.

The event was attended by Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Min, members of the Tatmadaw

(Army, Navy, and Air) Military Band Competition Committee, the judges, the contestants, and invitees. — MNA/MKKS



These photos taken yesterday show performance of military bands by the relevant military commands at the Tatmadaw military band competition in Nay Pyi Taw.

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)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends graduation dinner of OTS (Bahtoo) 128th Intake



SAC Chair Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets the graduate officers while attending the graduation dinner yesterday.

State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the graduation dinner of the 128th intake Thura Company of Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) at the military appointment hall of the school in Bahtoo yesterday evening.

The Senior General cordially greeted the graduate officers individually and had a dinner together with his entourage, graduate officers and guests.

He enjoyed the play of music by the military band of the school and presented cash awards to the band.

The Senior General and party together with graduate officers enjoyed the entertainment of the mobile public relations troupe under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare.

Also present at the dinner were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, union-level dignitaries, the Shan State chief minister, commanders of Eastern Command, Eastern Central Command and Triangle Region Command, the commandant of the school, officials and parents and relatives of graduate officers. —MNA/TTA

Tatmadaw to uphold citizens with parental respect

FROM PAGE 1

The current period also sees Tatmadaw firmly advancing on the path toward a genuinely disciplined multiparty democratic system that the people desire and is carrying out the responsibilities of the state in accordance with the 2008 Constitution, with the goal of establishing a Union based on democracy and a federal system.

At present, some ethnic armed organizations that are unwilling to abandon the armed struggle are collaborating with terrorist groups under the names of NUG, CRPH, and PDF. They are using political issues as a pretext to carry out unlawful and violent armed actions, aiming to instil fear among the people and expand their controlled territories.

The armed terrorists following a path of violence are striving for territorial power rather than achieving durable peace and participating in a multiparty democratic path alongside the Union.

Especially, as terrorists continue to intimidate, threaten, and exert pressure

on peaceful and law-abiding citizens as well as government employees, the number of terrorist attacks across the country has increased. As a result, the lives, homes, property, and public infrastructure of people who wish to live in peace and stability are being severely damaged and lost.

The entire people, who desire stability and peace, support the legitimate military operations being carried out. Likewise, the people, the government, and the Tatmadaw must work together with unity and determination to eliminate insurgents and combat terrorism.

Tatmadaw will continue to engage in just military operations, collaborating with residents who desire peace and stability, in response to the unlawful violent actions of armed terrorist groups and their territorial expansion efforts.

The junior officers have to carry out their responsibilities in collaboration with the people, ensuring that no acts of terrorism in violence or armed conflict occur

within the assigned operational areas. Furthermore, it is necessary to work towards ensuring the successful conduct of free and fair elections and to protect the right of eligible voters to cast their votes without any loss of voting rights.

In the contemporary era, with the rapid development of news, technology, and communication network systems, opposing individuals and organizations are utilizing social networks to undermine the military's political integrity, erode public trust, and carry out attacks that distort public opinion.

Such attacks and the absence of clear communication can severely affect not only the military but also the unity of the entire nation. Therefore, it is essential that all citizens, including the sons of our military, approach these matters with awareness and careful consideration.

After taking the salute of the cadet companies, the Senior General left the parade ground.

Also present at the parade were

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, union-level dignitaries, the chief minister of Shan State, military command commanders, and officials together with parents and relatives of cadets.

After the ceremony, the Senior General met the best cadet award winner Cadet Thet Naing Soe, excellent award winner in training Cadet Nay Thway, excellent award winner in shooting Cadet Aung Lwin Htay and excellent award winner in strength Cadet San Zaw Oo and their parents and relatives.

At the meeting, the Senior General said that it is important for those outstanding cadets to strive to become good Tatmadaw officers who are proud of our families and trusted by the nation and the Tatmadaw. They have to continue efforts to sustain their capability and focus on the development of their lives. —MNA/TTA

NATIONAL



State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officer trainees of Tatmadaw (Army) Combat Forces School (Bahtoo) in the Eastern Command yesterday.

A good leader must have complete contemplation and knowledge

Tatmadaw members must serve assigned duties with full capability and determination successfully, having mental and physical health and strength as well as industry, enthusiasm, and full vitality.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met officer trainees of Tatmadaw (Army) Combat Forces School (Bahtoo) in the Eastern Command at Aung San Hall of the school yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Senior General explained political changes in the country, duties being served by the Tatmadaw to ensure Our Three Main National Causes to ensure security and perpetuation of sovereignty of the State in successive eras, the initiative of Tatmadaw to pave the way of multiparty democratic system the entire people aspires to, voting frauds in the 2020 multiparty democratic general election, and serving State responsibilities by the Tatmadaw under the Constitution (2008) after declaring the State of Emergency due to attempts of unscrupulous persons to grasp the State power.

The Senior General in his address highlighted that the government is striving to forge security, peace and stability for successfully holding a multiparty democratic general election.

He underlined that **Tatmadaw members must serve assigned duties with full capability and determination successfully, having mental and physical health and strength as well as industry, enthusiasm, and full vitality.**

Moreover, he spotted that a **good leader must have complete contemplation and knowledge.** Leaders must be capable of guiding their relevant units and subordinates for improvement.

With regard to training, the Senior General advised that **the accurate execution of our daily tasks and responsibilities is indeed a form of training.** Concerning training, they have to take the practices of a good soldier to improve their qualifications of themselves and their

Security is an issue that can be achieved individually, while defence is a matter that must be carried out by supervisors through long-term plans, anticipatory thinking, and coordination efforts.

organizations.

As leaders, he noted that it is necessary to maintain good relationships and manage their subordinates, with the care and affection of a good commander or a parent. Officers must lead with a kind and sincere heart, understanding the personality of each soldier, and assigning responsibilities appropriately to ensure the success of operations, thereby demonstrating effective leadership.

By spending their income and expenses fairly, he continued

to say that they have to manage individual welfare activity. Ensuring the success of both military-owned and private agricultural activities is not primarily for profit, but rather to ensure that all family members of the units can fully enjoy a variety of meats, fish, eggs, and vegetables at affordable prices in order to promote welfare for all.

He underscored that officers and other ranks must be commanded under good leadership to improve their mindsets strong and resilient. Only when leaders

at all levels demonstrate strong will and discipline will individual soldiers also develop good mindsets and discipline, leading to the creation of well-prepared and powerful forces.

After the meeting, the Senior General cordially greeted officer trainees.

At a meeting at the hall of the Tatmadaw (Army) Combat Forces School (Bahtoo) on the afternoon of 20 February, the Senior General heard reports on general staff, adjutant and quartermaster measures of the Eastern Command, security, regional control and rule of law activities in the command area, improvement of education, health and welfare measures presented by the Commander of Eastern Command, and training duties and manageable scale agriculture and livestock activities of the school by the commandant.

