

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Social protection measures essential for government: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the eighth meeting of the National Committee on Social Protection.

### The National Committee on Social Protection held its eighth meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

**S**Ocial protection measures are compulsory for a government to serve the people, said Chairman of the National Committee on Social Protection State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the eighth meeting of the national committee at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that the “National Social Protection Strategic Plan (2014)” was drafted to carry out social protection measures ten years ago, and so the committee

members and departments should record the advantages and disadvantages of the implementations within these 10 years. If so, the governments can widely perform social protection activities more effectively. There are two sections in social protection, the first one is the Social Insurance System in which both the employers and employees contribute proportionally, while the government also makes proper contributions. That system is being adopted by the Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour. The second one is the Social Assistance Scheme which is implemented with contributions by the government and

donations from private philanthropists. That system is being conducted by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

He continued that the country has engaged with the International Social Security Association (ISSA) working with 338 organizations from 163 countries starting from 4 October 1927 to communicate with international countries for social protection measures and exchange the fine practices with member countries. Moreover, the country inked a Memorandum of Agreement with the ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA) on 10 September 2015 to exchange experiences

and practices for social protection as a member and is working with 20 social security organizations from 10 ASEAN countries.

He then mentioned nine benefits for social protection – healthcare services, health benefits, unemployment benefits, superannuation benefits, occupational permanent disability benefits, family assistance benefits, childbirth benefits, survivors’ benefits, and benefits for seriously injured persons. He added that the contributions are provided depending on the budget status and the government also cooperates with international countries.

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# NATIONAL

## Boosting GDP: The Interconnected Growth of Agriculture, Industry, and Services

Agriculture, industry, and service sectors all support the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The agricultural sector, which includes agriculture, livestock, and forest products, is interrelated with the other industries and must be developed.

Successfully advancing the agriculture and livestock sectors will help develop the industrial and service sectors, thereby increasing the State's GDP.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting 5/2024 on 5 July 2024)*

## 31<sup>st</sup> Tatmadaw Band Competition honours 80<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day with awards



The images above and below capture the award ceremony for the 31<sup>st</sup> Tatmadaw Military Band Competition, hailing the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day.



THE award ceremony for the 31<sup>st</sup> Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) Military Band Competition, held in honour of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, took place at the parade ground of the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre.

The event was attended by the Armed Forces Day Organizing Leading Committee Chairman and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Htein Win, along with Chief of Staff (Navy) Vice-Admiral Aye Min Htwe, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Min, senior Tatmadaw officers, com-

mittee members, judges, contestants, and guests.

The ceremony began with the competing military bands saluting Lieutenant General Htein Win and the national flag, followed by a four-oath recitation. The award presentation then commenced, with Lt-Gen Htein Win presenting prizes for military band leadership skills in Level B. The third prize was awarded to the leader of Band 1 from the Triangle Region Command, the second prize went to the leader of Band 1 from the Nay Pyi Taw Region Command, and the first prize was present-

ed to the leader of Band 1 from the Coastal Region Command.

Next, awards were presented for Level A. The band leader from the Defence Services Academy received the prize for best military band leadership skills. The Triangle Region Command Band and the Southern Command Band won the team-wise special award in Level B. The third prize in Level A went to Band 1 from the Central Command, the second to Band 1 from the Yangon Region Command, and the first to Band 1 from the Nay Pyi Taw Command.

Additionally, the special award was given to the Defence Services Academy Band. The third prize was awarded to the band from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the second prize to the Myanmar Police Force Band, and the first prize to the band from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy).

The ceremony concluded following the presentations. — MNA/MKKS

## Untimely Rainfall Warning No 5

Issued at 6 pm MST on 24 February 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5 pm hrs MST today, due to the convergence of warm air from the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and cold air from the China high pressure system, the western disturbances and eastern disturbances, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Shan States and isolated in Mandalay, Magway, Upper Sagaing Regions and Chin, Rakhine States during today evening upto 27 February 2025.

### Advisory

People should be aware of untimely rainfall accompanied with thunder, lighting and hails. — DMH

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 24 February 2025)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 25 February 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Eastern Shan State, fairly widespread in Yangon, Kayin, Mon, Southern Shan States, scattered in Ayeyawady Region and Kachin, Kayah States and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Upper Sagaing Regions and Rakhine, northern Shan States. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. **THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-6 feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Shan States.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 February 2025:** Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 February 2025:** Partly cloudy and isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 February 2025:** Partly cloudy.

# 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)*

## Social protection measures essential for government: ...

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The Social Welfare Department manages to launch the Social Pension and Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme (MCCT) in the 2024-2025 financial year via all Myanmar Economic Bank branches. Moreover, plans are underway to provide children under 2.

The financial assistance programmes will be implemented using the Public Feedback Programme (PFP) being conducted by the Anti-Corruption Commission despite the challenges in carrying out the social

protection activities.

He also instructed officials to make preparations now to provide more assistance in the future while the assistance is being made using the funds of the government. He then urged employers to consider proper ways to provide for their employees in various forms, especially, to discuss future assistance programmes depending on the financial status of the government in addition to their currently running businesses.

He continued that every country has its own social pro-

tection schemes, and the global scale shows that 12.9 per cent of GDP is allocated to social protection expenditure, and it is 1.1 per cent in most low-income countries. The percentage of assistance can be seen depending on the country's GDP.

He then added that, according to the Elderly People Law enacted in 2016, arrangements are being made to issue senior citizen identification cards to facilitate access to exemptions for the elderly. As the first stage, discussions are being made with relevant ministries to determine

the exemptions or reductions to provide within their respective services, as outlined in the related regulations. For the second stage, the committee issues notifications regarding the exemptions and reliefs in different services, and in the third stage, the data collection of the elderly, review, and issuance processes will be conducted for certificates. Moreover, it needs to be updated with social management information.

He also called for proper suggestions as the social protection measures are compulsory

for a government to serve the people, and are investments that directly benefit the public.

Then, Committee Vice-Chairpersons Union Ministers Dr Soe Win, U Chit Swe, and Dr Thet Khaing Win reported on the current undertaking of social protection work plans, full benefits for employees, and healthcare services.

Afterwards, the attendees coordinated the discussions and the Vice-Senior General concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

## ASEAN delegates arrive at Yangon for Government Communication Workshop

THE Media Development Department of the Ministry of Information will host the Workshop on Mastering Government Communication: Empowering Spokespersons for Effective Public Engagement from 26 to 28 February

at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The representatives of ASEAN member states arrived in Yangon yesterday to attend the workshop and were welcomed by relevant officials at the Yangon

International Airport.

The workshop is held as a project of the ASEAN subcommittee on culture with the ASEAN Cultural Fund aiming at mastering government communication empowering spokespersons for



This photo showcases ASEAN delegates being welcomed at the Yangon International Airport.



ASEAN delegates arrive at the airport.

effective engagement between media and the government, distributing keynote speeches, and exchanging skills and knowledge to solve the crisis in addition to building trust between the government and the public.

