

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the inaugural occasion of the national QR standard MMQR yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

CBM launches national QR standard MMQR for secure transactions

Senior General praises MMQR as milestone in Myanmar's financial sector development.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has developed a national QR standard MMQR, enabling secure and smooth international financial transactions and remittances while keeping abreast with other countries, said the Senior General.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General

Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address as mentioned above at the launching ceremony of the national QR standard MMQR held at Jade Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC D) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the people can use the MMQR created in line with the speci-

fications of Myanmar national standards as a milestone of key payment system in Myanmar financial sector development.

The Central Bank of Myanmar is a focal organization for promoting the payment system of the country. Therefore, it makes concerted efforts to promote the payment system of the country, operate the system following the international criteria,

promote public participation in financial system, ensure the financial transactions and transfers in people's daily lives to be done in safe and easy ways, reduce cash use and adopt digital payment system more in the country and facilitate the foreign currency transfers in trade, investment and tourism industry of the country.

He continued that regarding the payment system development in Myanmar, the Myanmar Payment Organization, comprising of state-owned and privately-owned banks, was organized in 2011. Then, the people used the international payment cards in addition to debit cards and credit cards of local banks without physically holding cash. In 2016, the Central Bank of Myanmar established the payment network system, allowing taxpayers to pay large sums of tax via the local banks.

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NATIONAL

Nation's Development Relies on Contributions from Intellectuals and Experts

IN line with the saying, "The strength of the nation lies within," the country's development efforts depend on the contributions of intellectuals and experts in the arts and sciences.

(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)

19th plenary meeting of Eighth 47-member SSMNC held

THE first session of the 19th plenary meeting of the Eighth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was administrated at the Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

Present on the occasion were members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Thanlyin Min Kyaung Pahtamayan Buddhism Learning Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhamajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin and relevant officials.

Before the meeting, the Union ministers donated offertories to Sayadaws.



The first session of the 19th plenary meeting of the Eighth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in progress yesterday in Yangon.

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa presided over the event, and Joint

Secretary Sayadaw Aggamaha Gantavasaka Pandita Aggamaha Saddhamajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Panyar Dhaja acted as the mas-

ter of ceremonies.

The State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman recited Saraniya Ovada, and

Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin reported on religious affairs-related matters.

Then, Sayadaws reported on Vinicchaya, religious affairs and educational matters. The Sayadaws discussed religious and Vinicchaya affairs and concluded the first session.

The Vinicchaya affairs and religious-related matters were discussed by Sayadaws in the second session at 1 pm.

Senior General Than Shwe (Rtd) and his wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and other donors offered breakfast alms meals and day alms meals to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, who attended the ceremony yesterday. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred

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

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Myat Myat Thaw Rector Sagaing University of Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Haka University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(2) Dr Myat Wunna Soe Director-General Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health	Director-General Department of Public Health Ministry of Health
(3) Dr Thida Hla Rector (Medical Superintendent/ Medical Services) Yangon General Hospital Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health	Director-General Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 27 February 2025)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 28 February 2025: Rain are likely to be isolated in Yangon, Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is 60%. Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kayah, Chin, Rakhine States and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 February 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 February 2025: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 February 2025: Generally fair weather. — DMH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

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)

CBM launches national QR standard MMQR for secure transactions

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It also needs to create access to financial services for the public residing in certain areas without any banking services while the country sees high mobile phone usage. Therefore, the Central Bank of Myanmar released laws, regulations, directives and orders for mobile banking, internet banking, mobile financial service, mobile pay and merchant acquiring service for up to the grassroots to be able to use digital payment method widely, and it also allowed systematically for government payment and small-scale payment such as electricity pay, tax, salary payment of government employees, insurance fee collection, small loan grants and collections.

Meanwhile, there was a need for a system that enables faster and more efficient connec-

tions between banks and mobile financial service providers as per the objectives of the National Payment System Strategy. Therefore, the MMQR system using the QR code as a national level standard was developed.

He then mentioned the benefits of MMQR in making different payments and the need to conduct public awareness programmes on how to make payments via MMQR.

He added that the MMQR can be used in different business sectors for payments like paying tax and electricity bills to the government, tourism industry, salary and pension payout to government employees, small-scale businesses, fuel stations, private hospitals, schools and in selling commodities.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has developed a national level standard MMQR, enabling



A presentation on the national QR standard MMQR digital payment system is delivered to the Senior General.

secure and smooth international financial transactions and remittances while keeping abreast with other countries.

It is also a driving force to develop the digital business infrastructure of the country. With the advancement of technology, it needs to monitor telecom fraud while systematic arrangements are provided.

He appreciated the collab-

orative efforts of the Central Bank of Myanmar and relevant organizations in the successful development of MMQR and urged concerned personnel to keep working together to develop the payment system and strengthen the financial sector of the country.

Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe reported on the work process-

es of the national QR standard MMQR.

After the event, she presented a gift marking the launch of the national QR standard MMQR to the Senior General.

Afterwards, the Senior General posed for a documentary photo alongside attendees and observed the MMQR payment system and the booths displayed at the event. — MNA/KTZH



The UNFPA Representative calls on Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

MIFER Union Minister receives UNFPA Representative

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received Mr Jaime Nadal Roig, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Invest-

ment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

During the courtesy call, they cordially discussed the ongoing cooperation programmes and future cooperation plans between

Myanmar and UNFPA.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and representatives from UNFPA's Office were also present at the meeting. — MNA

NATIONAL



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the first work coordination meeting of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee yesterday.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win calls for strong actions against illegal trade

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered a speech at the work coordination meeting 1/2025 of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-Senior General, who is also the committee chairman, said that after the 18th coordination meeting of the committee, a total of 589 decisions were made and implemented until the 17th meeting.

Concerning seizures, smuggled and illegal commodities worth over K458 billion were seized in 19,000 cases from January 2022 to January 2025. However, it is still lower than the bilateral trade data, and so it needs to accelerate

the action to seize more. The regional and state task forces know their routes and should conduct surprise checks in addition to regular check day and night by cooperating with the security forces.

Moreover, he mentioned the instruction of the Prime Minister: "In seizing the unregistered vehicles, it needs to expose and take action against the administrative and security officials involved in these processes in addition to the offenders. The unregistered motorcycles will also be exposed. Importing and exporting illegal products can make huge impacts on the country, and so actions must be taken effectively," said the Prime Minister at the meeting with region and state chief ministers who attended the Union-level MSME products exhibition and competition opening ceremony held on 12

February 2025.

The Vice-Senior General noted that the Customs Department and Sagaing Region stood first for the seizure of smuggled and illegal commodities between December 2024 and January 2025, followed by the Mandalay Region and Yangon Region. Among them, he continued, unregistered vehicles and illegal trucks were seized as the most enormous volume, followed by intermediate goods and capital goods.

In 2024, K44.138 billion worth of smuggled and illegal commodities was seized as the most enormous volume in December, and the seizures showed K65 billion in 2022, over K135 billion in 2023 and K223 billion in 2024 when compared to the different years. He then appreciated the efforts in seizing illegal trade.

The estimated global GDP

was valued at US\$105 trillion in 2024, with illicit trade and money laundering resulting in a loss of up to \$2.6 trillion, while \$2.2 trillion in cross-border trade, \$1 trillion in bribery and corruption, over \$500 billion in drug trafficking, \$500 billion in fraud and copy, \$258 billion in environmental crimes, and \$150 billion in human trafficking.

Illegal trade can cause weakness in peace and security, including bribery, violence, crime and terrorism financing. Therefore, decisive actions must be taken against the illegal trade.

He then highlighted the disadvantages of illegal businesses.

He continued that it is hard to control the illegal entry and exit gates along the border lines while there are entries via illegal routes. Therefore, if the staff assigned duty on main

routes along border lines work with loyalty, honesty, compassion and goodwill to support the State economy, the illegal trade can be exposed than before. Similarly, there are distributions of illegal products by exporting via the border camps and keeping them at the warehouses near the camps. Therefore, the officials should take action against such doings.

