

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar, Russia to promote mutual economic cooperation

The Russian Federation is ready to put investments in generating electricity and producing fertilizer, oil and chemical products which are essential for Myanmar.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Mr Maxim Reshetnikov at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the call, they cordially discussed good relations and cooperation between Myanmar and the Russian Federation, further promotion of mutual economic cooperation in all arenas and sectors, and aid provided by the Russian Federation to Myanmar whenever the latter faced natural disasters and other necessary conditions, promotion of investments in Myanmar.

They unveiled the plans to hold talks about bilateral cooperation between the two countries, enhance investments in the private sector, and further cooperation in all economic arenas between Myanmar and Russia.

The discussions focused on arrangements to conduct research with systematic analyses for the long-term aspects of having skilled labourers and infrastructures in adopting the plans, and readiness of the Russian Federation to put investments in generating electricity and producing fertilizer, oil and chemical products which are essential for Myanmar.

Also, present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, and officials. The Russian Minister of Economic Development was accompanied by officials from the Russian Federation.
— MNA/TTA



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Mr Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, during the latter's courtesy call yesterday.

Pyin Oo Lwin
NAN MYAING
Pure Arabica Coffee

Sales Department- Ph-085 2021740, 09 30529111
STARMART Nine Mile Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 263147385
KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555
STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th st and 66th st , Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244
STARMART Nay Pyi Taw -Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pyinmanar.Ph- 09 685119077

NATIONAL

Education: The Foundation of a Nation's Strength and Future

- The strength of a country lies in its education.
- Students with five key capabilities are not only the nation's strength but also the future of the State.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening of the Myanmar National Education Conference 2024 on 25 June 2024)

Traditional tapestry sales surge in Bagan's Myinkaba Village

AS Bagan is renowned for its rich cultural and historical heritage, the ancient city has long been a hub for traditional crafts. Among its artisan villages, Myinkaba has gained recognition for producing exquisite handwoven tapestry paintings. Since the beginning of the year, orders for these intricate artworks have surged, driving a boom in sales and production.

A local artisan U Zeya noted that Bagan is home to various traditional crafts including lacquerware, bamboo products, sand paintings and tapestry paintings. Myinkaba Village is famous for its unique tapestry art, which is highly sought after by both domestic and international tourists. He explained that large tapestries, measuring one to two feet or more are currently in high demand. While orders remain steady year-round, demand typically slows during the rainy season. Artisans are ramping up production to ensure a continuous supply to meet growing demand.

Due to the popularity of Myinkaba's tapestry paintings, both artisans and resellers are benefiting from increased business. The tapestries, available in sizes ranging from one to seven feet, are priced between K10,000 and over K100,000, depending on craftsmanship and detail. Retailers purchase these works at wholesale prices and resell them at reasonable profits.

Apart from tapestry art, Myinkaba Village is also known for its lacquerware and bamboo craft industries, with consistent orders coming from cities like Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

The traditional tapestry painting craft in Bagan dates back over 30 years when the Bagan Archaeological Research Department began documenting ancient murals found on the walls of temples and stupas using thin paper overlays. This process inspired local artisans to develop tapestry painting as a commercial enterprise, which has since thrived.

Today, artisans blend historical designs with contemporary styles to create unique artworks.

With increasing recognition in the tourism sector, producers are striving to establish a strong market presence. Since the beginning of the year, tapestry paintings from Myinkaba Village have gained popularity among both domestic and international visitors. Continuous orders from various regions and states have contributed to the steady demand, solidifying these intricate artworks as one of Myanmar's treasured traditional



Tapestry painting featuring a Buddha Image.

crafts with strong sales. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL



A tapestry showcasing a musical troupe, inspired by an ancient mural painting in Bagan's Myinkaba Village. **PHOTOS: KANU**



Some visitors were seen riding horses on Chaungtha beach on 16 February.

Chaungtha Beach reopens to visitors

VISITORS are returning to Chaungtha Beach in Patheingyi district, Ayeyawady Region, according to locals.

Although there were various reports in the past that there were few tourists, the situation has now stabilized and guests are gradually returning.

"We can say that travellers are returning to Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung and Shwethaungyan. The situation is stable. Security is also good. The locals are as usual," said a local.

The number of visitors to the beach area is expected to increase, and the road conditions

are also good.

"The road conditions are expected to improve. The roads for Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung have been repaired. The Patheingyi-Shaw Pya Road is also being upgraded, so connectivity is better. Visitors will be able to travel safely," said a local. — MT/ZN

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)

Myanmar is clearly carrying out activities of exposing and taking action against offenders in telecom fraud and online gambling as a national duty.

Myanmar, Thailand to promote sector-wise cooperation



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the delegation led by Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Maris Sangiampongsa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A delegation led by Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Maris Sangiampongsa paid a courtesy on State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They talked about further strengthening existing friendly ties between Myanmar and Thailand and both Tatmadaws and the promotion of cooperation.

They frankly exchanged views on plans to decisively take action against operators of telecom fraud and online gambling based on the investigation through collaborative efforts of

neighbouring countries and international organizations.

The discussions emphasized that Myanmar is clearly carrying out activities of exposing and taking action against offenders in telecom fraud and online gambling as a national duty.

They underscored plans of

further cooperation in ensuring peace and stability with the rule of law in border regions between Myanmar and Thailand, eradicating illegal trade and terrorism, and exchanging information.

Moreover, they discussed the endeavours of Myanmar to

hold a free and fair general election and promotion of cooperation in all sectors between the two countries.

Present at the meeting together with the Senior General were SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers and senior Tatmadaw officers.

The Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs was accompanied by Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces General Songwit Noonpackdee, the Ambassador of the Royal Thai Embassy to Myanmar, the Thai Military Attaché and officials. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

MIFER Union Minister hosts dinner for Russian delegation

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw hosted a dinner event for the delegation led by Mr Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, who are currently in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 5th meeting of the Inter-Governmental Russia-Myanmar Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation, at Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also, present at the dinner were State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, SAC Member General Nyo Saw, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Fi-



The Russian delegation enjoying a dinner hosted by MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



nance U Win Shein and Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe.

It was also attended by Union ministers from relevant ministries, the chairman of the

Union Civil Service Board, the chairman of the Myanmar-Russia Friendship Association, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Russian

minister and deputy minister of Economic Development, representatives, president of UMFCCI, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar and other departmental officials.

At the dinner, the Union minister and Russian minister gave speeches, and the attendees extended their wishes to accelerate the bilateral cooperation. — MNA/KTZH

Thai Foreign Minister pays visit to Myanmar

AT the invitation of U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand paid a working visit to Myanmar from 21 to 22 February 2025.

During the visit, Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, paid a courtesy call on Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the morning of 22 February 2025, and he also held Myanmar-Thai bilateral meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe at the Jasmine Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in the afternoon.

During the bilateral meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views on further consolidation of existing bilateral relations and continued enhancement of multi-dimensional cooperation between the two countries, particularly in addressing illegal activities along the borders,



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe welcomes the Thai Foreign Affairs Minister.

such as cross-border illegal trade, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, online fraud, human trafficking, transnational crimes as well as collaborating more closely in the regional and international arena. Additionally, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs updated the latest developments in Myanmar including the government's peace efforts and preparations for the upcoming general elections.