In his guidance, the Senior General stressed the need for local battalions to cooperate with civilian administrative bodies in taking security measures with security awareness and knowledge. They have to avoid activities of harm the interests of the regions and residents.

Security is an issue that can be achieved individually, while defence is a matter that must be carried out by supervisors through long-term plans, anticipatory thinking, and coordination efforts. Emphasis must be placed on effectively

SEE PAGE 5

NATIONAL

Boosting sunflower per-acre yield to ensure oil sufficiency

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the agriculture and livestock battalion, the local Tatmadaw hospital in Bahtoo station.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected functions of the local agriculture and livestock battalion and the local Tatmadaw hospital in Bahtoo Station yesterday morning.

At the briefing hall of the local agriculture and livestock battalion, the commanding officer reported to the Senior General on the duties and functions of the battalion, the progress of welfare activities using products of the agriculture and livestock tasks, and accomplishment over the guidance given by the Senior General on his inspection tour in 2019.

In his response, the Senior General noted that it is necessary to emphasize the production rate of crops with full supplies of quality seeds, fertile soil, water and techniques to meet the target production. He pledged that agricultural water would be supplied through solar energy. The Senior General underscored that emphasis must be placed on boosting the per-acre yield of sunflower as well as other crops

to ensure local oil sufficiency. He stressed that the Agriculture and Livestock Battalion must be a model in its profession. He urged the commanding officer to make efforts to secure greater achievement in agriculture and livestock tasks to sell products at fair prices to Tatmadaw members for their welfare activities and to the peo-



The Senior General looks into the agricultural products.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers comfort to patients at the local Tatmadaw Hospital in Bahtoo Cantonment.

ple and State service personnel.

The Senior General inspected the raising of layers at the model agriculture and livestock zone,

the records on implementation of the plans, conducting the test to use the waste of animals and agricultural products as natural

fertilizers, sales of quality seeds of corps to people, sample seeds of sunflower to produce oil, and thriving crops in the greenhouses

and gave necessary guidance.

He also viewed the breeding of dairy cows and DYL pigs and gave instructions.

At the local Tatmadaw Hospital in Bahtoo Cantonment, the Senior General cordially asked about injuries and healing of officers and other ranks who sustained injuries in serving defence and security duties of the State and fulfilled their needs.

The Senior General presented cash awards and gifts to Tatmadaw members receiving treatment at the hospital.

After inspecting the hospital, the Senior General fulfilled requirements and presented cash awards to hospital staff. — MNA/TTA

A good leader must have complete contemplation ...

FROM PAGE 4

combatting drug production, storage and distribution. Officials from relevant areas have to strictly supervise the non-production of narcotic drugs in Shan State. As terrorists are using re-

sources gained from the production of illicit drugs to carry out terror activities, it is necessary to take decisive action to suppress drug-related issues.

Also present at the meeting were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral

Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, military commanders, officials from Bahtoo station, instructors and officer trainees from

Tatmadaw (Army) Combat Forces School (Bahtoo).

The Senior General visited the training school and inspected the swimming pool for trainees and maintenance of the Bahtoo spring. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

YRTC honours 200 top-performing bus drivers of 2024

YANGON Region Public Transport Committee presented awards to 200 bus drivers for their best performance in 2024, in an awarding ceremony held on 21 February.

YRTC awarded 48 best driver awards, each K600,000 per driver, 148 dutiful driver awards: each K300,000 per driver and 4 best social media service awards, totalling worth K74.4 million.

The best driver awards are selected based on criteria such as no record of 138 penalties imposed by YRTC, no record of the breach of traffic rules imposed by Yangon Traffic Control Centre and Yangon Bus Operator (YBO), YRTC ID card holder, have at least a year and more work experience at the company and have largest working hours.

“The dutiful award is in-

tended for drivers who responsibly gave back properties passengers left onboard, and best social media service award is for those who are praised by the public on Facebook and other social media platforms. These awards aim to encourage drivers to be willing to provide better service to passengers,” said YRTC joint secretary U Lyan Cing Mang.

— MT/ZS



Attendees and officials pose for the documentary group photo at the ceremony.

Co-workers aid supporting actress' medical expenses



Ma Tuu (3rd from left) and those who present financial aid.

FOR her medical cost, her co-workers in the movie industry and external donors provided K300,000 to well-known supporting actress Ma Tuu on 20 February, according to director Kyaw Hein Kyaw.

Ma Tuu received medical treatment at Yangon Hospital in January, with the help of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

“Ma Tuu is a good actor. She's taking rest at home after being discharged from the hospital so we come to give her some help as much as we can,” said the director. — ASH/ZS

Legendary classical vocalist Khin Nyunt Yee passes away



Classical vocalist Khin Nyunt Yee seen in her album cover.

RENOWNED Myanmar classical singer (Daw) Khin Nyunt Yee passed away on 20 February while receiving treatment at Yangon General Hospital, according to her daughter singer O Pyae Shin.

“Mother has left the art she loved and the audience she cherished forever, at 11:05 pm on 20 February,” her daughter singer O Pyae Shin, confirmed.

Daw Khin Nyunt Yee, 75, had been receiving treatment for lung cancer at the Cancer Ward of Yangon General Hospital since 30 January and passed away from the disease.

Her body will be cremated at Yeway Cemetery at 1 pm on 22 February. A car has been arranged for her literary and musical friends who wish to accompany her from downtown Yangon to the cemetery. The car will depart at 11:30 am from the parking lot in front of Wazira Cinema on Bogyoke Aung San Road, a person close to the family confirmed to The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Singer Khin Nyunt Yee has sung hundreds of songs for radio, film, and classical music, many of which are still popular with fans. — ASH/TH

Myanmar film 'Attayong Htuchonsu' begins screening

THE Myanmar film 'Attayong Htuchonsu' will be released on 3 March through the HEY Play App, according to actor Min Taw Win.

The film's storyline is adapted from a novel by Min Taw Win, who is co-writing the screenplay with Paing Soe Thu Maung. It is directed by Htut Tint Tun for ELLA Film Production.

“In this series, we will see Academy Award-winning veteran actress Moh Moh Myint Aung portray a woman with a massive ego who will stop at nothing to win an Academy Award. We look forward to seeing what happens after her secret is revealed,” said actor Min Taw Win.

The film features a star-stud-



ded cast, including Academy Award winner Moh Moh Myint Aung, Min Taw Win, Ye Lwin Oo, Htun Pale Yadana, Min Thu, Aung Zaw Min, Mo Kham, and many others. — ASH/MKKS

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CBM sells US\$50,000, CNY630,000, THB910,000 on 20 Feb

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold \$50,000, over 630,000 yuan and over 910,000 baht on 20 February.

