

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Agriculture & Livestock Development Commission boosts efficiency in agricultural operations

The government is providing non-depreciable, sustainable funds from the National Economic Development Fund to promote the development of the livestock industry and meet the capital needs of breeders.

**S**tate Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadde Maha Thray Sithu Thadde Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the Peasants' Day, which falls on 2 March 2025. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

### Esteemed farmers,

I frankly extended my greetings with best wishes for farmers nationwide to be auspicious with physical and mental well-being on the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Peasants' Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, which falls on 2 March 2025.

I especially take pride in the endeavours and performances of farmers engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding, as they play a pivotal role in ensuring food security for the ethnic people. Therefore, I would like to pray for the farmers' economic growth alongside the nation's surging agricultural and livestock industries.

The State Administration Council is implementing the Five-Point Roadmap. Of them, "Continued efforts will be made to promote the state economy and enhance the socioeconomic situation of all people through expediting manufacturing businesses rooted in agriculture and livestock to benefit the entire nation" is one of the five points of the roadmap. To ensure national prosperity and food security, efforts are being made to develop the agriculture and livestock sectors using modern techniques, promote MSME industries to enhance exports and increase the yield of oil crops to achieve self-sufficiency and enable exports. These three key economic objectives have been set, and both short-term and long-term plans are being formulated and implemented accordingly.

**SEE PAGE 3**

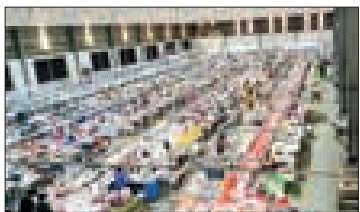
## SUNDAY EDITION

**NATIONAL PAGE 6**



208 foreign nationals arrested for illegal entry into Myanmar

**BUSINESS PAGE 7**



YRIC endorses domestic and foreign enterprises

## Sri Ksetra viewing tower 70% complete



This photo shows a viewing tower in the ancient city of Sri Ksetra under construction.

**T**he construction of a viewing tower in Sri Ksetra, Pyay Township, Bago Region, is nearly 70 per cent complete, according to the Department of World Heritage Sites (Sri Ksetra Branch).

The 42-foot-high viewing tower is located on Kyettuyway Hill, west of the Sri Ksetra ancient city in Pyay, and is being built by the Ministry of Construction during the 2024-2025 financial year.

"The viewing tower under construction consists of three levels: two levels of 12 feet and one level of 10 feet. Construction of the tower began in early November 2024, and it is currently about 70 per cent complete. The remaining Myanmar handicrafts are yet to be installed," said an official from the Sri Ksetra Department of World Heritage Sites.

The tower, considered the highest point in the entire Sri Ksetra ancient city, offers stunning views of the ancient city, Mingyi Hill in Pyay, and the Ayeyawady River to the west, and is expected to attract more tourists once completed.

In addition, the Pyay District General Administration Department and the Department of Highways, have a plan to construct a road, parking lots, restaurants, and souvenir shops for visitors arriving by car from the foot of the hill to the tower in the coming financial years. — ASH/MKKS

# NATIONAL

## Youth Success: Discipline and Lawfulness as Foundations for Nation-Building

- Youths must adhere to discipline and laws to achieve success in their lives.
- By following the laws and regulations set by the government, they can become valuable, law-abiding citizens dedicated to serving the nation.

*(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 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2025

- 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;
- To steadfastly carry out measures for State development and genuine, eternal peace by ending the armed conflicts under the Constitution (2008) and NCA;
- To protect the State and its citizens from dangers and provide sector-wise assistance for the safety and socioeconomic development of the people;
- 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.



Visitors to ancient Inwa. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Cultural preservation transforms Inwa into tourist attraction

INWA'S ancient heritage and historical sites can become tourist attractions if they are preserved, said writer and researcher Bo Shake (Yadanapura).

