

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



DEMU trains at Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station, ready to serve passengers on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay route.

## Modern DEMU trains to launch Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay service

The total travel time, including stops at stations, for the Yangon-Mandalay route will be approximately 11 hours, while the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route will take about five and a half hours.

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications, through Myanmar Railways, is set to launch a new service connecting Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw with modern air-conditioned DEMU trains starting on 28 February. The new train sets, which have been imported from Japan, will be

used for the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw (No 7) and Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon (No 8) routes, as well as the Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw (No 28) and Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay (No 27).

The new DEMU trains on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw route will depart Yangon station at 6 am, reaching Nay Pyi Taw at around 11:30 am. Meanwhile, the air-con-

ditioned trains on the Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route will leave Nay Pyi Taw at noon and arrive in Yangon at 5:30 pm. The Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw trains will depart from Mandalay station at 6 am and arrive in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am. The Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay trains will leave Nay Pyi Taw at noon and reach Mandalay at 5 pm.

Each train set will consist of four first-class coaches, two upper-class coaches and a total of six carriages, accommodating 312 passengers on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw route and 330 passengers on the Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw route. Ticket prices for the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw and Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon routes will be K19,000 for first class, K28,000 for upper class, and K7,000 for ordinary class on

the Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw and Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay routes.

Tickets for the entire Yangon-Mandalay route, including both directions will cost K26,000 for first class, and K39,000 for upper class and will be available for purchase three days in advance. Passengers will be able to transfer between the DEMU trains and air-conditioned trains at Nay Pyi Taw station.

Throughout the Yangon-Mandalay route, the trains will stop at Bago, Pyu, Toungoo, Nay Pyi Taw and Thazi stations and the total travel time including stops at stations will be approximately 11 hours. On the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route, the travel time will be about five hours and a half. — MNA/KZL

## Myanmar fish exports bag US\$342M in Apr-Jan

MYANMAR generated earnings of US\$342 million from over 320,000 tonnes of fish exports in the past ten months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, comprising over 146,400 tonnes through maritime trade channels and over 173,700 tonnes via land borders, according to the Fisheries Department.

Myanmar steadily exports seafood to 40 countries including China, Thailand,

Bangladesh and Japan by sea and via land border crossings.

More than 20 fish species including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass are conveyed to foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

There are over 140 cold-storage seafood processing factories in Myanmar. The Department of Fisheries processes a licence renewal yearly. — NN/KK

### Article

#### Bridging Distances in Education: A Journey of Transformation and Collaboration

By Dr Thazin Lwin (Retired Pro-Rector, West Yangon University)

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Myamala Garden opens in Mandalay for public enjoyment

# NATIONAL

## Empowering Citizens with Wisdom: Key to National Strength and Progress

Wisdom equips individuals with the ability to critically analyze right and wrong, good and bad, and cause and effect. When every citizen possesses wisdom and knowledge, the nation can cultivate true strength that advances the interests of the State.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of presenting awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination 2024 with distinctions in all subjects on 22 July 2024)*

### Public Notice on Objection Rights

1. The Inn National League Party, officially registered as a political party with its headquarters at Ward 3, Nyaungshwe, Shan State (South) has submitted a request to the Union Election Commission to modify its party flag and emblem as shown, according to Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.
2. Thus, anyone wishing to object to the proposed changes to the Inn National League Party's flag and emblem may submit their objection along with valid evidence to the Union Election Commission within seven days from the date of this announcement, under Article 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.



Flag of the Inn National League Party.



Emblem of the Inn National League Party.

Union Election Commission

## Beikthano Archaeological Museum opens daily



The facade view of the Beikthano Archaeological Museum.

THE Beikthano Archaeological Museum in the ancient Beikthano cultural zone, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site, about 12 miles from west of Taungwingyi township of Magway Region was constructed on 12 July 2004. The construction was completed on 30 November 2007, and the museum was opened to the public on 1 September 2008.

The Beikthano museum features booths of stone, iron

and bronze eras, fossil fuels, traditional houses, the Beikthano ancient city map, the history of the city, significant characteristics of Pyu, pre-historical evidence of old Beikthano city, literature explored in Beikthano, Pyu literary writing style, bricks of Pyu era, vase, bronze Buddha statue, bird-shaped urn, model building for the burring urn, royal architectural pieces of evidence, city wall and barrier (model), bowl-shaped

urn, coins and beads of Pyu.

The Beikthano Archaeological Museum is established as per the policy of the Ministry of Culture to explore, conserve and improve Myanmar's cultural heritage, and to cherish the country and people by doing so.

The museum is open free for the public from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm daily except Mondays and public holidays. — Naung Naung (Beikthano Myay)/KTZH

## Two-day Myanmar Realty Expo set for Singapore

FOR Myanmar nationals living in Singapore, Shwe Property will host the 6th Myanmar Property Expo at Mercure Bugis Hotel in Singapore for two days.

The event, which is scheduled from 10 am to 5 pm on 1 and 2 March, will help Myanmar nationals in Singapore able to

choose more than 1,000 properties including apartment rooms, serviced condominium rooms and houses which are completed and under construction and land plots, worth from K90 million to K400 million in Myanmar.

It will also allow enjoying one square feet prices at a special discount and attractive

monthly payment and interest-free instalment plan, with full legal documents.

Free registration is provided at <https://www.shweproperty.com/sp/bsf4dpdkv> and interested people can contact Viber and WhatsApp number +959 940670944 for more information. — MT/ZS



This image showcases a poster for the Myanmar Property Expo in Singapore.

# 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)*

## National Land Utilization Council holds 7<sup>th</sup> meeting

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, who is also Chairman of the National Land Utilization Council, addressed the seventh meeting of the council yesterday.

At the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw, the General said that land resources are considered fundamental for a country's economic growth, providing the basis for food, clothing and shelter. They are also related to the traditions, customs and cultural heritages of the ethnic people. The political, economic, environmental and social conflicts are connected with the land resource utilization, and so there should be a perfect land utilization system. Moreover, the



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoD Union Minister General Maung Maung Aye presides over the seventh meeting of the National Land Utilization Council yesterday.

National Land Utilization Policy was drafted with public participation and released in January 2016 to manage the country's land resources.

He continued that the country has 53 laws related to land management, and the Work Com-

mittee on Drafting the National Land Law and harmonization of related laws was organized to harmonize the existing land laws and draft a national land law. The work committee estimated 15 months from August 2023 to October 2024 to draft the national

land law (draft), and the operation reached the draft version.

Secretary of the council Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi explained the undertaking of the sixth meeting, while Union Minister U Min Naung reported on drafting national land law and

management measures.

Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and officials reported on the progress of tasks undertaken by relevant work committees, drawing national roadmap and land utilization pilot projects. — MNA/KTZH

## MoI hosts traditional Htamane-making contest in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Information organized a traditional Myanmar Htamane-making competition in Nay Pyi Taw to preserve cultural traditions, strengthen team spirit among staff, and foster mutual friendship and happiness among departments.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung, departmental heads, judges, and staff enthusiastically participated in the event.