CBM injected 1.19 million baht on 19 February, 970,000 yuan and one million baht on 18 February, 910,000 yuan and one million baht on 17 February, \$120,000, one million yuan and over 950,000

baht on 14 February and over 548,000 yuan and 597,000 baht on 13 February.

CBM announced on 11 February to sell \$21 million to fuel oil importers and shortly after, injected over \$21.4 million and 500,000 baht into the markets on that day.

It sold \$82,000, 220,000 yuan

and one million baht on 10 February, \$23 million and 600,000 yuan on 7 February and over \$150,000 and 214,830 yuan on 6 February.

CBM announced on 5 February that it would inject \$23 million into the fuel oil sector. CBM sold \$490,000 and 500,000 yuan on 5 February, over 105,900 yuan on 4 February and 500,000 yuan

on 3 February. CBM pumped in \$124M, 13.8M baht and 4.8M yuan into financial markets in January 2025.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been collaborating with law enforce-

ment agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Areca nut growers thrive in Dawei



Pieces of areca nuts piled at a warehouse.

THE sliced areca nut market is flourishing in Thayetchaung Township, Dawei District, Taninthayi Region, allowing the growers to earn handsome profits.

Growers there mostly rely on perennial agriculture such as areca nut and rubber cultivation for their livelihood. The majority of the growers sell them at the beginning of the harvest season as soft areca nut fetches higher prices. Now, the areca nuts are ripe and mature yet the supply to the market is pretty low. Thanks to exorbitant prices, growers make a great profit from sliced areca nut sales, said Daw Tin Nu, an owner of the farm.

The areca nut from Taninthayi Region is distributed to other regions and states, especially Yangon and Mandalay regions.

Additionally, China prefers soft and moist areca nuts rather than dried ones. As it can save production costs, the farm owners are keen on selling soft, green and moist areca nuts rather than dried ones during the harvest season. Myanmar's areca nut market has become widespread. There is competitive pricing in the market. The conical-shaped nuts rather than round ones are mostly traded. After baking the soft areca nuts with heat, they are exported to China.

Areca palm thrives well in moist soil yet soaking wet with overwatering is bad for them. They are commonly found in Ayeyawady Region, Bago Region, Mon, Taninthayi, Kayin, Kachin and Rakhine states. — Pyae Phyo Paing(IPRD)/KK

ITC Magway to recruit new trainees in May

NO 5 Industrial Training Centre (Magway) located in Magway Region will offer one-year industrial skilled training courses from 12 May 2025 to 20 March 2026.

The ITC Magway will conduct an Automobile Maintenance Course, Engine Maintenance Module, Electricity & Electronic Module, Transmission and Chassis Module, Body Repair & painting Module, and CAD/CAM Course with 30 per cent of theoretical learning and 70 per cent of practical approaches. Automobile Main-

tenance Course will accept 130 trainees in maximum, whereas CAD/CAM course is limited to 30 trainees.

Those interested citizens who have taken the matriculation exam under the old curriculum or new curriculum between the ages of 17 and 25 are eligible to attend the courses. They must be unmarried, healthy and fit enough to complete the courses and committed to follow the rules. Application forms can be downloaded through the website <https://industry.gov.mm>



Trainees seen in practical works of Industrial Training Centre.

and the ITC Magway Facebook page. The deadline for submission of the application is at 4 pm on 28 March 2025.

Furthermore, a citizenship scrutiny card, three licensed photos, a ward administrator's recommendation, a criminal clearance certificate, a health certificate, a recommendation letter that they have attended Grade 11 under the old curriculum or Grade 12 under the new curriculum or matriculation exam pass certificate, vaccination certificate for COVID-19 are required to be provided. The entrance exam for qualified applicants will take place on 2-4 April at ITC Magway, in aspects of English, Mathematics and general knowledge related to industry. Interviews will proceed at the centre as well. Trainees will be provided dormitory, K45,000 monthly stipends for food costs and K40,000 worth two uniforms. Those who complete the course will receive a certificate. Individuals can enquire about details through 0673405051 of the Training Centres Supervision Department under the Ministry of Industry. — NN/KK

MFVP grants organic certification to 31 farms

MYANMAR Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) has granted organic certification to 31 farm owners as their farms follow organic rules.

MFVP assures the produce from those three farms is certi-

fied organic. Inspection is being undertaken and MFVP will issue a renewal of the certification soon.

MFVP granted the organic certification to successful farms (Ngu Farm and Mya Thazin Aein Coffee Farm) at

the handover ceremony of the organic certificate held on 17 January 2025 after inspections were conducted.

The organic certificate is valid for one year, and it can be extended after the yearly inspection. Therefore, MFVP en-

sures organic integrity and food safety for the consumers that produce from those farms can be trusted and certified organic.

Consumers can also check the lists of MFVP's recognized organic farms on its website <https://mfvp.org/ecm-org-mfvp/>

[user/organiccertifiedfarmlist-mm.xhtml](https://mfvp.org/ecm-org-mfvp/).

Interested farm owners can study MFVP's organic programme on www.mfvp.org or enquire about details through Viber 09 43127656 of the association. — NN/KK

OPINION

Lend a helping hand to internally displaced people

UNDER the Disaster Management Law, acts of terrorism and armed insurgency are classified as disasters due to the severe impact on public safety and livelihoods. As a result, the government has pledged financial aid from the National Disaster Management Fund to support displaced persons affected by terrorist incidents. Each individual will receive a monthly payment of K20,000 from January to December 2025.

Currently, many innocent ethnic residents in various states and regions have been forced to relocate to safer areas due to terrorist attacks and armed insurgency. Having lived and worked in their hometowns for years, they have suffered significant losses, including loss of life, property, and livelihoods. While some have found refuge in secure locations, others remain trapped in unsafe areas, facing grave hardships.

As a nation, everybody must stand together to care for and help displaced people. They are part of the ethnic community, and aid must be distributed to those IDPs to rebuild their lives. Through coordinated efforts and collective solidarity, all Myanmar people can alleviate their suffering and work towards restoring stability and security for all affected citizens.

To facilitate this support, disaster management funds have been allocated to regional and state government bodies, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Financial aid is being systematically distributed to displaced people based on their respective regions to ensure no one is left out. The list of displaced persons is being meticulously reviewed and submitted for further approval as necessary.

On 17 February, financial aid was provided to internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Hopong, Hsihseng, Pinlaung, Tachilek, and Mongphyat townships in Shan State. Efforts are ongoing to extend this support to ethnic groups displaced in various states and regions through allocated disaster management funds.

