

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar businesspeople invited to BRICS 2025 Global Agriculture Forum



BRICS 2025 Global Agriculture Exhibition and Forum that will take place on 5-7 May 2025 in Moscow, Russia, welcomes the participation of Myanmar businesspeople, companies and business delegates involved in the agriculture and food industry, according to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The exhibition will be held under the theme of Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development, to draft master strategies for bilateral cooperation and build momentum to sign agreements that will reap a fruitful result in the long term.

The BRICS 2025 Global Agriculture Exhibition and Forum is expected to attract high-ranking officials from Russia and over 15,000 visitors, with the participation of over 500 companies.

The exhibition will feature soil management for sustainable agriculture, pes-

ticide products for agricultural production, synthetic fertilizer, organic fertilizer, livestock machinery, machines utilized in processing ready-made meat products, water treatment factory and ventilation systems, equipment used in commercial fish breeding businesses, crop production and storage system, biofuel from organic waste, turning trash into organic fertilizer system, chemical composition of feedstuffs including fruits and vegetables, dairy products, feedstuffs, nuts and supplement.

The expo offers a VIP package for 25,000 Russian roubles per square metre and a package for foreign delegations for 30,000 roubles per square metre. That expo space is 50 by 150 square metres area that can accommodate about 70 10 by 10 square feet standard booths.

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PM's wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attends 21st Myanmar Women's Affairs Meeting

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Myanmar women triumph at Nepal Invitational Tournament

FIFA to launch nationwide school football education in 2025

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), basic football education will be introduced in basic education schools across Myanmar starting from the 2025 academic year as part of FIFA's initiative.

These basic football training sessions will be launched in Myanmar under FIFA's "Football For Schools" programme in 2025. The initiative is set to expand annually, reaching an increasing number of basic education schools across the country.

U Zaw Min Htaik, Director of Media and Communications at the Myanmar Football Federation, stated, "This programme will be implemented through a collaboration between FIFA, the Myanmar Football Federation, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. Football training applications containing fundamental coaching techniques will be distributed to schools, and teachers will incorporate them into physical education classes."

As part of the "Football For Schools" project, FIFA will provide over 40,000 Adidas footballs to the Myanmar Football

Federation. These footballs will be distributed to basic education schools participating in the programme. — ASH/KNN



Training session at the Summer Youth Football Camp.

NATIONAL

Collective Strength: Key to Sustainable Development Beyond Government Efforts

WHILE the government must spearhead comprehensive and equitable development of the Union, sustainable progress can only be achieved through the collective strength of its people.

(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)

Objectives of 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2025

- (a) To actively participate in serving three main functions of Tatmadaw national defence duty, training duty and public benefit duty upholding Our Three Main National Causes;
- (b) To steadfastly carry out measures for State development and genuine, eternal peace by ending the armed conflicts under the Constitution (2008) and NCA;
- (c) To protect the State and its citizens from dangers and provide sector-wise assistance for the safety and socioeconomic development of the people;
- (d) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw for the emergence of a Union based on democratic and federal systems after carrying out measures per the stipulations of the State of Emergency.

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Khaing Khaing Soe Deputy Director-General Department of Population Ministry of Immigration and Population	Director-General Department of Population Ministry of Immigration and Population
(2) U Khin Maung Hlaing Deputy Director-General Department of Consumer Affairs Ministry of Commerce	Director-General Department of Consumer Affairs Ministry of Commerce
(3) Dr Thant Sin Aye Deputy Director-General Department of Myanmar Nationalities' Languages Ministry of Education	Director-General Department of Myanmar Nationalities' Languages Ministry of Education
(4) Dr Mya Thanda Pro-Rector Meiktila University of Economics Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Meiktila University of Economics Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

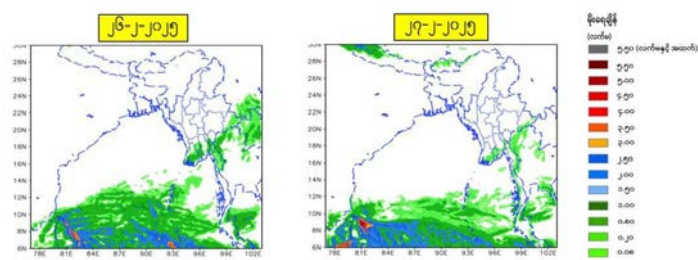
Untimely Rainfall Warning No 7

Issued at 6:30 pm MST on 26 February 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm 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 and the eastern disturbances, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, eastern Shan States during today evening upto 27 February 2025.

Advisory

People should be awared untimely rainfall accompanied with thunder, lightning and hails. — DMH



Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 26 February 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea, East Central Bay and South Bay, a few cloud over the West Central Bay and generally fair over the North Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 27 February 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, (southern and eastern)

Shan States. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region and northern Shan State and the generally fair in remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and

Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, (southern and eastern) Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 February 2025: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 February 2025: Partly cloudy and likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 February 2025: Generally fair weather. — DMH

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)

PM's wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attends 21st Myanmar Women's Affairs Meeting

DAW Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and Honorary Patron of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAFF), attended the opening ceremony of the 21st annual meeting of MWAFF, which was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the event, Chairman of the Myanmar Women's Committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win said the MWAFF is actively participating in women empowerment and protection measures as a member of the committee. Moreover, in implementing the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2023-2032), the MWAFF makes concerted efforts in international and regional women's affairs in addition to education, health, in the prevention of violence against women, resilience to natural disasters, women empowerment activities, natural environmental conservation and gender equality.

He continued that 11 vocational training schools are opened to uplift the capacity of women and run a proper business, and the trainings are conducted through school-based and community-based systems. Arrangements are also being made to launch vocational training courses for those living in temporary



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and Honorary Patron of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, views the photo records displayed at yesterday's event.

camp and IDP camps in natural and man-made disaster areas. In the 2024-2025 financial year, 176 training sessions were completed with 4,222 trainees between April and January, and 594 were hired for employment.

He then highlighted the cooperation among the government, women's associations,

civilian organizations and partner organizations to develop the women's sector, and urged the attendees to cooperate to solve the challenges of women and young girls.

Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented first, second and third excellent awards in performance and coverage to chairpersons of women's

committees from Yangon Region, Bago Region, Shan State and special prize to Kachin State.

Honorary Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay, Union Minister Dr Soe Win, and patrons presented awards to chairpersons and secretaries of the region and state women's com-

mittees, including Nay Pyi Taw.

Finally, attendees posed for a group documentary photo and observed the recorded photos displayed at the event.

Afterwards, MWAFF Chair Dr Thet Thet Zin gave a speech at the 21st annual meeting of MWAFF. The annual meeting will last until 27 February. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

SAC Member attends new concrete road opening in Thankyolann village



A new concrete road in Thankyolann village, Ngapudaw Township, Ayeyawady Region was officially opened yesterday afternoon to mark the 63rd Farmers' Day.

State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, along with regional Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and the minister for Natural Resources participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The road, funded through the Village Development Project (VDP) for

the 2024-2025 financial year, measures 1,050 feet in length, 10 feet in width, and six inches in depth. Following the opening, the officials inspected the road and interacted with locals, presenting awards and cash to performers.

The SAC member and party then visited the local high school, where the SAC member encouraged students to focus on their studies and prepare for future responsibilities. They also pledged support to teachers and school staff and presented foodstuffs to students preparing for matriculation exams. They proceeded to the nearby indigenous community to observe their educational initiatives and provided food to the people. — MNA/KZL

SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung meet students during his inspection tours in Ayeyawady Region.

Rising job opportunities driven by international shipping demands

PRESIDENT Captain Soe Min Aung of the Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF) stated that international shipping lines have requirements for officers and other ranks, so it is easy to get a job if a person meets the qualifications.

Last year, the International Maritime Federation estimated that there will be a need for more than 300,000 seafarers in the next five years, and employees need just to meet the qualifications employers want.