The illegal entry of products threatens the national health system of the country, the economy and the future of youths. The illegal exploration of natural resources and illegal imports by illegal exporters can destroy the ecosystem. The MSME business people make efforts to support the State economy and if there are entries of illegal products, raw materials and substandard products and they create a competitive market, the local entrepreneurs cannot compete at all. Therefore, combatting illegal trade is a supportive measure for the State economy and MSMEs.

He then mentioned the need to ensure the correct information and safety of informers, awards for informers and those who make seizures, public awareness programmes via state-owned newspapers, TV and radio stations and private news agencies, proper preparations to prevent traffic jams at the trade camps, inspection camps and outposts in relevant regions and states, and collaborative actions of committee members, region/state illegal trade eradication task forces, staff and people in combatting illegal trade and ensuring the stability of MSME products, safety of consumers and State budgets.

He also called for attendees to work together to combat the unlawful trade.

After hearing the reports made by the attendees, the Vice-Senior General coordinated all discussions and reports. - MNA/KTZH

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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NATIONAL

SAC Member participates in Buddha event and Hainggyikyun development

THE opening ceremony of the Maha Makhuhtharanti Pagoda's Buddha Pujaniya ceremony in Zeechai Village, Hainggyikyun Township, saw State Administration Council (SAC) Member Mahn Nyein Maung. The event took place yesterday morning at the Pagoda's southern courtyard.

After cutting the ceremonial ribbon, the SAC member officially opened the event. He then pressed the button at the Pagoda's southern entrance to launch the ceremony, where incense offerings were made, and various organizations were honoured with cash donations. The attendees also performed acts of worship, presenting offerings such as fruits, flowers, and water.

The SAC member and officials also visited a basic education high school in Hainggyikyun Township. He observed and



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung is pictured during his inspection tours in Ayeyawady Region.

supported the ongoing educational activities at the school, where indigenous rural people

are being taught literacy. He engaged in discussions with the students about their

learning experiences, offering encouragement and sharing insights. He presented food to

the students and staff in recognition of their efforts.

The SAC member then inspected the improvement work on the waterway entering Hainggyikyun. An official provided information that the regional government had allocated funds for the construction of a breakwater along Hainggyi Creek to prevent erosion for the 2024-2025 financial year. The construction of the 550-foot-long breakwater is progressing as planned. The official clarified that the work is being carried out according to the established standards and must be completed on time.

The completion of the breakwater will prevent erosion along Hainggyi Creek, improving the water flow within the creek and ensuring that vessels can enter and exit safely without any risk. — MNA/KZL

ASEAN workshop boosts government spokespeople's PR skills



The second day of the workshop in progress yesterday.

THE second day of the "Capacity Building Workshop for Government Spokespersons on Effective Public Relations" was held yesterday at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Officials from the Myanmar Press Council, trainers and representatives from ASEAN countries including Cambodia, Thailand, the Phil-

ippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos and Indonesia attended the workshop. Also, present were officials from the ASEAN Secretariat and Japanese representatives.

During the session, trainers led discussions on how government spokespersons can effectively engage with the public. Topics include preparing the right mind-

set, voice tone and body language; organizing press conferences and interviews; media relations; and using websites and social media effectively.

The workshop, running from 26 to 28 February is aimed to improve the ability of government spokespersons in the ASEAN region to communicate effectively with both the media and the public. It also seeks to help build trust between the government and citizens and to address crises more effectively. The event is organized with support from the ASEAN Cultural Fund, the ASEAN Committee on Public Information and the Ministry of Information's Department of Media Development.

At the end of the day's discussions, participants including ASEAN delegates and trainers visited the Maravijaya Buddha Statue in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/KZL

Sri Lankan Ambassador calls on MoFA Deputy Minister

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw received Mrs Ponnampereuma Arachchige Prabashini Ponnampereuma, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sri Lanka to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially exchanged views on the further advancement of existing friendly bilateral relations and mutually beneficial cooperation in various areas, including consular matters between the two countries. — MNA



MoFA Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw receives Sri Lankan Ambassador Mrs Ponnampereuma Arachchige Prabashini Ponnampereuma yesterday.

NATIONAL

800,000+ pilgrims visit Kyaiktiyo Pagoda from Oct 2024 to Feb 2025

ACCORDING to U Soe Hla, chairman of the pagoda board of trustees, more than 800,000 pilgrims visited Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, from October 2024 to 12 February 2025.

During the Buddha Pujaniya festival period, which ran from 17 October 2024 to 12 February 2025, the pagoda welcomed 781,286 domestic visitors and 23,066 foreign travellers, with most international visitors coming from Thailand and Vietnam.

“The Kyaiktiyo Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festival begins on the full moon day of Thadingyut, attracting pilgrims daily throughout the festival period. Last year, 726,664 domestic and foreign travellers visited during the same period, so this year’s numbers are higher. The majority of visitors, both local and foreign, come on day trips,” said U Soe Hla.

Since November 2024, pilgrims from across the country have been



Devotees perform good deeds on the platform, set against the serene backdrop of Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

flocking to the pagoda daily. Around 150 mountain vehicles provide transportation up and down the hill, while lodges,

guesthouses, public rest houses, and hotels remain open to accommodate visitors. — ASH/MKKS

Mobile clinic brings relief to displaced Sittway residents



Displaced Sittway residents in Rakhine State receive free primary healthcare from a mobile clinic operated by the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the Norwegian Red Cross.

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society has opened a mobile clinic and is providing free primary healthcare to displaced households in Sittway, Rakhine State, according to the MRCS

headquarters. The mobile clinic for displaced households, jointly opened by the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the Norwegian Red Cross and operated

in collaboration with local Red Cross volunteers, staff, and the community, has provided free primary healthcare to 1,503 displaced patients from 1 January to 22 February 2025.

In addition, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the Danish Red Cross, has distributed food vouchers worth K68,500 each to 4,997 individuals from 1,464 displaced households in Sittway, Rakhine State, between 31 January and 8 February.

Each voucher could be exchanged for 6 Pyis of rice, 50 ticals of chickpeas, 50 ticals of salt, and 50 ticals of cooking oil. In total, 4,997 vouchers were distributed, amounting to K342.294 million. — ASH/TH

Stars of ‘Kyinphaw’ to engage with fans

ACTORS from the drama series ‘Kyinphaw’, aired on MRTV-4 will meet their fans at an event, according to actress Wai Lar Yi.

The drama is based on a novel by writer Lunn Htar Htar (Say Tekkatho) and was scripted by Aeternum Creative, with director Pyae Phyo Naing producing it under F G Series Production.

The Fan Meet event is scheduled for 2 March at 4:30 pm at Times City, where fans will have the opportunity to meet the entire cast in one place. The event will run until 7:00 pm. The Special Episode will be aired for fans, premiering on MRTV-4 on 28 February at midnight and on the HEY Play app at 10:00 am on 1 March at.

The drama features an ensemble cast, including Academy Award winner Soe Pyae Thazin, Naw Phaw Eh Htar, Wai Lar Yi, May Panchi, Nekkhat, Nay Lin Shein, Nay Htut, Hmu Hteik Htar and Su Myat Noe Zinn, with a guest appearance by Sai Si Twan Kham. The series premiered on 16 January 2025 and aired at 7 pm on MRTV-4 Monday through Friday. — ASH/KZL



Actors from the ‘Kyinphaw’ drama series are featured on an advertisement poster.

Premiere of comedy film ‘Littkyee Myah’ featuring Academy awardee

THE premiere of the Myanmar film ‘Littkyee Myah’, starring Academy Award-winning actor Nay Win — recognized by fans as a natural actor — was held on 26 February at the President Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon. The film’s director, Soe Moe Min, confirmed this information.

Written by Dee Dee Htet Aung, the film’s script was brought to life by Soe Moe Min for Love 2 Production. It is a com-

edy film, promising humour and entertainment.

“It’s a comedy with a message. As the title suggests, the characters go through all sorts of blunders. I encourage audiences to come and watch how the story unfolds. This is my second time working on a comedy film with Nay Win, and I must say, he has a real talent for comedy. Fans of comedy films will surely enjoy this one,” said director Soe Moe

Min.