The number of displaced individuals seeking refuge in safer areas is expected to reach hundreds of thousands. The violent attacks by terrorists on ethnic people have left many citizens suffering immense hardships, without external support. Those forced to seek temporary shelter face severe difficulties, and it is crucial for the state to provide the best possible support to ensure families receive appropriate aid.

As a nation, everybody must stand together to care for and help displaced people. They are part of the ethnic community, and aid must be distributed to those IDPs to rebuild their lives. Through coordinated efforts and collective solidarity, all Myanmar people can alleviate their suffering and work towards restoring stability and security for all affected citizens.

THE golden fields stretch far and wide, kissed by the morning sun as farmers begin their daily toil. Each grain of rice, each fruit-bearing tree, and every lush green plantation tell the story of resilience, hard work, and dedication. It is a story woven deeply into the fabric of Myanmar, a nation where agriculture is more than just a livelihood – it is a heritage, a legacy, and a foundation upon which the country stands strong.

From the crack of dawn, the fields come alive with the rhythmic sounds of farmers tending to their crops. The soil, rich and fertile, holds the essence of countless generations who have tilled, sown, and reaped with unwavering perseverance. It is through their hands that the nation is nourished, through their sweat that prosperity is cultivated. Yet, beyond the labour and sacrifice, there exists a profound sense of pride – an unshakable bond between the land and those who nurture it.

In every grain of rice harvested, there is a silent testimony to the patience of the farmer. The swaying paddy fields, the sprawling sesame farms, and the vibrant vegetable patches are all testaments to an age-old commitment that predates the modern world. These are not just crops; they are the fruits of love and dedication, painstakingly grown to feed a nation that thrives because of them. The life of a farmer is one of constant movement, guided by the rhythm of nature. With each sunrise, they walk toward the fields with a silent resolve, facing the unpredictability of nature with courage that few professions demand so consistently.

The significance of honouring this spirit is not merely an act of recognition but a duty. To celebrate the hands that plant, the feet that walk through the muddy fields, and the hearts that beat in sync with the seasons is to acknowledge the backbone of the nation. This day is a tribute, not only to the work they do but to the strength they embody. It is a

Honouring the Backbone of Our Nation

By Laura Htet (UDE)

day of gratitude, a day of appreciation, and above all, a day to reflect on the undeniable truth – without the farmer, society would crumble.

The earth beneath their feet is more than soil; it is a canvas of history and tradition. Each furrow dug; each seed planted carries with it the dreams of ancestors who understood that the survival of a community depended on their connection to the land. Myanmar's agricultural roots are deeply entrenched in its cultural identity, with rice fields stretching like emerald carpets across the landscape. The fields are not just sources of food but living archives of a nation's endurance and its people's unwavering relationship with nature.

Amidst the celebrations, the echoes of struggle still linger. The farmer's life is not one of luxury, nor is it one free from hardship. The weight of unpredictable weather, fluctuating market prices, and the looming uncertainties of modern agricultural challenges make their journey one of immense resilience. And yet, through storms, droughts, and economic downturns, they continue to sow the seeds of hope. Their perseverance is unwavering, their determination unbreakable.

The weight of a changing world presses down upon their shoulders. Modernization and globalization, while

bringing technological advancements, also pose new challenges. Traditional farming practices, passed down from generation to generation, now intersect with mechanized tools and digital agricultural techniques. While these innovations promise efficiency, they also carry the risk of eroding centuries-old knowledge rooted in nature's wisdom. The balance between embracing progress and preserving heritage is delicate – a tightrope farmers walk with care.

The beauty of this life lies in its simplicity and in the unwavering connection between man and nature. To witness the planting season is to see hope being buried beneath the earth, waiting to rise again. To watch the harvest is to see dreams take form, filling granaries, markets, and plates across the country. It is a cycle of life that has continued for centuries, and it is a story that deserves to be told with honour and reverence.

The monsoon rains that drench the fields and the scorching sun that follows are not merely seasonal changes but markers of time, signalling when to plant, when to nurture, and when to reap. Farmers, guided by ancient wisdom and modern insights alike, have become masters of adaptation. They know the sky's moods, understand the language of the soil, and possess an instinct for predicting the behaviour of their crops. This intuitive relationship



Agriculture in Myanmar is of paramount significance, with farmers serving as the backbone of the nation, embodying resilience and dedication as they cultivate the land that nourishes both the people and the cultural heritage of the country. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

with the land is not learned in classrooms but through experience etched into their lives from childhood.

In many villages, farming is more than an occupation; it is a communal activity that binds generations. Grandparents pass down secrets of soil fertility to curious grandchildren; parents teach their children the art of irrigation and crop rotation. These interactions

are more than lessons – they are the invisible threads weaving together the social fabric of Myanmar's agricultural communities. Here, the fields are classrooms, and nature is the greatest teacher.

As the nation observes this special day, there is a silent promise made – a promise to uplift those who sustain the land, to ensure their voices are heard,

and to safeguard the traditions that define Myanmar's agricultural soul. It is a reminder that while cities may rise and industries may flourish, the foundation remains in the hands of those who cultivate the fields. It is their labour that fuels progress, their dedication that sustains generations, and their sacrifices that shape the future.

But recognition alone is not enough. The future of Myanmar's agricultural success depends on concrete support and sustainable practices. Access to modern equipment, educational programs, and fair market conditions are crucial. Farmers need more than words of appreciation; they need policies that protect their livelihoods, investments that enhance productivity without compromising environmental balance, and platforms that amplify their voices in national conversations about growth and development.

It is essential to remember that agriculture does not only sustain the body but also nurtures the spirit of the nation. Festivals, traditions, and cultural events across Myanmar are deeply intertwined with the agricultural calendar. The Water Festival (Thingyan), the Green Day ceremonies, and various harvest festivals are vibrant reflections of the people's deep-seated respect for nature and the agrarian lifestyle. These celebrations are moments of joy, but also of recognition – a collective nod to the silent heroes working tirelessly beyond the spotlight.

The globalized world often disconnects people from the origins of their food. City dwellers, far removed from the fields, might forget the effort behind every meal placed before them. Peasants' Day serves as an anchor, reminding the population of the human hands that nurture the crops, the stories behind every grain of rice, and the communities sustained by agricultural success. It is not merely a day to look back but a day to look forward with renewed respect and commitment.

The unpredictable nature of climate change adds another layer of complexity to farmers' lives. Unseasonal rains, prolonged droughts, and rising temperatures directly impact crop yields. Farmers find themselves at the frontline of this battle, seeking ways to protect their harvests and adapt to shifting patterns. Collaborative efforts between government bodies, environmental organizations, and local farming communities have become more important than ever. Resilience alone cannot combat climate change; proactive strategies and innovations are needed to secure the future of agriculture.