"If we reclaim Inwa moat, it can attract foreign and local visitors. It can become a tourist attraction if we rebuild a gate and wall turrets next to the moat. If we clean the moat, it can be as beautiful as the Mandalay Moat. It can be an

archaeological park," he said.

Students from private schools, local travellers, and foreign tourists visit Inwa on weekends and on recreational trips, and the number of tourists has increased significantly this year.

He added that if a tourist attraction can be created, the livelihood of local people such as vendors and horse-cart drivers will be better, and if more foreign tourists are interested,

it will generate more foreign exchange for the country.

On 7 February, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and officials inspected the maintenance conditions of the Loka Tharaphu Pagoda and MaungO brick road in ancient Inwa, Mandalay Region, and made necessary instructions. — MT/ZN

## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 1 March 2025)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 1 March 2025:** Rain will be scattered in Kachin state and isolated in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin, Mon and northern Shan States and generally fair 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 to scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 March 2025:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 March 2025:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 March 2025:** Generally fair weather.

### EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 3:45 pm MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.8 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar about (10 miles north-north-east of Minbu), latitude 20.31°N, longitude 94.92°E, depth (123) kilometres, about 61 miles south of NyaungU seismological observatory was recorded at 3:26:50 pm MST on 1 March 2025.

## Gold Market Rate as of 1 March 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,450,000 as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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)*

## Agriculture & Livestock Development Commission boosts efficiency in agricultural operations

### FROM PAGE 1

The key requirement for the socioeconomic development of farmers is increasing crop yields. Therefore, the government prioritizes efforts to achieve target production rates for crops. In implementing these efforts, various measures are being taken, including the use of high-quality and pure seeds, systematic land improvement, proper and timely application of synthetic and organic fertilizers to enhance soil fertility, ensuring adequate irrigation, and adopting proper cultivation techniques. These efforts collectively follow the “Four Key Factors” approach – seeds, soil, water, and technique – to ensure comprehensive and effective agricultural development. To further increase crop production and maximize yields, intercropping and multiple cropping systems, such as double and triple cropping, are being implemented based on regional and seasonal conditions.

Striving to achieve target goals for crops grown in currently cultivated farmland and working towards doubling or tripling yields will not only increase farmers’ income but also contribute to national economic growth.

To ensure that senior farmers can easily access and cultivate high-quality, pure seeds, extensive seed-production initiatives are being implemented. In addition to establishing special seed production zones, annual seed exhibitions are also held to facilitate research on high-quality, pure seeds and yield improvement.

To prevent the degradation and loss of essential soil for crop cultivation, it is necessary to adopt various farming methods. These include using a combination of chemical and natural fertilizers, planting cover crops, growing windbreak trees, practicing crop rotation, implementing terrace farming in hilly regions, utilizing contour farming techniques, and adopting agroforestry systems that integrate crops with trees. Additionally, to enhance soil fertility, the use of natural fertilizers such as manure (cow and chicken dung), EM Bokashi compost, fish amino acids, and green fertilizers like water hyacinths should be encouraged. Other soil improvement techniques, such as planting green manure crops and incorporating them into the soil, are also being promoted.

Not only is this being carried out, but to ensure that farmers have access to high-quality and fairly priced agricultural inputs, fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides are regulated through laws and regulations. Moreover, the government, private businesses, and organizations are collaborating to implement these efforts. Furthermore, support is being provided through the National Economic Development Fund in coordination with input supply companies.

The irrigation system plays a crucial role in ensuring the success of crop cultivation and the development of rural areas. Therefore, the national government is prioritizing investments in irrigation projects. Across Myanmar, a total of 880 irrigation structures have been implemented, including 246 dams, 144 diversion dams, 72 lakes, 199 sluice gates, and 219 water pumping stations. These projects currently benefit over 3.1 million acres of cultivated land. Additionally, in areas facing water scarcity, 25,769 tube wells have been drilled to utilize underground water resources and underground water storage dams are being constructed. Furthermore, solar-powered water pumping systems are being installed in temporary weirs to provide irrigation water. To mitigate flooding and prevent seawater intrusion, flood protection embankments and saltwater barriers are being built. Other efforts include dredging canals, streams, riverbanks, and drainage channels to improve water management.