"Last year, the International Maritime Federation estimated that there will be a need for more than 300,000 seafarers in the next five years. That is the number of workers needed to work on ships worldwide. When there are such requirements, if the Myanmar seafarers, officers and other ranks, meet the qualifications these employers want, they will get a job," he said.

Recently, an established company in the container shipping line ranked first to fifth in the world, has announced that it is recruiting hundreds of Myanmar officers and other-rank seafarers and that those who apply will be given jobs if they meet the qualifications specified by the employer. — MT/ZN

Govt Spokespersons' Workshop kicks off



The Workshop on Mastering Government Communication: Empowering Spokespersons for Effective Public Engagement in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE first day of the "Workshop on Mastering Government Communication: Empowering Spokespersons for Effective Public Engagement" was held yesterday morning at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The workshop saw officials from the Myanmar Press Council, trainers and representatives from ASEAN member states including Cambodia, Thailand, the Philip-

ines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos and Indonesia. Also present were representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and observers from Japan as well as officials from various ministries.

On the first day, representatives from ASEAN countries discussed the competencies and challenges of government spokespersons, their roles in different countries, media landscapes and

strategies for addressing misinformation and fake news.

Trainers then led discussions and practical exercises on public communication and research, audio editing, media engagement, interview techniques, key considerations in communication, handling classified information and crisis management.

The workshop, scheduled to run from 26 to 28 February is targeting to enhance the capabilities of government spokespersons in the ASEAN region. It seeks to foster effective communication between the media and government officials, improve message dissemination and strengthen public trust. The workshop also serves as a platform for sharing expertise and best practices in crisis management.

Organised by the Ministry of Information and the Department of Media Development, the workshop is part of an ASEAN Communication Committee initiative and is supported by the ASEAN Cultural Fund. — MNA/KZL

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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

Yoma low-cost housing attracts 28,000+ applicants



A general view of the Yoma low-cost housing and flat units.

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction received over 28,000 applicants to purchase Yoma low-cost housing apartment units and those who are eligible to buy them will be selected under the drawing lot system.

Under the supervision of

the Yangon Region government, 874 apartment units of Yoma low-cost housing were put up for sale for low-income people facing difficulty in owning a house, retirees and low-ranking civil servants, announced in state-run newspapers.

Over 30,000 application forms were sold between 13

and 21 February 2025 and over 28,000 of them were submitted before the deadline. A committee on selling houses screened applications and qualified applicants will be selected under the drawing lot system. The department will send a notification letter to those selected. — NN/KK

Approved electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port

ELECTRIC vehicles have been imported into Myanmar with the approval of the Steering Committee on National-Level Development for Electric Vehicles and Related Industries.

Among these are the Changan Eado electric vehicles from China, imported by Myanmar Arr Thit Man Motor Co Ltd, and the GAC Aion S Mei 580 vehicles brought in by Innogen

Myanmar Co Ltd. These vehicles have arrived at Yangon Port and have been officially cleared as per the relevant rules and regulations. — MNA/MKKS



New EV arrivals at Yangon Port.

Myanmar businesspeople invited to BRICS 2025 Global ...

FROM PAGE 1

Five representatives can enjoy expo participation, lunch and coffee, engagement in a forum, getting a taste of the latest menu and beverages, exchange and discussions, offering a visual display of their business through Display Screens, interview with media outlets, participation in the BRICS 2025 Catalogue and other interesting programmes.

For the package of foreign

delegations, exhibition space is 100-150 square metres area covering over 150 10 by 10 feet standard booths. Five representatives will enjoy the same benefits, plus becoming a food judge and advertisement of their products on display screens.

Interested Myanmar business people can contact the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 and email: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

Govt helps Myanmar citizen safely return from Saudi Arabia



Ma Ei Shwe Sin speaks out.

THE government of Myanmar has shown great consideration for its citizens facing difficulties abroad. Regardless of the circumstances, the relevant Myanmar embassies and consular offices, in coordination with the respective embassies, are working to ensure that citizens stranded overseas can safely and swiftly return to Myanmar.

In one such case, a Myanmar citizen, Ma Ei Shwe Sin, encountered difficulties while working in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The Myanmar embassy, working with relevant authorities of the Department of Immigration, ar-

ranged for her to be sent back to Myanmar. She was able to depart on the Riyadh-Muscat-Bangkok-Yangon flight on 25 February and arrived in Yangon at 10:33 am on 26 February.

The Myanmar government, through the efforts of the Myanmar embassies and consular offices, continues to assist its citizens abroad in distress, helping them return to Myanmar. The citizens and their families have expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the government, the embassies, and consular offices for their swift and supportive assistance. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Myanmar to host first Traditional Thanaka Beauty Contest in Bago



This image showcases a poster for the Myanmar traditional Thanaka beauty contest.

MYANMAR'S first-ever Traditional Thanaka Beauty Contest will be held in Bago Region from 8 to 14 March at the parking area near the Shwemawdaw Pagoda, according to the Association for Preservation of Traditional Sports and Cultural Heritage.

The competition will feature renowned artists from the film, music, and theatre industries as judges, while

well-known celebrities, social media influencers, comedians, and cultural enthusiasts are also expected to attend.

A festival committee member stated: "The first-ever Thanaka Beauty Contest in Myanmar will take place from 8 to 14 March, from 4 pm to 10 pm daily. The event is open to everyone and in addition to the contest, a Chinlone (cane ball) competition will also

be held. There will be a market fair, including the sale of pieces of Thanaka branches."

Alongside the Thanaka Beauty and Chinlone competitions, the festival will also feature traditional sports, cultural exhibitions, and a market fair. Attendees can enjoy live music performances by famous artists and DJ entertainment throughout the festival. — ASH/MKKS

'Happy Hotel' drama series to air on MRTV-4 and Pyone Play

THE Myanmar television drama series 'Happy Hotel' will be broadcast on MRTV-4 and Pyone Play application on 3 March, according to the series' director Maung Thi.

Written by Maung Nge Yin Thway, the script was developed by Nyi Nyi Ba Maung and Chindwin Maung, while directors Win Htut Oo and Thet Lwin Aung filmed the series in Pindaya, Shan State.

Director Maung Thi shared, "The storyline is mine. Maung Nge Yin Thway is my pen name. My friend Nyaung Nyaung and I worked together on this project. The series consists of 40 episodes and we had to film four episodes per week. It's a drama that aims to ease the audience's stress."

The cast includes Sopyay Myint, Htet Myat Aung, Thun Thitsa Zaw, Zhan Zhan Hantha, Mabel Moe Tain, Kan Pwint, Myita Myint Myat Hein, Buthee, Thwet Let, Super Lin, Myauk Shone and many supporting actors.

"Happy Hotel" will air Monday to Friday at 7 pm on MRTV-4 and Pyone Play starting 3 March. — ASH/KZL



Cast members of the 'Happy Hotel' series in action.

'Entitled Wives' premieres early March



This image showcases a poster for the film 'Entitled Wives'.

ACCORDING to lead actor Academy Min Oo, the film 'Entitled Wives' is set to premiere in early March.

Mae Min Bon handled the film's story, screenplay, and direction, while Moe Kaung Kin Film Production produced it.

Speaking about the film, Academy Min Oo shared:

"I accepted this role immediately because I liked the story. The plot revolves around a situation where, after the sons are no longer around, the daughters-in-law and grandchildren must handle the inheritance matters.

However, as the one leading the process, my character finds that they, in turn, take charge of me. Audiences will see me in a role unlike any I have played before, and the unique storyline will make it an engaging watch. I hope everyone comes to see it and enjoy the experience."

The cast of 'Entitled Wives' includes Academy Min Oo, Nyi Htut Kaung, Kyaw Htet Aung, Sithu Win, Hein Thiha, Academy Chaw Yadanar, Academy Chuu Lay, Phoo Sone, Shwe Thamee, Htet Htet Tun, and several supporting actors. — ASH/MKKS

Thai durians fly off shelves at fruit market

ACCORDING to the Mandalay Fruit Market, Thai durians are selling well in the market.