As dusk falls on this day of tribute, one cannot help but admire the silent, enduring strength of the farming community. Their footprints in the mud, their sun-kissed faces, and their hands calloused from years of labour are marks of honour. They are the guardians of the nation's sustenance, the protectors of a tradition that stretches back through centuries. Their work does not pause for recognition, and their efforts continue long after the celebrations have ended. To celebrate this day is to celebrate the spirit of Myanmar itself – a nation rooted in the strength of its farmers, standing tall because of their unwavering devotion. Their stories, their struggles, and their triumphs are the heartbeats of the land. And as the sun sets over the golden fields, casting a warm glow upon the land they cherish, one truth remains eternal: the hands that feed the nation deserve nothing less than the deepest respect and highest honour. As someone who deeply admires the resilience and dedication of Myanmar's farmers, I believe Peasants' Day is more than just a date on the calendar. It is a heartfelt reminder of the hands that nourish the nation, the traditions that ground us, and the future we must protect. May we continue to honour, support, and uplift those who work tirelessly to feed the nation, ensuring that their invaluable contributions are never forgotten.

Researchers identify new type of blood test to identify children at risk of diabetes

This study, published in Nature Medicine, challenges the traditional view of lipids as merely good or bad fats, suggesting a more complex role in health risks beyond just weight.

KING'S College London researchers have discovered a novel link between lipids and disorders affecting children's metabolism. This finding may provide an early warning system for ailments, including liver disease.

Scientists have developed a novel blood test that uses lipids to identify children who are more susceptible to obesity-related problems, such as type 2 diabetes,

liver, and heart disease. The study was published in Nature Medicine.

Lipids have traditionally been thought to be fatty acids in the body, either good or bad types of cholesterol or triglycerides, fats found in the bloodstream that are the most common in the human body.

Recent studies from the same group of scientists have suggested that the picture is more complex.

The researchers propose that blood plasma testing machines already in use in hospitals could assist medical professionals in identifying early disease indicators in children more quickly and facilitate their access to appropriate treatment.

The findings also contest the common idea that cholesterol is a leading cause of complications related to obesity in children. They identify new lipid molecules

that contribute to health risks like blood pressure but are not only correlated with a child's weight.

Current evidence, using a technique associated with chemistry called mass spectrometry, estimates the thousands of different lipids present in the body, each with a separate function.

SOURCE: ANI

By utilizing existing blood plasma testing technology in hospitals, medical professionals could more swiftly detect early indicators of disease in children, facilitating timely interventions and treatment. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**



NATIONAL

Handover ceremony of newly constructed religious hall in Haka

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San attended the handover ceremony of the newly constructed religious hall at Sasana Rekkhita Monastery in Haka of Chin State.

The event was also attended by SAC Member Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Members Dr Hmuh Thang and Dr Ba Shwe, Union ministers, deputy ministers, the Chin State chief minister and relevant officials.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party took five precepts from Sayadaws, made donations and shared merits gained.

They proceeded to Haka People's Hospital and provided the patients with supplies after comforting them.

On arrival at the meeting with health staff, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win and the township Public Health Department head briefed on the operations of hospitals and proper medical treatment for patients.

The Admiral provided instructions and presented gifts and cash awards to the health staff.

Admiral Tin Aung San and the party also met town elders from Haka and Thantlang at Taungzalat Avenue in Haka. — MNA/KTZH



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win, and officials meets patients at the Haka People's Hospital.

Myanmar, CITIC discuss Kyaukpyu SEZ Deep Seaport

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

At the meeting, Dr Kan Zaw, Chairman of the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Committee and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations stated that the concession agreement was made in 2020 between the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee and the Kyaukpyu SEZ Deep Seaport Co Ltd, a subsidiary of China's CITIC Group. The addendum to the concession agreement was signed in 2023, extending the Long Stop Date by 18 months.

He added that the extended long stop date will expire in June and it needs to complete the work before the expiration



The second coordination meeting for the successful implementation of the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

date.

Similarly, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, who is also Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Committee said as outlined in the Shareholders' Agreement for the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone deep seaport project, 10 conditions to be implemented by Myanmar and four to be implemented jointly by both Myanmar and China must be completed within the specified period. He also add-

ed that the relevant departments also need to complete the work by setting a timeline before the end of the extended timeline.

Afterwards, the deputy minister, chairman of Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee and attendees discussed the conditions precedent that must be met by both parties and work completion.

After hearing the reports, the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

“Donate Blood to Save Lives” campaign marks 15th nationwide drive

MYANMAR Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) made its 15th blood donation drive yesterday morning at the MPT Training School Hall in Thakayta Township, Yangon, under the “Donate Blood to Save Lives” initiative. Employees of MPT and voluntary donors contributed a total of 320 blood bags.

The blood donation event was also held simultaneously at the 1,000-bed General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw, MPT Training School, Mandalay General Hos-

pital, Magway General Hospital, Dawei General Hospital, Patheingyi General Hospital and Sao San Tun General Hospital in Taunggyi. A total of 9,000 donors participated in the nationwide campaign.

As part of its corporate social responsibility efforts, MPT initiated its blood donation programme in 2016. Since then, the organization has donated 8,500 blood bags to hospitals and the National Blood Centre across the country. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL



MPT staff and well-wishers make collective blood donations. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

NATIONAL

Myanmar Posts & Telecoms holds 15th blood donation event

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications' Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) organized its 15th blood donation event yesterday at the 1,000-bed General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw. The event saw Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo, deputy ministers and officials who encouraged the donors.

A total of 45 employees from the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw along with other voluntary donors participated in the blood donation. The Deputy Prime Minister, deputy ministers and officials also gave food and medical supplies to the donors.

Following the donations, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun presented certificates of appreciation to the donors, while General Mya Tun Oo handed over commemorative gifts.

MPT held its 15th blood donation event simultaneously at hospitals and blood banks in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Taunggyi, Patheingyi and Dawei, with a total of 320 donors participating across all locations. — MNA/KZL

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo encourages blood donors at yesterday's event.



Myanmar joins FATF plenary meeting in France



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe and Myanmar delegates attend the FATF plenary meeting in France.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe attended a plenary meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and a meeting of the International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) held in Paris, France, on 17-21 February.

During the meetings, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar discussed the efforts of Myanmar in combating money laundering, financing terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruc-

tion as per the international criteria and recommendations of FATF, reaching nine points, attempts to complete the remaining six points in time, amendment and enactment of Counter-Terrorism Law, Trusts Act and Custody and Disposal of Exhibits Law.