The competition began with judges inspecting the contestants and the display of ingredients before explaining



The traditional Htamane-making competition of the Ministry of Information in action yesterday, attended by Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn.

the competition's rules and regulations. The atmosphere

was lively, with drummers, dancers, and singers cheering

on the six competing teams: the Ministry of Information,

Myanmar Radio and Television, the Department of Information and Public Relations, the Department of Printing and Publishing, the Department of Media Development, and the News and Periodicals Enterprise.

Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung presented second, third, and consolation prizes to the winning teams, while Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn awarded the first prize to the Minister's Office team. Following the awards, the Union minister also distributed MRTV DTH devices to 36 team members through a lucky draw. — MNA/MKKS

# NATIONAL

## MoI Union Minister hosts dinner for ASEAN delegates to GovComm Workshop

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn yesterday hosted a dinner at Horizon Lakeview resort in Nay Pyi Taw for ASEAN delegates attending the Workshop on Mastering Government Communication: Empowering Spokespersons for Effective Public Engagement, to be organized by the Media Development Department from 26 to 28 February.

The dinner was attended by Union Minister of the Ministry 2 at the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council U Ko Ko Hlaing, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung, departmental officials, Myanmar Press Council Chairman Dr Tin Tun Oo and members, facilitators, represent-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn addresses ASEAN delegates at the dinner for the upcoming workshop organized by the Media Development Department, scheduled from 26 to 28 February.

atives from ASEAN Secretary General Office, delegates from ASEAN countries, and observers

from Japan.

The video clip “ASEAN Information Sector and Myanmar Media” was first played.

In his opening speech, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn appreciated the opportunity to witness the convergence of minds from various corners of the ASEAN region, all united by a shared commitment to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of government communication. The workshop aimed to serve as a bridge that connects governments with their citizens, ensuring transparency, fostering trust, and building stronger communities.

He added that effective systems for engaging with the

public, managing crises, and conveying messages with clarity and impact must be explored at this workshop. The trainers and speakers will share their expertise, providing valuable insights and practical tools that can be applied within their respective roles as spokespersons.

Communication is not only about sharing information but also serves as a fundamental pillar for interactive dialogue, empathy, and mutual understanding. Governments can strengthen their own ability to engage meaningfully with citizens by learning from one another, sharing experiences and fostering a spirit of cooperation.

Afterwards, the Union min-

ister presented gifts to the trainers, and ASEAN delegates and posed for documentary photos.

He had dinner together with the attendees enjoying the songs and dances depicting the cultures and customs of ASEAN countries performed by MRTV Band.

After the dinner, the Union minister and trainer Mr V Cyril Demitrius Pereira presented K2 million and bouquets to the singers of MRTV.

The ASEAN delegates visited the Myanmar Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw at noon and observed the displayed jade, jewellery, pearls, rare gems and jewellery shops at the museum. — MNA/KTZH



The workshop trainer present a bouquet to MRTV performers.

## Deputy Minister for Information: Students should aim for expertise, not just degrees

EDUCATION is essential not only for individuals but also for the country, as the more literate and educated people are, the more valuable they become in life, said Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint in a meeting with students from Mawlamyine University yesterday.

He also highlighted the importance of individuals continuing their studies not only to obtain a degree but also to become experts, scholars, and specialists, urging them to

strive for more than proficiency in skills and aim to be filled with wisdom, knowledge, and strength.

He then pointed out the key role of reading literature in enriching individuals' knowledge and the importance of continuous learning throughout life, while also emphasizing the Head of State's encouragement for young people to promote reading, warning that some young people today have misconceptions due to their lack

of reading.

The deputy minister urged students to refrain from factors that could potentially destroy their lives, before explaining the efforts underway to restore national stability, hold elections, and transfer power, as well as the need to eliminate violence to achieve these goals.

He also explained issues related to conscription for public military service, managed under the law and regulations, the responsibility of every citizen

for national security and defence, and the constitutional requirement for all citizens to engage in military education and service for national defence, as outlined by legal provisions. He highlighted ongoing efforts to ensure full compliance with laws and regulations, address the spread of rumours and subversive media, and publish accurate information in newspapers to enable the public to report concerns while urging students to remain vigilant and

work toward preventing subversive activities.

Afterwards, at the meeting attended by 400 participants, the deputy minister donated books, magazines, and sports equipment to the university, and the Rector delivered a speech of thanks for the donation. The deputy minister also visited facilities in Mawlamyine, Mudon, and Kyaikmaraw townships under the ministry to inspect and provide necessary instructions. — MNA/TH

# NATIONAL

A public garden called Myamala Garden has been opened in Mandalay City, providing a space for people to relax and enjoy nature. The Myamala Garden, located at the intersection of Theikpan Road and 78<sup>th</sup> Street, within the Sinphyu Kan area, was developed by the Mandalay City Development Committee's Parks and Playgrounds Department.

The garden was built in honour of Union Day on 12 February and will continue to serve as a public recreation area. It was developed to accommodate the 21<sup>st</sup> Fruit and Flower Exhibition and Competition, which will take place over the next two months. A spokesperson for the Mandalay City Development Committee said that the garden will further enhance the beauty of the Sinphyu Kan area, making it a pleasant space for public enjoyment.

The Myamala Garden

## Myamala Garden opens in Mandalay for public enjoyment



Photos showcase the beautiful and serene scenes of Myamala Garden, where visitors are enjoying their time.

spans around 680 square feet in length and 110 square feet in width. It includes several flower beds, including a 60-foot-wide flower circle, a 40-foot-wide flower circle, and a 30-foot-wide flower circle, featuring a variety of colourful flowers. The garden also offers seating areas for visitors and plans to improve access roads in and out of the garden.

The garden also features a fruit and vegetable planting area, where local produce is grown. The committee plans to make the garden more beautiful by adding more colourful flowers, ornamental plants, and water features to enhance the visitor experience. The Mandalay City Development Committee is committed to maintaining the city's cleanliness and aesthetic appeal, ensuring residents can access peaceful spaces like the Mya Mala Garden. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House/KZL



## Government to provide financial aid for children under two

THE Government is under the arrangement to support pregnant mothers and their children under two years old, said State Administration Council Vice-Chairman, Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

He made the remarks at a meeting of the National Committee

on Social Protection held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 February.

The beneficiaries of the financial assistance programme for pregnant mothers and children under two years old will be supported through Myanmar

Economic Bank branches in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Officials need to ensure that no child is left behind in this support programme and measures must be taken now to further implement social protection work, the Vice-Senior General said. Moreover, it is currently providing support through State funds,

and it is necessary to prepare in advance for increased support in the future, while the employers should consider providing support to their employees in various ways, he elaborated.