There are three types of Thai durians, and unlike the Myanmar durians, they have thicker flesh and are more expensive.

"The market for Thai durian is very good. There are three types: Phonma-

ni, Monhtaung and Channi. The taste is a little different. Thai durians are very thick-fleshed. Myanmar durians are thin-fleshed and sweeter. Myanmar durians are sold as whole fruits at K7,000-K8,000. Thai durians are sold as whole fruits in kilogrammes. The price and sales are better. They are available all year round. This is their season,"

said a Thai durian wholesaler at the Mandalay Fruit Market.

Thai durians are imported from Thailand or Tachilek and distributed through Yangon.

It is one of the best-selling fruits in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Aungban, Kalaw and Heho.

"We order it from Thailand and dis-

tribute it through Yangon. Some people from Tachilek also import it. Its markets include Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Aungban, Kalaw, and Heho. The market is good. The Myanmar durian is not yet available and will be available in March, April and early monsoon. Its varieties are Toungoo and Mawlamyine," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

Thanlyin realty market slows this month

THE Thanlyin property market has been slightly cool this month, according to township realtors' sources.

Despite reasonable price ranges, buyers are still considering buying houses and plots in Thanlyin, said a realtor.

"Transactions are a little cold. Even in the dry season, transactions in Thanlyin

Township are a little cold. Prices are not that high. They are reasonable. It must be a time when buyers are considering buying. People ask about plots with houses. But there are few transactions on the ground," said Ko Sai Lin, a real estate agent in Thanlyin.

In January, Thanlyin Township saw a surge in sales of affordable land plots

and houses, with properties worth around K 100 million being the most traded. There are affordable plots of land in Thanlyin Phayagon and Bogyokeya and sales were brisk last month in the Thilawa port area. — Thit Taw/ZN

This image shows entry signage to Thanlyin City.



CBM sells over CNY410,000 on 25 Feb

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 410,000 yuan on 25 February.

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.



Cars refuelling at a petrol station.

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, 13.8 million baht and 4.8 million 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

India resumes areca nut imports from Myanmar

MYANMAR'S areca nut received purchase orders from India again this year.

"This year, India has purchased so the supply went short in the local market. China is the biggest buyer. India's demand was low last year but resumed this year as usual. So, the areca nut supply becomes short in the local market," said Ma Thiri Aung from Mizzima areca nut trading in Mandalay.

Due to mounted orders for young areca nuts from China in previous years, the supply of dried areca nuts became rare and the price escalated.

"In previous years, the price of young areca nut was higher than that of dried areca nut, and this incentive encouraged farm owners to sell areca nuts in the young stage skipping the drying stage. As a result, dried areca nuts become rare and the price has surged this year," she added. — Thit Taw/ZS

Single-clove garlic trade continues to soar



The single-clove garlic is traded in Taunggyi.

THE medicinal single-clove garlic trade has been still on the rise when the supply is going to be short.

"Now, no more supply of single-clove garlic is left at other wholesale trading centres, I have just some remaining stock. Its reason already ended and all old supply had already run out. Among garlic, the single-clove garlic price is the highest. Its trade is pretty good, even becomes surged when the supply becomes limited. It has nationwide orders and Yangon is the main destination," said a garlic trader from Taunggyi Township.

The old supply of garlic has begun short and new garlics are going to be

harvested in March. Among different varieties of garlic, the single-clove garlic is used in making medicine and being a most-consumed culinary crop, its trade is good.

"New garlic, both single-clove and other garlic, will be dug around the end of March, just before Thingyan," she added.

Despite the rising price in January, the single-clove garlic trade has been still on the rise. Among orders for big-sized garlic, the majority are placed from Yangon. In September 2024, orders for the medicinal garlic mounted from Pyay. The single-clove garlic is also being transported to Nay Pyi Taw. — Thit Taw/ZS



This image showcases cut areca nuts for sale in the Mandalay market.

OPINION

Eliminate money laundering to benefit society

MONEY Laundering refers to the process of concealing or disguising the origins, ownership, location, or form of money, assets, and profits obtained through criminal activities, known as Proceeds of Crime (POC) or illicit funds, to avoid legal consequences and make them appear legitimate. This process involves the conversion or transfer of illicit funds with the intent to hide their illegal source.

Money laundering cannot occur on its own; it requires an initial criminal offence that generates illicit funds or assets, which are then laundered. Law enforcement agencies must conduct financial investigations to determine whether money laundering has taken place when addressing the original crime. In cases related to corruption, it is essential to conduct parallel financial investigations to identify any potential money laundering activities. Legal frame-

works and procedures should be established to strengthen financial investigations when probing corruption cases.

Unscrupulous individuals engage in money laundering for personal gain, causing financial instability, poverty, malnutrition, market manipulation, and other crimes that burden global societies. To build a prosperous society, everyone must collaborate with law enforcement agencies to eliminate money laundering. As any cases of money laundering are concerned with all global people, everybody has to inform relevant authorities about various actions of money launderers and their gangs to combat them in time.

The impact of money laundering extends beyond financial losses, leading to severe socio-economic consequences. With the advancement of technology, criminal activities have become more complex and challenging to investigate. Therefore, law enforcement personnel must receive adequate training to enhance their investigative capabilities.

Implementing the provisions of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) includes effective measures to combat money laundering. Collaboration between the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and relevant commissions is crucial for successfully tackling both corruption and money laundering.

In Myanmar, money laundering is used to financially support opposition groups against the government, expand businesses through illegal funds, and destabilize the country's financial system. Regardless of its purpose, money laundering exploits the socio-economic well-being of the people and undermines the economic sector. Due to its severe consequences, people from all walks of life face the situation without peace and stability, rising prices, an influx of counterfeit and low-quality products in the domestic market, increased financial crises, and a surge in transnational crimes. Thus, money launderers can be seen as inhumane, acting out of selfishness and greed without regard for others.

Unscrupulous individuals engage in money laundering for personal gain, causing financial instability, poverty, malnutrition, market manipulation, and other crimes that burden global societies. To build a prosperous society, everyone must collaborate with law enforcement agencies to eliminate money laundering. As any cases of money laundering are concerned with all global people, everybody has to inform relevant authorities about various actions of money launderers and their gangs to combat them in time.

OUR way of life has caused many serious environmental problems such as global warming and climate change. As a result, the world's ecosystems are changing faster than ever before. Take a moment and look at our surroundings - the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we live on. Millions of people are now inhaling polluted air, drinking impure water, and consuming contaminated foods. This means that we are experiencing many environmentally hazardous conditions. These issues are a result of pollution, which is now seen as a major hazard to our environment.

A link between pollution and the greenhouse effect

Pollution is directly linked to the greenhouse effect, which is actually responsible for life on Earth. The earth's atmosphere contains some minor gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, fluorinated compounds, and water vapour. These gases are called 'greenhouse gases' because they operate like the glass of a greenhouse. In other words, these gases act as a blanket in trapping some of the sun's heat and preventing it from escaping back into space. In this way, the planet's temperature is kept at a safe level (around 15.5° C). The problem is that the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is increasing because of human activities. As a result, the greenhouse effect is becoming stronger, and this in turn is making our planet warmer than usual. Thus, pollution is mainly responsible for many environmental problems, such as global warming and climate change.