‘Littkyee Myah’ will be released in cinemas nationwide on 28 February. The film features a star-studded cast, including Academy award-winning actors Nay Win and May Myint Mo, alongside Min Hein, Khin Hlaing, Joker, Tayza Lin Yaung, Lin Lin, Me Ko Khant, Sin Ma, Min Thu, Zaw Win Naing (Mann), Thwet Lett, and many other artistes. — ASH/MKKS



This image showcases cast members of the film ‘Littkyee Myah’.

March recruitment for EV Maintenance and Troubleshooting Training

DEPARTMENT of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DTVET) under the Ministry of Science and Technology will conduct a three-week EV Maintenance and Troubleshooting Training from 10 to 28 March 2025, to produce EV trainees equipped with EV technical knowledge and troubleshooting electrical problems in electric vehicles.

They must be healthy enough to execute practical work. Graduates of GTHS (AT, ET, EC), ITC (AT), AGTI, BTech, BE, ME, PhD (Mech, EP, EC, MC), and staff of EV private companies with high school education are eligible to attend the training. The training will offer both practical and theoretical knowledge of EVs using

Lab equipment. They will receive a completion certificate. The training will be conducted from 9 am to 4 pm on weekdays at Technical Teachers Training College (TTTC) in Insein, Yangon Region.

Those enthusiastic can enrol in the training by 4 March, providing a citizenship scrutiny card copy, a health certificate by the Township Public Health Department, copies of education certificates, a household registration copy, a criminal clearance certificate and three licence-sized colour photos. The training is limited to 25 trainees. Individuals can enquire about details through the contact number of the Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training at 09 443973606. — NN/KK



Trainees in the practical session.



An aerial drone view of the Yangon Port with container ships and cargo terminal.

58 container vessels to dock at Yangon Port in March: MPA

A total of 58 container vessels are slated to arrive in the Yangon Port in March 2025, the Myanmar Port Authority announced.

Thirteen container vessels run by SITC Shipping Line, nine by Cosco Shipping Line, five each by Samudera Shipping Line and Maersk A/S Line, four each by MSC Line and CMA CGM Line, three each by Ti2 Container Line, ONE Line, Ocean Salute Shipping Line, RCL Line and Evergreen Line, two by BLPL Shipping Line, and one by Land and Sea are scheduled to enter the Yangon Port next month.

Myanmar Port Authority has arranged maritime trade channels to handle increasing imports to meet domestic demand, bolster exports, and

improve port capacity for significant arrivals in ships. Myanmar Port Authority notified that it will inform exporters and importers of ship arrival schedules promptly upon extended schedule. A total of 62 container vessels and 53 in February arrived at Yangon Port in January 2025.

Yangon Port handled 633 container vessels in 2024 and 629 in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanmar Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River had been found, the draft extension work was accelerated. Afterwards, the port

can now handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99 metres LOA, 35.25 metres Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU) of Hong-Kong based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

From May 2021, the arrival of the ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. Three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run to fulfil the seaborne trade requirements in 2021. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing sailing on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 meters, the larger ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/KK

CBM offloads major foreign currency holdings on 26 Feb

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$23 million, 151 million baht and 340,000 yuan on 26 February again after selling 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 mil-



lion 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 import-

ers 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, 13.8 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

OPINION

Restrict careless extraction of natural resources

LANDSLIDES at piles of loose soil have occurred in mining areas, particularly in the jade-rich Phakant region of Kachin State. These incidents have been triggered by the reckless actions of miners and businesspersons who neglect proper site management in all seasons.

Swamp areas are commonly found in mining sites due to the use of water in the process of extracting jade and gemstones. These areas pose significant risks to miners, as landslides frequently occur in the loose soil surrounding them. When landslides happen, miners may lose their lives. This highlights the urgent need for mining operations to implement systematic work processes with proper safety measures to protect workers.

Landslides at various types of mines, including jade, gem, coal, gold, and diamond mines, are common in developing countries. These deadly incidents often result from weak management, poor risk assessment, lack of miner training, and a focus on cost-cutting over safety.

The unlimited extraction of natural resources can, indeed, benefit a handful of businesspeople. However, such actions can degrade the natural environment and spark anger among residents who suffer from the resulting environmental impacts. Moreover, excessive reliance on resource extraction can leave a dangerous legacy for future generations, potentially leading to unprecedented natural catastrophes. That is why the tripartite efforts among the authorities, businesspersons and miners need to focus on permitted mining works under careful management and awareness to save lives.

On the other hand, although local authorities and mining businesspersons raise awareness about worksite safety, miners often carry out their daily tasks carelessly. Many do not follow prescribed rules and regulations, focusing instead on their mining tasks with greed. As a result, whenever heaps of loose soil cause landslides, these careless miners lose their lives.

In Myanmar, businesspersons have been extracting various natural resources nationwide from 1988 to the present, following the government's initiation of a market economy. These individuals extract resources both legally and illegally, sometimes intentionally and sometimes unintentionally.

The unrestricted extraction of natural resources has negatively impacted the environment, causing disadvantages to society.

Especially, the unsystematic extraction process in mines across the nation and the unpermitted use of precursor chemicals such as mercury and cyanide have caused severe environmental damage, including pollution of natural water sources like rivers and creeks, as well as loss of biodiversity. Moreover, many human lives have been lost in worksite accidents. Hence, not only authorities but also businesspersons and miners must strictly adhere to prescribed rules and regulations and implement proper worksite safety measures.

The unlimited extraction of natural resources can, indeed, benefit a handful of businesspeople. However, such actions can degrade the natural environment and spark anger among residents who suffer from the resulting environmental impacts. Moreover, excessive reliance on resource extraction can leave a dangerous legacy for future generations, potentially leading to unprecedented natural catastrophes. That is why the tripartite efforts among the authorities, businesspersons and miners need to focus on permitted mining works under careful management and awareness to save lives.

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

EPISODE:59

By THAN HTUN
(GEOSCIENCE
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JADEITE FROM BURMA

I previously discussed Jadeite in the Kachin Hills, Upper Burma' by Bleek in Episode 25 on 9 December 2023 and 'Jadeite and other rocks from Tammaw in Upper Burma' by Bauer Max's work in 1895 in Episode 31 on 21 March 2024. HL Chhibber provided a comprehensive report on 'Jadeite from Burma' in his renowned book *Mineral Resources of Burma* in 1934. Key details from his report are outlined below.

Regarding the acceptability of Professor Chhibber's works, he is considered one of the outstanding authorities on Burma's physical geography, geology, and mineral resources. His classic books, particularly *Geology of Burma and Mineral Resources of Burma* (1934), are highly rated books on the subject. The publication of these books helped establish his international reputation as the most celebrated scholar of the geology of Burma.