She also highlighted the efforts to amend the Anti-Money Laundering Law and completely follow the Action Plan by the end of 2025-2026 FY by drafting the AML/CFT National Strategy (2024-2028), communication with foreign ex-

perts for technical assistance, Political Will of the country and High-level Political Commitment.

At the ICRG meeting, the Joint Patron of Asia Pacific Joint Group (APJG) discussed that Myanmar became largely compliant from partially compliant after the 13th progress report on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism that indicated immediate outcome (10/11.1), and the deputy director-general from Asia Pacific Group (APG) highlighted the full participation of Myanmar with international organizations including FATF and APG and urged the participants to appreciate the efforts of Myanmar.

The motions of Myanmar were also discussed at the plenary meeting of FATF, and the meeting decided to put Myanmar on the list of countries subject to enhanced monitoring as normal for making progress in complying with the remaining recommendations. — MNA/KTZH

Request for correct use of the name: The Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

UNESCO is trying to safeguard the Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage of the World by inscribing the World Heritage List and the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity every year.

In Myanmar, three Pyu ancient cities in 2014 and Bagan ancient city in 2019 were inscribed on the **World Heritage List**. Moreover, Myanmar's traditional New Year **Ata Thingyan festival** was inscribed as **The Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** in 2024.

The practice of Thanaka Culture in Myanmar is now being strived to be inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. However, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has noticed that some media are now using the wrong usage as World Intangible Cultural Heritage and World Heritage for Myanmar Intangible Cultural Heritage. Therefore, the Ministry requests Myanmar people and media to use **The Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** for Intangible Cultural Heritage in any social media. — MNA

U Thit Linn Ohn concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to Republic of Kazakhstan

STATE Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Repub-

lic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Kazakhstan. — MNA

NATIONAL

Prime Minister emphasizes fair and honest election



The Union Election Commission is conducting a demonstration and trial vote on the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) to ministries.

STATE Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing said that the State Administration Council is working hard to ensure a fair and honest election.

THE Prime Minister made this statement in a message sent to the 77th Chin National Day ceremony on 20 February 2025.

TO protect all voters from intimidation, coercion, unfair pressure, and group influence, the State Administration Council is also managing to successfully hold a free and fair multi-party democracy general election, which is

its ultimate goal.

TO hold such a free and fair general election, it is necessary to have peace and stability throughout the country, and the Chin people, based on their love for the region, the country, and the Union, are urged to be united and work together to ensure peace and stability in the region and a successful election. SIMILARLY, as national peace, stability and rule of law are important for development and nation-building, the Senior General requested all ethnic people, including the Chin people, to work together with the Government to end the armed conflict. — Htun Htun/ZN

Myanmar extradites 300 Chinese telecom fraudsters



The handover event of 300 Chinese entrants in progress on 21 February.

THE government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with international countries including neighbouring countries, especially through the Myanmar-China-Thailand Trilateral Cooperation, and systematically transferring the foreigners involved in these operations.

Authorities transported 300 Chinese nationals, who illegally entered the country via border routes to run online gambling and telecom fraud in Myawady-Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, to China as per the procedures via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II on humanitarian grounds and bilateral relations yesterday.

The handover ceremony was attended by Deputy Police Chief Police Maj-Gen Tin Ko Ko of the Myanmar Police Force

under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Police Colonel Ploen Klinpayom of No 3 Immigration Department of Thailand's Tak Province, and the officials transferred the documents to the Chinese authorities.

According to the confession of detained Chinese nationals, they illegally entered Myanmar passing through some neighbouring countries, and were forced to work in telecom frauds and online gambling in Myawady-KK Park areas.

The government exposes those involved in the Online Scam Centre and the foreign masterminds to take effective actions against them and actively works to transfer the trafficked foreigners and those who face hardships to their respective countries as quickly as possible. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar arrests further 222 foreign illegal entrants

THE government is actively cracking down on online gambling and telecom fraud including other criminal acts in border areas. A total of 222 foreigners who illegally entered the Myawady-Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas via border routes passing some neighbouring countries including Thailand were arrested yesterday.

Authorities collected the personal data and records just in one day to transfer them to their respective countries as

quickly as possible.

Deputy Police Chief Police Maj-Gen Tin Ko Ko of the Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs inspected the working processes.

From 30 January to 21 February 2025, the government arrested 1,985 foreigners who illegally entered the country, and 561 of them were transferred to their respective countries via Thailand, and the remaining 1,424 are also ready to be transferred. — MNA/KTZH



This photo shows officials inspecting the handover process of detained foreigners.

Counter-argument to false information

False reports on airstrikes in Mu and Sawhti

REPORTS claiming that air attacks in Muu and Sawhti, Bago Region, injuring three locals, were widely circulated by malicious news media, which

spread misinformation.

Upon verification with officials and residents, the reports were entirely false. Security forces did not target civilian

areas where residents live and travel.

Meanwhile, terrorists continue to carry out acts of destruction, including attacking

government offices with bombs and artillery, as well as burning down villages and killing locals who do not support them. Malicious media outlets are

spreading false information to conceal the terrorists' activities and mislead the public about the actions of security forces. — MNA/MKKS

Constructors strive for clean energy in Turkish highlands

Once completed, the project will significantly improve Türkiye's natural gas transport and storage capacity, alleviate local energy shortages, and ensure a reliable clean energy supply.

THE Tuz Lake underground natural gas storage expansion project is located on the Anatolian Plateau in Aksaray Province, a central province in Türkiye, with cold and snowy winters and hot and dry summers. Chinese constructors have been working there for many years, building the natural gas storage expansion project in an effort to boost Türkiye's green and low-carbon transformation.

The core part of the expansion project, which includes design, procurement and construction of ground station facilities, is undertaken by China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of China National Machinery Industry Corporation.

The core part of the expansion project has achieved mechanical completion recently and is preparing for trial operation. After the project is

completed, it will greatly improve Türkiye's natural gas transport and storage capacity, ease local energy shortages, and provide a guarantee for Turkish clean energy supply.

As a supporter of the BRI, Türkiye signed a memorandum of understanding with China in 2015 to align with its Middle Corridor plan, connecting Türkiye and Europe to China via a Trans-Caspian transport route. — Xinhua



Chinese employees check the ground station facilities of the Tuz Lake underground natural gas storage expansion project, in Aksaray province, Türkiye, 12 February 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

Nissan shares jump 11% on reported plan to seek Tesla investment

NISSAN shares surged 11 per cent Friday after a report said a Japanese group including a former prime minister plans to ask US electric vehicle giant Tesla to invest in the automaker.

The Financial Times cited three people with direct knowledge of the move who said ex-premier Yoshihide Suga supported the proposal to approach Tesla.

"The group is hopeful Tesla will become a strategic investor since they believe (it) is keen to acquire Nissan's plants" in the United States, the newspaper said. Nissan declined to comment when contacted by AFP.