Agricultural knowledge dissemination is being carried out through various methods to ensure that research findings, modern technologies, high-quality seeds, pure strains, and effective farming techniques are accepted and adopted by farmers.

Multiple approaches are being used to provide agricultural education, including broadcasting through the “Farmers’ Channel”, the “Agricultural Knowledge” programme on Myawady TV, and the “Agricultural Technology Knowledge Programme” on Myanmar Radio. Furthermore, information is being shared in ethnic languages and through journals and newspapers such as the Doh Kyay Ywa Journal. Furthermore, the use of the internet enables real-time access to agricultural technologies and information, allowing farmers to easily learn about the farming techniques they need.

I would like to emphasize the importance of making efforts to reduce the import of palm oil, ensuring sufficient domestic production and consumption of healthier edible oils. To achieve this, it is essential to cultivate and produce oilseed crops such as peanuts, sesame, and sunflowers as planned and to strive for the targeted yield.

The raw cotton produced by our country’s agricultural sector is sufficient for domestic consumption. However, we are still importing yarn from abroad. To reduce imports of yarn, yarn-based products, and garments while meeting domestic demand with high-quality local production, special cotton cultivation zones are being established. These zones aim to achieve a yield of 700 visses per acre and produce high-quality cotton and lint. To manufacture quality yarn and textiles from locally produced cotton, efforts are being made to upgrade cotton-related industries, including ginning mills, spinning mills, and textile factories. In addition, support is being provided to develop cotton-based industries and MSMEs (Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprises). It is encouraged that domestic textile needs should be sufficiently met with locally grown cotton, and citizens should prioritize using locally made garments.

With regard to the private sector, MSME businesses involved in the production of various food products, such as rice, corn, oilseed crops, legumes, vegetables, and fruits, can add value by processing and manufacturing these goods. Moreover, industries producing raw materials like coffee, rubber, bamboo, rattan, medicinal herbs, and palm oil can enhance their output. Through the efforts of private entrepreneurs, high-value products can be produced, enabling efficient production and sale in the market, which will increase farmers’ incomes and improve their living standards.

The government is actively fulfilling the necessary human resource requirements to support the development of the agricultural sector and promote agricultural activities. In this regard, 15 agricultural and livestock Institutes have been established and are being operated. These institutions have produced skilled professionals in the mid-level agricultural and livestock sectors. In collaboration with Basic Education High Schools, vocational training programmes in agriculture and livestock are being offered. Starting from the 2023-2024 academic year, vocational schools in agriculture and livestock were opened, and currently, a total of 85 schools have been established.

### Esteemed peasants,

Since agriculture is closely related to livestock farming, I would like to emphasize the importance of promoting livestock development. The production and breeding of animals such as cattle, fish, milk, chicken eggs, duck eggs, and quail eggs, which provide essential nutrients, is crucial for ensuring people’s nutritional needs. The nation needs to support the expansion of livestock industries, including the breeding of dairy cows and beef cattle and the development of high-yielding, quality breeds. The establishment of livestock zones for the production of cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, goats, and sheep, along with the support for the production of high-quality milk and dairy products, is a key part of these efforts.

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# NATIONAL

## Agriculture & Livestock Development Commission boosts efficiency in agricultural operations

### FROM PAGE 3

Through the combination of agriculture and animal husbandry, the aim is to improve the social and economic lives of rural communities by establishing emerald green (livestock) villages and ensuring success. This includes distributing high-quality, resilient cattle breeds that can withstand seasonal weather conditions, providing animal feed and medicines to disaster-prone areas, administering vaccines for animal diseases, controlling and treating outbreaks, and conducting research to monitor and prevent diseases.