Thai Delegation headed

by Foreign Minister Mr Maris Sangiampongsa left Nay Pyi Taw for Bangkok, Thailand on the evening of 22 February 2025. During his stay in Nay Pyi Taw, the Thai Foreign Minister paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image located at the Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw on the evening of 21 February 2025 and attended the working dinner hosted by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Cement allowed to be imported arrived at Yangon Port

CURRENTLY, it is the open season and construction has been at dramatic speed country-wide, the import of cement has been allowed to meet cement demand domestically for construction works and to strengthen domestic production.

The vessel carrying 3,000 tonnes of cement imported through Kawthoung Border Trade Post, reportedly arrived at Shwe Pyi Tha-Mottama Port

Yangon on 21 February 2025. It has been underway to distribute in the market on the morning of 22 February 2025.

It is informed that the import of cement required for domestic construction activities during this period has been allowed and in addition to this vessel, the rest of the vessels which carry cement will be arriving week by week. — MNA/TTA



Unloading of imported cement bags at the port.

Union Defence Minister meets Thai Armed Forces Chief

STATE Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye received General Songwit Noonpackdee, Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, they discussed

strengthening defence cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand, as well as security issues along the border. Both sides exchanged views openly on these matters.

Officials from the Ministry of Defence also joined the meeting along with the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Defence Minister. — MNA/KZL



The Royal Thai Armed Forces Chief calls on SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoD Union Minister General Maung Maung Aye yesterday.



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi meets the Russian RC-Investments Foundation Director yesterday.

MNREC Union Minister meets Russian RC-Investments Foundation Director

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi received a delegation led by Mr Alexander S Shatirov, Director of RC-Investments Foundation

from the Russian Federation, at the Ministry's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Both sides cordially discussed the progress of cooperation in the mineral sector. — MNA/MKKS

MoEP Union Minister receives Russian RC-Investments delegation

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun received the delegation of the RC-Investments Foundation from the Russian Federation at the Ministry's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the successful cooperation between Myanmar and Russia in various sectors, the current collaboration between Russian companies on hydro, wind, solar, and thermal power projects for the development of Myanmar's electricity sector, and future cooperation opportunities. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister U Nyan Tun holds talks with the Russian RC-Investments delegation in Nay Pyi Taw.

Awareness Seminar for Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights held

AN Awareness Seminar for Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights took place at the Judicial College of the Supreme Court of the Union in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, attended by Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay.

The seminar focused on Trademark Protection in

Myanmar, Criminal Litigation regarding Trademark in Myanmar, Protection of well-known Trademark, protection of online copyright infringement in Myanmar, monetary relief for copyright infringements, and a comparative study of damages resulting from trademark infringement, focusing on statutory damag-

es which are related to the reinforcement of intellectual property rights.

The seminar was attended by judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, chief justices and judges of regional and state high courts, the permanent secretary, directors-general, judicial officers and officials. — GNLM

MSME loans available for application

MSME business owners in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union Territory, as well as in regions and states, can apply for the necessary loans to expand their businesses, purchase machinery, and procure raw materials. These loans are provided by the Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, and 16 private banks.

The annual interest rates are three per cent for loans where at least 30 per cent is used for fixed capital, four per cent for loans used entirely 100 per cent as working capital and five per cent for loans issued under the Credit Guarantee Insurance (CGI) system.

MSME business owners who wish to apply for loans are advised to contact the relevant MSME agencies in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union Territory, regions, and states.

MSME Development Fund Management Committee

Gold Market Rate as of 22 February 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,500,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

ShweUmin Cave hosts Buddha Pujaniya festival in Mar



These photos showcase the ShweUmin Cave and Buddha Images inside.

THE Buddha Pujaniya Tabaung festival will be held in March at ShweUmin Cave in Pindaya Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone, southern Shan State, according to the Buddha Pujaniya festival organizing committee.

The festival will take place from the

10th waxing day of Tabaung to the full moon day of Tabaung, featuring theatre performances and traditional Danu dances. During the Buddha Pujaniya Tabaung festival, the ethnic residents will offer alms, flowers, water, lighting, and cash to the 8,094 Buddha images

in ShweUmin Cave. The morning alms and rice-offering ceremony will include monks from Pindaya Township as well as monks from other areas. The reunion day for the Danu ethnic people will be held alongside sports games and a market fair. — ASH/MKKS

Closed tender invited for 18 businesses at Union National Races Village

THE Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee invites a closed tender with competitive pricing for a business lease of 18 businesses associated with Union National Races Village (Yangon) under the Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture, the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs.

The commercial lease lasting one year is from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Those 18 businesses include bike rent, cleaning facility management near the main gate, Union Hall, Myanmar, Mon, Rakhine, Chin and Kayah houses and Inlay Lake inside Union National Races Village (Yangon), opening a tea shop on MV-705, buggy rental, restaurant business, duck boat business in Inlay Lake, horse rent business, photography business, toy picking machine and water slide businesses.

Closed tender forms and regulations can be purchased at Union National Races Village (Yangon) in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region between 20 February to 6 March. Individuals can enquire about details through 09 450047588, 09 5123413, 01 9547055, and 09 421114496 of the office of the Union National Races Village or the ministry's website <http://www.moea.gov.mm/>. Tender selection will take place on 10 March. — NN/KK



Group photo of people in traditional ethnic attire at the main gate.

Yangon Region air quality in Feb acceptable: MoNREC

ACCORDING to measurements taken in February 2025 by the Department of Environmental Conservation under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the ambient air quality in Yangon Region is generally within acceptable levels.

Ambient air quality parameters are regularly measured and analyzed. The measurements taken in February reveal that air quality in the Yangon Region is at an acceptable level in the Yangon Region Government Office in Dagon Township, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, and the International Business Center in Kamayut Township.

Similarly, air quality in Magway Township in Magway Region, Mawlamyine and Thaton townships in Mon State, Patheingyi Township in Ayeyawady Region, Monywa and Katha townships in Sagaing Region, and Pobbathiri Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is also at an acceptable level.

Similarly, the air quality in Aungmyayethazan, PyinOoLwin, and Meiktila townships in Mandalay Region is at an acceptable level, while the air quality in Amarapura and Sagaing townships is at levels that can be harmful to health.

Air quality in Tachilek and Kengtung in Shan State, NyaungU in Mandalay Region, Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region, and Ottarathiri Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is at a health



Air quality assessment in progress.

risk level for vulnerable people.

Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Region, Bago Township in Bago Region, Dawei Township in Taninthayi Region, Hpa-an Township in Kayah State, Thayet Township in Magway Region, and Taunggyi and Monghsat townships in Shan State have good air quality levels.

In order to assess the ambient air quality across the country, the Department of Environmental Conservation regularly measures air quality parameters at designated sampling points in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory/Regions/States. Air quality is regularly measured and analyzed using instruments such as the Environmental Perimeter Air Station (EPAS) — Haz-Scanner; Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM-65), Scentroid

(SL-50 Scential), Aeroqual (Series 500 Portable Air Quality Monitor), AQMesh (Dust Analyzer — 1941150, Gas Analyzer — 1940150), Portable Beta Attenuation Mass Monitor (BAM 1022), Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQMS), and Continuous Particulate Monitor. Key parameters, such as Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Ozone (O₃), and Carbon Monoxide (CO), are also measured.

In addition, the ambient air quality results may vary depending on factors such as air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, rainfall, vehicle usage, emissions from factories, and the surrounding environment at the measurement site. — ASH/TH

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.

Myanmar bags US\$1.5B from various pulses exports yearly

MYANMAR'S various pulses exports contributed to earnings of about US\$1.5 billion yearly, according to the Department of Trade, the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's pulses export revenue accounts for 38 per cent of agricultural produce export, yearly generating over \$1 to 1.5 billion.