The representatives from Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos,

Indonesia, and the ASEAN Secretary-General Office will attend the workshop, and the representatives from Japan will join as observers. The relevant officials of the ministries concerned, and officials of media fields including the Myanmar Press Council will also attend as observers. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## MNHRC holds Legal Awareness Seminar

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Legal Affairs, organized a seminar titled "Legal Awareness Dissemination Seminar" yesterday. The event was conducted in a hybrid format at the Conference Room of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission office. The seminar was attended by the Commission Chairman, members, as well as officers and staff from the headquarters and regional branch offices.

In his opening address, U Paw Lwin Sein, Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, underscored the historical significance of laws in maintaining social stability and security. He noted that legal frameworks have been established and practised for millennia, emphasizing the critical importance of the rule of law in contemporary society. He articulated that the seminar's



The Legal Awareness Dissemination Seminar underway yesterday.

primary objective was to enhance public understanding of legal principles, enabling individuals to contribute to national progress by adhering to the law in their daily lives and by putting collective efforts to create a society where human

rights are respected.

Following the Chairman's remarks, Daw Phyu Mar Wai, Advocate-General of the Yangon Region, highlighted the necessity for all citizens to be well-versed in the laws enacted to establish a disciplined, multiparty democratic system.

She asserted that legal literacy is essential for individuals to navigate social life effectively and to utilize their rights responsibly. In accordance with the provisions of the Union Attorney-General Law, she explained that the government has been actively engaged in

initiatives to promote legal awareness. During the seminar, Deputy Law Officers of the Region delivered comprehensive lectures on the Constitution, as well as other pertinent laws and special laws that are integral to daily life.

Subsequently, Daw Cho Cho Aung, Regional Deputy Law Officer of the Yangon Region Attorney-General's Office, provided an in-depth analysis of the Penal Code and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. U Kyi Khin, another Regional Deputy Law Officer, elaborated on practical aspects of the Constitution and the People's Military Service Law, offering detailed insights into their application. The session was highly interactive, with attendees, including officers and staff, actively participating by posing questions and engaging in discussions.

The seminar concluded in the afternoon. — MNHRC

## Mandalay General Hospital completes 83<sup>rd</sup> kidney transplant



The 83<sup>rd</sup> kidney transplant operation in progress on 20 February 2025.

THE 83<sup>rd</sup> kidney transplant was successfully performed at the Mandalay General Hospital on 20 February.

The recipient of the operation was a 26-year-old male nurse from Pyigyidagun

township of Mandalay, with his 26-year-old wife as the donor. The surgery commenced at 9:22 am and concluded at 2:45 pm.

The kidney recipient and the donor were in good condi-

tion and under medical care at the intensive care unit. The successful completion of the renal transplant operation was conducted with the participation of urine and renal treatment group led by Professor

Dr Ko Ko Naing and Professor Dr Win Win Hlaing, urine and renal surgery group by Professor Dr La Min Win and Professor Dr Kyaw Soe Kyaw, heart and cardiovascular surgery group by Professor Dr Win Win Kyaw and Specialist Dr Thadde Thein Zan, anaesthesia group by Dr Mi Mi Thaw and Professor Dr Mu Mu Naing, diagnosis and blood group by University of Medicine (Mandalay) Rector Professor Dr Myo Thet Tin and Professor Dr Nilar Win, X-ray group by Professor Dr Thandar Lwin, Superintendent Dr San Lwin Oo and hospital management committee members, nurses and skilled medics.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun encouraged the patient and the donor on 23 February and appreciated the efforts of the medics who performed the surgery.

The renal transplant op-

eration was conducted at the Mandalay General Hospital in 2001, and the 82<sup>nd</sup> operation was performed in March 2020. The operations were suspended temporarily due to the outbreak of COVID-19, and the hospital resumed its 83<sup>rd</sup> operation. Kidney transplant operation is performed at public hospitals such as Yangon Speciality Hospital (500-bed), Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-bed) and Mandalay General Hospital, while the Defence Services Hospitals such as No 1 Defence Services Hospital (1,000-bed) in Yangon, No 2 Defence Services Hospital (1,000-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw, No 1 Defence Services Hospital (700-bed) in Pyin Oo Lwin and No 2 Defence Services Hospital (700-bed) in Aungban, and private hospitals such as Pan Hlaing and Kanthaya hospitals in Yangon. — MNA/KTZH

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## 4,000 pilgrims flock to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival in Minbu



**N**EARLY 4,000 pilgrims from various regions have visited the Buddha Pujaniya festival of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, according to U Aye Ko, Chairman of the Pagoda's Board of Trustees.

The annual Buddha Pujaniya festival of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda is

traditionally held from the 5th waxing day of Tabodwe until Myanmar New Year's Day.

"As in previous years, the festival began on the 5th waxing day of Tabodwe (2nd February) and will continue for 75 days. Currently, 484 lodging houses and 419 shops have been set up for visitors. The number of pilgrims is noticeably higher on weekends and

public holidays compared to regular days. So far, over 600 pilgrimage vehicles have arrived, bringing nearly 4,000 visitors," said U Aye Ko.

He also mentioned that security measures have been put in place along the route to the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda and within its vicinity, ensuring a safe and peaceful environment for the pilgrims. — ASH/MKKS

This photo captures scenes from the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda and its precincts during the festival period.

## Bengal tigers, bears thrive in Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary

THE camera trap footage in Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary finds the world's rare endangered species Bengal tiger and bear, according to the warden office of Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary.

The warden office of Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary installed the camera traps in the second week of December 2024, took them off in the second week of February 2025, and continued taking records of the population of the wild.

"This year, we placed one camera in one point, 12 cameras per unit, and 24 camera traps in the vicinity of Nanyanyin area. When we checked the record photos, we found the existence of tigers and bears like the previous year. A camera took thou-



Camera trap footage captures wardens installing devices (left), a Bengal tiger, and a bear in the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary. **PHOTO: HTAMATHI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

sands of photos, and so we haven't finished checking yet. Firm public participation plays a key role in the sustainability of the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary," said U Win Hlaing, warden of the sanctuary.

Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary located in Khamti and Homalin

Townships in Khamti District of Sagaing Region was recognized as a wildlife sanctuary in May 1974, and the administrative office was established in Homalin Township on 1 September 1994 to operate wildlife conservation activities. It was recognized as an ASEAN heritage park on 8

October 2019.

Being an evergreen forest and moist upper mixed deciduous forest, it hosts varieties of endangered species of wild animals, birds, and trees.

The Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary is home to 57 species of mammals, 332 bird species,

67 fish, 77 species of amphibians and crawling animals, 432 plants, 19 herbal plants, 14 types of bamboo, eight types of canes, 23 aquatic plants, 18 grass, and 16 orchids, as well as other rare animal species and roofed turtles that can be seen only in Myanmar. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar Music Association to hold 14<sup>th</sup> respect-paying ceremony

THE Myanmar Music Association (Central) will hold its 14<sup>th</sup> annual ceremony to honour veteran musicians from 1 to 3 pm on 27 February at the Sky Star Hotel in Tamway Township, Yangon.