Every country has social protection programmes, and the percentage of social protection expenditure in GDP glob-

ally is 12.9 per cent, while the percentage of social protection expenditure in GDP in low-income countries is 1.1 per cent. As the support percentages vary based on a country's GDP, he urged relevant officials to study the support percentages of other countries to adopt it in Myanmar. — Htun Htun/ZN

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### CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 255597511

### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 251022355  
marketing@gnlm.com.mm  
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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[newsroom@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:newsroom@gnlm.com.mm)  
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# NATIONAL

## Thanaka to join UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Maung Yin Oo



**M**ASS media is broadly used to raise awareness and appreciation of Myanmar's Thanaka cultural practice and concerted efforts are being exerted to submit nomination proposal of Myanmar's Thanaka cultural practice by March 2025 to be inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

I was so ecstatic when I heard about those cultural awareness campaigns of Myanmar's Thanaka that is the legacy of intangible attributes of Myanmar people to safeguard it for future generations and to be submitted for UNESCO's cultural heritage inscription. I have been a big fan of Thanaka who traditionally applies Thanaka to the face since I was young. Therefore, I was overwhelmed by delight. I will be carried away with euphoria when UNESCO adds it to its Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Myanmar's Thanaka culture has been passed down from past generations. It can be profoundly traced in the murals of temples in Gyubyaukgyi Temple founded in AD 1113 in Bagan ancient cultural heritage site and Sulamani Temple founded in AD 1183 and murals of other temples.

Additionally, Thanaka applying tradition passing down through generations can be remarkably found in earliest works of literature, stories, poems and folk songs, including mawgun, eigyin, pyo, kagyin, maunghtaung, Lamai peasant girls' poem and songs, representing deeper symbolic meaning related to the cultural value and tradition rooted for thousand years.

Myanmar people annually celebrate the Thanaka Festival from the full moon of Thadingyut to the full moon of Tazaungdine (31 October to 29 November) beyond the 12-month festival traditions.

Village girls and ladies from Khetthin village in the north of Singu town, Mandalay Region apply Thanaka and Thanaka powder put in bronze cup to pilgrims who

flock to Shwe Taung Oo mountain pagoda during the full moon of Thadingyut, signifying unique and beautiful Myanmar's Thanaka culture.

The word Thanaka, previously called Thana-ka, is derived from Thana (dirt) and Ka (clearing or removing), meaning removing the dirt. Thanaka is a paste made from ground bark which commonly applies to Myanmar people for sun protection, perfume and beauty purposes. It is believed to show a distinct feature of Myanmar people. This natural cosmetic has cooling and soothing effects with good properties for skin. Thanaka is highly admired by Myanmar's royal courts to peasant ladies nowadays. Other parts of Thanaka tree also have medicinal effects.

Thanaka is credited with medicinal benefits with a warm effect in winter and cooling sensation during hot winter to reduce body heat. This traditional product is highly appreciated and cherished by the whole nation regardless of ages and genders.

Myanmar elder people usually talks about the three basic values (Three Jewels: Buddha, Dharma and Sangha), paying respect to parents and teachers and fostering patriotism towards one's nation and other inspirational and motivational messages while applying Thanaka to younger people, passing down traditions to younger generations and representing signs of the devotion, respect and love.

Moreover, Thanaka incense is offered to Buddha during ritual face washing ceremonies at Mandalay MahaMyatmuni Temple and Aungtaungmu Pagoda in the early morning, unifying symbols of cultural pride and drawing a daily crowd of devotees.

Thanaka can be found in Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Myanmar and Pakistan. Myanmar's Thanaka is of premium quality with pleasant and unique fragrance. Shinmataung and Shwebo Thanaka varieties are the most popular among them. Applying Shwebo Thanaka gives one smooth skin and yellowish beauty unlike Shinmataung Thanaka having a sweet and pleasant smell.

Beyond beauty purposes, the whole Thanaka trees (fruits, root, stem, leaves) have good properties and medicinal benefits. Shwepyin Company established Thanaka museum in NyaungU city in order to disseminate information of Thanaka culture among young communities and conserve cultural heritage. Myanmar Thanaka Planters and Producers Association was formed on 11 November 2017 in order to safeguard cultural heritage

and penetrate Thanaka to international markets and raise public awareness in cooperation with non-governmental organization Helvetas Myanmar.

The association organizes Thanaka beauty pageants, Thanaka trade fair and Myanmar Thanaka Day events to pass Thanaka culture on to the next generation and increase admiration for Thanaka.

Thanaka Day was marked on the full moon day of Tabodwe, connecting Buddhist's tradition of offering light and Thanaka incense to Buddha. Events related to Thanaka including talk shows, distributing pamphlets, donation and offering Thanaka paste to Buddha are held in the precinct of Pagoda on the Thanaka Day.

The association's statistics indicated that there are 323,000 acres of Thanaka in Myanmar. The association comprises growers and traders from Ayartaw, Shwebo, Kantbalu, Monywa, Myinmu, Butalin, Kanni, Yinmabin, Pakokku, Myaing, Yesagyo, Pauk, Sittway and Langkho areas and companies from big cities like Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. Stakeholders involved in the Thanaka supply chain are exerting continuous efforts to produce value-added Thanaka products that were commercially valued in international markets and preserving



this heritage and passing it on to future generations through documentation, education, community engagement and revitalization maintaining core values and cultural identity.

Myanmar Thanaka culture has existed for thousands of years. The earliest discovery of applying the Thanaka tradition is back in the Bagan Dynasty. The poems written by King Yazadariz's spouse (poet) in 14<sup>th</sup> century and Shin Ratthasara, monk and prominent poet in 15<sup>th</sup> century invoked Thanaka culture

in literary work.

Furthermore, some communities have traditions of holding the Thanaka Grinding Festival on the first day of the Thingyan Festival and Buddha statues are washed by Thanaka paste, preserving universal value.

Literary works in Bagan, Pyu dynasties captured the essence of Myanmar Thanaka culture, providing a rich source of Thanaka value and traditions of Myanmar people wearing it throughout history.

Inscriptions on Kyaukpyin stone slab note the name of King Bayintnaung's daughter Princess Dartukalaya, placed at Shwemadaw Pagoda, revealing the solid culture of Thanaka in Taungoo dynasty.

Thanaka supplied to court in King Alaungpaya Dynasty were sourced from Kaput village two miles away from the south of Thihataw Pagoda in KhinU Township, Shwebo District, indicating a notable history of Thanaka again.

Consequently, Myanmar Thanaka that people of all ages and gender cherish and apply to face and body portrayed the significance of the heritage throughout history. Myanmar people are committed to preserving and promoting its culture by holding festivals stimulating community engagement and keeping inventory of Thanaka heritage passing through generations. Literary works and social events describing Myanmar Thanaka tradition act as a window to Myanmar's intangible cultural heritage. I would like to express my deep respect to those endeavouring to submit nomination of Thanaka as a cultural element by March 2025 to be

inscribed on the UNESCO's list.

If Myanmar's Thanaka culture and tradition that has dominated for thousand years is recognized and listed by UNESCO, it will be national pride and identity. I hereby would like to appreciate their genuine and continuous efforts with Myanmar Thanaka promotion and cultural awareness campaigns. I am praying from my heart for Myanmar Thanaka to move forward to achieve UNESCO's inscription.

*Translated by KK*

## Deadline nears for legit pineapple export EOIs

THE Agriculture Department's Plant Protection Division notified companies to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) and seek registration with General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) by 28 February 2025 for legitimate pineapple exportation.

Application forms can be available at the Agriculture Department in the regions and states or downloaded through <https://ppd.doa.gov.mm/index.php?id=22>. Individuals can enquire about details through the division located in Insein Town, Yangon via 01 644214 and 09 794399321.

The Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation invited companies to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for pineapple exports.

According to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Protocol between Myanmar and China, inspection procedures are undertaken yearly to verify compliance with the standards.

The General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) announced on 11 November that Myanmar's pineapple will be allowed to import to China, following the Phytosanitary regulations.

Myanmar's pineapple is cultivated in northern and southern



Photos show vendors displaying pineapples for sale.

Shan State. The harvest season is in June-September. Earlier, Myanmar's pineapple export to China was conducted via a green channel under a cross-border trade plan. Yet, China halted this trade route on 16 June 2019,

affecting Myanmar's pineapple industry adversely.

Myanmar's exporters explored new markets in Thailand, Singapore and other countries. However, market share is quite low. A series of negotiations be-

tween Myanmar and China in the past years yield a fruitful result and Myanmar's pineapple is now allowed to be exported to China via sea trade.

According to GACC's notification, the Ministry of Agricul-

ture, Livestock and Irrigation needs to forward the list of pineapple farms and processing factories to the China side to seek approval from the GACC

The approved list will be disclosed on its website. Myanmar's growers are required to strictly adhere to good agricultural practices and implement quality management, a tracking system for food security and integrated pest management measures. Packing fresh fruits includes washing fresh fruits with high-pressure spray and checking and removing debris to be free from insects, snails, invasive grass seeds, soil, crop residue weeds and dirt.

Infestation of the spiralling whitefly (*Aleurodicus dispersus*), gray pineapple mealybug (*Dysmicoccus neobrevipes*), Passionvine mealybug (*Planococcus minor*), Jack Beardsley mealybug (*Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi*) and the fungal plant pathogen *Fusarium sacchari* are considered as devastating pests. Therefore, Myanmar's relevant authorities are asked to check samples of not less than two per cent of export volume within the first two years of pineapple trade. Inspection of food samples will be reduced to one per cent if pests cannot be detected in two years. — NN/KK

## CBM to inject US\$23M, THB150M into fuel oil sector



THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 24 February that it would sell \$23 million and 150 million baht to fuel oil importers.

CBM pumped 536,700 yuan and over two million baht on 24 February, \$20 million on 21 February, \$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 into the financial market 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

## 12,300+ rice mills registered nationwide

THERE are over 12,300 registered rice mills in the country and 90 per cent of them are considered micro, small and medium enterprises, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The rice milling business contributes to the country's rice reserve scheme, export industry and raw materials for factories and livestock sectors. It also provides a marketplace for farmers. There is a plan to entice domestic and foreign investors to expand businesses. Myanmar Rice Millers Association, one of four MRF-affiliated associations, was founded in 1949 and recently held its diamond anniversary, rice

milling technology and equipment expo and talk shows at MCC Hall in Mayangon Township, Yangon.

The Industrial Development Commission Vice-Chair Union minister for Industry, the Union minister for Commerce, the Yangon Region chief minister, the deputy minister for agriculture, livestock and irrigation, the Yangon mayor, officials concerned, MRF's president, president and representatives of the affiliated associations, millers and exhibitors attended the ceremony and inspected rice milling technology booths, discussing future activities and milling industry condition. — NN/KK

## OPINION

### Efficiently utilize natural resources to improve the socioeconomic life of the people

**T**HE electricity and energy sectors are crucial for the development of agriculture, livestock, and industrial sectors. In the energy sector, fuel energy is imported annually from abroad, and efforts are being made to enhance domestic fuel energy production using local resources. In the electricity sector, due to various issues in halting power generation plants and disruptions caused by conflicts, there are ongoing power shortages. Efforts are being made to provide electricity to the public on a rotating basis as much as possible.

As such, while the country is making efforts to increase the production of electricity to improve the livelihood of the people and enhance industrial output, if the government, private sector, and the public can collaborate in harmony to establish a sustainable solar energy system, it will not only improve the socioeconomic life of the people, but also lead to progress in food security, agriculture, livestock, and the industrial sectors, ultimately resulting in national development and progress.

ongoing costs are minimal, and it will reach a breakeven situation in just a few years.

The government is implementing projects to produce over 1,000 megawatts of hybrid electricity, combining natural gas and solar power engines, in various states and regions. The electricity generated will be distributed across the country, ensuring it reaches areas based on proportional needs. If businesses can operate using their own solar systems, it will improve operational efficiency and meet their electricity demands.

As such, while the country is making efforts to increase the production of electricity to improve the livelihood of the people and enhance industrial output, if the government, private sector, and the public can collaborate in harmony to establish a sustainable solar energy system, it will not only improve the socioeconomic life of the people, but also lead to progress in food security, agriculture, livestock, and the industrial sectors, ultimately resulting in national development and progress.

However, due to the ongoing repairs and construction in the electrical sector and the implementation of renewable energy systems, there are promising prospects. Solar energy, a renewable energy system utilizing sunlight, is now being used not only in the public sector but also in both large and small business sectors. Currently, six companies in the Thilawa industrial zone can generate and use over 4.9 megawatts of electricity through solar systems. This progress allows businesses to operate efficiently on a large scale. Taking this success as an example, other companies are also planning to generate and use over 8 megawatts of electricity.

The use of solar power systems allows businesses to fully utilize the electrical energy they need, and it has been observed that surplus energy can be sold back to the national grid. While the initial investment costs for a solar system can be high depending on the production capacity, the

**I**WOULD like to share my experience from attending the AAOU 33rd Annual Conference held in Lahore, Pakistan, in 2019, during my time serving at the Yangon University of Distance Education-YUDE.

At 9 am on 14 October 2019, I was at the airport, eagerly anticipating the 33rd Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) in Lahore, Pakistan. However, I felt a tinge of sadness knowing I would miss the full moon of Thadingyut, a culturally significant event in Myanmar that heralds family unity in an opening season. This reflection on family and connection resonated with me as I prepared to engage with fellow educators at the conference.

The flight to Suvarnabhumi Airport was smooth, allowing me to focus on my presentation for the conference theme, "Open Distance Learning: 2020 and Beyond." My paper will address the challenges facing distance education, particularly highlighting the computer-mediated communication (CMC) systems at Yangon University of Distance Education (YUDE). While CMC has provided innovative opportunities, it has also created challenges, particularly in assessment practices.

Upon landing in Thailand, I had a late lunch before boarding my flight to Lahore, which departed at 7:50 pm. Arriving in Lahore later that night, I was delighted to see familiar faces from a previous conference in

## Bridging Distances in Education: A Journey of Transformation and Collaboration

By Dr Thazin Lwin (Retired Pro-Rector, West Yangon University)



Distance learning often utilizes tools like video conferencing software, online forums, and collaborative document editing tools to facilitate interactive and engaging educational experiences. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE / SHUTTERSTOCK**

Indonesia, and our reunion provided a warm, friendly atmosphere despite being the sole representative from Myanmar.

The next morning, after a quick breakfast, I attended the conference's inaugural session in the Crystal Hall. My scheduled presentation followed quickly, leading to additional responsibilities like chairing and moderating sessions. The engagement with colleagues from various backgrounds proved invaluable as we exchanged insights and advice.