Myanmar is one of the world's largest bean producers. Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and it contributes to over 30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. There are over 17 million acres of paddy and 10 million acres of pulses and beans

in the country. The country's second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agricultural produce and covering over 20 per cent of growing acres.

Myanmar's pulses export by sea amounted to over 1.6 million tonnes of pulses worth \$1.34 billion in the 2023-2024 financial year, whereas over 157,000 tonnes of pulses worth \$141.38 million were conveyed to neighbouring countries at borders, totalling 1.759 million tonnes worth \$1.48 billion.

Myanmar's various pulses exports hit over 775,290 tonnes of pulses valued at \$669.89 million between 1 April and 19 July of the



Samples of various pulses are seen on display in the domestic pulses and beans market.

current financial year 2024-2025, comprising over 748,600 tonnes of export worth \$647.7 million through maritime trade and over 26,600 tonnes worth \$22 million

at borders.

Myanmar is the leading exporter of black gram, pigeon pea and green gram. The acreage of them constitutes 72 per cent of

overall bean acreage and soya bean, kidney bean, butter bean, rice bean, pea and other beans are cultivated on 28 per cent of the remaining acres. — ASH/KK

CBM sells US\$20M on 21 Feb



Aerial drone view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM).

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$20 million on 21 February again.

CBM injected \$50,000, over 630,000 yuan and over 910,000 baht on 20 February, 1.19 million baht on 19 February, 970,000 yuan and one million baht on 18 February and 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 enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

MAPCO cooking oil plant commences operation

MYANMAR Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO)'s small-scale oil plant with the production capacity of 100 visses per hour started to run operations.

This small-scale oil plant is the initial stage of MAPCO's rice bran oil plant with an output of 200 tonnes per day and commencing production of 100 viss of cooking oil such as peanut, sesame and sunflower oil. Sunflower oil produced from oil plants starts distributing under the brand of Nitthat.

Under the guidance of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), Myanmar Agribusiness Public Company has

been analyzing the production of rice bran oil since 2014. Myanmar Rice Bran Oil Company Limited (MRBO) was separately established under the support of the government and MRF to execute rice bran oil and edible oil production businesses in Mezaligon village-tract, Pyinmana Township in Nay Pyi Taw. MRBO has been constructing a 200-tonne crude rice bran oil processing plant and a 50-tonne refinery plant. The by-product (defatted bran) of the rice bran oil factory will be used as raw materials by the feedstuff processing factory. According to the MRBO project, rice bran oil, sunflower

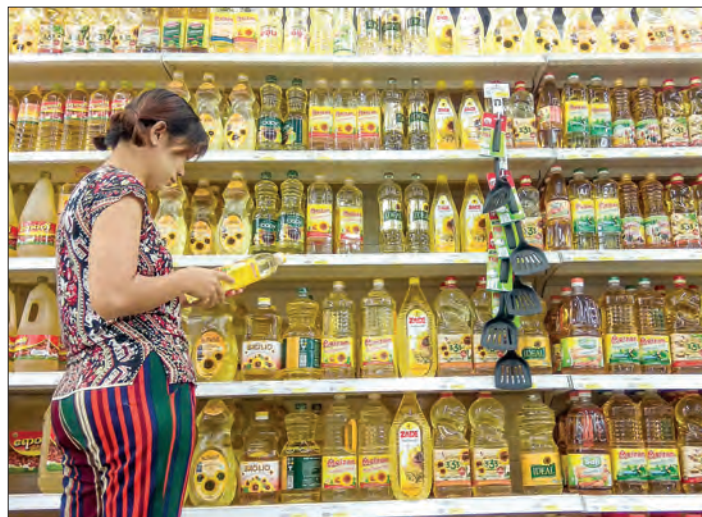
oil, and soybean oil produced from oil refinery plants will be distributed to domestic markets, contributing to domestic edible oil requirements and substitute imports. Upon the government's approval, it will be exported as well.

MRBO received company registration from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) on 9 March 2022, an import licence on 1 June 2023 and a permit from Myanmar Investment Commission 261/2024 according to a decision of MIC meeting dated 5 January 2024.

Value-added rice bran oil will be produced with the by-product of surrounding rice mills and parboiled rice mills owned by MAPCO.

Under the guidance of MRF, MRBO held the groundbreaking ceremony of the construction project at the MAPCO rice mill complex located in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on 7 February.

The plant aims to manufacture 9,000 tonnes of crude rice bran oil and 6,300 tonnes of edible oil annually with solvent extraction methods. This plant will become the first-ever refinery for bran oil and edible oil in the country. — NN/KK



A shopper choosing brands from the edible oil shelf in the supermarket.

OPINION

Prioritize security measures to ensure public safety

SECURITY measures are essential for maintaining peace, stability, and the rule of law, which are fundamental for a nation's development and prosperity. A society free from coercion, threats, and criminal activity allows people to enjoy the benefits of peace, which in turn fosters national progress.

On 18 February 2024, Myanmar enacted the "Private Security Services Law" under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. This law is a key initiative to bolster public peace and security in response to rising threats such as terrorism and criminal activities that jeopardize national stability. The law aims to address the increasing acts of sabotage and violence that disrupt peace and undermine the rule of law across the country.

Currently, destructive acts targeting national stability are becoming more common. Terrorist attacks, often politically motivated, and different forms of crime are prevalent in various regions. These acts include violence that harms civilians, damages public infrastructure, and threatens private property. Terrorists have been attacking government buildings, residential areas, and villages with heavy weapons and bombs. They have also targeted non-military entities, such as cargo trucks, passenger vehicles, and residential buildings, all of which harm innocent civilians.

This law aims to develop a well-regulated private security sector that can contribute to maintaining public safety and law enforcement. It focuses on improving human resources within private security services, ensuring international standards, and preventing misuse. Additionally, the law fosters collaboration with international and regional organizations to create a more structured, effective security system.

The government is working toward ensuring long-term stability by adhering to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and striving to end armed conflicts across the country. Efforts are focused on maintaining peace and the rule of law, with local militia groups playing a role in protecting regions where the rule of law is not fully enforced.

Given the increasing frequency of terrorism and crime, private security services have become necessary to collaborate with security forces for effective law enforcement and public safety. The Private Security Services Law supports national security and public peace by establishing a framework for private security companies to cooperate with government agencies.

This law aims to develop a well-regulated private security sector that can contribute to maintaining public safety and law enforcement. It focuses on improving human resources within private security services, ensuring international standards, and preventing misuse. Additionally, the law fosters collaboration with international and regional organizations to create a more structured, effective security system.

The Private Security Services Law is an essential step toward reinforcing national security, supporting the rule of law, and ensuring public safety through coordinated efforts between private and public security entities while collaborating with international and regional organizations regarding private security services contribute to creating a well-structured system.



Book Title	-	Hitopadesa
Author	-	Paragu
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	January 2025 (6 th Edition)
Price	-	K5,400

Hitopadesa

THIS week, we bring you a book titled Hitopadesa, one of the most widely circulated books in the world, written in prose. It is a book of ethical literature, systematically composed with proverbs, life perspectives, and philosophical concepts, offering thoughtful reflections and insights drawn from its fables, like Nitipadesa serving as a guide to success. Saya Paragu translated Hitopadesa written in Sanskrit into Myanmar.