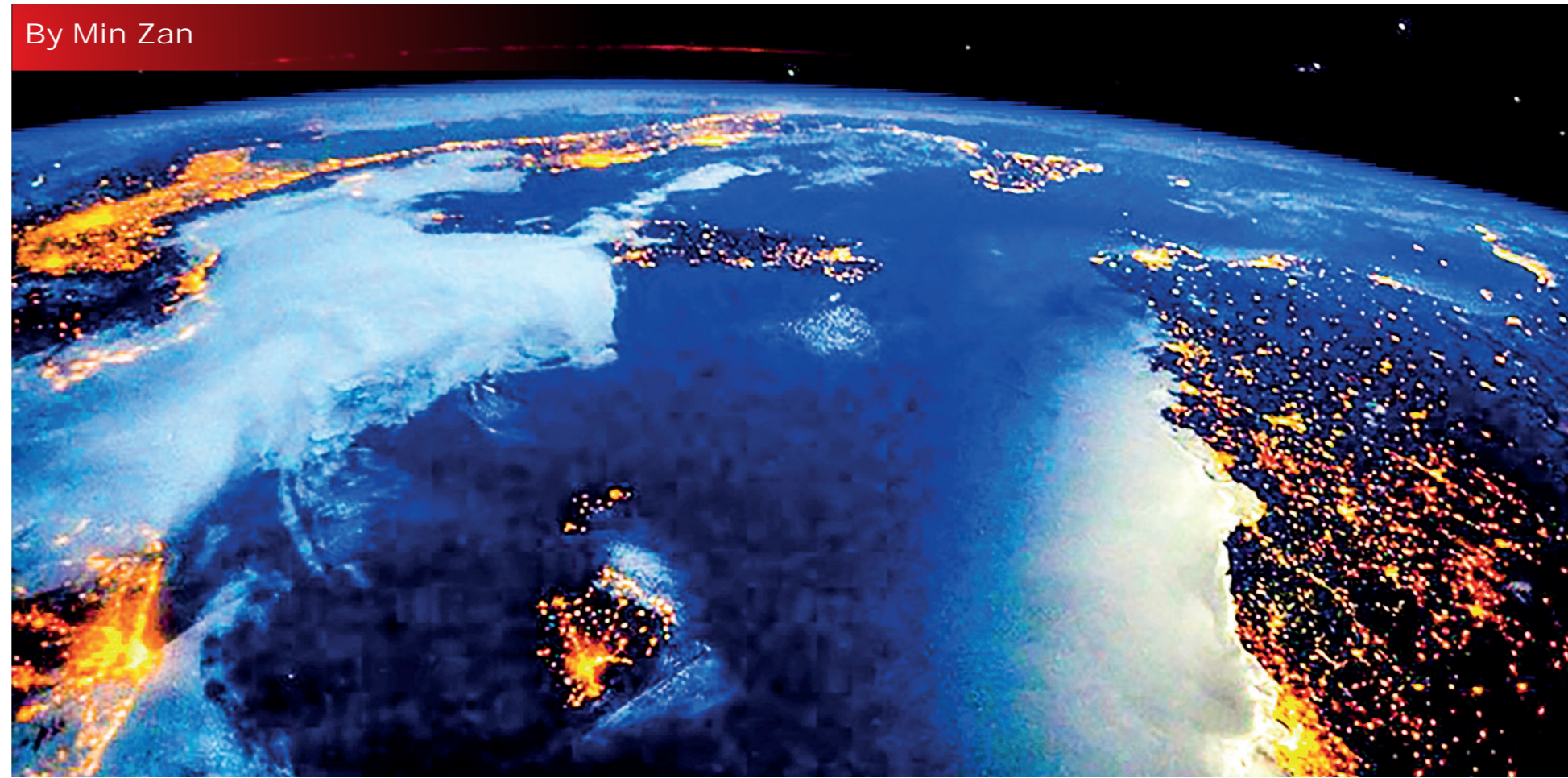
Environmental pollution can be classified into five major types: air, water, soil, noise, and light pollution.

Air pollution

Air pollution can be defined as 'the introduction of harmful substances into the air'. It occurs due to human activities such as fuel burning, logging, farming, mining, manufacturing, and construction of roads and buildings. It can also be caused by natural events such as wildfires and volcanic eruptions. All these sources of air pollution result in a rise in the amount of

The Tainted World and The Urgent Need to Combat Its Toxicity

By Min Zan



The world's ecosystems are changing faster than ever before. PHOTO: GOOGLE

greenhouse gases. This leads to an increase in global temperature, which brings about many environmental problems such as floods, acid rain, and ozone depletion.

With the rise in global temperature, the ice at the poles melts and sea levels rise, flooding many coastal regions and leading to loss of property and life. Acid rain is one of the consequences of air pollution. It occurs when smoke and fumes from traffic and factories mix with the water in the atmosphere. When this mixture falls back to the ground, it harms not only humans and wildlife but also buildings. The ozone layer that protects the earth from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. Ozone depletion occurs when some greenhouse gases like CFCs are released into the atmosphere, moreover, air pollutants can cause many severe health problems such as eye ir-

ritation, allergies, asthma, and lung cancer.

Water pollution

Water pollution is 'the addition of undesirable substances in water'. We use huge amounts of natural resources and produce too much waste, like mining waste, agricultural and industrial runoff, and human and animal waste. Water pollution occurs when these different types of waste are dumped into water bodies such as lakes, rivers, seas, and oceans. Polluted water includes toxic chemicals, bacteria, and sites, which can devastate the ecosystems of aquatic life. Water pollutants also cause some harmful diseases such as dysentery, diarrhoea, and cholera. According to the United Nations Programme, nearly 4000 children die every day from drinking impure water.

Soil pollution

Soil pollution means 'the

process of making the earth's topsoil contaminated with hazardous substances, such as fertilizers, pesticides, and wastes. The excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture leads to soil degradation. Moreover, many factories are disposing of their chemical wastes, which leak soil layers. Consequently, the fertility of the earth's soil is being degraded gradually. These chemicals contaminate the underground water, which will pose a serious risk to human health. Digital waste and rubbish from landfills are other causes of soil pollution. Deforestation is another significant factor that causes soil erosion. As a result of this, our planet loses millions of tons of topsoil each year. Trees keep the land fertile, but with fewer and fewer trees, the soil will be blown away by the wind or washed away by rain. And, unhealthy soil will intensify the existing threat of food and nutritional insecurity.

Noise pollution

Noise, commonly defined as 'unwanted or excessive sound' is another environmental pollutant. Noise pollution is born of urbanization, industrialization, and technological advances. The primary sources of noise pollution include construction sites, industrial areas, forms of transport such as automobiles, trains, aeroplanes, and cultural activities like festivals. Noise causes physical and psychological harm, and reduces the quality of life for those who are exposed to it. In response to loud noise, heartbeat, and respiration accelerate, blood vessels constrict, the skin pales and muscles tense. In the long run, noise can cause hypertension, hearing loss, and emotional problems such as depression, aggression, irritation, rati, and anxiety.

Light pollution

Light pollution is the over-

use or under-use of artificial outdoor light, and it causes problems to all living things. To understand this better, we need to be familiar with three terms: diurnal, nocturnal, and crepuscular. Diurnal means active during daytime; nocturnal means active during nighttime; and crepuscular means active during the twilight hours of dawn and dusk.

For example, some people find that they can work better during the day than during the night. Such people are diurnal. Animals such as lions, tigers, cows, deer, and birds such as crows, sparrows, kites, and eagles also are diurnal because they hunt for food during the day. On the other hand, there are some people who find that they work better during the night than during the day. Such people are nocturnal. So are leopards, cats, snakes, bats, and owls, because they are active during nighttime. Moths, some species of honey

bees, and a few species of bats and owls are active only during the hours of dawn or dusk. They are crepuscular.

The ill effects of light pollution are many. For instance, light that is too bright can damage our vision; so, does insufficient light. A bright light has been found to cause sleep disorders such as sleep deprivation which in turn causes stress, headaches, and increasing anxiety. Bright artificial night light has been found upset the food-hunting pattern of many nocturnal and crepuscular creatures.

To minimize the effects of environmental pollution, what should we do? What are the possible solutions to some environmental problems that come about as a result of pollution? We must reduce our use of fossil fuels and promote the use of friendly sources of energy like the sun, wind, and water. Although it is impossible to shut down factories, there should be stricter laws to prevent them from polluting the environment. Forests must be protected because trees take in carbon dioxide. Fewer fertilizers and pesticides should be used in agriculture. We should also try to produce less waste and recycle lots of things that we throw away. And we should be judicious in using light during the night as well as day. If we do not do something to combat pollution: a hazard to our environment, we will all be losers - with dire consequences to face.