A significant concern addressed during the conference was the historical decline in educational quality in Myanmar, linked to political instability since the 1960s. Recent political changes have renewed attention on education as a vehicle for national development, prompting YUDE to broaden its scope and adapt to contemporary educational demands. The transformation aims to provide

more engaging learning experiences, though it is not without risks. Increased scrutiny invites criticism, and there's a potential regression to older teaching methods if not managed strategically.

Starting in 1999, YUDE has aimed to establish an open education system, leveraging information and communication technology (ICT) to enhance learning opportunities. Collaborating with the UK-based Transformation of Innovation by Distance Education (TIDE), YUDE has developed numerous online courses across various disciplines, such as public health and food safety. These initiatives aim to keep pace with modern educational standards and provide relevant, practical training for students.

During the AAOU meetings, I participated in discussions regarding the organization's future direction and potential partnerships. There

was enthusiasm about hosting the 35th AAOU Annual Conference in Myanmar, an opportunity that would showcase our educational advancements.

Reflecting on Myanmar's educational history, I recognized the country's pride in its past achievements, albeit marred by fluctuations in quality and accessibility. The need for transformative change was clear, emphasizing that education should remain a priority, even in a distance learning context. The commitment to making education more accessible and engaging for all remains a guiding principle.

In summary, the AAOU conference provided a platform for discussing the future of distance education, sharing best practices, and forming partnerships. The collaborative spirit among educators underscored the importance of collective effort in overcoming challenges in the educational landscape. The journey towards enhancing distance education in Myanmar is ongoing, driven by a shared vision of accessibility and quality for all learners.

At this point, I hope that by continuing to be a member of the AAOU and actively participating, Myanmar's distance education system can develop further to meet international standards and become a more advanced, internationally recognized system.

Hoping my wish comes true soon!

## Stuck in eternal drought, UAE turns to AI to make it rain

**I**N the marbled halls of a luxury hotel, leading experts are discussing a new approach to an age-old problem: how to make it rain in the UAE, the wealthy Gulf state that lies in one of the

world's biggest deserts.

Decades of work and millions of dollars have been ploughed into easing endless drought in the oil-rich UAE, whose mainly expatriate population is soaring

undeterred by a dry, hostile climate and hairdryer summer heat.

Despite the United Arab Emirates' best efforts, rainfall remains rare.

But at last month's International Rain Enhancement Forum in Abu Dhabi officials held out a new hope: harnessing artificial intelligence to wring more moisture out of often cloudless skies. Among the initiatives is an AI system to improve cloud seeding, the practice of using planes to fire salt or other chemicals into clouds to increase rain.

"It's pretty much finished,"

said Luca Delle Monache, deputy director of the Centre for Western Weather and Water Extremes at the University of California San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

"We're doing the final touches."

However, Delle Monache conceded that AI was not a "silver bullet" for the UAE, which like other countries has pursued cloud seeding for decades.

Cloud seeding works by increasing the size of droplets, which then fall as rain. It's estimated to increase rainfall by 10-15

per cent, Delle Monache said.

But it only works with certain types of puffy, cumulus clouds, and can even suppress rainfall if not done properly.

"You've got to do it in the right place at the right time. That's why we use artificial intelligence," he added.

### Prayers, applause

The three-year project, funded with \$1.5 million from the UAE's rain enhancement programme, feeds satellite, radar and weather data into an algorithm that predicts where seedable clouds will form in the next



The UAE's population is concentrated in the coastal cities of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. **PHOTO: AFP**

six hours.

It promises to advance the current method where

cloud-seeding flights are directed by experts studying satellite images.

Hundreds of such flights occur annually in the UAE.

**SOURCE: AFP**



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar detains 168 illegal entrants

THE government is actively cracking down on online gambling and telecom fraud including other criminal acts in border areas. Authorities yesterday arrested 168 foreigners who illegally entered the Myawady-Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas via border routes passing some neighbouring countries including Thailand.

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

Kayin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Min Kyaw Thu and officials observed the repatriation processes, and data collection processes of 168 detainees yesterday.

From 30 January to 25 February 2025, the government arrested 2,538 foreigners who illegally entered the country, and 673 of them were transferred to their respective countries via Thailand, and the remaining 1,865 are also ready to be transferred.



Immigration and officials processing the detained undocumented migrants.

### Ms Nguyen Sinh Nga (Vietnamese)

A Chinese national Sai Cua whom I know online contacted me to work in the marketing field in Thailand and to negotiate salary in person. I arrived in Bangkok by flight from Noi Bar Airport in Vietnam on 8 Novem-

ber 2024. A Thai national took me to Mae Sot from Bangkok airport. Then, we passed a creek by boat. There, we arrived at Metta Lin Myaing's 100-acre site in Myawady by car. I worked in the marketing section with a computer at a Chinese man-owned Dang Chu company and

searched for the customers. I got 25,500 Thai baht per month.

### Mr Qiau Ke Ji (Chinese Taipei)

I completed my high school education. I worked in telecom fraud in the past. Then, I was contacted to work in illegal gold smuggling online in Bangkok

at 50,000 Thai baht. I left for Bangkok from Tai Zhong Airport on 23 March 2024. I spent a night at a hotel in Bangkok and proceeded to Mae Sot in a taxi driven by a Thai national. On arrival in Mae Sot, I crossed the river by boat and arrived at Metta Lin Myaing's 100-acre site in Myawady. I worked in telecom fraud at Chinese man Zhong Guo's Huan Ya company. I got 12,500 Thai baht a month.

### Ms Shi Rong Min (Chinese)

I have a university-level education. A Chinese national persuaded me via WeChat to work in illegal gold smuggling in Thailand at a high salary. So, I came to Bangkok by flight from Shai Bi Sian on 12 September 2024. On arrival at Bangkok, a Thai national took me to Mae Sot. There, I crossed a river by boat to Myanmar. I worked in telecom fraud at Chinese man Zhong Guo's Huan Ya company in Metta Lin Myaing 100-acre site in Myawady. I haven't received my salary. — MNA/KTZH

## Counter-argument to false information

### Subversive media spreads misinformation on Ayeyawady military conscription



MALICIOUS media outlets spread false news and fabricated stories, alleging that two children attending basic education school in Oogyitaw village, Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region, have been notified to serve in the military and that schools are collecting lists of students who are only months away from turning 18.

Regarding this news, a responsible official from the township people's military servants' summoning body stated that the news is entirely untrue. They explained that the People's Military Service Law specifies the age ranges of male and female conscripts, including skilled professionals, eligible for military service. It is understood that subversive media outlets are simply circulating false news and fabricated stories to incite and propagate misinformation regarding military service. — MNA/MKKS

This screenshot discloses misinformation.

## Mawlamyine Railway Station: Tickets require original CSCs

TRAIN tickets will be sold by original citizenship scrutiny card (CSC) only and any other documents including driving licence, approval letter and household list are not acceptable, Mawlamyine Railway Station announced.