Earlier on Friday, Moody's downgrad-

ed the credit rating of Nissan to junk, saying the decision "reflects Nissan's weak profitability driven by slowing demand for its ageing model portfolio". — AFP



The reported proposal follows the failure of Nissan's merger talks with its rival Honda. PHOTO: AFP

40 tonnes of expired medicines, foodstuffs destroyed in S Afghanistan

AUTHORITIES in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province set on fire 40 tonnes of expired medicines and foodstuffs on Thursday, urging drug stores and shopkeepers to avoid selling expired

items, Mawlawi Fazli Ahmad, the provincial director for Public Health said on Friday.

According to the official, the burned items had been collected from drug stores and shops

over a couple of days and such a move would continue. In a similar act, health officials destroyed 4.3 tonnes of expired food in southern Uruzgan province recently. — Xinhua

Stocks mostly fall on tepid Walmart outlook, geopolitical worries

GLOBAL stock markets mostly fell on Thursday and gold hit a record high as traders fretted over the impact of US President Donald Trump's tariffs and a pivot in Washington's policy on Ukraine.

Wall Street indices fell after retail behemoth Walmart issued a lackluster forecast. Shares of Citigroup, Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase fell three percent or more, dragging on major indices.

US indices opened lower and spent the entire

session in negative territory. But the S&P 500, which finished at a record the last two days, dropped 0.4 percent, well above its session lows — a sign of resilience.

"Whenever there's been trouble in the market, buyers have showed up," said Adam Sarhan from 50 Park Investments, who attributed the weakness in bank shares to profit-taking. Tensions between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Trump over the US President's outreach to Moscow

have exploded this week, rattling leaders in Europe.

Uncertainty about Ukraine and Russia adds to anxiety over Trump's myriad tariff actions and worries about lingering inflation. "Investors are mulling the impact of interest rates staying higher for longer, given that policymakers expect US trade policy to push up the price of consumer goods," said Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Hargreaves Lansdown. — AFP

DNV GL MYANMAR LIMITED

Call for proof of debts or claims
(Pursuant to Insolvency Rule 9)

Following the approval of the company's voluntary winding-up and the appointment of U Kyaw Tin as liquidator, all persons claiming to be creditors of the above named company are hereby requested to submit details of their claims together with any documentary evidence in their possession to the liquidator at the address given below not later than 8 March 2025.

U Kyaw Tin
Certified Public Accountant (CPA) (No. 108)
Liquidator

Liquidator's Office: Uniteam Marine Office Building, 8th Floor, Unit#1, No. 84, Pan Hlaing Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, 11111

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK



Netanyahu orders 'intensive' West Bank operations after Israel bus blasts

Netanyahu's office stated that these operations are aimed at targeting centres of terrorism and increasing security in Israeli cities.



Security forces and bomb disposal units are deployed to the scene of a bus explosion in Bat Yam. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday ordered an "intensive operation against centres of terrorism" in the occupied West Bank, his office said, after three buses exploded in central Israel without causing any reported injuries.

Three devices detonated on buses in the city of Bat Yam on Thursday evening and two others were being defused, according to police, with Israel's defence minister accusing "Palestinian terrorist" groups of being behind the blasts.

Netanyahu's office said on social media early Friday that he had completed a security assessment with top officials, ordering fresh counterterrorism operations as well as stepped up security in Israeli cities. "The Prime Minister has ordered the IDF (military) to carry out an intensive operation against centers of terrorism in Judea and Samaria," Netanyahu's office said on X, using the biblical term for the West Bank.

"The Prime Minister also ordered the Israel Police and the ISA (internal security agency) to increase preventative activity against additional attacks in Israeli cities," he added. A large number of police were deployed to search for suspects after the "suspected terror attack", the police force said in a statement. — AFP

US intensifies pressure on Ukraine to sign minerals deal

US National Security Adviser Mike Waltz on Thursday urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to "tone down" its stance and return negotiations over a minerals deal with the United States.

"They need to tone it down and take a hard look and sign that deal," Waltz told Fox News.

The proposed agreement, which reportedly demands a 50-per-cent share of Ukrainian natural resources, was initially presented by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent at the Munich Security Conference.

"You really need to sign this," Bessent reportedly told Zelensky during their meeting.

However, Kiev has so far rejected the US proposal. "I can't sell our state," Zelen-

sky said on Wednesday.

"In total, the United States separately gave us about US\$67 billion in weapons, and we received \$31.5 billion in budget support," he said, adding: "But one cannot count up to \$500 billion and say, 'give us back \$500 billion in minerals,' that's not a serious discussion."

Despite this, the Ukrainian leader said Ukraine is grateful for the support and is open to discussing a deal that includes US security guarantees for his country.

Following a meeting in Kyiv with Keith Kellogg, the US special envoy for Ukraine and Russia, Zelensky described their talks as "productive" in a post on the social platform X on Thursday. — Xinhua

Mexico says won't accept US 'invasion' in fight against cartels

MEXICO'S president warned the United States on Thursday her country would never tolerate an "invasion" of its national sovereignty and vowed fresh legal action against US gunmakers after Washington designated cartels as terrorist organizations.

The remarks were the latest in a series hitting back at the administration of President Donald Trump, which has ramped up pressure on its southern neighbour to curb illegal flows of drugs and migrants.

Mexico is trying to avoid the sweeping 25-per cent tariffs threatened by Trump by increasing cooperation in the fight against narcotics trafficked by the cartels in his sights.

The eight Latin American drug trafficking groups designated as terrorist organizations include Mexican gangs such as the Jalisco New Generation

and Sinaloa cartels – two of the country's most powerful and violent criminal organizations.

But the designation "cannot be an opportunity for the US to invade our sovereignty", President Claudia Sheinbaum told a news conference.

"They can call them (the cartels) whatever they want, but with Mexico, it is collaboration and coordination, never subordination or interventionism, and even less invasion."

In an interview broadcast late Thursday on the social media platform X, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio attempted to allay those concerns.

"In the case of Mexico, the preference always is to work in conjunction with our partners in Mexico, and we can provide them a lot of information about who they are and where they're located," he said, referring to the newly designated criminal gangs. — AFP



The initials of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) are seen on a bullet-riddled wall in Mexico's Michoacan state. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPORTS

Haaland a doubt for Man City showdown with 'exceptional' Liverpool

MANCHESTER City boss Pep Guardiola said Erling Haaland remains a doubt for Sunday's Premier League clash against Liverpool after sitting out his side's Champions League exit to Real Madrid.

The Norwegian was named on the bench at the Santiago Bernabeu but did not make an appearance as City were outclassed in a 3-1 defeat on Wednesday to crash out 6-3 on aggregate.