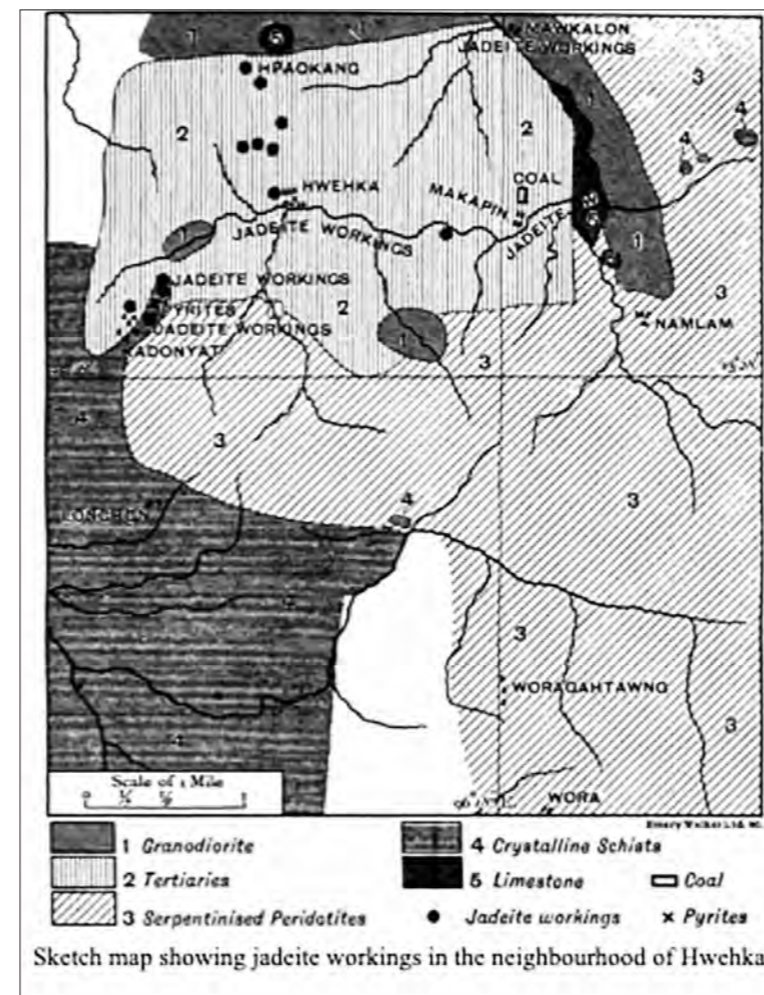
In the *Mineral Resources of Burma*, HL Chhibber has systematically described all the mineral resources of the country, their modes of occurrence, how they are worked, and their uses and trade. It is worth noting that Burma at that time was the most important province of the British Empire in India from the point of view of mineral resources. His description of occurrences and formation of jadeite and amphibolites are most interesting and complete. He considers jade rocks as a unique petrographical type. The jadeite-albite rocks occur as dykes and sills, intrusive into serpentinized peridotites. Chhibber considers these rocks as products of interaction between a soda-granite-aplite magma and the wall rock under high pressure, so high that the molecules that would normally have crystallized as nepheline were unstable and reacted with albite to form jadeite molecule. The excess of silica combined with the olivine of the peridotites to form amphibolites, which is commonly associated with jadeite. He also gave a detailed historical account of the working of jade mines. It is the most detailed account of the geology of the jadeite deposits ever produced. Dr Chhibber spent two years (1928-30) doing fieldwork in this area. HL Chhibber's 'The Mineral Resources of Burma' is a classic work on the subject. Chhibber's study was extensive and remains to this day the most detailed look at the mines in print. (S Alam, 2016)

HL Chhibber pointed out in his 'The Mineral Resources of Burma', 1934, that the chapter on jadeite may appear too lengthy, but that is perhaps justifiable. Despite my efforts to reduce the account to a reasonable size, I could not shut out the mental picture of the area I had before me. I spent about two years in the field alone in the Jade Mines area, and the same amount of time has been spent in the laboratory study of the rocks. It may be added that the chapter contains only the gleanings of my observations on the jadeite deposits. Then he mentioned that 'the chapter on jadeite may appear too lengthy, but this is perhaps justifiable. Despite my efforts to reduce the account to a reasonable size, I could not shut out the mental picture of the area I had before me.'

The history of the jadeite trade

The history of the jadeite trade from very early times up to 1893 has been summarized by Mr Marry of the Chinese Consular Service and was reprinted in the Myitkyina District Gazetteer compiled by WA Hertz in 1912.

The first geologist to visit the jadeite mines was F Noetling, whose preliminary report on the economic resources of the Amber and Jade Mines area in Upper Burma was published in 1892. The



same author published an article on the occurrences of jadeite in Upper Burma and illustrated the account with a small-scale map. Professor Max Bauer described the rocks and minerals collected by Noetling. But he was at a serious disadvantage because he had not studied the field relationships of these rocks. AWG Bleek visited the area in 1907, and reference to his work will be made in the sequel. Recently, the Professor commenced the systematic survey of the jadeite-bearing region in 1928, and a brief resume of his conclusions has been published in the General Reports of the Geological Survey of India for the years 1928, 1929, and 1931.

Area and Extent. The area so far known at present in which the mineral jadeite is found in Burma is situated between 25° 28' and 25° 52' N latitude and 96° 7' and 96° 24' E longitude. The coordinates given above include the main, well-known area which supplies almost the entire output of jadeite obtained in Burma. However, there are other places where jadeite is known to exist: one locality lies about ten miles east of Mohnyin (24° 46'50", 96° 22'30"), and another one occurs on the bank of the Chindwin River (might be Khamti region). Jadeite also exists about 200 miles north of Myitkyina, but the place is inaccessible, and the quality of the jadeite is reported to be poor.

The region is a highly dissected upland, consisting of ranges of hills from the Chindwin-Irrawaddy watershed. It is higher in the north than in the south, and Tawmaw (25°41'13", 96°15'18"), which is situated on the plateau, is 2,755 feet above the sea. The highest point in the area is Mount Loimye, 5,124 feet above sea level.

The Uru Chaung, the area's mainstream, runs along the foot of the plateau from northeast to southwest. Not infrequently, this

river has cut deep gorges, often flanked by cliffs or sheer precipices several hundred feet high. The current is rather strong and during periods of flood, carries away whatever comes in its way, so much so that more than half the important and flourishing village of Hpakan (25° 36'38", 96° 18' 40"), the centre of the jadeite trade, was washed away in 1927. The Uru is an important degrading stream, and its banks and small feeders are the scene of much mining activity for jadeite.

Tawmaw, where the true outcrop jadeite mines are situated, is about 68 miles by road from Mogaung railway station, which lies on the Sagaing-Myitkyina branch of the Burma Railways. From Mogaung to Nanyaseik (25° 37'6", 96° 35') there is an unmetalled motor road, but the portion between Kamaing (25° 31'38", 96° 43'5"), the headquarters of the jadeite mines region, and Nanyaseik become very difficult after a few showers of rain. The tracks are flat for about another four miles from Nanyaseik, but beyond that, there is only a well-graded, though locally very steep, mule track passing over a range of hills.

Geology of the Area

There are serious difficulties in the way of detailed geological mapping: survey work is impeded by the almost impenetrable jungle, which in places is so thick that it is possible to see only a few feet ahead. Further, it is a particularly unhealthy region and the jungle is infested with insect pests.

Within the area, much of the surface is occupied by Tertiary rocks. To the west lies a great intrusive complex consisting essentially of serpentinised peridotites, the outcrop being elongated northeast to southwest and roughly oval. This complex is surrounded by crystalline schists, which include types derived from both sedimentary and igneous rocks. The former appears to represent the country rock into which the plutonic complex was injected. The Uru Boulder Conglomerate of Pleistocene to Sub-Recent data occupies a considerable area north-eastwards from Nammaw and is important because of its jadeite workings. A brief account of each of the formations occurring in the Jade Mines is mentioned. The succession is summarised in tabular form below:

XIII. Alluvium	- Recent.
XII. Uru Boulder Conglomerate	- Pleistocene - Sun-Recent.
XI. Volcanic Rocks	- Late Tertiary- Recent.
X. Granodiorite	- Late Tertiary.
IX. Gabbro	- Mio-Tertiary.
VIII. Namting Series	- Mio-Pliocene.
VII. Hkuma Series	- Oligo-Miocene.
VI. Highly altered picrites and Volcanic Breccias	- Early Tertiary age.
V. Jadeite-albite rocks	- Early Tertiary age.
IV. Granites	- Late Cretaceous-early Eocene.
III. Serpentinised peridotites	- Late Cretaceous -early Eocene.
II. Crystalline schists	- Partly of unknown age and partly of early Tertiary
I. Limestone	- Palaeozoic, possibly Permian-Carboniferous.

The Plateau Limestone.

Small outcrops of limestone are common, and their characters have been described in the author's *Geology of Burma* in 1934. The limestone is generally crystalline, approaching marble, where it has been invaded by igneous intrusions. It is well jointed, and occasionally it is highly brecciated.

The ordinary limestone, under the microscope, consists of calcite, forming irregular mosaics in places, set in a dusky, opaque material, which under high power resolves itself into extremely fine-grained calcareous matter. A network of veins of calcite traverses the rock in all directions. The limestones yielded the remains of *Fenestella* and foraminifera, including *Fusulina elongata*, *Textularia* and various forms of *Globigerinidae*. Minute circular and rod-like sections of *rhabdoliths* and *Coccoliths* respectively are frequently observed under the microscope.