Tickets for ordinary class are sold a day in advance, two tickets per purchase and upper-class tickets are sold three days in advance, two tickets per purchase, from 7 am to 3 pm daily, and an original CSC is essentially required. — MT/ZS



This photo reveals passengers purchasing tickets at Mawlamyine Railway Station.

# NATIONAL

## EVs, e-bikes import push to boost migrant remittances



This picture captures some imported electric vehicles on display.

THE Ministry of Commerce initiated a special programme allowing Myanmar citizens working abroad to import electric vehicles (EVs) and e-bikes if they send back part of their earnings to Myanmar through official financial institutions.

When Myanmar citizens including seafarers transfer their foreign salaries or earnings to the domestic banks, they are entitled to import one

EV whose value is equivalent to five per cent of the inward remittance per year.

This import policy is to enhance EV adoption and boost sales for environmental sustainability.

“If Myanmar workers including seafarers remit over US\$50,000 per year, they were allowed to import one electric vehicle or one electric motorcycle which is equivalent to five

per cent of the remittance. If an individual’s remittance does not meet the amount of the EV or electric motorcycle, they can import them collectively,” said an official of the ministry.

There are a total of 19 EV charging stations across three big cities, including four in Nay Pyi Taw, and five each in Yangon, Mandalay, and Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. — ASH/KK

## Mandalay plans 600+ lab tests for small businesses

THE Department of Small-Scale Industries in Mandalay Region has announced that over 600 laboratory tests will be conducted for small businesses producing food, consumer goods and cosmetics during the 2025-26 financial year.

Lab tests are being conducted to ensure the safety of food, consumer goods, and cosmetics from small businesses in Mandalay, checking for banned preservatives, moisture levels, microbes, and harmful chemicals. The department has planned to carry out a total of 630 laboratory tests in the upcoming 2025-26 financial year.

An official from the Department of Small-Scale Industries

stated, “Business owners must ensure that their products do not contain harmful chemicals or microbial contamination that could pose health risks to consumers. They need to conduct relevant laboratory tests on their products.”

In the 2025-26 financial year, a total of 630 laboratory tests will be conducted, including 419 chemical tests and 211 microbiological tests.

As of the third week of February in the current 2024-25 financial year, a total of 818 laboratory tests have already been conducted, consisting of 383 chemical tests and 435 microbiological tests. — ASH/KZL



Laboratory testing of food products is in progress.

## Buddha Garden and Relief Village construction in progress



This photo showcases a Buddha Garden and a volunteer relief village being built near milepost 203 on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

ACCORDING to the abbot of the Thabawa meditation centre Ashin Uttamasara, a volunteer relief village and a Buddha Garden are being built at the center near milepost 203 on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

The construction of the Buddha Garden has been underway since early 2024, and a charitable relief village is being established on 15 acres of land to the west of the garden for people facing living difficulties.

“We are starting to build houses as part of a voluntary relief village for those who are struggling to make a

living. In addition to the houses, we are planning to construct essential buildings such as a monastery, a religious centre, a meditation centre, a market, and a school. We will build houses for anyone struggling to make a living in this voluntary relief village. If you want to build your own house, we will also donate land,” said Ashin Uttamasara.

Currently, around 100 families from all over the country who are facing difficulties in living are being interviewed and screened, and some have already been granted permission to live in the village. — ASH/TH

## Thukha Dagon Housing: 171 buildings completed; 2,736 families moved in

IN the Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing Project, located in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon, a total of 171 buildings have now been completed, providing accommodation for up to 2,736 families, according to reports.

The Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing Project spans 181 acres and is planned to include 272 four-storey, sixteen-unit buildings. Of these, 171 buildings have already been completed, it has been learnt.

To ensure the convenience of residents who have won the housing lottery and currently reside in the estate, a variety of facilities are being developed. The development includes a five-acre bus terminal, a social welfare centre, a water distribution station, a basic education school, a modern market, and commercial spaces for business activities.

The Yangon Region government is funding the project, with the Department of Urban and Housing Development overseeing the construction of the road network



This photo captures apartments at the Thukha Dagon Housing.

and all buildings. The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is responsible for water supply, sanitation, and market construction, while the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation ensures the provision of electricity services within the designated timeframe.

Located in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, the Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing Project is designed for easy accessibility, with a direct connection to Road No 2 and proximity to the Yangon Ring Road, facilitating smooth transportation, it has been reported. — ASH/MKKS

# ECONOMY WORLD



PHOTO: KYODO

## Japan's ex-top currency diplomat Kanda takes office as ADB chief

*Kanda aims to advance the ADB's mission by promoting sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth and addressing pressing development challenges.*

JAPAN'S former top currency diplomat Masato Kanda assumed office on Monday as president of the Asian Development Bank, the Manila-based international lender said.

As its 11<sup>th</sup> president, Kanda

vowed to advance the "ADB's mission to promote sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth" and "respond to pressing development challenges". He succeeded Masatsugu Asakawa, another former senior official of Japan's

Finance Ministry.

Japan, a leading shareholder in the ADB along with the United States, has supplied the bank's chief since the institution was established in 1966 to eradicate extreme poverty and support

development in the Asia-Pacific region. Kanda will serve the remaining term of Asakawa until 23 November 2026.

During his tenure as vice finance minister for international affairs, Kanda was behind massive market interventions by Japan aimed at stemming the yen's sharp decline against the US dollar and other major currencies. He left the post in July after serving for three years. — Kyodo

## China's new visa-free policy for ASEAN tour groups boosts tourism



Tourists from a tour group, the first one from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states since China introduced its new visa relaxation policy, pose for photos in front of the Xishuangbanna railway station in Jinghong city, Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture, Southwest China's Yunnan province, 18 February 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

ON Friday, a group of 15 tourists from Thailand and Laos wrapped up their four-day trip to Southwest China's Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture, boarding the China-Laos Railway for their return journey.

It is the first tour group from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states to travel to the prefecture since China introduced its new visa relaxation policy. Since 10 February, tour groups from ASEAN countries have been allowed to visit Xish-

uangbanna, a popular tourist destination in Yunnan province, without a visa for up to six days.

China and ASEAN have long been key tourist markets for each other. Official data showed that in 2024, Xishuangbanna received 319,500 overseas visitors, a year-on-year increase of 264.67 per cent. Laos, Thailand and Myanmar were the top contributors.

This visa exemption policy marks the start of a new chapter in cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and ASEAN, said Qi Xiaobo

from the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, adding that it signals China's dedication to strengthening ties with the regional bloc.

"Still want more," Somnam Sithone, a Lao tourist in the group, said after visiting Xishuangbanna Virgin Forest Park. He also experienced a 7D movie featuring the Mekong River. "It is a perfect blend of nature and technology. I hope to explore more places in China." — Xinhua

## Mexico president hopeful of deal this week to avert US tariffs

MEXICO'S president said Monday she was optimistic about reaching an agreement with Donald Trump this week to avoid sweeping US tariffs, hinting at possible levies on Chinese goods to secure a deal.

Claudia Sheinbaum said talks with Washington would continue this week in an effort to avoid the 25 per cent tariffs that Trump agreed on 3 February to "pause" for a month.