A total of 155 veteran musicians will attend the ceremony. Donations to the Myanmar Music Association (Central) can be made at their office on Dhammadana Street, Natchaung Ward, Tamway Township, or via KPay on 09 5104347. — Thitsa (MNA)/MKKS



The 13<sup>th</sup> annual tribute event by the Myanmar Music Association underway last year.

## Financial aid extended to ailing movie director, supporting actress

THROUGH the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), U Thadoe Saw and family gave financial assistance, each K420,000, for director A1 Than Htut (Mg Sat Su) and supporting actress Ma Tuu as both are under medical treatment.

Director A1 Than Htut has to take medical treatment after a car accident and Ma Tuu requires medication for kidney disease.

MMPO's patron well-known actor Academy Aung Lwin and vice-chair U Aye Kyu Lay accepted the donated money.

For the two actors, Shwe Than Lwin Media Co Ltd also provided K200,000 each on 30 January. — ASH/ZS



MMPO's patron U Aung Lwin and vice-chair U Aye Kyu Lay receiving the financial help provided by U Thadoe Saw and family.

## Free Champion Music Concert set for Taunggyi

RENOWNED singers Myo Gyi, Wyne Wyne, and Academy Award winner Sai Sai Kham Leng will perform at the free-entry Champion Music Concert, set to take place in Taunggyi, Shan State, on 1 March, according to singer Myo Gyi.

The concert is being organized by Shan United Football Club, one of the most successful teams in the Myanmar National League. It will be held at the State Indoor Stadium in Taunggyi.

"The concert will take place at the covered sports hall near the Taunggyi stadium after the Shan United vs. Hanthawady United match and the Champion Award Ceremony on 1 March. This is a special event for Shan United fans and supporters, so everyone is welcome to attend free of charge," said Myo Gyi.

On the day of the concert, Shan United and Hanthawady United will play their final match of the season, one of the last three fixtures for both teams. Shan United has won the Myanmar National League Championship for the fifth consecutive season without a single loss, making them one of the most dominant teams in the league's history. — ASH/KNN



This image shows an advert for the Champion Music Concert.



This photo shows candidates sitting for the TOPJ Japanese Language Proficiency Test in 2024.

## March TOPJ test vouchers available starting 25 Feb

MAJA Education Centre has announced that the TOP J test vouchers for 9 March 2025, can be collected from 25 February to 7 March at MAJA branches in Yangon and Mandalay.

During that period from 9 am to 4 pm, except on weekends and government holidays, applicants in Yangon can collect their forms at MAJA Education Centre, No 440/B, Zeya 14th Street, Ward 10, near Thitsa Road, South Okkalapa Township, while those in Mandalay can pick up their forms at MAJA Office (Mandalay Branch), 1st Floor, Building 1, Room 6, Ye Lane, Mingala Mandalay, Chanmyathazi Township. Contact numbers for Yangon and Man-

dalay are 09 428 613 848 and 09 255162533, respectively.

Exam-takers are advised not to forget the examination fee payment slip as it is necessary to show for the test voucher. Those who will receive the test voucher via email will have it in the email they wrote on submission between 25 February and 7 March. If they do not receive the email, they will need to inform the relevant branch.

MAJA Education Centre has informed that applicants must print out the test voucher from the email and bring it on the test day, without which they will not be allowed to take the examination. — MT/ZN

## Advertorial

IN February 2025, as the traditional Chinese Lantern Festival approached, the “Lantern Festival Ribbon-Cutting: Warmth by the River” event at the Datang Dapein (1) Hydropower Station in Myanmar bridged mountains and seas, inviting Chinese and Myanmar employees to celebrate the Lantern

## Datang Dapein (1) Hydropower Station in Myanmar “Lantern Festival Ribbon-Cutting: Warmth by the River” – Overseas Lanterns Illuminate Chinese Red

Festival together, spreading joy and warmth.

The Lantern Festival symbolizes reunion, harmony, and hope. The

company has always valued the spiritual and cultural needs of its overseas employees, organizing activities to enhance cul-

tural identity and a sense of belonging. This event is a manifestation of the company’s cross-cultural integration strategy

overseas, showcasing its care and commitment to cultural heritage.

This year’s Lantern Festival coincided with Myanmar’s Union Day. The Datang Dapein (1) Hydropower Station in Myanmar hosted a tea gathering where Chinese and Myanmar employees shared stories of friendship and cultural traditions. They introduced the customs and significance of the Lantern Festival, recounting tales of cultural heritage and ancient stories that highlighted cultural blending and mutual understanding. The

activities of making and eating tangyuan (glutinous rice balls) added to the festive atmosphere, allowing overseas employees far from home to feel the warmth of family.

A single lantern illuminates hearts across the seas; a bowl of tangyuan brings together friendships from all directions. This event not only allowed Chinese and Myanmar employees to experience the charm of Chinese traditions but also broke down cultural barriers through “collaborative creation”, promoting cultural exchange and integration.

The company will continue to use traditional festivals as a bridge to foster cultural integration and support high-quality development.



## Yangon palm oil rate drops to K6,905 per viss this week

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market declined again to K6,905 per viss this week from 24 February to 2 March, down from K6,985 per viss last week ending 23 February, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working to-



Cooking oil bottles arranged for sale in the supermarket.

gether with the Myanmar Oil Dealers’ Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department

and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

## CBM boosts AML/CFT efforts

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been accelerating Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) measures, according to its notification dated 23 February 2025.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering recognized Myanmar’s AML/CFT implementations, cutting off financing for arms deals and countering threat finance to national security as those activities and AML/CFT measures follow FATF standards and APG’s recommendations. The evaluation analyzed that the level of compliance with the FATF has improved, according to CBM’s notifications released on 5 and 9 June, and 5 November 2024.

The statement mentioned significant progress in Myanmar’s accelerated implementations of AML/CFT and active collaboration with different entities including financial institutions, regulatory bodies, and law enforcement agencies.

Myanmar’s AML/CFT implementations achieved 10/11 immediate outcomes. Nine action plans for Myanmar (2021-2025) are now largely addressed.

Thanks to a commitment to FATF’s recommendations and AML/CFT measures following international standards to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing, amendments to have a good and strong legal framework and AML/CFT National Strategy (2024-2028), all the concerted efforts of the ministries and governmental and non-governmental institutions came into fruition with better outcomes. CBM urged related institutions to hasten the efforts. — NN/KK

### Gold Market Rate as of 24 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.

# OPINION

## Overcome challenges of employment loss with confidence

COUNTRIES around the world have experienced employment losses over successive eras due to various factors. Economic downturns, rapid technological advancements, pandemics, competition driven by globalization and international trade, shifts in government policies, market trends, and internal instability are key causes of unemployment.

Everybody needs to work to earn an income for their socio-economic well-being and to maintain self-confidence in society. Losing a job is one of the worst experiences in a person's life. Job termination affects a person's career reputation, financial stability, and self-respect. Moreover, unemployment directly impacts family security and health conditions.