The very first translator of this original book is Ashin Raveinda who is famous as Bangla Syadaw. Pali expert Saya Nyunt, Sayadaw U Sakka Pala, Ashin Guna Linkaya, Aphyauk Sayadaw, Pali Paragu U Aung Myo, U Ohn Shwe and U Thaw Zin also translated it. Among them, the work of Saya Paragu who is highly proficient in Hindu

and Sanskrit literature is the most popular. The original writer created the animal characters to communicate with each other like human beings aiming to share lessons that he wanted to pass on to the readers.

Regarding this book, the writer said... why Hitopadesa composed with the process. It was written with the consideration of experts who can know the attitude of man very well. It can easily understand and follow obviously. The process of Hitopadesa gives thoughtful lessons. Moreover, they pass down the insights and perspectives not to forget and not to live carelessly. The preface said it is worth describing Hitopadesa, in fact, as a treasure trove of wisdom.

The stories in Hitopadesa are the ones cherished by the Indian people of the sixth century.

These fables spread from Arabia to China in two centuries shortly after being translated into Arabic, and they not only entered the literary world of Western countries but were also translated into Latin, Greek, German, French, Spanish and English from the medieval to the 16th century. Today, the stories are translated and published in over a hundred different languages.

The Hitopadesa is famous for four major points (1) neither brief nor beyond the truth, (2) having been put into systematic arrangement, (3) pleasant and delightful quotes, and (4) benefits for different sectors including wealth, communication, observation, success, virtue and deep regret.

Here are some sample quotations from this book.

A man who is jealous, com-

passionate extremely, discontented, angry, and dependent on others will always face misfortune and difficulties in life.

Even a worm by association with a jasmine ascends (above) the head of the good: even a stone attains divinity, (when) consecrated by the great.

Virtues remain in those who possess them, but in those devoid of virtue, they turn into vices. Just as rivers carry savoury water, but upon reaching the ocean, they become undrinkable.

Feeding, sleep, fear, and love are common to both animals and humans. But virtue is the special property of humans; without virtue, they are no different from animals.

If one does not attain any of the goals of religion, economic development, regulated sense-gratification, and liberation, one's life is useless, like the milk-less nipples hanging from a goat's neck. Just as with one wheel, there can be no motion of a chariot, so without the act of man destiny (itself) is not accomplished.

An act done in a former birth is called "Fate", therefore, unwearied, one should manfully make an effort.



Book Title	-	Treatise on Utubhojana Sangaha
Writer	-	Yaw Mingyi U Pho Hlaing
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	January 2025 (Copy Print)
Price	-	K10,000

Treatise on Utubhojana Sangaha

"TREATISE on Utubhojana Sangaha" is a renowned work on therapy and pharmacology by Yaw Myosa (Duke) U Pho Hlaing, a high-ranking minister with the title of Agga Maha Senapati. This treatise holds a significant place in Myanmar's traditional medicine industry. The first three editions were published by Hanthawady Press, which described medical terms in English and included photos of inscriptions in the fourth edition. The current edition is a reprint by Seikku Cho Cho Publishing House, closely following the fourth edition.

Before delving into the book's key elements, it's important to introduce the author, Yaw Mingyi U Pho Hlaing, to provide context for young readers. Yaw Mingyi U Pho Hlaing was an unparalleled noble civil servant and a follower of Kanaung Mintha (the crown prince), who aimed to modernize Myanmar during the Industrial Revolution. U Pho Hlaing played a crucial role in implementing polit-

ical, administrative, and economic reforms to modernize the country.

U Pho Hlaing was well-versed in various subjects, including Sanskrit, Pali, Myanmar literature, foreign magic, and science. He authored numerous treatises and was highly respected for his remarkable intellect and contributions. Born on the 10th Waxing of Tagu month of 1191 ME to U Shwe Toat and Me Nyein, he was known as Maung Hlaing in his childhood. He received his early education at a monastery in Kyabo Village, Taloat Township, where he exhibited exceptional cognitive abilities and a keen intellect. At 23, U Pho Hlaing became a civil servant during King Mindon's reign and was awarded the title of Minhla Sithu, becoming the Duke of Yaw town. King Mindon arranged his marriage to Ma Khin Phyu, the daughter of Magway Myosa (Duke), and U Pho Hlaing received the title of Minhla Maha Sithu and Yaw Myosa (Minister of Interior) at 28. He

was known as Yaw Atwin Wun due to his intelligence and high-ranking status. U Pho Hlaing pursued Dhamma and Buddhist practices and passed away in 1245 ME.

U Pho Hlaing authored 14 notable treatises, including the Lila-vati geometric treatise, Lokadat treatise on elements and medicine, Lipi Dipika on telegraphy, Sadha Sangaha treatise, Assa Beda treatise, Vimukthi Rasa (Taste of Freedom through comparative religion perspectives), Maha Samata Vinichaya political treatise, Kara Nupasana (anatomy and Buddhist philosophy), Ten kinds of Vipassana Insights (Buddhist Philosophy), Raja Dhamma Sangaha treatise on the constitutional monarchy, Nava Siddhanta and Utubhojana Sangaha treatises on pharmacology, Alinka Nissara treatise, and Maha Sujataga treatise on astrology. He was the first-ever researcher to write treatises on science and mathematics, incorporating multiplication.

The republished "Utubhojana Sangaha" is the most famous of his works and serves as a systematic discourse on pharmacology. It is considered a public health guidance manual and encompasses a wide range of topics and specific conditions. The book covers the depiction of seasons and regions, the six seasons, the three regions, and how diseases occur; three stages of life according to medical treatises, and the division of ten stages of life. It addresses underweight and overweight health risks, maintaining a healthy lifestyle for longevity, timing physical exercise, benefits of applying oil and fragrance, advantages of exfoliating, and the cultural significance of wearing specific gemstones linked to the days.

Additionally, the book discusses different types of water quality, the values of different types of milk, food intake depending on regions and time, natural sleep aids and remedies for better health and longevity, the taste of karma (reflection of one's actions), incompatible food combinations, and the values of rice paddy, beans, butter, oil, honey, sugarcane, and sugar. It also covers different types of urine and associated health indicators, the benefits and side effects of various types of meat, fruits, and flowers, and the benefits and side effects of eggs.

Mettle

By Chit Ko Pe

Despite the oars' damage against the surging waves, strong current and wild gale, let's row with our bare hands to pace.

သတ္တိ
လှိုင်းကြီးရေဆန် လေထန်ပြင်းခုတ် ပုံတက်ကျိုးငြား လက်ခါးနှစ်ဖက် ရှေ့တက်ရွှေ့ဖို့ ဝါတံအား လှော်ကြမို့။
ခွစ်ကိုဝေ

Farewell to winter

By Maung Swan Yi, Translated by Myint Zan

in front of the village on the land owned by the village head there's uproarious laughter

the dry leaves on the toddy palms trees are shaking vigorously making noise that frightens one to the core

the smell of budding mangoes spread in the air the noise from the buzzing bees is ceaseless

the top of the toddy palm beckons the pot (to collect its juice) as the wind blows 'tis the season of saying goodbye to winter

Composed on 20 February 1961
Translated on 20 February 2025, exactly 61 years to the day after Maung Swan Yi composed the poem.