About one furlong west-south-west of the confluence of the Hwehka and Nammon Chaungs, the limestone near its contact with serpentinized peridotites has undergone metasomatic replacement.

Crystalline Schists.

The name "Crystalline Schists" included the dual complex of basic igneous rocks, ranging from diorites and gabbros to pyroxenites, peridotites, and true schists. The latter are older than the serpentinized peridotites and other igneous rocks of the area and form a basement upon which the subsequent formations were deposited. The ortho- and para-schists in places are so intermingled that it is impossible to separate them on the present one-inch maps. The ortho-schists encircle the peridotites and serpentines and are most probably the result of differentiation of the same magma, etc.

A rock obtained from the bed of the Sankha chaung, about 2 ¼ miles northeast of Tawmaw (25° 41'13", 96° 15'28"), contains, in addition to amphiboles and feldspar (saussurite), colourless augite, garnet, zircon, and zoisite. The augite is colourless and clear with an extinction angle of 48° and shows simple twinning. The garnet is colourless and occurs either in dodecahedral or circular sections. Some secondary quartz is also present. Irregular aggregates of chromite are scattered all through the rock.

Graphite-schists: Graphite-schists are fairly common in the area. It is not improbable that the epidiorites described above in places have been altered into these schists. They are greyish-black in colour, sometimes with conspicuous reddish-brown pseudomorphs, which appear like garnets at first sight. With a pocket-lens graphite, quartz, and some ferruginous material can be seen.

Quartz-schist: Macroscopically, the quartz-schists are whitish, finely foliated schists that consist of quartz and feldspar with reddish-brown streaks due to iron staining. Under the microscope, a mosaic of the same two minerals is seen with a yellowish or yellowish-brown amorphous mineral, which, in places, assumes a reddish-brown colour on account of iron staining.

Glaucophane-schist: Glaucophane-schists are quite common in the area and are greyish-blue rocks that, under the microscope, are seen to consist of glaucophane with some muscovite set in a granular mosaic of quartz. Given the presence of jadeite-bearing rocks in the neighbourhood, these glaucophane schists are significant, as glaucophane contains the jadeite molecule.

Due to limited space, some notes on kyanite schists, chlorite schists, and vesuvianite schists could not be described. (To be continued).

References:

1. Chhibber, HL, 1934: *The Mineral Resources of Burma, Macmillan and Co Limited, St Marti's Street, London.*
2. Alam, Sarfaraz. 2016: *Harbaans Lal Chhibber, Banaras Hindu University.*

NATIONAL

MoH Union Minister meets Beijing Hongfeng Investment delegation

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received a delegation led by Mr Zhou Xiaofeng from Beijing Hongfeng Investment Company Limited at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, representatives from Beijing Hongfeng Investment Company Limited discussed mat-

ters related to the production, distribution, and investment in modern medical and hospital equipment, including diagnostic devices and laboratory testing equipment tailored to Myanmar's needs. They also addressed ongoing healthcare and medical collaborations between Myanmar and China, as well as the introduction of

advanced medical and hospital equipment manufactured in China.

The meeting was attended by the deputy minister, directors-general of the Ministry of Health, representatives from Beijing Hongfeng Investment Company Limited, and other officials from the Ministry of Health. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win meets the Beijing Hongfeng Investment Company Limited delegation yesterday.

Myanmar delegation attends 47th HLTF Meeting on ASEAN Economic Integration



The commemorative group photo of the 47th HLTF Meeting on ASEAN Economic Integration held in Malaysia on 24-25 February 2025.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung, the Lead of Myanmar HLTF-EI, attended the 47th Meeting of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (46th HLTF-EI) which was held on 24-25 February 2025 in Desaru, Johor, Malaysia.

The meeting discussed the global and regional outlook, Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship, the updates on the End-Term Review (ETR) of the AEC Blueprint 2025, the implementation of the sustainability initiatives, the development of the AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030, and the progress of the implementation of the piloting of Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) in Electric Vehicle and Batteries Industry. In addition, the recommendations for the consideration of the 31st ASE-

AN Economic Minister Retreat Meeting which will be held on 28 February 2025.

At the meeting, the deputy minister discussed emphasizing the issues that can be caused by the current geo-economic policy changes and environmental challenges, to enhance the SME development for increasing intra-ASEAN trade and investment, the matters to enhance more cooperation across ASEAN pillars, sectorial bodies, working groups for the timely implementation of the PEDs under Malaysia Chairmanship, and to share the experiences of ASEAN Member States for the implementation of the piloting of GRP in Electric Vehicle and Batteries Industry. Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung also discussed finalizing the drafting of the AEC Strategic Plan (2026-2030) by highlighting to ensure consistency, fair and equitable allocation of projects, to make

sure of participatory and inclusiveness for narrowing down the development gaps among ASEAN Member States.

The meeting was chaired by Dato' Hairil Yahri Yaacob, Secretary-General for the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysia, and attended by the leads and representatives of the High-level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration from the ASEAN Member States, the deputy secretary-general and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat. The High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) is formed by Deputy Ministers and Permanent Secretaries of ASEAN Member States which discuss the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community and future programmes and provide recommendations to the ASEAN Economic Ministries for consideration. — MIFER

Myanmar Music Association honours veteran musicians at 14th annual ceremony

THE Myanmar Music Association (Central) held its 14th annual ceremony to honour veteran musicians at 1 pm on 27 February at Sky Star Hotel in Tamway Township.

The event was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Region Ministers, Myanmar Motion Picture Association Patron U Aung Lwin and Chairman U Kyi Soe Htun, Myanmar Music Association (Central) Chairman U Lwin Myint, as well as executives, association members, veteran musicians, and invitees from the fields of literature, film, and theatre.

During the ceremony, the Yangon Region chief minister and the director-general of the Myanmar Radio and Television delivered speeches. This was followed by remarks from the chairman of the Myanmar Music Association (Central), who expressed gratitude to the guests. The association's General Secre-

tary then provided details on the donations received for the event.

Next, the Yangon Region Chief Minister presented a donation of K10 million from State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla to the chairman of the Myanmar Music Association (Central). Additionally, the Ministry of Information contributed K3 million, while the Yangon Region government donated K15.5 million. In total, donations amounted to K41.69 million.

The Yangon Region chief minister and other attendees then paid their respects to the veteran musicians. Those unable to attend the event will receive visits from the association's executive officers at their homes. Finally, on behalf of the honoured musicians, veteran musician Sithu Daw Tin Tin Mya delivered a speech. — MNA/MKKS



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein presents K10 million from the Senior General and his wife to the MMA Chairman.

NATIONAL

84 Indonesian citizens involved in telecom fraud deported

A total of 84 Indonesian citizens were deported to their country via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday, in accordance with legal procedures, humanitarian considerations, and the friendship between countries. Minister for Security and Border Affairs of the Karen State government Colonel Min Thu Kyaw and officials closely monitored the process to ensure smooth deportation.

The handover ceremony was held and attended by the minister for Security and Border Affairs of the Kayin State government, the director of the Citizen Protection Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Mr Judha Nugraha, the Deputy District Commander of the Immigration Department of Thailand's Tak Province Mr Sermkiat Kampira, and other officials. Officials from



The handover of the undocumented Indonesians underway yesterday on the Myanmar-Thailand border.

Myanmar handed over the documents related to the extradition to the officials of the relevant countries.

The government is thoroughly investigating and identifying all those involved in online scams and gambling. It continues to take action through international organizations, including neighbouring countries, with particular emphasis on the trilateral co-

operation between Myanmar, China, and Thailand.

The government is actively working to expose those involved in the Online Scam Centre and the foreign masterminds and take effective action against them. It is also making efforts to repatriate trafficked foreigners and those facing hardships to their respective countries as quickly as possible. — MNA/TH

Myanmar crackdown leads to arrest of 187 undocumented foreign nationals



Immigration and officials processing undocumented foreign entrants.

MYANMAR, China and Thailand are collaborating through a trilateral cooperation framework to investigate and dismantle online scams and illegal online gambling operations. As part of these efforts, Myanmar authorities continue to crack down on foreign nationals involved in these illegal activities.