A 2024 survey by the World Health Organization predicted that 15 per cent of adult workers struggle with poor mental

health. Due to depression and anxiety among workers, countries worldwide lose approximately 12 billion working hours and about US\$1 trillion in productivity annually. Unsafe employment, discrimination, inequality, and excessive workloads can negatively impact workers' mental health.

Rising unemployment rates in a country can harm its economy due to the underutilization of the workforce. This issue can lead to extended periods of inactivity and depression among the unemployed, resulting in various social problems. Furthermore, the mental health of those who lose their jobs can be significantly impacted. Therefore, unemployment can adversely affect not only the economic, social, and health conditions of individuals but also those of society as a whole.

In reviewing past events, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many jobs worldwide, pushing over 100 million workers into poverty. As a large number of companies reduced their workforce, implemented work-from-home plans, and increased reliance on digital platforms during the pandemic, they faced financial problems and different challenges and difficulties based on various reasons. Although the current employment situation is

better than it was before the pandemic, the global unemployment rate remains around 5 per cent, according to the International Labour Organization.

Rising unemployment rates in a country can harm its economy due to the underutilization of the workforce. This issue can lead to extended periods of inactivity and depression among the unemployed, resulting in various social problems. Furthermore, the mental health of those who lose their jobs can be significantly impacted. Therefore, unemployment can adversely affect not only the economic, social, and health conditions of individuals but also those of society as a whole.

Whatever the cause, the development of the era and the evolving needs of consumers can drive changes in employment trends. Although some individuals may lose their jobs for various reasons, new employment opportunities often arise in quick succession. Although jobless individuals should focus on managing their emotions related to job loss, they should reassess their financial plans to be able to operate their daily life in the long-term plan, make efficient use of their free time, review their career paths, and enhance their skills to secure current employment or seek better opportunities.

# Introduction of Emergency Medical Services in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory

**T**HE Ministry of Health (MoH), Myanmar, laid down two objectives: to enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life and to ensure that every citizen is free from diseases. In doing such, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are one of the main supporting activities. The Union Minister for Health and Chairperson of the Nay Pyi Taw Council attended the Launching Ceremony of the Emergency Medical Services within the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory on 18 February 2025 at the Ministry of Health meeting hall.

In the opening ceremony, the Union Minister highlighted that, according to the Global Status Report Safety (2023) published by the World Health Organization (WHO), road traffic accidents led to the highest number of fatalities in Southeast Asia in 2021, with the majority of deaths occurring among young people aged 5 to 29. It was emphasized that road traffic accidents are one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. To prevent such fatalities, adherence to vehicle regulations, road rules, and



EMS Training at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-Bedded).

preventative measures are crucial. In addition, it is important to provide emergency assistance and timely medical treatment to those injured in traffic accidents, and post-crash response efforts are vital in reducing fatalities and serious injuries.

The Union Minister further mentioned the importance of public education on vehicle

safety measures such as wearing helmets and seat belts, as these are key factors in reducing road traffic mortalities. The role of EMS in post-crash responses was emphasized, along with the need to provide timely treatment to injured individuals and reduce further health, economic, and social damages.

The newly established

Emergency Patient Transport System will be implemented across seven townships in Nay Pyi Taw, with a total of nine EMS stations opened, and operated by the Ministry of Health. This system will respond to injuries caused by road traffic accidents. Following this, the Chairperson of the Nay Pyi Taw Council addressed updates on the current

road safety situation, ongoing road safety efforts, and traffic hazard reduction initiatives in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. The Director-General of the Department of Medical Services explained the operational status and arrangements for implementing the Emergency Ambulance Transport System in Nay Pyi Taw.

Furthermore, the Union Minister and the Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Council, along with other responsible individuals, visited the "EMS 192 Command and Control Center" located at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-Bedded). They observed the operations, including patient transport services, ambulance readiness, and the coordination



Union Minister and Chairperson of the Nay Pyi Taw Council observing the Operating EMS System at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-Bedded).

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



Emergency Ambulance Transport System.

of ambulance crews. The Emergency Ambulance Transport System will operate in the townships of Nay Pyi Taw. In the event of a road traffic accident, individuals can call the emergency number "192" to request an ambulance.

EMS play a crucial role in the healthcare system by providing immediate care to individuals in critical situations. EMS are critical in providing pre-hospital emergency care and transportation to individuals experiencing

medical emergencies.

In addition, EMS is crucial not only for immediate response to health crises but also for improving the efficiency, access, and quality of healthcare in the community. Therefore, EMS is an essential service that bridges the gap between emergency senses and medical facilities, providing timely care to stabilize patients and reduce the impact of emergencies.



The study aims to assess the impact of sleep duration and sleep irregularity on neurocognition in women who are 55 years of age or older through data collected via activity trackers and a smartphone application. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/CONCEPT ART**

## New study delves deeper to decode cognitive decline in women

**A**LZHEIMER'S disease, the most common type of dementia, currently affects twice as many women as men, with minority populations predicted to witness the most significant increase in cases in the coming years, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sleep disturbances are well-known in dementia, although they were previously interpreted as an effect of the disease rather than the cause. However, increasing evidence links sleep disorders to the development of dementia.

In a bid to better understand

the relationship between sleep and cognitive outcomes in women, scientists at the Scripps Research Digital Trials Centre have launched the Research Framework for Sleep Health — Neurocognitive Outcomes in Women Study. The study aims to assess the impact of sleep duration and sleep irregularity on neurocognition in women who are 55 years of age or older through data collected via activity trackers and a smartphone application.

Led by Stuti Jaiswal, MD, PhD, a physician-scientist specializing in sleep research, REFRESH-NOW will use wrist-worn

activity trackers and smartwatches to gather longitudinal sleep data over a three year period.

"Wearables have the potential to revolutionize sleep research. While polysomnography is generally regarded as the gold standard for gathering sleep measurements, it only provides a snapshot of a person's sleep characteristics based on data collected during a night spent in a sleep laboratory," Jaiswal says.

"That tool requires a person be hooked up to many different wires and sensors in a sleep laboratory, which is not a person's natural sleep environment. On

the other hand, commercially available activity trackers collect data passively making it very simple for people to participate in sleep research from the comfort of their own home and to share real-world data with researchers over months or even years."

Scientists will also gather information related to sleep habits, sleep apnea risk and decision-making through surveys available via the app. At multiple intervals, participants will be invited to take part in an at-home cognitive battery assessment designed to allow the study team to gain a better understanding of

### KEY POINTS:

- Alzheimer's disease, the most prevalent form of dementia, disproportionately affects women and is expected to rise significantly among minority populations.
- Researchers at the Scripps Research Digital Trials Centre are conducting a study to explore the impact of sleep duration and irregularity on cognitive health in women aged 55 and older, utilizing wearable technology for data collection.
- The study aims to identify sleep-related risk factors for cognitive decline, with the goal of developing interventions to enhance cognitive outcomes in women.

the participant's cognitive state and function.

By identifying sleep-related risk factors for cognitive decline,

researchers hope to design interventions to improve cognitive outcomes in women.

SOURCE: ANI



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar detains 150 more foreign illegal entrants



Immigration and officials processing detained foreign illegal immigrants.