ဆောင်း နှုတ်ဆက်ပွဲ

သူကြီးပိုင်ခြေ ရွာရွှေ့နားက တဟဟဟား ရယ်မောသံ။

ထန်းပင်တွေ ရွက်ခြောက်ယမ်း ကျောချမ်းဖွယ် ဆူညံ။

သရက်ဖူးနဲ့ လေမှာပျံ ပျားအုပ်သံ မမ်း။

အိုးခေါ်သံ ထန်းပင်ထက်က လေသံရာ ညည်ကျက်ကပေါ့ ဆောင်းနှုတ်ဆက်ပွဲ။

ဆောင်းခွမ်းရည် (၂၀ မေပေါင်တိုက်လ ၁၄၆၁ ခုနှစ်)

Home

Translated by Maung Swe Ngae

- ❖ As for birds ... Nests are their shelters.
- ❖ As for terrestrial animals ... Caves are their shelters.
- ❖ As for human beings ... Houses are their shelters.
- ❖ To withstand the rains, Houses are built.
- ❖ To withstand the summer's heat, Houses are built.
- ❖ To withstand the winter's cold, Houses are built.
- ❖ Man is ... born and brought up at home Has to earn his livelihood Past his prime while struggling for food, And when death knocks on the door, Man has no choice but to follow Has to go far away so ...

အိမ်
ငှက်တွေမှာ ... အပျက်ကန်တာ နေစရာ။
ကုန်းနေသူတွေပါ ... တွင်းဂူဆိုတာ နေစရာ။
လူသူတွေပါ ... အိမ်ဆိုတာ နေစရာ။
မိုးတွင်းရဲ့ မိုးဒဏ် ခံနိုင်အောင် ဆောက်တဲ့အိမ်။
နေရဲ့အပူဒဏ် ခံနိုင်အောင် ဆောက်တဲ့အိမ်။
ဆောင်းရဲ့အအေးဒဏ် ခံနိုင်အောင် ဆောက်တဲ့အိမ်။
လူဆိုတာ ... အိမ်မှာမွေးပြီး၊ အိမ်မှာကြီး၍ ခရီးနှင်ကာ၊ ဝမ်းတစ်ထွာတွက် ဖွဲ့ ရှာ စား သော ကို၊ ရှိ ယ် လွန်ခြောက်သော် ခေါက်သည့်တံခါး၊ သေမင်းပါတွင် စားရောက်ကြ၊ လမ်းဆုံးရသည် အိမ်မှဝေးရာဆီသို့တည်း။ ။ သူရဇော်

NATIONAL Entertainment



Filming of new TV series 'Nat Nae Naga Ma Hlae Sar Nae' ready to begin

THE filming of the 'Nat Nae Naga Ma Hlae Sar Nae' series will begin in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Pinlaung in the last week of February. The story and script were created by Khun Thar Cho. The series will be directed by director Maha (MSC) for Khun Thar Cho Film Production.

"I will take two characters in the Nat Nae Naga Ma Hlae Sar Nae, series. It is an educational film as I mostly create. There are over 40 artistes in the film. I want the people to watch how interesting cases will

be included in the film as its title 'Nat Nae Naga Ma Hlae Sar Nae,'" said Khun Thar Cho. The cast consists of Khun Thar Cho, Min Thway Khant, Min Thu, Ye Lay Ma, Ye Khaung, Subin Ya Oo, Academy Nwet Nwet San, Academy Khin Soe Paing, Academy Wah Wah Aung, Mar Yu Thar, Nan Khan Wah, Myo Myo Khine, Bo Ma and other artistes. The launch ceremony for the 'Nat Nae Naga Ma Hlae Sar Nae' series to be broadcast on Fortune TV was organized at Maha Wizaya pagoda in Yangon on 21 February. — ASH/KTZH

Phoo Sone

ACADEMY Phoo Sone broadcast Episode 01 of 'Everything about Me' featuring her life events and friends on her YouTube Channel on 14 February. Episode 01 carried her intention for this programme, current activities, experience at the meditation centre and her first experience in the movie field.



Ma Naw

THE praise from the fans of Ma Naw who became a well-known singer from Shepherd Life is rising recently. Singer Ma Naw shared his life experiences on his Facebook including positive guidelines for youths and Dhamma-related matters for the elderly. His fans are satisfied with his doings.

Aung Kyaw Tun (SFX Makeup)

CONDUCTOR of the orchestra, artist, bronze casting and silicone sculptor, and makeup artist Ko Aung Kyaw Tun organized a 'Linka Dipa Academy Satuditha' donation event using the donation money of pupils of Linka Dipa including his pupil Academy Lone Lone on 20 February.



Phoe Chit

AUTHOR, composer, and playwright Maung Seikta, who recently passed away, handed over the rights to manage his works to Myanmar Theatrical Organization Chairman U Phoe Chit. Therefore, on 21 February 2024, the Myanmar Theatrical Organization (Central) released a statement not to use U Seikta's novels, plays, and songs without the organization's permission.



Kyaw Htet Aung

ACTOR Kyaw Htet Aung who took the main lead in the 'Metta Amway Bagan Myay' film was appraised by his fans for his outstanding skills in traditional Myanmar 'Myaywine' dance. Regarding this dance, "I carefully presented the dance performance under the systematic guidance of mentors from Alin Thit Myanmar traditional dance troupe," he said.



Soe Pyae Thazin

THE "Kyin Phaw" film that took nearly three months comprising 30 episodes will conclude within the next few days. Academy Soe Pyae Thazin who took Tay Nu Yin's character in that film started as a married woman and received big applause from the audience. The actress attended the opening ceremony of the 'Htate Tan' jewellery shop in Mandalay on 19 and 20 February. — Htun Htun/KTZH



CELEBRITY BRIEF

NATIONAL

Myanmar extradites 111 Chinese nationals, one Thai national

THE government is strictly cracking down on telecom fraud and criminal acts by cooperating with the international countries including neighbouring countries, and systematically transferring the foreigners involved in these illegal operations.

The authorities transported 111 Chinese nationals via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II and one Thai national via the Myanmar-Thailand Bridge I on humanitarian grounds and bilateral relations yesterday.

Most of these foreign nationals were persuaded to work in online gambling, telecom fraud and destructive actions in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, illegally entering the country. According to their confession, almost all of them entered the country illegally passing the border crossings via some neighbouring countries.

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



The handover ceremony for a Thai national in progress on 22 February 2025.

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, Deputy Director-General Mr Liu Ning Ning of the Criminal Investigation Department of Public Security of China and Police Colonel Ploen Klinpayom of No 3 Immigration Department of Thailand's Tak Province, and the officials transferred the

documents to the authorities of relevant countries.

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. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar detains 126 illegal entrants

THE government is actively cracking down on online gambling and telecom fraud including other criminal acts in border areas. A total of 126 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.

From 30 January to 22 February 2025, the government arrested 2,111 foreigners who illegally entered the country, and 673 of them were transferred to their respective countries via Thailand, and the remaining 1,438 are also ready to be transferred.

These 2,111 detainees are from China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nepal, Thailand, Rwanda, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia and Chinese Taipei, and most are Chinese nationals. — MNA/KTZH



Immigration officials processing foreign detainees.

▶ Counter-argument to false information

Khit Thit Media spreads false news about youth arrests in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Facebook page "Khit Thit Media" shared false news on 20 February, claiming that authorities in Nay Pyi Taw were using drugs to trap and arrest young people.

The post also alleged that they were extorting money, forcing them into the military, and threatening to charge them under Section 19 (a) if they tried to escape.

After checking the facts, these claims were reportedly untrue. The officer named in the report, Sergeant Aye Aye Khaing, does not exist at Pynmana Township Police Station. The post was made to mislead the public and damage the reputation of the Myanmar Police Force.