A total of 187 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar through border routes – some transiting via Thailand – were arrested in Myawaddy, Shwe Kokko, Mae Tawthale and KK Park area in Kayin State. These individuals were found to be involved in online gambling and online fraud operations.

To facilitate their swift repatriation, authorities are collecting necessary identification records in coordination

with relevant departments. The Kayin State government, led by Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Min Thu Kyaw, is overseeing the process. He has met officials to ensure that the detainees' health, living conditions, security and repatriation procedures are handled efficiently and without delay.

A total of 2,925 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar were identified and detained between 30 January and 27 February 2025. Among them, 757 have already been repatriated via Thailand as per legal procedures, while 2,168 others are prepared for transfer to their respective home countries. Authorities have confirmed that these individuals are being well cared for until their repatriation. — MNA/KZL

PDF terrorists bomb monastery, causing civilian casualties

PDF terrorists carried out an attack using bomb drops on Maha Pyinsima Rama Monastery in Zeegon village, Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region, despite it not being a military target. The attack resulted in the death of an innocent civilian and injuries to two young novices and another villager.

The incident occurred at around 6:30 pm on 26 February, when a drone operated by terrorists flew from approximately 800 metres southeast of Zeegon village. The drone dropped multiple bombs inside the Maha Pyinsima Rama Monastery compound, causing injuries to two novices and a villager, while another civilian lost his life. Local healthcare workers provided necessary medical treatment to the injured.

Terrorists have been re-



Photos reveal two injured novices (above) and the location map of drones dropping bombs (below).

peatedly targeting villages that do not support them, using tactics such as dropping bombs, launching surprise attacks and planting landmines. These acts have led to frequent casualties among innocent civilians and Buddhist monks. The brutal actions of terrorist groups have caused widespread fear among residents, prompting security forces to intensify protective measures in the affected areas. — MNA/KZL



Counter-argument to false information

False reports: 10 villagers seized during Myaung novitiation ceremony

MALICIOUS news media spread false reports that security forces entered Myaung village, Nyaung-U Township, Mandalay Region, during a novitiation ceremony and arrested 10 villagers.

Regarding this claim, an official responsible for township security clarified that the report is entirely untrue. He stated that security forces did not unjustly arrest any peaceful residents. Instead, he explained that it is PDF terrorists who have been committing acts of violence against civilians, including those who do not support them, government employees and Buddhist monks.

These terrorists have engaged in killings and forced recruitment under various pretexts.

They intend to mislead the public about the efforts of security forces in maintaining regional stability. — MNA/KZL



This screenshot discloses misinformation.

ECONOMY WORLD

US to probe need for tariffs on copper imports



The Escondida mine in Chile is the world's biggest copper producer. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US President Donald Trump signed an order directing his commerce secretary to investigate copper imports, a probe that could lead to tariffs.

DONALD Trump ordered an investigation Tuesday into possible levies on US copper imports, with officials citing a need to rebuild domestic production and safeguard national security — the latest salvo of the president's tariff threats.

Since taking office in January, Trump has announced sweeping duties that could hit both allies and adversaries while also targeting sectors like steel and aluminum — moves that may reshape global supply chains.

The imposition of tariffs or other barriers on copper could fuel trade tensions with Chile, the biggest US supplier accounting for about 35 per cent of imports, as well as Canada.

Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order tasking his commerce secretary with studying copper imports in order to end unfair trade.

"Tariffs will help build back our American Copper Industry, and strengthen our National Defence," Trump said on his Truth Social platform shortly after

the signing.

"Our great American copper industry has been decimated by global actors attacking our domestic production," said Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick in a statement.

"To build back our copper industry, I will investigate the imposition of possible tariffs," Lutnick added.

The world's biggest economy has been increasingly dependent on copper imports to meet domestic consumption needs. — AFP

Trump's trade envoy Jamieson Greer confirmed by lawmakers



US lawmakers confirmed Jamieson Greer as President Donald Trump's trade envoy, a key figure in implementing his tariff policy. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US lawmakers voted Wednesday to confirm lawyer Jamieson Greer as Donald Trump's trade envoy, rounding out the president's top economic team with a key figure in tariff policy as the president threatens levies on friend and foe alike.

Trump has unveiled a volley of tariff threats in recent weeks, including to remedy trade imbalances, boost US industry and pressure countries into stronger action on concerns like illegal immigration and fentanyl smuggling. Greer, as US Trade Representative, would be key to imple-

menting Trump's trade strategy.

He was confirmed by a vote of 56-43. The Trump administration has noted that tariffs can be a means to raise government revenue, bring more manufacturing to US shores, and tackle other countries' trade practices.

Greer, a partner at law firm King & Spalding, served as chief of staff to Trump's top trade negotiator Robert Lighthizer during the president's first term. He also helped to see through a trade deal between the United States, Mexico and Canada in Trump's first administration. — AFP

S Korea's foreign debt falls for 2nd year in 2024

SOUTH Korea's foreign debt fell for the second straight year due to lower long-term debt, which offset an increased short-term liability, central bank data showed Thursday.

Foreign debt decreased US\$2.5 billion from a year earlier to \$670.1 billion at the end of December 2024, after reducing \$0.8 billion in the previous year, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

Short-term foreign debt with a maturity of less than one year gained \$6.2 billion to \$146.9 billion, but long-term external liability declined \$8.7 billion to \$523.2 billion. — Xinhua

Singapore's service industries see growth in Q4 2024

SINGAPORE'S service industries experienced an 8.5 per cent year-on-year growth in overall business receipts in the fourth quarter of 2024, with all sectors posting higher receipts, according to data released by the Singapore Department of Statistics on Thursday.

The Business Receipts Index for the services industries, excluding wholesale trade, retail trade, accommodation, and food services, is compiled quarterly to gauge the performance of the services sector based on business receipts, the report said.

The finance and insurance sector saw a notable 14.2 per cent revenue increase, driven primarily by strong performances in fund management and banking. Similarly, the transport

and storage industry recorded a 12.9 per cent growth in turnover, with key contributors being water transport, warehousing, and freight transport arrangement services.

In addition, the health and social services sector posted a 10.1 per cent increase in receipts, mainly attributed to a rise in medical revenue, the report said. — Xinhua



People walk out for a lunch break in the Raffles Place financial business district in Singapore on 13 August 2024. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

S Korea's household income keeps growing in Q4

SOUTH Korea's household income kept growing for the sixth consecutive quarter due to higher business income and a rapid increase in property income, statistical office data showed Thursday.

On a nominal basis, the monthly average income per household with one or more family members rose 3.8 per cent over the year to 5,215,000 won (US\$3,620) in the October-December quarter

last year, according to Statistics Korea. It maintained an upward trend since the third quarter of 2023

The nominal earned income gained 2.3 per cent to 3,241,000 won in the

fourth quarter, lower than a growth of 3.3 per cent in the previous quarter.

Business income increased 5.5 per cent in the fourth quarter after edging up 0.3 per cent in the prior quarter. — Xinhua



People shop at a supermarket in Seoul, South Korea, 5 June 2022. PHOTO: WANG YILIANG/XINHUA/FILE

AB InBev posts record sales in 2024 despite beer volumes slipping

AB InBev, the world's leading brewer whose portfolio includes Budweiser, Corona and Stella Artois, said revenue hit a record level in 2024 although beer volumes slid.

The Belgian-Brazilian firm posted a net profit of \$1.77 billion for the year, up by six percent from 2023.

The company's shares rose by more than six percent in morning trading in Brussels. Sales revenue increased by 2.7 per cent to \$59.8 billion.

That came despite sales sliding 1.4 per cent by volume, with beer volumes down by 1.9 per cent.

"While our overall volume performance this year was constrained by the soft consumer environments in China and Argentina, the global beer category remains vibrant with our volumes growing in the majority of our markets and by 0.9 per cent overall when excluding these two countries," the company said in a statement. — AFP



The Belgian-Brazilian firm posted a net profit of \$1.77 billion for the year, up by six percent from 2023. PHOTO: AFP

New air route links China's Dali, Bangkok

A new air route connecting Dali, southwest China's Yunnan Province, with Bangkok of Thailand, was launched on Tuesday.