Teams from Mexico's economy and finance ministries are in Washington and if necessary Sheinbaum said she would speak with Trump again by phone, adding: "Whatever it takes to reach an agreement." Asked about a Bloomberg News report that the

United States was pushing her government to impose duties on Chinese imports, Sheinbaum said it was important to "prioritize those places where you have trade agreements versus others where you do not have them".

"We do not have a free trade agreement with China, for example... So that's part of what is being worked on in this working group," she added.

Both Trump and Canadian officials have accused Mexico of being a gateway for Chinese products coming into North America.

In an apparent bid to ease those concerns, Sheinbaum recently presented a plan to replace Chinese imports with domestically produced goods. — AFP



Mexico faces mounting pressure from Washington to do more to curb illegal flows of migrants and drugs, particularly fentanyl.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## Confusion reigns as US federal workers face Musk job deadline

EMPLOYEES of the US federal government on Monday faced a deadline imposed by Elon Musk that required them to explain their work achievements in an email or potentially lose their jobs. The demand represents the latest challenge from Musk against government workers as his Department of Government Efficiency

(DOGE) works towards gutting federal staffing and spending. DOGE is a wide-ranging entity run by the tech entrepreneur and world's richest person, though its cost-cutting campaign has faced increasing resistance on multiple fronts, including court rulings and some pressure from lawmakers. — AFP



People hold signs during a protest against the administration of US President Donald Trump in Detroit, Michigan, on 22 February 2025. PHOTO: AFP

## Shanghai rolls out three-year plan to promote tourism

*The plan aims to establish Shanghai as China's primary entry point for inbound tourism and a world-renowned tourist city.*

EAST China's Shanghai Municipality has introduced a three-year action plan starting in 2025 to promote the high-quality development of the city's tourism industry.

The action plan has six aspects covering 21 key tasks, all aimed at establishing Shanghai as China's primary entry point for inbound tourism and a world-renowned tourist city.

The plan highlights the development of world-class theme parks, an international cruise tourism resort, and an eco-tourism hub, along with the deepening integration of culture and tourism.

Technology and investment will play an even



A clerk processes a payment with a shopper's Shanghai Pass multipurpose prepaid travel card at the gift shop of Shanghai Museum in east China's Shanghai Municipality on 22 May 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

bigger role in the development of tourism-related consumption scenarios, according to the action plan.

Official data showed

that the number of annual tourists to Shanghai has surpassed 300 million in recent years.

During the 2025 Chi-

nese New Year holiday, Shanghai welcomed 17.78 million visitors, a year-on-year increase of 6.08 per cent. — Xinhua

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Jingbo Agrochemicals Technology Co.,Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **TPT Yee Shinn (Agriculture) Co.,Ltd** to **Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Acumen 100 EC	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 10% EC	Full Registration	F2024-4586

Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd  
Tel: 09-784772103

### Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of pesticide registered by **Hanearl Science Ltd. (Korea)** is changing from **Hanearl Science Ltd. (Myanmar)** to **Y Agro Solution Co., Ltd**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection division, West Gyoe Gone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type and No.
1	Konan Gold 15 WP	Emamectin benzoate 5%+ Lambda-cyhalothrin 10% WP	Full 2022-3987

**Hanearl Science Ltd. (Myanmar)**  
No.75, Yangon-Insein Road, 9 Ward, Hlaing Township, Yangon

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB507A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB507A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-2-2025** 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 GENESIS VOY.NO. (252N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (252N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-2-2025** 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 PIRA BHUM VOY.NO. (621S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PIRA BHUM VOY.NO. (621S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-2-2025** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD



A contingent of Indian women peacekeepers, the country's largest single unit of female troops in a UN mission since 2007, arrives in Abyei to begin its deployment with the United Nations Interim Security Force.

PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ ANI/FILE

## Conference for Women Peacekeepers from Global South kicks off in New Delhi

*The conference, themed "Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective", took place on 24-25 February 2025, at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, India.*

THE first-ever Conference for Women Peacekeepers from the Global South, themed "Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective" is being organized from 24-25 February 2025, at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

The event was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and

the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK), as part of India's ongoing commitment to strengthening gender inclusivity in peacekeeping missions, and as a leading voice of the Global South.

The conference brought together women peacekeeping officials from 35 leading Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) from the Global South, senior policymakers from the United

Nations, and experts associated with peacekeeping, the MEA noted. The opening session saw the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar deliver the Key Note Address. Other speakers included Tanmaya Lal, Secretary (West), Lt-Gen NS Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Vice-Chief of Army Staff and Lt-Gen Rakesh Kapoor, AVSM, VSM, Deputy Chief of Army Staff. — ANI

### BRIEF: WORLD

#### S Korea court holding final hearing of Yoon's impeachment case

SOUTH KOREA'S Constitutional Court is holding the final hearing Tuesday on President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment over his brief imposition of martial law in early December.

Yoon will have a final opportunity to defend himself before the court, which is widely expected to rule on his impeachment or reinstatement by mid-March. The court has held 11 hearings since January after the National Assembly passed an impeachment motion against Yoon on 14 December. The motion, submitted by opposition parties, alleged that Yoon imposed the decree without meeting constitutional requirements, such as signs of war or a comparable national crisis.

The president has defended his actions, saying the martial law declaration, which lasted only six hours from the night of 3 December before being rescinded, was a reasonable measure intended as a warning to the main opposition Democratic Party. — Kyodo

#### Japan ruling bloc, small opposition party reach deal to pass budget

JAPAN'S ruling coalition and a small opposition party on Tuesday formally agreed on measures to ensure free high school education and advance social security reforms, clearing a major hurdle for enacting the state budget for the next fiscal year.

The agreement marks the culmination of efforts by Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito party to win over the Japan Innovation Party, which has hinted at supporting the government's budget plan if its requests are met. — Kyodo

#### Ailing pope works on saints from hospital as Catholics pray for recovery

POPE FRANCIS has approved the canonization of two new saints from his hospital bed, the Vatican revealed on Tuesday, as the 88-year-old pontiff, who has pneumonia in both lungs, works through his recovery.

Despite his critical condition, the leader of the world's nearly 1.4 billion Catholics has striven to keep up with Church matters during his now 12-day stay in hospital, as believers across the globe gathered to pray for him.

After revealing a "slight improvement" in the Argentine pope's condition Monday evening, the Vatican said Tuesday he had received the Vatican's secretary of state the day before, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and his number two, Venezuelan Archbishop Edgar Pena Parra. — AFP



Harbin Ice-Snow World, the largest theme park of its kind in the world, is set to close Wednesday night as temperatures rise. PHOTO: XINHUA

## World's largest ice-and-snow park to close as temperatures rise

HARBIN Ice-Snow World, the largest theme park of its kind in the world, is set to close Wednesday night as temperatures rise, organizers announced Monday.

By Sunday night, the 64<sup>th</sup> day of its 26<sup>th</sup> edition, the park had clocked up 3.47 million visits.

Situated in Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang Province in northeast China known as the "city of ice", this year's park was

constructed with 300,000 cubic metres of ice and snow.

Beyond its artistic ice sculptures, the park boasts a range of interactive winter attractions, including a snowflake ice maze, ice rinks, and a massive ice slide.