Officials stated that anyone with real complaints about the police should report them properly. If any wrongdoing is found, action will be taken. However, the post by Khit Thit Media was simply fake news meant to create misunderstanding among the public. — Linn Linn/KZL

Misinformation regarding newly enacted Private Security Service Law spread

THE State Administration Council has enacted the Private Security Service Law to support national defence, the rule of law and peace for people and cooperate with the government security organizations systematically.

Similarly, it intends to enhance the private security service related to human resources emerging international standard private security services and to cooperate with international organizations and regional organizations.

Tachilek News Agency intentionally circulated false information claiming that the SAC enacted the Private Security Service Law that allows to carry arms and serve as informants to mislead the people on its Facebook page on 18 February. — Thitsa/KTZH

Khit Thit media spreads false claims of NUG

THE Facebook page under the name "Khit Thit Media" published a fake news article on 18 February, with the headline, "NUG welcomes Thailand-China cooperation to crack down on telecom fraud and is ready to collaborate". The purpose of this misleading report was to deceive the public.

The actual event involved legal government officials from China, Myanmar, and Thailand working together to combat telecom fraud and criminal activities. However, Khit Thit Media spread false information by attributing support to the so-called "NUG", which no country officially recognizes. This misinformation was aimed at distorting public perception. — Thitsa/KZL

NATIONAL

Weekly ROUNDUP

16 February

MRTV marks 79th anniversary

MRTV operates MRTV Entertainment Channel, Mahar HD channel in addition to 12 TV HD channels in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw (Pinyinana) and Sagaing (Mandalay) through MRTV DVB-T2 system, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered a speech at the 79th Anniversary of MRTV at its head office in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw.

19 February

Law Amendment to Court Fees Act issued

The State Administration Council issued the Law Amendment to Court Fees Act as the SAC Law 3/2025, under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The law will come into effect starting from 1 April 2025.

Private Security Service Law enacted

The State Administration Council enacted the Private Security Service Law as the SAC Law 4/2025 under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

20 February

Myanmar Foodstuff Development Forum commences

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that a total of 9,984 industries produce foodstuffs out of 49,025 industries of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) across the nation, at the ceremony to open the Myanmar Foodstuff Development Forum at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chin National Day celebrated for 77th anniversary

The council continues to offer opportunities for open dialogue, welcoming ongoing discussions and fostering a durable peace, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed commitment in his message sent to the 77th Anniversary of Chin National Day.

22 February

Cadets graduated from 128th intake of OTS (Bahtoo)

People, government and Tatmadaw must unite to eliminate insurgents and combat terrorism, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the passing out parade of the 128th intake Thura Company of Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo).

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officer trainees at Combat Forces School (Bahtoo)

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, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with officer trainees of Tatmadaw (Army) Combat Forces School (Bahtoo). — GNLM/TTA

MORAC urges media to use accurate terms for UNESCO's ICH



Images of Myanmar Thanaka culture under processing for inclusion in UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

REGARDING the cultural heritage submitted by Myanmar to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), media outlets have been found using inconsistent terms like "World Intangible Cultural Heritage" and "World Heritage" and thus they are requested to use only the correct term of "Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hu-

manity", the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture said.

The three ancient Pyu cities and the ancient Bagan were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014 and 2019. In addition, the traditional Myanmar New Year Ata Thingyan festival was also included in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2024.

Myanmar Thanaka culture is currently being considered for inclusion in UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

UNESCO annually declares the World Heritage List and the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to preserve the world's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. — Htun Htun/ZN

YBS 110 driver fired for speeding and harassing passengers

FOR his bad manner towards passengers and speeding, Yangon Urban Public Transport Co Ltd (YUPT) sacked a YBS 110 driver.

The YBS 110 is a bus line that commutes to Yangon City Hall at Sule from Yuzana Garden Housing. A YBS passenger shared a video capturing a confrontation between a passenger and a driver of the bus line on reckless driving at the YBS direction group on 17 February.

As a result of the investigation, the complaint was found true so they fired the driver, said YUPT.

For public complaints, YUPT has provided the following phone numbers: 09 454546655 and 09 893475644 or its Facebook page. — MT/ZS



This image captures a YBS bus in downtown Yangon.

JLPT online applications open for individuals starting 25 Feb

JAPANESE Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) 2025 is scheduled to be held on 6 July in Yangon and Mandalay and for candidates who will take it individually, online applications will be accepted as of 25 February, JLPT organizing committee, Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

The exam fee and application fee from N1 to N3 are K50,000 and K45,000 for N4 and N5. The du-

ration of the acceptance is from 25 to 27 February for N1 and N2, from 3 to 5 March for N3, from 5 to 7 March for N4 and from 26 to 28 February for N5.

Registration is required before submission and applicants must not close or refresh the browser when the payment stage is still working, and recheck the application form is necessary after payment.

If it doesn't say confirmed even after the exam fee is paid, please report to the MAJA office, it said. If a candidate's name is different in the online application and test voucher, they won't be allowed to take the exam and no refund.

Submission is allowed only a time for each candidate or a refund won't be made for repeated submission and paid, said MAJA. — MT/ZS

Apple says halting data protection tool for UK users

APPLE said on Friday it was ending full end-to-end encryption for British customers and iPhone users, following US media reports the UK government had asked for global data access.

“Apple can no longer offer Advanced Data Protection (ADP) in the United Kingdom to new users and current UK users will eventually need to disable this security feature,” it said in a statement.

ADP means only account holders can view content such as photos and documents stored online and in the cloud through what is known as end-to-end encryption.

The Washington Post reported earlier this month that the UK had

issued “a secret government order” that Apple create a “back door” to enable the government to snoop on data uploaded by any Apple user around the world.

Many tech platforms pride themselves on being able to guarantee privacy through encrypted messaging channels, and providing access to law enforcement has long been seen as off-limits.

“As we have said many times before, we have never built a backdoor or master key to any of our products or services and we never will,” Apple said on Friday. The UK’s interior ministry told AFP: “We do not comment on operational matters.” — AFP

German flying taxi start-up’s rescue deal collapses

The company, which develops electric-powered jets for short-distance travel, had previously filed for bankruptcy but secured a potential takeover with over 200 million euros in promised funding.

A German flying taxi start-up said on Friday it would halt operations after a deal to rescue it fell through, the latest turbulence to hit the sector.

Lilium is among firms that have been developing electric-powered jets that can take off and land vertically, designed to carry small groups of people over relatively short distances.

It filed for bankruptcy last year but in December a group of investors swooped in to take it over in an 11th-hour rescue, promising more than 200 million euros (\$209 million) in funding.

But the Mu-



Lilium burnt through huge sums while trying to develop its jet. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

nich-based company conceded on Friday that the funds “have not materialized in time”, forcing it to file for insolvency again.

“The chance for restructuring right now is highly unlikely and therefore operations will be stopped,” said Lilium in

a statement. The group employed about 750 people, the Handelsblatt financial daily reported. — AFP

BMW to begin mass producing 6th-generation EV batteries in China in 2026

GERMAN carmaker BMW on Friday said that it expects to begin mass producing its sixth-generation electric vehicle (EV) batteries, which use large

cylindrical battery cells, in China in 2026. BMW is currently working with Chinese suppliers, including CATL and EVE Energy, to advance the mass produc-

tion of the new batteries. At the end of 2024, BMW launched the pilot production of the new-generation batteries at its manufacturing base

in Shenyang, the capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province. The batteries will be used in a new car model for the first time this year. — Xinhua



Apple said on Friday it was ending full end-to-end encryption for British customers and iPhone users. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (181N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (181N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-2-2025** 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:
SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (506W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (506W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2408N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2408N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-2-2025** 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.