Spanning over 1,300 kilometres, the flight route allows passengers to travel directly between the two cities without the need for

transfers.

Operated by West Air, the maiden flight departed from Dali at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday and arrived in Bangkok at 10:20 am local time. The return flight left Bangkok at 11:20 am local time and touched down in Dali at 2:35 pm. — Xinhua

Notice for change of distributor

We, Hangzhou Xinlong Industrial Co., Ltd., would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from A.T PHONE MYINT KYAW CO., LTD to MYANMAR AGD AGRO CO., LTD. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number	New Distributor
1	A.T PHONE MYINT KYAW CO., LTD	Dimetho Nagar	Dimethomorph 50% WP	Provisional	P2024-6355	MYANMAR AGD AGRO CO., LTD
2		Intera "EM" Three	Emamectin Benzoate 1.0% EC	Provisional	P2020-5198	

MYANMAR AGD AGRO CO., LTD (Address: NO.6B/407 YADANAR HNINSI RESIDENCE DAGON SEIKKAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON REGION, MYANMAR. Ph :09421125418, 09403723854)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2502S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2502S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-2-2025 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO. LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (930N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (930N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-2-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UVC6S1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UVC6S1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-2-2025 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (205N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (205N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-2-2025 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

US should be the first to cut its nuclear arsenal, military expenditure: Chinese spokesperson

China believes the United States should implement "America First" by taking the lead in reducing its nuclear arsenal and military spending.

THE United States should put into practice "America First" and be the first to cut its nuclear arsenal and military expenditure, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence said on Thursday.

It is incumbent upon the United States, a country in possession of the world's largest nuclear arsenal, to fulfill its special and primary responsibilities for nuclear disarmament and further make drastic and substantive cuts to its nuclear arsenal, said Wu Qian, the spokesperson,

at a press conference.

His statement was in response to US President Donald Trump's recent remarks that he plans to have nuclear arms control talks with China and Russia, as well as his proposal to cut the three countries' defense budgets by half. Wu reiterated that China commits itself to a policy of no first use of nuclear weapons, pursues a nuclear strategy of self-defence, and keeps its nuclear strength at the minimum level required for national security. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 19 February 2020 shows the Pentagon seen from an airplane over Washington DC, the United States. **PHOTO: LIU JIE/XINHUA/FILE**

Anti-terrorism steps at Niigata nuclear reactor delayed to 2029

THE operator of a nuclear power plant in Japan's Niigata Prefecture said Thursday it

has postponed the completion of anti-terrorism measures at one of its idle reactors beyond

the October deadline to 2029.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc aims to restart the No 7 reactor at its Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant northwest of Tokyo by this summer, but it is likely to face prolonged suspension again after the October deadline passes.

The seven-reactor facility is one of the world's largest nuclear power plants capable of generating a total of 8.212 million kilowatts of electricity. It served as an important energy source to supply electricity to the Tokyo metropolitan area before the 2011 massive earthquake and nuclear disaster in northeastern Japan. — Kyodo



File photo taken on 13 April 2021 shows Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant in Niigata Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Saudi crown prince congratulates Lebanon PM on new government

SAUDI Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has congratulated Lebanon's Prime Minister Nawaf Salam on forming a new government, the Gulf kingdom's foreign ministry said Thursday.

"The crown prince wished

the Lebanese prime minister success and the brotherly Lebanese people further progress and prosperity," the ministry said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

Lebanon's parliament

passed a vote of confidence on Wednesday in Salam's new government, which faces the task of rebuilding after a recent Israel-Hezbollah war and implementing reforms to revive the country's stalled economy. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran unveils new warship, military equipment

IRAN'S armed forces received a new domestically built warship and several pieces of homegrown military hardware in two separate ceremonies on Thursday, local media reported.

The warship, named Martyr Rais Ali Delvari, was handed over to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy in a ceremony at the southern port city of Bandar Abbas, attended by IRGC Chief Commander Hossein Salami, the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) said.

The vessel has a sailing endurance of 5,000 nautical miles (9,260 kilometres) and is capable of firing missiles with an operational range of 750 kilometres, the report added.

During the ceremony, the IRGC Navy also unveiled several speedboats equipped with anti-ship cruise missiles, capable of reaching speeds of 110 knots (over 203 kilometres per hour), ISNA reported. — Xinhua

Fire breaks out at oil refinery in Indonesia's Central Java, no casualties reported

A fire occurred at an oil tank in the oil refinery located in Cilacap Regency, Indonesia's Central Java province, on Thursday, with no casualties reported, a senior firefighter said.

Video footage showed thick black smoke rising from an oil tank at the refinery, operated by Indonesia's state-owned oil and gas firm PT Pertamina.

Ade Bhakti Ariawan, secretary of the provincial fire department, said the fire was not as severe as previous incidents.

"The fire has already been extinguished and is now in the cooling process, which may take several hours," he told Xinhua via phone.

"No casualties resulted from the incident," Ariawan added. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Amorim plans Garnacho talks after Man Utd star's abrupt exit

RUBEN Amorim will speak with Alejandro Garnacho after the Manchester United star made an abrupt exit following his controversial substitution in the 3-2 win against Ipswich on Wednesday.

Patrick Dorgu's sending off forced Amorim to send on defender Noussair Mazraoui in place of Garnacho late in the first half at Old Trafford.

The 20-year-old Argentine forward headed straight down the touchline to the dressing room rather than sitting on the bench with the rest of the United substitutes.

United fans booed Amorim's decision and Garnacho later posted an Instagram story of him looking dejected walking through the rain shortly after the game.

"It was cold and wet, maybe,"

Amorim said of Garnacho's decision to stomp down the tunnel.

"The thinking was we'd play more in the 5-3-1. I know that is a risk because you are taking maybe the only player who has one against one pace but I felt the team was OK in the controlling of the game, almost at half-time.

"Then you make the substitution. We have to choose someone to go out, we have to think about set pieces also, so it was my choice." Amorim was asked to clarify whether he was unhappy with Garnacho and he responded by mentioning Marcus Rashford, who recently joined Aston Villa on loan after the Portuguese coach lost patience with his attitude.

"You are making a connection with Rashford, right? I know, I know," Amorim said. — AFP



Manchester United defender Patrick Dorgu was sent off against Ipswich. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bayern face Stuttgart as crunch fortnight looms

BAYERN Munich's Bundesliga clash in Stuttgart on Friday is the first stop in a season-defining fortnight for Vincent Kompany's team.

Stung by ruthless double winners Bayer Leverkusen condemning them to a first trophyless season in 11 years, Bayern have rebounded this term and lost just once in the league.

With 11 games remaining,

Bayern sit eight points clear of Leverkusen.

The two face off in the last 16 of the Champions League, with the first game in Munich on Wednesday and the return leg in Leverkusen six days later.

Bayern know any points dropped in Stuttgart will be like blood in the water for Leverkusen, not just on Wednesday, but in the league. — AFP

IOC candidate Samaranch says experience key to handling 'complex world'

IOC presidential candidate Juan Antonio Samaranch Junior told AFP he has the experience to deal with heads of state in a rapidly changing world where previously undisputed truths such as "universality, fraternity and unity" are now disputed.

"It's a very complex world," the urbane banker said in an interview at AFP's headquarters on Wednesday.

The 65-year-old Spaniard and his six rivals to succeed Thomas Bach as the most powerful person in global sport will learn their fate when their fellow IOC members vote on 20 March in the Greek resort of Costa Navarino.

If successful Samaranch Junior would make history -- his father of the same name was IOC president from 1980 to 2001 and transformed the organization into a commercial powerhouse.



IOC presidential candidate Juan Antonio Samaranch Junior told AFP he has the experience to deal with the problems of an increasingly complex world. **PHOTO: AFP**

He was first elected an IOC member the year his father stepped down and has forged a successful career within the body. He was elected vice-president in 2016 and again in 2022 while also occu-

pying other high-profile roles.