THE Myanmar government continues its crackdown on illegal activities in border areas, including unlawful online gambling and telecom fraud. Authorities detained 150 more foreign illegal entrants yesterday in the Myawady, Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, who had entered Myanmar through unauthorized routes. Officials are collecting

personal information and records of those detained to facilitate their repatriation to their respective countries as soon as possible. Between 30 January and 24 February 2025, authorities have detained a total of 2,370 illegal entrants. Among them, 673 individuals have already been repatriated to their home countries via Thailand as per

legal procedures, while the remaining 1,697 are prepared for transfer. The detained individuals are nationals from China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nepal, Thailand, Rwanda, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Cambodia and Chinese Taipei, with the majority being Chinese nationals. — MNA/KZL

## Heavy rain hits Yangon's Hlinethaya at 4.25 inches per hour

HEAVY rain fell at a rate of 108 millimetres per hour (4.25 inches per hour) in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, on the afternoon of 24 February, weather forecaster U Win Naing said.

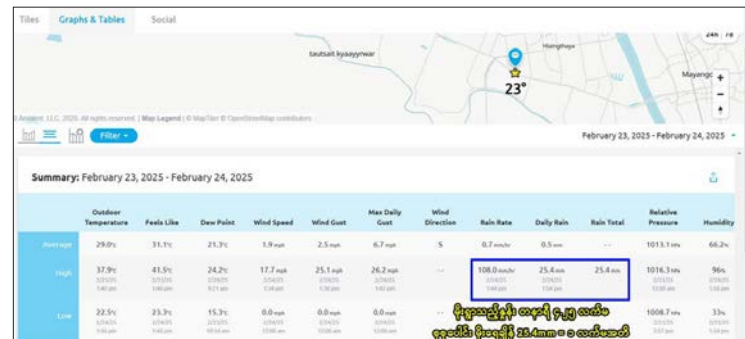
The total rainfall for 24 February was 1 inch (25.4 mm) according to the Hlinethaya weather station record. Although the rainfall rate was high at other stations, the maximum rainfall was only about half an inch, U Win Naing reported.

He had previously forecast for rain in Shan State (South and East), Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region (East/West), Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region, Kayah, Mon, and Karen states and Tanintharyi

Region and issued warnings for the past few days through his social media page.

According to his forecast, rainfall of more than 30 millimetres can fall in those areas within 48 hours, and the eastern parts of Shan State should be cautious.

"The target dates are two days – 24 and 25 February, so we are monitoring the real-time conditions on those days through AWN Weather Stations. In addition to the weather stations installed in Myanmar, we are also monitoring data of the stations from the Vietnamese coast to northern Thailand," said meteorologist U Win Naing. – Htun Htun/ZN



Indexes displayed at the Hlinethaya weather station.

### Counter-argument to false information

## False reports spread on airstrike in Manle Village

MALICIOUS news media have been spreading false reports on social media, claiming that an airstrike on Manle Village in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region, on 23 February injured two innocent civilians.

According to official security sources, the actual incident involved necessary security measures near Manle Village on that day after a responsible civilian reported the presence of PDF terrorists gathering

in the area for terrorist activities. As a result of the operation, terrorists were injured. However, subversive media outlets deliberately fabricated stories to mislead the public with false claims and propaganda. — MNA/KZL



This screenshot discloses misinformation.

## 3 civilians injured in PDF shooting near Khuntowngyi Village



Pictures capture civilian victims being injured in the PDF terrorists' attack.

PDF terrorists committed an unprovoked attack on local farmers near Khuntowngyi Village in Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region, on the morning of 24 February. Armed with small weapons, terrorists fired at civilians engaged in agricultural work, injuring three women.

The victims – Ma Thanda

Htwe (daughter of U Win Myint), Ma Than Than Soe (daughter of U Win Bo), and Daw Pa Pa Oo (daughter of U Sein Than) – were clearing grass in a field approximately 1,100 metres southeast of the village at around 9:40 am when the assailants, positioned about 200 metres away, opened fire unreasonably. The injured were immediately transported

to Shwebo General Hospital for necessary medical treatment.

Such indiscriminate attacks by PDF terrorists have repeatedly resulted in civilian casualties. In response, security forces have intensified necessary security measures in the area and continue operations to ensure the safety of local communities. — MNA/KZL

# China sees record-breaking inter-regional trips in Spring Festival travel rush

*The travel rush is known as the world's largest annual human migration, showcasing China's extensive mobility and economic activity.*

THE total number of inter-regional passenger trips across China during the 40-day Spring Festival travel rush, also known as chunyun, reached a record of 9.02 billion, official data showed Sunday.

The figure marked a 7.1 per cent increase over the same period in 2024, according to a special work team established to facilitate sound operations during chunyun, which concluded on Saturday.

The travel rush, often referred to as the world's largest annual human migration, highlights China's vast mobility and

economic activity. With a steadily recovering economy and rising demand for travel, this year's chunyun saw a robust transportation network handling unprecedented passenger volumes.

Road traffic made up the lion's share of these trips. During the period, about 8.39 billion trips were made by road, increasing 7.2 per cent year on year.

Railway passenger volume reached 513 million, expanding 6.1 per cent year on year, setting a new record during the chunyun period, according to the China State Railway Group Co Ltd.

According to the Civil Avi-



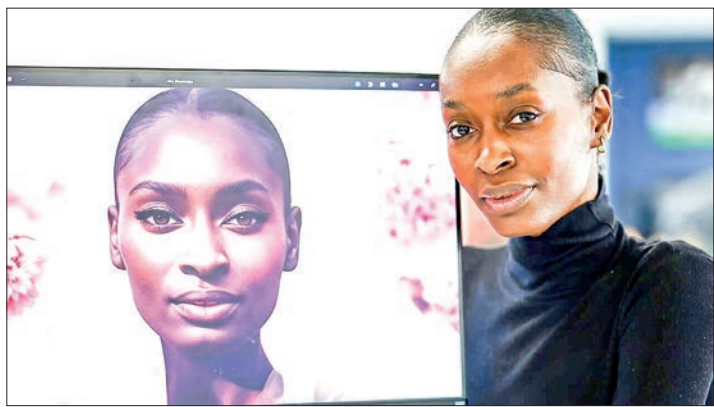
The total number of inter-regional passenger trips during the 40-day Spring Festival travel rush reached 9.02 billion. **PHOTO: ZHANG YIXI/XINHUA**

ation Administration of China, the country's civil aviation sector

recorded 90.2 million passenger trips and 739,000 flights during

the period, both of which reached new historical highs. — Xinhua

## AI opens 'endless' doors for fashion models, closes others



Fashion designers and retailers can book Alexandrah Gondora's digital double for photo shoots. **PHOTO: HENRY NICHOLLS / AFP**

LONDON-BASED model Alexandrah Gondora understands the power of being in "two places at the same time" thanks to an AI replica of herself: "She's doing the hard work so I don't have to!"

Fashion designers and retailers can book her digital double for photo shoots without her having to travel or physically be there, Gondora told AFP.