Additional Considerations

Another important aspect of pollution is its economic impact. The rising cost of healthcare due to pollution-related illnesses places a heavy burden on governments and individuals. The damage caused to infrastructure by acid rain and flooding also leads to financial losses. Furthermore, pollution affects agriculture, reducing crop yields and leading to food insecurity.

Public awareness and education play a crucial role in combating pollution. Schools and communities should take part in environmental education programs to inform people about the dangers of pollution and the benefits of sustainable practices. Citizens should be encouraged to adopt environmentally friendly habits such as reducing waste,

conserving water, and using energy-efficient appliances.

The role of technology in reducing pollution is also significant. Innovations such as electric vehicles, renewable energy sources, and biodegradable materials can help minimize pollution levels. Governments and industries should invest in research and development to create greener alternatives to conventional processes that harm the environment.

Solutions to Environmental Pollution

To address environmental pollution, individuals, communities, and governments must take collective action. Here are some key solutions:

- ❖ Reduce Fossil Fuel Consumption: Transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ Stricter Environmental Laws: Governments should enforce regulations that limit industrial pollution and promote sustainable practices.
- ❖ Afforestation and Reforestation: Planting more trees can help absorb carbon dioxide and improve air quality.
- ❖ Waste Management: Recycling and proper disposal of waste can minimize soil and water pollution.
- ❖ Sustainable Agriculture: Reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides can prevent soil degradation.
- ❖ Public Awareness: Educating people about the dangers of pollution and encouraging environmentally friendly behaviors can lead to positive change.

If we fail to take immediate action against pollution, the consequences will be dire for future generations. Protecting the environment is not just an option - it is a necessity for the survival of our planet and all living beings.

I am now concluding my article. In fact, it is humans who build and develop the world of mankind. At the same time, it is also humans who destroy it. This is truly astonishing. Tigers and elephants are not the ones destroying the world, but rather, it is us humans who are responsible for its destruction. This realization is truly saddening. ■

NATIONAL

Myanmar detains 200 foreign nationals involved in illegal activities

THE government, in collaboration with international partners, has successfully uncovered and detained a further 200 foreign nationals involved in illegal activities such as online gambling and telecom fraud.

These individuals had crossed into Myanmar through border routes including Myawady Township, Shwe Kokko, KK Park area and Mehtawthale in Kayin State, where they were involved in criminal

activities.

The authorities have been investigating and gathering information about these foreign nationals and their details and records are being collected for proper repatriation to their home countries under international laws and procedures. The effort involves coordinated actions by relevant departments to ensure smooth transfers.

Minister of Security and Border Affairs of the Kayin State

government Col Min Thu Kyaw, along with other authorities ensures that the repatriation process is being carried out efficiently and the necessary actions are being taken to resolve outstanding cases.

As of 26 February 2025, Myanmar has detained a total of 2,738 foreign nationals who had illegally entered the country since 30 January 2025. Among them, 673 individuals have already been successfully repatri-



Immigration and officials processing detained foreign nationals.

ated to their respective countries via Thailand, while 2,065 individuals remain ready for swift

transfer. All detainees receive proper care until repatriation completion. — MNA/KZL

Terrorists commit mine blast on Yangon-Mandalay railway



Photos show mine blast damage and railway repairs.

TERRORISTS blew up the railway section at milepost 107/10-9 between Kyauktaga and Peinzalok railway stations on the Yangon-Mandalay railway in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region, at 10 pm on 25 February, causing the railway section between Kyauktaga and Peinzaloke temporarily closed.

The regional officials and

security forces members proceeded to the site promptly for inspection, and the MR staff replaced two destroyed rail tracks to reopen the railway section as quickly as possible.

After the maintenance, the railway section was reopened at 3:30 pm on 26 February.

Since 1 February 2021, these terrorist groups have

been implicated in 174 mining incidents and explosions within railway areas and stations, 80 blasts on railway bridges, and 16 instances of torching stations and employee housings. Their actions aim to destabilize the rule of law and endanger the safety of travellers, drawing widespread condemnation from the public. — MNA/KTZH

Male PDF member surrenders with arms in Sagaing

ON 23 February, unit commander Phoe Thingyan (aka) Tagu (son of U Chit Pe) from Company 9 of the Kalay District PDF terrorist group entered the legal fold with his one Type-81 gun, 125 bullets, three magazines and one grenade at the Tatmadaw station in Kalaywa township of Sagaing Region.

According to his confession, he attended terrorist training at Kalay District PDF terrorist group company-9 base about 1,350 metres from Oakpo village of Mawlaik township from 4 January to 21 March 2023. After the training, he served duties at that base and was promoted to deputy unit commander in April 2023. On 7 June 2024, he and his two fellows joined a 30-member PDF terrorist group in Taung Yar Te in Kwenan village in Kalaywa Township and scouted the Tatmadaw vessels in the

Chindwin River.

On 20 October 2024, he moved to another station where 50 terrorists were residing in Khawma village and on 19 February 2025, he moved to Htantabin station by Kalaywa-Aungchantha Road where 20 terrorists were residing.

He gradually understood the destructive actions of PDF terrorist groups like asking for money from people, bullying and murdering civilians unlawfully with weapons. He was determined to live in the framework of law and believed in the peace processes of Tatmadaw. Therefore, he surrendered the armed struggle line and entered the legal fold.

The authorities from Kalay station warmly welcomed him and provided him and his family with proper security measures. — MNA/KTZH



PDF member reintegrates into legal fold.

Counter-argument to false information

Media alleges security forces torched villages in Myaing

MALICIOUS media outlets are spreading false reports that security forces set fire to houses in Kyaunggon and Thanpayachan villages in Myaing Township, Magway Region, and that 30 houses were destroyed by the fire.

Regarding the news, a relevant security official stated that security forces are protecting the lives, and

property of the public while carrying out their duties under the law to maintain peace and stability in the region. The terrorists, however, do not seek peace and stability in the area. Instead, they are forcibly extorting money and recruiting new members from the local population, who are living peacefully. They are also burning down the prop-

erty of residents in townships and villages that do not comply with their demands, using various pretexts to instil fear and force obedience. Subversive media outlets are fabricating and distributing false information with intent to mislead the public, blaming the security forces for covering up the inhumane actions of the terrorists. — MNA/TH

Christie's first-ever AI sale angers some artists

Nicole Sales Giles, Christie's head of digital art sales, noted the increasing presence of AI in daily life.

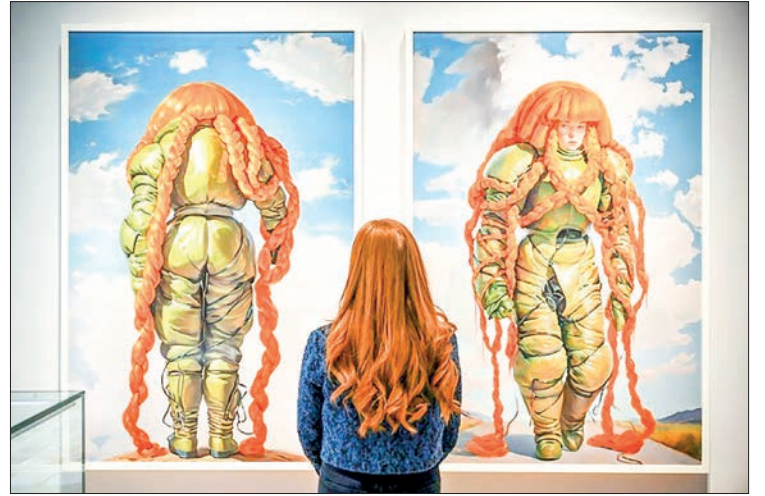
CHRISTIE'S has launched its first-ever sale dedicated to artworks created with artificial intelligence, riding the AI revolution wave — a move by the famed auction house that has sparked anger among some artists.