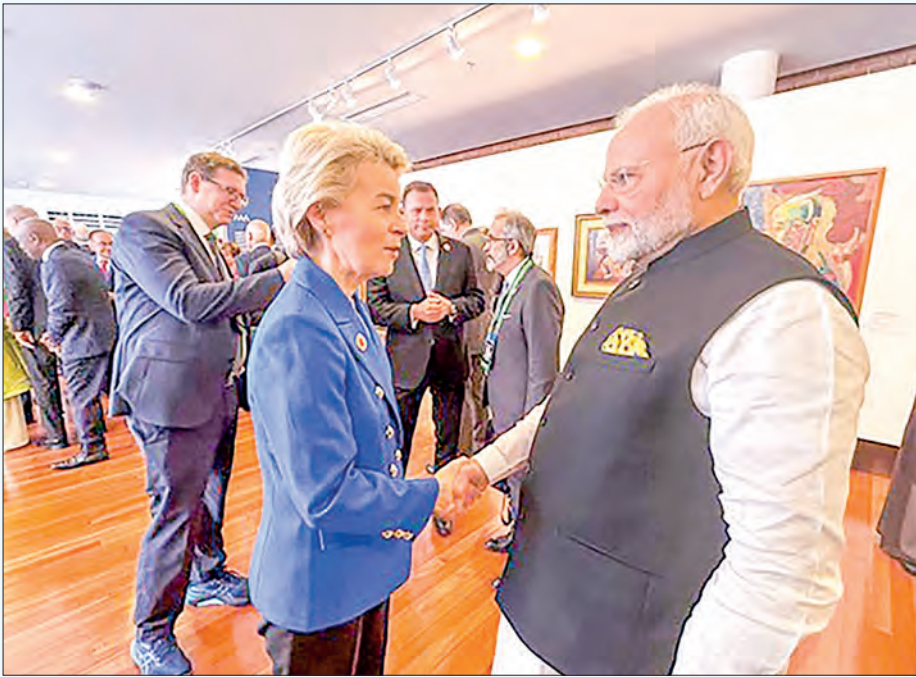
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



This will be President Ursula von der Leyen's third visit to India. PHOTO: ANI/FILE

PM Modi to hold high-level talks with European Commission President

22 February

PRESIDENT of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will visit India on 27-28 February, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement on Saturday.

She will be accompanied by the European Union (EU) College of Commissioners.

"This will be President Ursula von der Leyen's third visit to India. She has earlier visited India for a bilateral official visit in

“Prime Minister Modi and President von der Leyen have met regularly during multilateral meetings.”

April 2022, and to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit in September 2023. Prime Minister and President Ursula von der Leyen have also met regularly on the sidelines of multilateral meetings", the MEA statement said. – ANI

21 February

China to continue supporting WTO reform

CHINA FIRMLY supports the free trade system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core and will continue to support the reform of the international body, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when meeting with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on the sidelines of the

G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Johannesburg, the largest city and economic hub of South Africa.

During the meeting, Wang noted that China, as a founding member of the United Nations (UN) and a steadfast defender of the current international order, pursues genuine multilateralism and firmly supports both the international system with the UN at its core and the free trade system with the WTO at its core. – Xinhua

20 February

UNICEF raises alarm over frequent health crises

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) expressed concern about several public health emergencies, including outbreaks of cholera, Mpox, and viral hemorrhagic fevers, which it said pose a major threat to the safety and well-being of millions of children in eastern and southern Africa.

UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa Etleva Kadilli said the alarming frequency of public health

emergencies and disease outbreaks in the region is disrupting vital safety nets for children and depriving them of their right to a safe and nurturing environment.

"Global and regional stakeholders must come together to fortify protection systems offered by families, communities, and state services to ensure every child can thrive, even in the face of multiple challenges," Kadilli said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. – Xinhua

19 February

Japan asks Taliban to respect human rights

JAPAN has urged the Taliban to respect human rights as the two sides met in Tokyo, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday, during the first known visit to the country by members of the hard-line Islamist group since its takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. Toshihide Ando, head of the ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, held an informal "exchange of views" in the capital on Tuesday with senior Taliban members including Latif

Nazari, deputy minister of economy, according to the ministry.

The Taliban have limited women's rights, banning secondary and higher education for girls and imposing restrictions on dress and employment opportunities.

Ando, who doubles as the ministry's special representative for Afghanistan, also called on the Taliban to "reflect the voice of the Afghan people" when governing, the ministry said. – Kyodo

18 February

US, Russia reach consensus on normalizing bilateral ties

THE United States and Russia agreed to normalize bilateral ties and begin working on ending the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the State Department said following Tuesday's meeting between US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Saudi Arabia.

According to the statement issued, the two sides agreed to "establish a consultation mechanism to address irritants

to our bilateral relationship with the objective of taking steps necessary to normalize the operation of our respective diplomatic missions".

Washington and Moscow will "appoint respective high-level teams to begin working on a path to ending the conflict in Ukraine as soon as possible in a way that is enduring, sustainable, and acceptable to all sides," the statement said. – Xinhua

17 February

Israel committed to Trump's Gaza displacement plan

ISRAEL expressed commitment on Monday to a US proposal to take over Gaza and displace its Palestinian residents, as Washington's top diplomat held talks in Saudi Arabia where he was expected to push the plan opposed by Arab states.

Arriving in the kingdom after talks in Israel, Secretary of State Marco Rubio -- on

his first visit to the Middle East -- met de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the State Department said.

A Saudi source earlier told AFP that Riyadh would host a regional summit later this week "to discuss Arab alternatives" to President Donald Trump's widely criticized plan for Gaza. – AFP

16 February

Multiple sectors adopt DeepSeek integration for AI empowerment.

CHINESE all-in-one social media app Weixin, operated by tech powerhouse Tencent, has officially begun a gray-box test to integrate the DeepSeek-R1 model into its search function, the company announced on 16 February.

Tencent stated that users selected for the test can access the DeepSeek-R1 mod-

el for free through the Weixin AI search function. By leveraging rich content from the Weixin ecosystem, including public accounts, as well as high-quality content from across the internet, this integration provides users with a more diverse search experience and delivers more comprehensive and accurate answers. – Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar Lethwei team departs for Japan

A team led by Myanmar Boxing Commission administrator U Wunna departed for Osaka, Japan, on the evening of 21 February to compete in the Benkei Boxing event, organized by the WBC and Japan Boxing Commission.

In this competition, three Myanmar Lethwei fighters will participate: Naw Phone in the 52-kilogramme category, Saw Lin Aung in the 53-kilogramme category, and Gint Shan Maw in the 60-kilogramme category. Coach U Yan Win Kyi accompanied the team, while U Than Soe Aung from the Myanmar Boxing Commission also joined as a team member.

This marks the first overseas prize-fight for Myanmar Lethwei athletes, with a total of six bouts scheduled. — Arka Linn/KZL



The Myanmar Lethwei team are seen at Yangon International Airport before leaving for Japan.

Champions Spain fight back in Women's Nations League opener, England held

SPAIN kicked off their Women's Nations League title defence by fighting back to snatch a thrilling 3-2 win over Belgium on Friday while European champions England were held to a 1-1 draw in Portugal.