It is a solution that "saves time", said the model, who is also walking down in-person runways at London Fashion

Week, which runs until Monday evening.

In the fashion industry, artificial intelligence is already used by brands to create visual imagery for e-commerce websites and customised advertising campaigns at a lower cost.

While technology offers new opportunities, critics worry that AI could make many professionals, like models, makeup artists, and photographers, obsolete, potentially promoting an artificial standard of beauty. For

instance, a Christmas campaign for the Swedish brand CDLP was entirely created using AI, featuring sculpted male models and glamorous women in a luxurious setting. CDLP co-founder Christian Larson noted that traditional photography has limitations, such as time and budget constraints, while AI provides endless options.

Artem Kupriyanenko from Genera explained that a typical ad campaign could cost around 35,000 euros and take months, but AI can do it for just 500 euros in days. However, AI often generates similar-looking models, reflecting a dominant "white, Western" aesthetic. The upcoming "Fashion Workers Act" in New York aims to give models control over AI reproducing their likeness, ensuring ethical use of this technology. When used responsibly, AI can create opportunities for models from diverse backgrounds. — AFP

## Ill-prepared trekkers swarm Mt Etna

AUTHORITIES near Sicily's Mount Etna are bracing to control an influx of visitors this weekend, attracted by a two-week flow of lava inspiring high-altitude selfies and other reckless behaviour.

The lava seeping from Sicily's most famous volcano, contrasting with gleaming white snow on the mountainside, has proven irresistible to tourists and others, some of whom have not respected the rules.

"The volcano is not the bad guy, in this case the bad guy is

man," Fabio Mancuso, the mayor of the town of Adrano on Etna's southwestern side, told AFP.

The director of the Etna Observatory for Italy's National Institute for Geophysics and Volcanology, Stefano Branca, agreed.

"This small eruption has made such a fuss for problems linked to public order, not, let's say, for volcanic reasons," he said.

"It was a really small, insignificant eruption," Branca told AFP. — AFP



Seeping lava and gleaming white snow has proven irresistible to tourists at Mt Etna. **PHOTO: ETNA WALK/AFP**

# ECON: WORLD



The 2025 Global Developer Conference is an AI event for developers to communicate, collaborate and innovate. **PHOTO: GAO ERQIANG/CHINA DAILY**

## 2025 Global Developer Conference offers platform for AI industry exchange

*The conference highlights open-source large model technologies and products, which have become a central theme of the event.*

OPEN-SOURCE large model technologies and products have taken centre stage at the ongoing 2025 Global Developer Conference, which is being held in Shanghai from Friday to Sunday.

The event has brought together top domestic and inter-

national artificial intelligence (AI) companies to showcase their latest technologies and solutions, attracting developers, scientists, and investors from around the world.

At the conference, a humanoid robot developed by Chinese firm Unitree Robotics

— famous for its dancing robots featured on China's nationally televised Spring Festival gala — walked the company's robot dog, drawing a cheering crowd of onlookers.

“With the support of a broad base of developers, artificial intelligence is developing rapidly,

particularly as recent breakthroughs in open-source large model technologies and products create new opportunities and space for the development of China's artificial intelligence industry,” said Xiong Jijun, vice minister of industry and information technology in a speech

at the conference, on Saturday. Xiong noted that China's AI industry is thriving, particularly with the widespread acceptance of open-source principles. Currently, the country ranks second in the world in terms of the number of open-source contributors. — Xinhua

## Why Pattaya is becoming a top choice for Indian property buyers

PATTAYA, one of Thailand's most famous coastal cities, is seeing a surge in real estate interest from Indian investors. With its mix of affordability, modern infrastructure, and a growing expat community, Pattaya offers a great opportunity for those looking to buy a holiday home, rental property, or even a long-term residence.

For those searching for Pattaya property for sale, the city provides a variety of options—from high-rise condominiums with sea views to private

pool villas in gated communities. With increasing connectivity to India and a strong tourism-driven economy, Pattaya is an attractive place to invest.

Pattaya is attracting increasing Indian property investment due to its proximity, direct flight connectivity, and affordable real estate. Compared to Indian metropolitan areas, Pattaya offers better value, with luxury condos and villas available at lower prices.

The city boasts a growing Indian community, with nu-

merous restaurants, temples, and business networks, alongside a thriving Bollywood and wedding tourism industry. Investment opportunities extend beyond real estate, including hospitality and tourism.

Popular areas like Pratumnak Hill and Jomtien Beach offer diverse property options. While foreigners can't own land directly, condominium freehold, leasehold villas, and company ownership provide legal investment paths. — ANI



Pattaya is attracting increasing Indian property investment due to its proximity, direct flight connectivity, and affordable real estate. **PHOTO: ANI**

## German business urges 'new beginning' after election



The blast furnace of German industrial conglomerate Thyssenkrupp Steel Europe AG in Duisburg, western Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMAN business leaders called Monday for the swift formation of a new ruling coalition to usher in a “new beginning” for Europe's crisis-racked top economy after the conservatives' election win.

The eurozone's traditional powerhouse is facing an existential crisis amid a manufacturing slowdown and a host of deep-rooted problems, with the threat of US President Donald Trump's tariffs adding to jitters.

After political paralysis under the last government, there are hopes that conservative election winner Friedrich Merz can quickly build a more stable coalition capable of driving much-needed reform. “The German economy needs a new government capable

of acting very quickly,” said Peter Leibinger, president of leading industry federation BDI.

“The longer uncertainty persists, the more companies and consumers hesitate to invest.”

He added that “a real new beginning is needed — we need far-reaching structural reforms for the economy.”

Economic policymaking had come to a near standstill after the collapse of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's fractious, three-party coalition in November, which precipitated Sunday's polls.

Even before that, constant feuding in the coalition prevented serious reforms to boost the economy, which has been mired in recession for the past two years. — AFP

# Alibaba to invest US\$53 billion in cloud, AI infrastructure in next 3 years



Visitors learn about cloud computing products and their application at APSARA Conference 2024 in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, 19 September 2024. PHOTO: HUANG ZONGZHI/XINHUA

ALIBABA Group announced on Monday that it will invest more than 380 billion yuan (about US\$ 53 billion) in building

cloud and AI hardware infrastructure in the next three years, capitalizing on the rapid growth of the AI industry.

The investment figure exceeds Alibaba's total cloud and AI spending over the past decade. Moreover, it is the largest investment

ever made by a private Chinese company in cloud and AI hardware infrastructure construction.

The announcement comes amid the country's burgeoning AI industry growth and following a symposium on private enterprises attended by top Chinese leaders on 17 February.

The explosive AI growth has far exceeded expectations while the booming domestic science and technology industry has shown huge potential, said Eddie Wu, Alibaba Group's CEO. "Alibaba will spare no effort to accelerate the construction of cloud and AI hardware infrastructure to promote the development of the whole industry." — Xinhua

# American Airlines flight diverted to Rome after bomb threat

AMERICAN Airlines has said that the "bomb threat on board", due to which its flight AA 292 from New York to Delhi was diverted to Rome and made a dramatic landing on Sunday under fighter escort has been declared "non-credible". However, it said that the Delhi Airport protocol, required the aircraft to be inspected elsewhere before being cleared to land. "The possible issue was determined to be non-credible, but per DEL Airport protocol, an inspection was required before landing at DEL," the statement by the airlines read.