The sale, titled "Augmented Intelligence", features about 20 pieces and runs online until 5 March. Christie's, like its competitor Sotheby's, has previously offered AI-created items but had

never devoted an entire sale to this medium. "AI has become more prolific in everybody's daily lives," said Nicole Sales Giles, Christie's head of digital art sales.

"More people understand the process and the technology behind AI and so are more readily able to appreciate AI also in creative fields," she said. The launch of ChatGPT in November 2022 transformed public perceptions of generative artificial intelligence

and opened new possibilities for its widespread use. The market is now crowded with AI models that allow users to generate drawings, animated images or photo-realistic images through simple natural language requests. The use of algorithms in the art world, it turns out, is almost as old as modern computing itself. Christie's is offering a work by American artist Charles Csuri (1922-2022) dating from 1966. — AFP



A person looks at AI artwork created by Holly Herndon and Mat Dryhurst called 'Embedding Study 1 & 2' (from the xhairymutantx series). PHOTO: AFP

Japan: Vietnamese influencer explores the charm of Fukushima



Vietnamese influencer Khoai Lang Thang recently explored Fukushima to showcase its winter beauty. PHOTO: ANI

SINCE the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, Fukushima has made a remarkable recovery, reclaiming its status as a popular tourist destination and attracting visitors from around the world.

Vietnamese influencer Khoai Lang Thang recently explored Fukushima to showcase its winter beauty.

Khoai Lang Thang, a Vietnamese influencer, said, "Hello. I am Khoai Lang Thang. I'm in Fukushima, Japan. In the middle of winter, the scenery looks absolutely stunning with heavy snowfall. From now on,

I'll be trying trekking, walking along the seashore, and enjoying delicious local food. Follow me on this adventure!"

The Vietnamese influencer experienced snowshoe trekking through 1.3 metres of snow — an exceptional sight, as such heavy snowfall returned this winter after an eight-year gap.

Rather than finding it difficult, he described the experience as thrilling and enjoyable.

At the Samurai Residence, visitors can immerse themselves in the way of the samurai and gain insight into their lifestyle and philosophy. — ANI

South Korea births rose last year on surge in marriage

THE number of births in South Korea rose last year for the first time in more than a decade on the back of a rise in marriages, officials said on Wednesday, bucking a trend for a country battling a demographic crisis.

South Korea has one of the world's longest life expectancies and lowest birth rates — a combination that presents a looming demographic challenge.

Seoul has poured billions of dollars into efforts to encourage women to have more children and maintain population stability.

The crude birth rate — the number of babies born per 1,000 people — was 4.7, interrupting a continuous downward trend since 2014,

according to preliminary data from Statistics Korea.

And the fertility rate, or the average number of babies a woman is expected to have in her lifetime, was 0.75, "up 0.03 from 0.72 in 2023", it said.

"The number of births in

2024 was 238,300, an increase of 8,300 (3.6 per cent) from the previous year," the report added. Park Hyun-jeong, an official from Statistics Korea, attributed the rise to an increase in marriages as well as shifting demographics. — AFP



Seoul has poured billions of dollars into efforts to encourage women to have more children and maintain population stability. PHOTO: AFP

Karla Sofia Gascon confirmed to attend Oscars despite controversy

OSCAR-NOMINATED actor Karla Sofia Gascon has confirmed her attendance at the upcoming Academy Awards on Sunday at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

According to Deadline, sources close to Gascon who have won an Oscar nomination

for her role in Jacques Audiard's musical 'Emilia Perez', have confirmed that Netflix will cover her expenses to attend the prestigious ceremony.

Gascon's invitation to the Oscars had initially seemed uncertain due to recent con-

troversies surrounding offensive social media posts from 2020 and 2021.

The tweets, which included insensitive remarks on various subjects such as Muslims, George Floyd, and the Black Lives Matter movement, led to widespread backlash. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Chinese hybrid rice thrives in Philippines, enhancing food security

Chinese hybrid rice has increased yields by over 30% for some farmers, contributing to improved food security.



Photo taken on 17 February 2025 shows a sign for Longping High-Tech's hybrid rice LP937 erected in a vast rice field in the Nueva Ecija province, the Philippines. **PHOTO: NIE XIAOYANG/XINHUA**

EVERY day, 98-year-old Melencio Maniego walks the narrow earthen banks between his 16-hectare rice fields to inspect his crops.

"I've planted Chinese hybrid rice for over a decade," the Filipino said, gazing across the green and yellow paddies in Central Luzon, dubbed "rice granary of the Philippines".

Rice is a staple in the Southeast Asian country, and Chinese hybrid rice has gained trust among local farmers for its high yield and resilience against diseases and strong winds. "We believe in China's advanced farming technology and expertise," Maniego said.

Maniego was among the first in Victoria town, Tarlac province, to adopt hybrid rice developed by Longping High-tech, a Chinese agricultural company named after Yuan Longping, affectionately known as the "father of hybrid rice". "Since using Chinese hybrid rice, my yield has increased

by over 30 per cent," he said with a thumbs-up. As the world's top rice importer in 2024, the Philippines faces pressure to boost domestic production. "There's huge potential for agricultural cooperation between China and the Philippines," said Guo Xiaobo, head of Longping High-tech Philippine R&D Center.

Guo, who has worked in the Philippines for nearly a decade, said his team concentrates on developing high-yield, disease-resistant rice varieties. The centre operates 200 mu (about 13.3 hectares) of experimental fields in Nueva Ecija province, home to the Philippine-Sino Centre for Agricultural Technology (PhilSCAT).

Inside the PhilSCAT's lobby, a mural depicts two doves flying towards a shower of rice grains. Nearby brass plaques in Filipino and Chinese languages highlight the centre as a symbol of bilateral cooperation. — Xinhua

Apple says to invest \$500 bln in US as Trump tariffs bite

APPLE said on Monday it will spend more than \$500 billion in the United States over the next four years and hire 20,000 people, with President Donald Trump quickly taking credit for the announcement.

The Silicon Valley-based giant said it was its "largest-ever

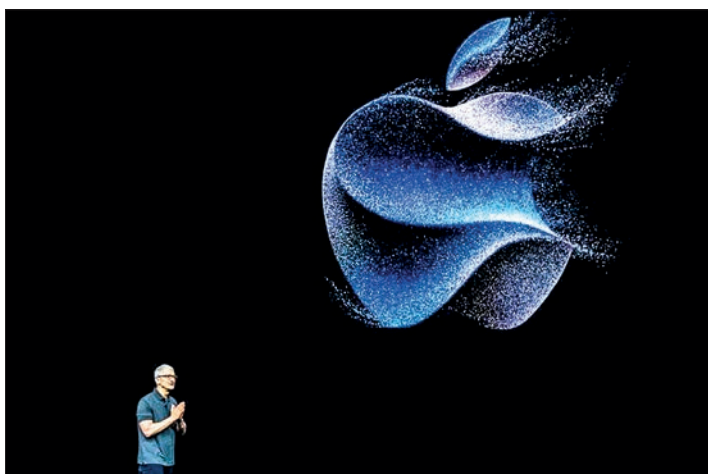
spend commitment," which comes as tech companies battle for dominance in developing artificial intelligence technology.

The pivot to the US comes as Apple is increasingly under pressure from Trump's trade battles with China, which re-

mains the iPhone giant's main manufacturing hub, and could be slapped with higher import tariffs by Washington.

Trump, who has pushed US companies to shift manufacturing home, claimed that his administration was to thank for the investment.

"The reason, faith in what we are doing, without which, they wouldn't be investing ten cents. Thank you Tim Cook and Apple!!!" Trump wrote in capital letters on his Truth Social platform. The plan is essentially an acceleration of plans announced in 2021, when the company founded by Steve Jobs said that it would invest \$430 billion in the US and add 20,000 jobs over the next five years. The announcement came days after Trump and Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook met in the Oval Office. — AFP



Apple said its 20,000 new hires would mostly focus on research and development, silicon engineering, software development, and AI and machine learning. **PHOTO: AFP**

E-commerce booms in Cambodia



"Cambodia's emerging e-commerce market accounts for only four-five per cent of gross domestic product (GDP)," the report said. **PHOTO: ASEAN BRIEF**

CAMBODIA'S market value of e-commerce was estimated at US\$1.51 billion in 2024, up from \$1.29 billion in the year before, a report said on Tuesday.