The government is providing non-depreciable, sustainable funds from the National Economic Development Fund to promote the development of the livestock industry and meet the capital needs of breeders. The government also supports projects such as the Emerald Green project, comprising of breeding chicken and duck broilers and pig programmes. Moreover, plans for dairy cattle, beef cattle, layers, sheep, and goat farming continue to be implemented.

As a sector, during the 2023-2024 financial year, fish and shrimp production reached 6,320,070 metric tonnes. The sector was able to export approximately 322 types of aquatic products, amounting to 522,570 metric tonnes, to 40 foreign trade partner countries. The majority of these exports were primarily aimed at fulfilling domestic fish consumption needs. Efforts have also been made to ensure that rural citizens and fish farmers understand and implement basic fish farming techniques to generate regular income. This includes educating them on fish vaccination, breeding, and other fish farming practices. For families with fish ponds, services have been provided for inspecting and maintaining the health of fish and shrimp, ensuring disease control, and issuing health certificates to guarantee that aquatic products can be exported abroad without diseases.

### Esteemed peasants,

The government, taking into account the interests of farmers, established the Agricultural and Livestock Development Commission on 18 December 2024 to accelerate the development of the agriculture and livestock sectors. The commission is working to enhance and implement effective activities that will benefit farmers' agricultural operations across various sectors, ensuring comprehensive and sustainable development.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and respect to the hardworking farmers who, with unwavering dedication and effort, have ensured not only domestic food security but also the ability to export agricultural and livestock products. Despite numerous challenges, they have consistently carried out their tasks with strength and efficiency. To promote the economic development of the country and the long-term growth of agricultural activities, it is essential to combine all the resources, including the physical labour, knowledge, determination, modern technologies, land, and water contributed by our farmers. We must work together, united and committed, to achieve the desired outcomes for the sustainable development of our agricultural sector.

*Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu  
Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing  
Prime Minister  
Chairman, State Administration Council*

## SAC Member launches electrification project for 63<sup>rd</sup> Peasants' Day in Ayeyawady

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, accompanied by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and officials, attended the launching of electrification in Ngatesu Village and river pumping ceremony in Kanyinngu Village in Yekyi Township, Kyonpyaw District in Ayeyawady Region.

The SAC member and party first attended the launching of electrification in Ngatesu Village to mark

the 63<sup>rd</sup> Peasant's Day. The electrification project was conducted using K114.770 million of the 2024-2025 regional budget. The project established a one-mile 11 kV power grid, 11/0.4 kV, 200 kVA one transformer, and 45 electric meters installed for 187 households in the village.

They proceeded to the river water pumping project in Kanyinngu Village and inspected the summer paddy plantations irrigated by the river water pumping project.

They observed the harvesting of a 10-acre winter peanut field and Phoo Yadana peanut grinding processes in Kyundaunt Village, Yekyi Township.

They then paid homage to Sayadaws of Shwezedi Monastery in Hnawgon Village and made donations.

They inspected the preparations for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Peasants' Day ceremony in Kangyidaunt Township and sunflower plantations in Thaboung Township. — MNA/KTZH



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

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# NATIONAL

## China transfers digitized 'Thu Chit' film to Myanmar for 75<sup>th</sup> diplomatic anniversary

CHINA handed over the 'Thu Chit' movie to Myanmar, marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China, at MRTV Studio A in Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, the permanent secretary and officials, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Dr Zheng Zhihong, the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization chairman and executive members, the Myanmar Press Council chairman and invitees.

The master of ceremony first briefed the 'Thu Chit' film.

In his opening speech, the Union minister said the movie industry has huge inspirational power across various artistic fields and holds significant influence. Moreover, it can deeply penetrate and impact different aspects of society.

The artistic creations in the film serve as a universal art form that fosters connection and integration between countries, people and cultures. In communication among countries and people, films can help people understand one another despite language barriers.

He then extended a wish to maintain good diplomatic relations and strengthen the friendship between China and Myanmar through collaboration in the film industry.