The Airlines further said the flight will stay overnight at Rome's Fiumicino Airport. "If asked, the flight will stay in FCO overnight to allow for required crew rest before continuing to DEL as soon as possible tomorrow," the Airlines statement read.

The Delhi-bound American Airlines Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner AA 292 non stop flight from New York to Delhi was forced to divert to Rome.

The flight with 199 passengers and 15 crew members, was grounded for nearly 15 hours. — ANI

# Singapore High Commissioner praises Assam's multimodal logistics park

THE Advantage Assam 2025 (AAA 2.0) summit to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday morning, will feature high-level delegations from several countries — Australia, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Thailand, Bhutan, and Japan.

Ahead of the summit

Singapore High Commissioner to India Simon Wong seemed enthusiastic with the opportunities for Singapore companies.

"Team SG started the first day in AA2.0 with a briefing by NHIDC in Guwahati. Great opportunities for SG companies in the Jogighopa Multi-Modal Logistics park. Impressive developments,"

Singapore's High Commissioner Simon Wong wrote on X.

Jogighopa in Assam will be the first international multimodal logistics hub in India, and as per reports it is going to be ready in the next couple of months. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said earlier to

the press that it will be "a game-changer for the Northeast", considering that it will be able to leverage the benefits of the inland waterways terminal at Brahmaputra river, the Rupsi Airport and the national highway network. The logistics park is being developed as part of the ambitious Bharatmala Paryojana. — ANI

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 15 VOY.NO. (04N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCL 15 VOY. NO. (04N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-2-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMT 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS  
COMPANY LIMITED

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB506A)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB506A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-2-2025 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:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.145N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.145N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-2-2025 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:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CD CHERRY VOY.NO. (1.25)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CD CHERRY VOY.NO. (1.25) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-2-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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 WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## German vote winner Merz faces tough talks to build govt

Germany is currently facing a complex political landscape as Friedrich Merz navigates coalition talks following a recent election.



Friedrich Merz, leader of Germany's conservative Christian Democratic Union, is set to be the next chancellor. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMANY faces a complex political landscape as Friedrich Merz navigates coalition talks amid a shifting global order and domestic challenges.

Germany's conservative election winner Friedrich Merz faced an uphill struggle to build a coalition government on Monday, a day after an elec-

tion which saw a record performance by the right.

Merz has warned against more paralysis in Berlin at a time US President Donald Trump is driving head-spinning change, the German economy is in recession, and society split after a polarizing campaign.

In a post on X, Merz in-

sisted Ukraine "must be part of peace negotiations" after Trump unsettled European allies by reaching out to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Europe remains firmly by Ukraine's side," Merz said, as European leaders gathered in Kyiv to mark the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion.

Speaking late Sunday, his victory dampened by a far-right surge, Merz had warned a united Europe must build up its own defences as he had "no illusions at all about what is coming out of America".

With over 28 percent of the vote, Merz's CDU/CSU bloc handily defeated Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens, as the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) celebrated a record of over 20 per cent. — AFP

## BRIEF: WORLD

### Iranians commemorate Hezbollah's late leaders

IRANIANS on Sunday held ceremonies in different cities to commemorate Hezbollah's former leaders Hassan Nasrallah and Hashem Safieddine, both of whom were killed in Israeli attacks on Beirut last year.

The ceremony in the Iranian capital Tehran was held at Imam Khomeini's Mosalla, a large prayer hall, and drew a significant crowd. Among the attendees were President Masoud Pezeshkian and Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Hossein Salami.

People waved the flags of Hezbollah and Lebanon and chanted slogans against Israel and the United States, while voicing support for the resistance front. — Xinhua

### Explosion occurs near Russian Consulate in Marseille: report

AN explosion occurred Monday morning near the Russian Consulate-General in Marseille, southern France, French public television channel TF1 reported.

According to TF1, the explosion took place in the 8<sup>th</sup> arrondissement of Marseille, near the Russian diplomatic facility, before 8 am local time (0700 GMT).

About 30 firefighters were despatched to the scene, TF1 said, adding that police are currently "analyzing" a suspicious bottle.

Reports by Russia Today said that unknown persons threw containers with incendiary mixture into the premises of the Russian consulate, and Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova said the explosion had "all the signs of a terrorist attack".

French authorities have not published any report on casualties. — Xinhua

## Pentagon chief hopes Zelensky will sit at negotiating table 'very soon'

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy should accept engaging in negotiations towards peace and economic partnership with the United States, US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth said on Sunday.

"Zelensky should come to the table, because this economic partnership is an important thing for the future of his country, and we hope that he will very soon," Pete Hegseth told Fox News.

A peace deal to resolve the conflict in Ukraine could be finalized "rather quickly", US Special Envoy for the Middle East Steve Witkoff said in his turn. — SPUTNIK

## Netanyahu calls for demilitarization of southern Syria, protection for Druze

ISRAEL Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for the demilitarization of southern Syria and protection for its Druze community on Sunday, the first time he has publicly called for this since the collapse of Bashar Assad's regime in December.

"We demand the full demilitarization of southern Syria," said Netanyahu, who was addressing a graduation ceremony for cadet officers in Beer-Sheva. "We will not tolerate any threat to the Druze community in southern Syria."

Netanyahu also held up a photo of Shiri Bibas and her sons, Ariel and Kfir whose remains were recently returned to Israel. Forensics experts who examined the bodies said they had been murdered, and that there was no evidence to back Hamas claims they were killed during an Israeli airstrike.

"This picture says it all, and I ask that you engrave it on the tablet of your hearts so that we always remember what we are fighting for and who we are fighting against," Netanyahu said.



The Druze community in southern Syria constitutes about 3 to 4 per cent of the population, primarily residing in the Jabal al-Druze region. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

"In the last days of the war, [Hamas] murdered Shiri and her children in cold blood. They strangled the tender children with their own hands, and if they could, they would have murdered all of us with

the same cruelty," he added.

Regarding Iran, Netanyahu reaffirmed Israel's long-standing stance, declaring, "We will not allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons." — ANI

# SPORTS

## Liverpool's Van Dijk wants Anfield to be 'horrible' during title run-in

VIRGIL van Dijk has urged Liverpool's players and fans to make Anfield a "horrible" place for opponents during the Premier League title run-in.

Liverpool are 11 points clear of second-placed Arsenal at the top of the table with 11 games remaining after Sunday's 2-0 win at the home of champions Manchester City.

Arsenal have a game in hand but Arne Slot's men are galloping towards a record-equalling 20th English top-flight title and have seven of their remaining league matches at Anfield.

Liverpool looked nervous during last week's 2-1 home win against Wolves and have also dropped points recently against Everton and Aston Villa.