Recent seasonal temperature increases in Harbin, with highs surpassing zero degrees Celsius, have heightened the risk of outdoor ice melting. To

ensure year-round enjoyment, the world's largest indoor ice-and-snow theme park will reopen on Thursday after undergoing renovations. Located within Harbin Ice-Snow World, the facility, which was completed in July 2024, began its upgrades on 30 January and promises a unique ice-and-snow tourism experience for visitors in the spring, summer, and autumn seasons. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## IOC extends Worldwide Olympic Partnership with AB InBev



THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced on Monday that brewing company AB InBev has extended its Worldwide Olympic Partnership (TOP Partnership) through 2032.

Initially signed in January 2024 for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, the partnership now includes both the 2030 Winter Olympics in the French Alps and the Brisbane 2032 Olympics.

"We are raising a toast to already agreeing together with AB InBev to extend our Partnership until 2032. After experiencing their first Olympic Games as a Worldwide Olympic Partner in Paris last summer, the AB InBev team impressed us - and delighted fans across the world - with amazing celebrations of the Olympic Games through their Corona Cero marketing campaigns,"

said IOC president Thomas Bach. "The Olympic Games Paris 2024 demonstrated the global importance and reach of the Olympic Games and solidified what we already knew, and that is that beer and sports are better

together," AB InBev CEO Michel Doukeris said. "We are pleased to extend our relationship with the International Olympic Committee until 2032, and plan to continue activating the beer category to positively

### Official Partner

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced on Monday that brewing company AB InBev has extended its Worldwide Olympic Partnership (TOP Partnership) through 2032. **PHOTO: OLYMPICS**

engage sports fans while helping to create a future with more cheers," he added. — Xinhua

## Myanmar boxers display grit despite losses at Benkei Tournament

MYANMAR boxers suffered losses in the Benkei Boxing Tournament, organized by the World Boxing Council (WBC) and the Japan Boxing Commission, which took place in Osaka, Japan, at 2 pm (Japan Standard Time) on 24 February.

In the bouts, Naw Bhone (Myanmar) faced Ryoma Morimoto (Japan) in the 52-kilogramme category, Saw Lin Aung fought Ryoma Ndokoro (Japan) in the 53-kilogramme category and Gingshar Mon competed against Choi Young Doo (Japan) in the 60-kilogramme category. All three Myanmar boxers lost on points.

Following the tournament, Japan's promoters and commissioners recognized the efforts of the Myanmar fighters. Despite the defeats, the Myanmar boxers delivered strong performances and aim to continue competing with improved preparations.

Myanmar Boxing Commission officials including Chairman U Wunna, Coach U Yan Win Kyi and member U Than Soe Aung accompanied the three fighters to the event. — Arkar Linn/KZL



Gingshar Mon (Myanmar) competes against Choi Young Doo (Japan) in the 60-kilogramme category.

## Myanmar to face host Nepal today



Myanmar women's national football team competing in the Nepal Four Nations Invitational Competition. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE final match of the Nepal Four Nations Women's Invitational Competition will be held today at 6:45 pm Myanmar Standard Time. The Myanmar women's national football team will compete against the host Nepal women's team.

Both teams have advanced to the final undefeated in their group-stage

matches. Their previous encounter ended in a 2-2 draw. The competition followed a round-robin format, with Myanmar defeating Lebanon 3-1, Kyrgyzstan 5-0 and Nepal securing wins over Kyrgyzstan 1-0 and Lebanon 1-0. With seven points each, Myanmar finished top of the group due to a better goal difference.

This competition serves as part of Myanmar's preparations for three major international tournaments scheduled for this year. The Myanmar women's team, led by head coach Yuki Takasawa has included both seniors and newcomers. The coach has fielded a different lineup in all three group-stage matches. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Myanmar's Sonrat to compete in ONE Friday Fights 98

MYANMAR fighter Sonrat is set to compete in the ONE Friday Fights 98 event, which will take place in Thailand on 28 February.

Sonrat will face French-Algerian fighter Ouraghi in his first fight of the year. This will be Sonrat's tenth fight under ONE Championship, having won five and lost four of his previous nine bouts. He has been in strong form recently, securing victories in all four of his fights in 2024.

His rival Ouraghi has fought four times in the ONE Championship, winning only once and losing his last three consecutive fights.

The ONE Friday Fights 98 event will feature 12 bouts, with Sonrat versus Ouraghi fight scheduled as the tenth bout of the night. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Conference for Women  
Peacekeepers from Global  
South kicks off in New Delhi  
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# WORLD

## Countries lock horns over cash for nature at rebooted UN talks

*The conference leader warns that global polarization is hindering efforts to protect the planet and address biodiversity loss.*



Discussions in Rome will focus on resource mobilization, the financial mechanism, the monitoring framework, and planning, monitoring, reporting, and review mechanisms. **PHOTO: AFP**

**T**HE world's biggest nature conservation conference will restart on Tuesday after negotiations collapsed in disarray last year, with the head of the meeting warning that increasing global "polarization" was frustrating efforts to protect the planet.

More than two years after a landmark deal on nature — including a pledge to protect 30 per cent of the world's land and seas by 2030 — nations continue to haggle over the money needed to reverse destruction that scientists say threatens a million species.

Negotiators meeting at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in Rome this week are tasked with breaking a deadlock on funding between rich and developing countries that saw COP16 talks in Cali, Colombia end without agreement in November.

The leader of the UN negotiations, Colombian Environment Minister Susana Muhamad, said countries need to "substantially address these existential crises of biodiversity loss and climate change".

But she said progress in Cali was hamstrung by international rifts.

"Why do we have such polarisation around that issue?" she told a press conference on Monday.

"It has to do, I think in my perspective, with the changing landscape of power in geopolitics, and it has also to do with the requirements that armed conflicts are putting on finance of countries."

Muhamad did not mention specifics, but policymakers in wealthy nations are facing challenges from trade tensions to the war in Ukraine. — AFP

### COOPERATION DRIVES SUSTAINABILITY

## Russia open to US-Russian economic cooperation: RDIF Head

RUSSIA is open to US-Russian economic cooperation, which is key to increasing the sustainability of the global economy, Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) CEO and Special Presidential Representative for Investment and Economic Cooperation with Foreign Countries Kirill Dmitriev said on Monday.

"Russia is open to US-Russian economic cooperation and believes that such cooperation is key to increasing the sustainability of the global economy," Dmitriev said on social media. — SPUTNIK

## Construction of new nuclear power reactor starts in South China

THE construction of a new reactor forming part of a nuclear power project in the city of Lufeng in South China's Guangdong Province began on Monday, according to China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN).



A total of six reactors have been planned for the project. **PHOTO: CGN**

Adopting CAP1000, a third-generation pressurized water reactor design, the construction of the No 1 reactor will incorporate modular construction, digital building technologies and automated welding, among others, to enhance safety and economic efficiency.

A total of six reactors have been planned for the project. The construction of the No 5 and No 6 reactors began in 2022 and 2023, respectively, utilizing domestically designed third-generation Hualong One nuclear technology. Once all six reactors are fully operational, the project is expected to generate about 52 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. — Xinhua