"Tomorrow we will know," said Guardiola at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

The January signing of Omar Marmoush at least means Guardiola does have a back-up option should Haaland fail to recover in time to face the league leaders, but Guardiola could not

hide the importance of his 27-goal star striker.

"It's better to have Erling on the pitch than not," he added. "Of course with Erling we are stronger." The battle for supremacy between Guardiola's City and Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool marked an era in the Premier League. But Arne Slot has seamlessly succeeded Klopp to have the Reds on course for the title in his first season in charge. — AFP



Erling Haaland is a doubt for Manchester City's clash against Liverpool.
PHOTO: AFP



An equestrian athlete is seen training at the practice ground.

Myanmar prepares for Equestrian Event at XXXIII SEA Games

MYANMAR is making preparations to compete in the equestrian event at the XXXIII Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, which will be hosted by Thailand in December 2025, according to the Myanmar Equestrian Federation.

The SEA Games will take place from 9 to 20 December 2025, with Myanmar set to participate in 24 sports disciplines. As part of this, the Myanmar Equestrian Federation is organizing equestrian competitions to select national riders for the event.

"This year, we have been

holding continuous equestrian competitions to select athletes. Our main focus is preparing for the upcoming SEA Games. For show jumping, we are following a systematic selection process," said President U Pyone Maung Maung of the Myanmar Equestrian Federation.

Myanmar plans to send four equestrian athletes to the SEA Games. These selected athletes will undergo intensive training in Thailand in collaboration with the Thai Equestrian Federation to enhance their skills. — ASH/KZL

Chelsea draw Copenhagen in Conference League last 16

CHELSEA were paired with FC Copenhagen of Denmark in the last 16 as the draw for the knockout phase of this season's UEFA Conference League was made on Friday.

The London club finished top of the first phase in the league stage of the competition, the only side to win all six matches, and are favourites to go all the way and win the trophy.

They will go to the Danish capital for the first leg on 6 March, before hosting the return at Stamford Bridge a week later.

Copenhagen finished 18th in the 36-team league phase, notably beating Hearts of Scotland, before eliminating German Bundesliga side Heidenheim in extra-time in the play-off round.

The Danes got to the last 16 of last season's Champions League before losing to Manchester City.

Chelsea won 2-0 on aggregate when the teams met in the Champions League last 16 in 2011. If Enzo Maresca's side win, they will advance to a quarter-final against either Molde of Norway or Legia Warsaw of Poland.

Chelsea are hoping to go all the way to the final in the Polish city of Wroclaw at the end of May and they cannot face Fiorentina until then. — AFP

Golf: Iwai keeps LPGA Thailand tournament lead with 2nd-round 67

JAPAN'S Akie Iwai maintained her lead at the Honda LPGA Thailand tournament Friday with a 5-under 67 that took her to 15-under at the halfway point. The 22-year-old, who tied the course record with an opening-round 62, has a two-shot buffer over Angel Yin of the United States and is three strokes ahead of Thailand's Jeeno Thitikul and Moriya Jutanugarn in a tie for third.

Iwai carded five birdies in the second round at the Siam Country Club Old Course in Pattaya and remains without a bogey through 36 holes. — Kyodo



Japanese golfer Akie Iwai plays a stroke on the 12th hole during the second round of the Honda LPGA Thailand tournament at the Siam Country Club Old Course in Pattaya, Thailand, on 21 February 2025.
PHOTO: KYODO



ARAB leaders were gathering in Saudi Arabia on Friday to hammer out a recovery plan for Gaza aimed at countering President Donald Trump's proposal for US control of the territory and the expulsion of its people.

Trump's plan has united Arab states in opposition to it, but disagreements remain over who should govern the war-ravaged Palestinian territory and how to fund its reconstruction.

"We're at a very important historic juncture in the Arab-Israeli or Israeli-Palestinian conflict... where potentially the United States under Trump could create new facts on the ground that are irreversible," Andreas Krieg, a King's College London expert said.

Trump triggered global outrage when he proposed the United States "take over the Gaza Strip" and relocate its more than two million residents to Egypt and Jordan.

A source close to the Saudi government told AFP that Arab leaders would discuss "a reconstruction plan to counter Trump's plan for Gaza".

The Gaza Strip is largely in ruins after more than 15 months of war between Israel and Hamas, with the United Nations recently estimating that rebuilding would cost more than \$53 billion.

During a meeting with Trump in Washington on 11 February, Jordan's King Abdullah II said Egypt would present a plan for a way forward. — AFP

Arab leaders gather in Saudi Arabia to hash out Gaza plan

The plan is expected to focus on rebuilding Gaza with Gulf Arab funding, while keeping Palestinians inside Gaza, as an alternative to Trump's idea of Egypt and Jordan taking them in.



Trucks carrying construction materials line up on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing with the Gaza Strip on 20 February 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka making progress in launching its first-ever "water battery"

Sri Lanka's state-owned electricity producer, Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), said on Fri-

day that it is making significant progress towards launching the Maha Oya Pumped Storage Hy-

dropower Project, the country's first-ever "water battery."

The CEB said in a statement that the groundbreaking 600 MW initiative will store excess renewable energy from solar and wind sources, ensuring grid stability and supporting Sri Lanka's goal of generating 70 per cent of its electricity from renewables by 2030.

The project, located in Aranayake and Nawalapitiya, will feature two reservoirs connected by a 2.5 kilometres tunnel, operating as a large-scale energy storage system, the CEB stated. By reducing dependence on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions, the project will play a crucial role in Sri Lanka's transition to sustainable energy, the CEB said. — Xinhua



By reducing dependence on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions, the project will play a crucial role in Sri Lanka's transition to sustainable energy. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

FOR DIPLOMATIC SOLUTIONS

Africa's first G20 meeting opens with call for 'cooperation'

SOUTH Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa opened on Thursday a Group of 20 foreign ministers meeting with a call for "cooperation" amid geopolitical tensions and "rising intolerance".

Top diplomats from the world's largest economies gathered in Johannesburg for the two-day talks held for the first time in Africa and overshadowed by the absence of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. "It is critical that the principles of the UN Charter, multilateralism and international law should remain at the centre of all our endeavours. It should be the glue that keeps us together,"

Ramaphosa said. "Geopolitical tensions, rising intolerance, conflict and war, climate change, pandemics and energy and food insecurity threaten an already fragile global coexistence," Ramaphosa said. The G20 is a grouping of 19 countries as well as the European Union and the African Union.

World leaders have also been split on how to respond to the dramatic policy shifts from Washington since the return of US President Donald Trump.

"As the G20 we must continue to advocate for diplomatic solutions to conflicts," Ramaphosa said. — AFP