In Valencia, Mariam Toloba gave Belgium a surprise early lead against 2023 World Cup winners Spain and Tessa Wullaert struck a second in the 72nd minute. Spain, who will be among the favourites at Euro 2025 this summer, where they will face Belgium again, pulled a goal back through Claudia Pina to spark their comeback.

Lucia Garcia levelled



Match winner: Cristina Martin-Prieto celebrates scoring Spain's third goal against Belgium. PHOTO: AFP

in stoppage time and Benfica's Cristina Martin-Prieto blasted home with virtually the final touch of the game to complete the job.

Spain were without in-

jured two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas, as well as World Cup star Jenni Hermoso, whom coach Montse Tome did not call up.

The 34-year-old won her sexual assault case against disgraced former Spanish football federation chief Luis Rubiales this week. Belgium coach Elisabet Gunnarsdottir was taking charge of her first match at the helm, in which she could not have asked for a tougher challenge.

In Euro 2025 qualifying last year Spain thumped Belgium 9-0 across the two games.

"I'm very happy, the group deserved it. We had to get the three points here," said Spain's match-winner Martin-Prieto, who was a late call-up after Amaïur Sarriegi was injured. — AFP

Girona coach Michel focuses on Real Madrid players rather than Madrid's campaign against referees

GIRONA coach Michel Sanchez says he would rather not focus on referees ahead of his side's La Liga visit to play Real Madrid on Sunday.

The Santiago Bernabeu Stadium is likely to have a pressure cooker atmosphere against referee Cuadra Fernandez on Sunday after Real Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw away to Osasuna last weekend.

That game saw referee Jose Luis

Munuera Montero give a clear penalty against Madrid, as well as sending Jude Bellingham off for swearing at him. Bellingham has been suspended for two games, while Real Madrid's complaints about refereeing decisions against them has reached a crescendo.

Munuera Montero was forced to close his social media accounts after receiving online insults and threats against himself and his family, and the

referee's business interests even came under investigation, before the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) declared he had no conflict of interest between those and his position as a referee.

It's hard to see how Cuadra Fernandez can avoid being affected when he officiates Real Madrid against Girona, but Michel said he would rather focus on Real Madrid's attacking talents than the referee. — Xinhua

South Africa's Potgieter fires 61 to grab PGA Mexico Open lead

SOUTH African Aldrich Potgieter fired a 10-under par 61 to grab a four-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the US PGA Tour's Mexico Open.

The 20-year-old Pretoria-born prodigy, playing in only his 10th PGA Tour event, fired 10 birdies in a bogey-free round to stand on 16-under 126 after 36 holes at VidantaWorld resort near Puerto Vallarta. "Really happy with today," Potgieter said. "Started off really good with five birdies in a row on the front nine and that helped a lot to get momentum. Made a really good chip-in for par on 10 to keep the momentum going." Germany's Stephan Jaeger, whose only PGA title came at last year's Houston Open, shared second on 130 with American Brian Campbell, who like Potgieter seeks his first PGA title.

England's Aaron Rai, whose only PGA triumph came at last year's Wyndham Championship, was fourth on 131.

PGA Tour rookie Potgieter, The Amateur Championship winner in 2022 at Royal Lytham, would be the fifth-youngest PGA Tour winner since 1983 by taking the title.

Potgieter, who fired a 59 in a Korn Ferry developmental tour event last year, became the fourth-youngest player since 1983 to fire 61 or lower on the PGA Tour, trailing only South Korea's Tom Kim from 2022, American Nick Dunlap last year and American Patrick Cantlay in 2011.

Potgieter, the PGA Tour's driving distance leader, had a chance at shooting 59 but settled for pars at the par-5 14th and 18th holes. — AFP



South African Aldrich Potgieter fired a 10-under par 61 to grab the lead after the second round of the US PGA Tour's Mexico Open. PHOTO: AFP

Nepal community fights to save sacred forests from cable cars

A \$22-million government-backed cable car project has divided the community, with fears it will destroy sacred ancient forests and disrupt livelihoods.

In this photograph taken on 3 February 2025, people ride cable cars over the Chandragiri hilltop, on outskirts of Kathmandu. PHOTO: PRAKASH MATHEMA / AFP

IN Nepal, a series of cable car projects have ignited violent protests, particularly in the eastern district of Taplejung, where locals argue that environmental protection should take precedence over tourism development.

A \$22-million government-backed project has divided the community, with

many fearing it will destroy sacred ancient forests and disrupt their livelihoods.

Despite five cable car projects opening in the past two years and ten more in development, critics claim the government has inadequately assessed the environmental impacts. Protests in Taplejung escalated into clashes with police, resulting

in injuries on both sides. Activists, led by Shree Linkhim Limbu, vow to continue demonstrations until the project is canceled. The area is significant for around 300,000 Hindu devotees who trek to the sacred Pathibhara temple annually, which holds deep cultural importance for the local Limbu people.

Businessman Chandra Prasad Dhakal announced the cable car project, which the government labeled a “national pride” initiative, exempting it from strict planning regulations. However, activists argue that the project threatens their religious beliefs and the ecological integrity of the region, home to endangered species. — AFP



A photo taken on 28 September 2021 shows a projected image of British actor Daniel Craig during the World Premiere of the James Bond 007 film “No Time to Die” at the Royal Albert Hall in west London. PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN / AFP

Bond franchise shake-up moves spy into Amazon stable

AMAZON MGM Studio is taking control of the James Bond movies, which is a big change for the famous spy franchise. The long-time producers, Michael Wilson and Barbara Broccoli, are stepping back as they get ready to retire.

This news comes after the last Bond movie, where Daniel Craig played the secret agent for the last time. Fans have been wondering who will be the next Bond.

With Amazon in charge, we might see new Bond movies or spin-offs soon.

Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, asked people on social media who they think should be the next Bond. Wilson and Broccoli have been part of the Bond movies for many years, and now they want

to focus on other projects.

Mike Hopkins from Amazon said they are excited to continue the Bond legacy, which has been important in movies for over 60 years.

Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, has asked fans on social media for their opinions on who should be the next Bond.

Some fans are worried that Amazon will make too many Bond movies and change what makes them special. Many people shared their concerns online, saying they hope Bond stays great and doesn't become just another series with too many spin-offs. — AFP

Spotify adds more AI-generated audiobooks

SPOTIFY on Thursday began accepting audiobooks narrated by digital voices created by artificial intelligence software firm ElevenLabs, pitching it as a cost-effective option for authors.

The Sweden-based music, book and podcast streaming service began accepting digitally narrated audiobooks in late 2023 with Google Play Books as its partner.

Audiobooks narrated by software instead

instead of humans come with descriptions telling people that is the case, according to Spotify.

Spotify described its digital voice partnership with Google at the time as a “win-win” development allowing more authors and listeners access to audiobooks.

“We’re excited to begin accepting audiobooks from ElevenLabs, an AI software company that provides easy-to-

use, high-quality voice narration technology,” Spotify said in a blog post Thursday.

Those who own the rights to books can use ElevenLabs technology to narrate the works in any of dozens of languages, with control over voice and intonation, according to Spotify.

Apple has offered audiobooks narrated with digital voices through its App Store since early 2023. — AFP



Audiobooks narrated by digital voices developed by the artificial intelligence software firm ElevenLabs offer a modern and innovative listening experience. ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ELEVENLABS