The report said that e-commerce revenue in the Southeast Asian country will reach \$1.78 billion in 2025.

"Cambodia's emerging e-commerce market accounts for only four-five per cent of gross domestic product (GDP)," the report said.

It added that e-commerce

revenue was mainly from food and groceries, fashion, electronics, beauty and cosmetics, healthcare, media and entertainment, and ride-hailing, transport and logistics, among others. Facebook and TikTok have reshaped Cambodia's sales and advertising landscape, empowering businesses and driving online commerce for both big corporations and local small and medium-sized enterprises, the report said. — Xinhua

ANA to buy 77 jets in its largest single order amid inbound demand

ANA Holdings Inc said Tuesday that it plans to purchase a total of 77 aircraft from Boeing Co, Airbus SE and Embraer SA, marking the largest single order ever for the Japanese company, worth about two trillion yen (\$13.4 billion), on the back of robust inbound demand.

ANA has positioned the strengthening of international routes as a key growth pillar.

While the firm refrained from buying additional aircraft amid the COVID-19 pandemic, it said it will "introduce cutting-edge planes for sustainable growth."



ANA has positioned the strengthening of international routes as a key growth pillar. PHOTO: KYODO

The order consists of 30 from Boeing of the

United States, 27 from Airbus of Europe and 20 from Embraer of Brazil. ANA said the group is

expected to own around 320 aircraft by the financial year ending in March 2031. — Kyodo

Assam to develop end-to-end semiconductor and electronic ecosystem in 5-10 years

ACTING proactively on the development of the manufacturing ecosystem in the state, Assam will develop an end-to-end semiconductor and electronics ecosystem in the state, said Ravi Kota, Chief Secretary of Assam. Speaking to ANI on the sidelines of Advantage Assam 2.0, Assam Chief

Secretary said, "So now the semiconductor electronic ecosystem we are going to develop an end-to-end from design to final products that has to happen in the next five to ten years."

"Accordingly, we have to work closely with the investors and the industry partners, vendors, and

our chief minister has that vision of developing such an advanced kind of technology manufacturing here," he added.

The Assam Chief Secretary further added that the Advantage Assam investor summit has witnessed renowned and major players willing to seriously invest in

the state. He added, "People are planning, signing the MOUs and the kind of buzz and vibrancy created by these two days programme. A large number of people, all serious players. I mean, you can't identify someone who has just come for the sake of just attending." — ANI

China's leading coffee province sees 358% surge in coffee exports in 2024

YUNNAN Province in southwest China exported 32,500 tonnes of coffee in 2024, marking a year-on-year increase of 358 per cent, according to customs authorities on Tuesday.

The coffee was exported to 29 countries and regions, including the Netherlands, Germany, the United States, and Vietnam, according to the customs of Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan.

To boost Yunnan's coffee exports, Kunming Customs has streamlined inspection, sampling and

quarantine procedures, and improved services for coffee export enterprises.

Statistics from the provincial agriculture and rural affairs department showed that, in 2023, the total coffee cultivation area in Yunnan reached approximately 80,000 hectares, producing 146,000 tonnes of raw coffee beans.

With over 130 years of coffee cultivation history, Yunnan dominates China's coffee industry, contributing 98 per cent of the country's total coffee production. — Xinhua



Tourists relax at a coffee manor in Pu'er, southwest China's Yunnan Province, 7 January 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (008N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (008N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-2-2025 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S K. NAVIGATE CO., LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V VTC DRAGON VOY.NO. (2501)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V VTC DRAGON VOY.NO. (2501) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-2-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301928</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTD LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V RASHA VOY.NO. (701-25)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V RASHA VOY. NO. (701-25) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-2-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MKH where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301928</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD</p>
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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Erosion of multilateralism threatens global stability: S Africa leader

The US absence, following a similar snub by Secretary of State Marco Rubio at a previous G20 foreign ministers meeting, highlighted tensions and challenges in international cooperation.

THE erosion of multilateralism threatens global growth and stability, President Cyril Ramaphosa warned Wednesday at a G20 finance meeting in South Africa marked by the absence of the US Treasury secretary.

Two days of talks by finance ministers and central bank governors from the world's leading economies opened a week after a meeting of G20 foreign ministers was snubbed by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who complained of its "anti-Americanism".

"The erosion of multilateralism presents a threat to global growth and stability," Ramaphosa said in his opening address.

"At this time of heightened geopolitical contestation, a rules-based order is particularly

important as a mechanism for managing disputes and resolving conflict," he said.

The G20, a grouping of 19 countries as well as the European Union and the African Union, is divided on key issues from Russia's war in Ukraine to climate change, with world leaders scrambling to respond to drastic policy shifts from Washington since the return of US President Donald Trump.

"Multilateral cooperation is our only hope of overcoming unprecedented challenges, including slow and uneven growth, rising debt burdens, persistent poverty and inequality, and the existential threat of climate change," Ramaphosa said. — AFP



President Cyril Ramaphosa addresses the opening of G20 finance talks. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trump to sell 'gold card' US visas for \$5 million

US President Donald Trump announced plans Tuesday to sell \$5 million "gold card" residency permits, a premium alternative to green cards, as a way to attract wealthy investors and reduce the national deficit.

US President Donald Trump unveiled plans Tues-

day to sell new "gold card" residency permits for a price of \$5 million each — and said Russian oligarchs may be eligible.

Trump said sales of the new visa, a high-price version of the traditional green card, would bring in job creators and could be used to reduce

the US national deficit.

"We're going to be selling a gold card. You have a green card, this is a gold card. We're going to be putting a price on that card of about \$5 million," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

The Republican president, who has made the deportation of millions of undocumented migrants a priority of his second term, said the new card would be a route to highly prized US citizenship.

"A lot of people are going to want to be in this country, and they'll be able to work and provide jobs and build companies," Trump said. "It'll be people with money."

Sales of the cards would start in about two weeks, Trump added.

The billionaire former real estate tycoon said that all applicants for the new gold cards would be carefully vetted. — AFP



US President Donald Trump speaks to the press alongside Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (L) and Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick (R) on 25 February 2025.

PHOTO: AFP

BRIEF: WORLD

29 dead due to hail, rain in Afghanistan: officials

Twenty-nine people died in two provinces in Afghanistan due to hail and heavy rain, officials said Tuesday.

"Twenty-one people were killed and six others were injured" because of hail in western Farah province, said Mohammad Israel Sayar, head of the province's Disaster Management Department.

The victims are members of two families who had gone for a picnic, he said.

In southern Kandahar, the local disaster management department said in a statement that eight people — including women and children — were killed in several locations due to heavy rain.

"Today, four women who were busy washing clothes were swept away by floodwaters... and only one woman survived," the statement said. — AFP

Soil bacteria outbreak kills 14 in Australian flood-hit state

A soil-dwelling bacteria has killed 14 people in Australia's flood-hit state of Queensland, officials said, as health experts investigate what caused the outbreak. Melioidosis, a rare antibiotic-resistant disease caused by bacteria found in soil or mud, often surfaces in tropical areas after heavy rain or flooding. While cases have occurred in Queensland in previous years, the state's Tropical Public Health Services director Jacqueline Murdoch said 2025 "absolutely is a record-breaking year".

"Certainly we haven't seen anything like this," she told national broadcaster ABC this week. — AFP

SPORTS

Stuttgart's Woltemade knocking at national team's doors

At first glance, it might be Nick Woltemade's unique combination of exceptional height and surprising technical skills that has made him a crowd-pleaser.