All of which, he says, has given him the skillset to handle the rapidly shifting sands around the globe since Donald Trump was re-elected US president. — AFP

England earn Women's Nations League win over Spain in World Cup final rematch

JESS Park fired England to a 1-0 win against Spain on Wednesday in a Women's Nations League clash that provided a measure of revenge for their World Cup final defeat.

Park netted in the 33rd minute at Wembley to ensure England saw off the side ranked second in the world.

After a 1-1 draw with Portugal in their tournament opener on Friday, Sarina Wiegman's side delivered a statement of intent ahead of their European Championship title defence in Switzerland this summer. "I think we had a point to prove, we just wanted to do a lot better than Friday," she said. "I think on Friday we spoke about the fact we have momentum, and then of course we drew. We wanted to prove to ourselves we can do

better. And we absolutely knew that we had to step up." It was the first time England had faced Spain since the Lionesses lost the 2023 World Cup final. That showpiece success for Spain was eventually overshadowed by the controversy caused by

the Luis Rubiales case. Former Spanish football federation boss Rubiales was recently found guilty of sexual assault after kissing Spain star Jenni Hermoso on the lips without her consent during the World Cup medal ceremony. — AFP



England's Jess Park scores against Spain in the Women's Nations League. **PHOTO: AFP**

US should be the first to cut its nuclear arsenal, military expenditure: Chinese spokesperson

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WORLD

GLOBAL REACTION

Trump shocks with AI-generated video of 'what's next' for Gaza

US President Donald Trump's official social media accounts posted an apparently AI-generated video depicting war-ravaged Gaza rebuilt into a seaside resort, replete with a towering golden statue of himself.

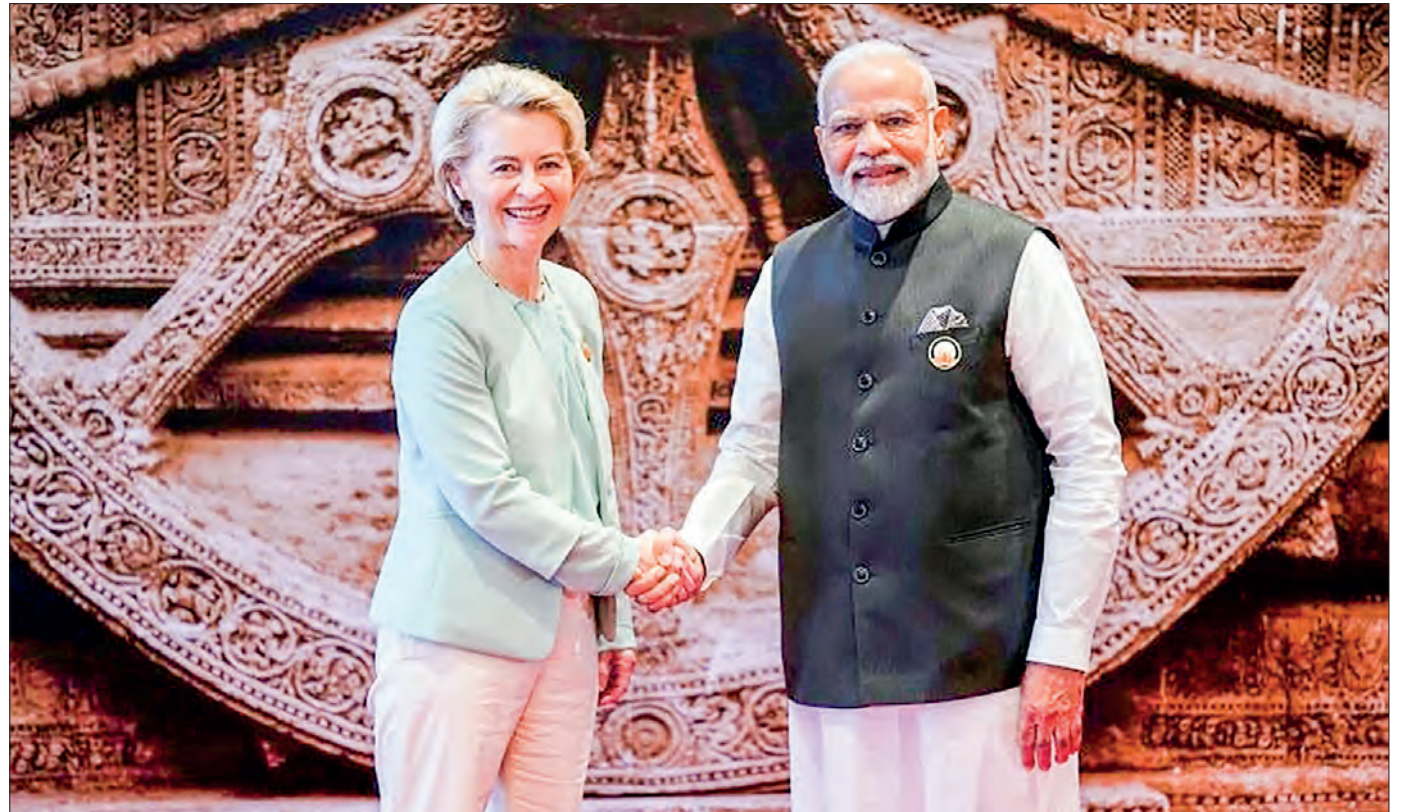
The video, which racked up more than 29 million views on Instagram and was shared thousands of times on Trump's Truth Social network by Wednesday afternoon, prompted some commenters to question whether the president's accounts had been hacked.

The 33-second clip remained on Trump's accounts without denial or retraction hours after the initial posting on Tuesday night.

The video "Gaza 2025 What's Next?" opens with people on a rubble-strewn street emerging from a tunnel onto a beach with palm trees and yachts.

Trump has floated the idea of a US takeover of Gaza under which its Palestinian population would be relocated – a proposal met with global condemnation.

He later appeared to soften his plan, saying he was only recommending the idea, and conceding that the leaders of Jordan and Egypt – the proposed destinations for relocated Gazans – had rejected any effort to move Palestinians against their will. — AFP



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen led a high-level delegation to India, marking the first-ever visit of the EU College of Commissioners to India and their first collective visit outside Europe since taking office in December 2024. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

At EU-India talks, focus on AI, trade and security ties: Sources

The visit aims to expand cooperation between India and the European Union (EU) in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI) and Indo-Pacific security.

AS EUROPEAN Commission President Ursula von der Leyen begins her India visit on Thursday, New Delhi is hoping to expand cooperation with the European Union (EU) in artificial intelligence (AI) and Indo-Pacific security.

Sources from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that discussions would focus on strengthening

AI collaboration at both the bilateral and EU levels.

A high-level delegation from the EU, led by von der Leyen comprises 22 of the 27 European Union Commissioners.

This also marks the first-ever visit of the EU College of Commissioners to India and their first collective visit outside Europe since taking office in

December 2024.

MEA sources highlighted India's commitment to advancing AI collaboration. They referenced Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to France, where he co-chaired a summit attended by over 90 countries. The MEA underscored the mutual benefits of such cooperation, noting the EU's establishment of AI norms and legislation. — ANI

Japan Moon rover sets out for world's 1st private lunar exploration

JAPANESE startup Dyson Co's ultra-compact Moon rover was launched Wednesday from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, as the Tokyo-based firm seeks to become the world's first private company to explore and photograph the lunar surface.

The 498-gramme rover Yaoki, mounted on US company

Intuitive Machines Inc's second Moon lander, is expected to reach the lunar south pole in early March.

Around 50 people watched a live broadcast of the launch at an event hosted by Dyson at the Space Travelium TeNQ museum in Tokyo's Bunkyo Ward. Applause erupted when the lander successfully separated from the rocket approximately

43 minutes after launch.

The name of the rover, which measures around 14 centimetres in length and width and eight centimetres in height, hails from the Japanese proverb "nana korobi, ya oki", which roughly translates as "fall seven times, get up eight", highlighting its ability to repeatedly return to an upright position after tipping over. — Kyodo



File photo shows the ultra-compact Moon rover Yaoki. PHOTO: DYMON CO./KYODO