"I mentioned it after that (Wolves) game, that obviously it's pretty normal, humans, there could be some anxious feelings kicking in," said Liverpool captain Van Dijk.

"And that could still be the case, but I think it only helps us and them as well to make Anfield horrible for the opponent, like most of the time we have been doing that, and obviously the way we play obviously helps with that as well."

He added: "So let's make sure those seven (home games) are going to be amazing, as loud as possible, and I don't think we have to speak about it, because normally that is the case."

Goals from Mohamed Salah and Dominik Szoboszlai gave Liverpool their first top-flight victory at the Etihad for nearly 10 years as they capitalized on Arsenal's defeat by West Ham the previous day.

Liverpool fans chanted "We're going to win the league" in the closing stages of the match, looking forward to celebrating just their second English league title since 1990.— AFP



Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk celebrates victory against Manchester City. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Swedish major winner Nordqvist named Europe's Solheim Cup captain



Sweden's triple major winner Anna Nordqvist will captain the European team as they bid to regain the Solheim Cup off the USA in 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

SWEDEN'S three-time major winner Anna Nordqvist will be Europe's Solheim Cup captain as they bid to regain the trophy in next year's edition, it was announced on Monday.

The 37-year-old, who has been a member of five winning Solheim Cup sides in her nine appearances, said she was honoured to have been appointed for the biennial match with the United States.

The 2026 renewal takes place at Bernardus Golf, in Cromvoirt, near Eindhoven and 's-Hertogenbosch, in the Netherlands from September

11-13.

"I am so honoured to be appointed as the 2026 European Solheim Cup Captain," said Nordqvist in a statement on the Solheim Cup website.

"Whether we were winning or losing, the Solheim Cup has played such a huge part in my career ever since I made my debut in 2009 in Chicago.

"The friendships I have made, and the memories created during the nine matches I've played, make it so incredibly special to be given the opportunity to be European captain at my tenth Solheim Cup!" — AFP

## Barca, Atletico Madrid prepare for evenly-matched Copa del Rey semifinal

FC Barcelona and Atletico Madrid will play the first leg of their Copa del Rey semifinal in Montjuic on Tuesday night.

It is the second meeting in the ground between the two sides after Atletico stunned Barca with an injury time winner for a 2-1 win.

Barca has now returned to the top of the table and coach Hansi Flick will make some changes to his starting 11 that won a hard-fought game 2-0 in Las Palmas on Saturday night.

Frenkie de Jong, who is back in form and in favour, will return to the side, while Inigo

Martinez or Ronald Araujo both have options of returning in defence after Eric Garcia filled in at the weekend. There will be no rest for Raphinha, Lamine Yamal or Robert Lewandowski, as the attacking trio continue to be vital for Barca.

One question Flick has to answer is whether Dani Olmo should start on Tuesday night, after his physical problems in recent weeks. The Spain international came on as a second half substitute on Saturday and opened the scoring with a neat piece of footwork and is in line to replace Fermin Lopez. — Xinhua

## Maresca says Chelsea are over-reliant on Palmer



Cole Palmer has scored 14 Premier League goals this season. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ENZO Maresca has challenged his misfiring Chelsea squad to step up during a lean spell for Cole Palmer, admitting "we rely on Cole for everything".

The England attacking midfielder has scored 14 goals and provided six assists in the Premier League this season but his last goal was in mid-January and he last set up a goal on 1 December.

Chelsea, just two points behind runaway leaders Liverpool in mid-December, have slipped to seventh in the table after three defeats in their past four games, though they are just one point behind fourth-placed Manchester City.

Maresca, preparing his team to host rock-bottom Southampton on Tuesday, said he was not worried about Palmer's dip in form.

"I'm not concerned about Cole because Cole is a human being and during the season he can have some moments where he struggles a little bit more," he told reporters on Monday. — AFP



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered the opening address at the AI Action Summit in Paris on 11 February 2025, outlining India's vision for responsible AI development. **PHOTO: ANI/FILE**

## India sets strategic path for AI growth with nuclear energy investments

*India is strategically developing a comprehensive AI ecosystem, including semiconductor fabrication, to become a global leader in artificial intelligence.*

IN a world where artificial intelligence (AI) is driving disruption across industries, India is making strategic moves to establish itself in the AI ecosystem.

The nation's plan hinges on an integrated approach that builds out the entire AI stack—from semiconductor fabrication and data centre infrastructure to foundational models and energy management – powered by a focus on nuclear energy.

During a recent interaction at the Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar highlighted India's historical

role as a technology provider to the world.

He also noted the participation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the AI Action Summit in Paris, where industry titans, government heads, and academia gathered to discuss the future of AI.

India is aiming to develop a robust AI stack, encompassing semiconductor fabrication facilities to bolster national security and diversified supply chains, positioning itself as a sound player in the global semiconductor industry.

During a press conference in Jan-

uary speaking on India's AI mission, Union Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw stated, "We have created the framework, and it is being launched today. Our focus is on building AI models that maintain Indian context and culture".

One of the most ambitious moves announced in the Union Budget of 2025-2026 is the plan to allocate Rs20,000 crore for research and development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and to exponentially increase India's nuclear capacity to 100 GW by 2047. — ANI

## China's mega water diversion project hits new service milestone

CHINA'S South-to-North Water Diversion Project, the largest of its kind globally, has delivered more than 70 billion cubic metres of water through its middle route since it started full operation in December 2014.

According to the China South-to-North Water Diversion Corporation, the massive water transfer project has become a crucial lifeline for 26 major cities and over 200 counties, benefiting approximately 114 million residents in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and Henan.

The impact has been particularly pronounced in Beijing, where diverted water now accounts for nearly 80 per cent of the capital's urban water supply. A large proportion of Beijing's drinking water now travels over 1,000 kilometres along the project's middle route from Danjiangkou Reservoir in central China's Hubei Province. The water flows north via canals and pipelines, crossing beneath the Yellow River before arriving at Beijing's water treatment plants. In Tianjin, the project's reach has expanded to 15 of the city's 16 administrative districts, with infrastructure improvements extending water access to rural areas through various rural drinking water improvement initiatives. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 30 November 2024 shows a view of the Danjiangkou Dam in central China's Hubei Province. **PHOTO: WU ZHIZUN/XINHUA**

### US TECH SERVICES

## Japan's digital deficit hits record 6.5 T yen as US tech reigns

JAPAN'S digital trade deficit hit a record high of 6.46 trillion yen (\$43 billion) in 2024, reflecting the dominance of services provided by US technology giants, recent government data showed.

The size of Japan's IT deficit has more than tripled in the past decade from 2.02 trillion yen in 2014,

according to preliminary data released by the Finance Ministry earlier this month.

The ballooning imbalance can be attributed to Japanese companies being increasingly reliant on digital technologies provided by US tech giants like Amazon.com Inc., Microsoft Corp. and Google LLC to improve

efficiency due to a lack of domestic alternatives.

The digital trade balance includes payments for cloud infrastructure services, online advertising and licensing. Revenue generated by major US tech firms is only expected to grow in Japan as individuals and businesses increasingly digitize. — Kyodo