Ahead of VfB Stuttgart's crucial league encounter against Bayern Munich on Friday, the 23-year-old has won fans' hearts across clubs.

Standing at 1.98 metres, he has inspired nicknames such as "the two-metre Messi" or "Stuttgart's most impressive tower". But his popularity extends beyond his stature, as he embodies the dream of an against-all-odds career. Clips of him weaving through Wolfsburg's defence like a slalom skier in Stuttgart's recent match have

gone viral on social media.

While the Bremen-born striker challenges traditional expectations of a forward, his rise has taken time. Now, he appears to be on the verge of breaking into the German national team.

Reports suggest he has caught the attention of Germany head coach Julian Nagelsmann, with the next step seeming realistic after 11 appearances for the U-21 national team.

Having scored eight league goals and three in the German Cup - mostly as a substitute - he has surged into the spotlight. His humble demeanor and connection to common ideals have further endeared him to fans.

— Xinhua



Nick Woltemade is a German professional footballer who plays as a forward or attacking midfielder for Bundesliga club VfB Stuttgart. PHOTO: BUNDESLIGA

Myanmar women triumph at Nepal Invitational Tournament

Their performance at the Nepal tournament is a testament to their commitment and preparation for future challenges in regional and global tournaments.



Myanmar women's football team celebrating their championship victory. PHOTO: MFF

MYANMAR national women's football team yesterday claimed the championship trophy at the Nepal Four Nations Women's Football Invitational Tournament, hosted in Nepal.

Myanmar defeated the host Nepal with a dominant 2-0 victory in the final match. Both goals were scored in the second half with Yupa Khine finding the back of the net in 62 minutes and Win Theingi Tun adding another goal just three minutes later in 65 minutes, securing the win for Myanmar.

Throughout the tournament, team Myanmar displayed

excellent skill and teamwork. In the group stages, they faced Lebanon and Kyrgyzstan, winning both games comfortably. Myanmar defeated Lebanon 3-1 and beat Kazakhstan with a 5-0 scoreline, showcasing their offensive strength and defensive solidity. The only draw in the group stage came against Nepal, with the match ending 2-2. However, Myanmar's strong performance in the final secured them the title.

This championship win is an important milestone for Myanmar's women's football team, who previously won the Hero

Gold Cup in India in 2019. The victory also provides a morale boost as the team prepares for future international competitions, including the XXXIII SEA Games, where they aim to continue their strong run.

The Myanmar women's football team, composed of youths and veteran players continues to be a formidable force in international women's football. Their performance at the Nepal tournament is a testament to their commitment and preparation for future challenges in regional and global tournaments. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Erik ten Hag clashed with several senior players during his time as Manchester United manager. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

FORMER Manchester United manager Erik Ten Hag says modern footballers find it tough to deal with criticism and that his generation had "much thicker skin".

The 55-year-old, sacked in October after a poor start to the season, clashed with several high-profile players during his

tenure at Old Trafford.

Cristiano Ronaldo said he did not respect Ten Hag, leading to his exit from the club in November 2022, a few months into the Dutchman's reign.

The following year Jadon Sancho, now on loan at Chelsea, said he was being made a "scapegoat" as he responded on

social media after Ten Hag said he had dropped the England winger because of his training performances.

Ten Hag disciplined Marcus Rashford when the forward, currently on loan at Aston Villa, missed training after reportedly being spotted in nightspots in Northern Ireland.

The former United boss told SEG Stories, a media outlet attached to his management agency: "This generation usually find it difficult to deal with criticism. Criticism really gets to them."

"The generation that I grew up in had much thicker skin. You could be much more direct with that generation. I was approached much more directly. If I would do that with my current group of players, I would demotivate them". — AFP

Liverpool's Slot handed two-match ban over Merseyside derby chaos

LIVERPOOL manager Arne Slot will not be on the touchline for Wednesday's home match against Newcastle after he was handed a two-match ban and given a hefty fine for his behaviour in the Merseyside derby.

James Tarkowski's equalizer for Everton deep into stoppage time in the 2-2 draw at Goodison Park on 12 February provoked chaotic scenes.

Slot and his assistant Sipke Hulshoff were sent off by referee Michael Oliver, along with Liverpool's Curtis Jones and Everton midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure. The FA issued a statement on Wednesday saying an independ-

ent regulatory commission had sanctioned Everton, Liverpool, Slot and Hulshoff.

"It was alleged that the Liverpool head coach acted in an improper manner and/or used insulting and/or abusive words and/or behaviour towards both the match referee and an assistant referee after the match had finished," it said.

"Arne Slot admitted the charge, and the Regulatory Commission imposed a two-match touchline suspension and £70,000 (\$89,000) fine".

In addition, Everton have been fined £65,000 and Liverpool £50,000. — AFP



China, Vietnam launch another overland passenger border-crossing channel

ANOTHER overland passenger border-crossing channel was launched between China and Vietnam to boost bilateral cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

The passenger border-crossing channel, linking China's Dongzhong Port and Vietnam's Hoanh Mo Port, is designed to accommodate an annual capacity of 500,000 passenger crossings and 30,000 passenger vehicle trips, which will inject new momentum into personnel exchanges, tourist visits and trade between China and Vietnam.

China's Dongzhong Port, located in Fangchenggang City of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is separated from the Hoanh Mo Port in Quang Ninh Province of Vietnam by a river and serves as one of China's key land routes to the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN). The port was previously not open for tourist entries and exits. China has several land ports to Vietnam along the border in Guangxi and Yunnan Province. Since November 2023, China has continuously adjusted and optimized its visa-free transit policy to boost openness and people-to-people exchanges.

The channel is designed to accommodate 500,000 passenger crossings and 30,000 passenger vehicle trips annually.



At the border post opening ceremony. PHOTO: VNA

In a recent move to boost tourism cooperation with ASEAN countries, tour groups from ASEAN countries have been allowed to visit Xishuangbanna, a popular tourist destination in Yunnan Province, without a visa for up to six days. — Xinhua

Nauru sells citizenship to fund climate change mitigation

PACIFIC microstate Nauru is selling citizenship to fund its retreat from rising seas, President David Adeang told AFP, opening a contentious "golden passport" scheme as other climate financ-

ing runs dry. The low-lying island nation of around 13,000 residents is planning a mass inland relocation as creeping seas start to eat away at its fertile coastal fringe. Nauru, a small Pacific island

nation, is launching a citizenship by investment scheme to raise funds for climate resilience. For \$105,000, foreigners can obtain citizenship, despite concerns about potential misuse. The scheme aims to secure a sustainable future for Nauru, which faces severe environmental challenges due to past phosphate mining and rising sea levels, having rendered much of its land uninhabitable.

Golden passports

Existing climate funding efforts are "not sufficient" to address the challenge, said Edward Clark, who runs Nauru's new Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship Program.

"Debt financing places an undue burden on future generations and there is not enough aid," he told AFP. — AFP



The island nation of about 13,000 residents is planning a mass inland relocation as creeping seas eat away at its fertile coastal fringe. PHOTO: AFP

TRILLION-DOLLAR MINERAL DEAL

Trump says "OK" with Zelensky's visit to US to sign mineral deal

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday he's "OK" with a possible visit to Washington by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, during which the two presidents are set to sign a deal that gives the United States a cut of Ukraine's mineral wealth.

"I hear that he's coming on Friday. Certainly, it's OK with me if he'd like to. And he would like to sign it together with me. And I understand that's a big deal, very big deal," said Trump when speaking to reporters in the Oval Office.

"It could be a trillion-dollar deal. It could be whatever, but it's rare earths and other

things," Trump said.

According to US media reports, Ukraine agreed to the final version of the draft deal that the United States proposed Tuesday.

With the exact terms of the final deal still unclear, the draft discussed Tuesday included the establishment of a fund to be jointly owned by Ukraine and the United States, to which Ukraine will contribute 50 per cent of its revenues from the future monetization of natural resources, including critical minerals, oil and gas, according to reports by US media. — Xinhua