The minister counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar handed over two hard disks of the 'Thu Chit' movie, followed by his explanation of the film transfer.

The Union minister, the Chinese min-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Chinese Embassy's Minister Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong are pictured during the transfer of the digitized 'Thu Chit' film yesterday.

ister counsellor and attendees watched the film.

The 'Thu Chit' movie was produced by British Burma Film in 1951 and directed by U Chan Tun. The casts are A1 Nyunt Maung and May Myint. Among the films of director U Chan Tun, Thu Zar and Thu Chit are the most famous ones, including the movie 'Gon'.

The 'Thu Chit' film depicts the lives

of farmers these days. The cast was selected to conform to the story, and other countries, including China, purchased Myanmar films that they liked. In 1955, China bought the 'Thu Chit' film for 2,500 pounds sterling and showed it. In 1957, the film was dubbed in Chinese and screened at the 1957 Asian Film Festival in Beijing, China, receiving international recognition and admiration.

The 'Thu Chit' movie was changed into a quality digital format by China, and China handed over the digitalized version to the Ministry of Information to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations. The film will be broadcast on MRTV channels soon.

On the same morning, the Union minister, accompanied by Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Htay Aung and officials, inspected the maintenance of the Wazira Cinema in Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

The cinema is being upgraded into a red-carpet cinema. It is situated in the downtown centre of Yangon near Sule Pagoda, and it is the best place to operate the film industry and other artistic industries. Moreover, world travellers to Yangon can be fascinated with the culture of ethnic people and traditional dance.

The cinema was supposed to be built in 1924. It is situated on Bogyoke Aung San Road, and it features Beaux-Arts of French between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The original name was New Excelsior, and it was renamed A1 Cinema in 1942 and Wazira Cinema in 1968.

After the renovation process, it will be the red-carpet cinema and a venue to hold the meetings and discussions for play, theatrical, dance, music concerts, and studios. Moreover, the cinema will serve as a venue for international film festivals, memory film festivals, and an ancient cultural heritage museum for tourists. It will screen ancient films, puppet shows and display booths on weekends. — MNA/KTZH

## 40 Supreme Court trainees depart for judicial training in India

FORTY trainees from the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar left Yangon International Airport yesterday to attend "the 6<sup>th</sup> Training and Capacity Building Programme for Myanmar Judges and Judicial Officers" to be held from 3 to 6 March 2025 at the National Judicial Academy (NJA) in Bhopal, India.

The training is being conducted under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of the Union Chief Justice, the Union Supreme Court, and the National Judicial Academy of India on the "Training and Capacity Building Programme for Myanmar Judges and Judicial Officers

in India". The participation of Myanmar trainees in this course allows an opportunity to exchange information on the judicial systems of Myanmar and India, which share a similar legal system, and will contribute to the capacity building of Myanmar judges and judicial officers.

During the course, the participants will be given interactive lectures by former Chief Justice, justices, university professors, and experts from India on subjects like the goals of the Indian judiciary and the mission of courts, judicial ethics and professionalism, drafting judgment, court and case management, the use of ICT (information and com-

munication technology), cybercrime, digital evidence, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), forensic evidence, juvenile justice, and environmental and wildlife protection. In addition, as part of the training activities, the trainees will also have the opportunity to visit and study prominent locations in Bhopal city.

A total of forty trainees, including directors, deputy directors, assistant directors, and officers from the Supreme Court of the Union, as well as the head of the judicial office, judges from district courts and township courts, and judicial officers from the various regions and states, will attend the training. — MNA

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# NATIONAL

## 208 foreign nationals arrested for illegal entry into Myanmar

A total of 208 foreign nationals who illegally entered Myanmar were further detained yesterday.

These individuals had passed through neighbouring countries, including Thailand, to enter Myanmar via border routes. They were found to be involved in online gambling, telecom fraud, and other criminal activities in areas such as Shwe Kokko, Mehtawthalay, and KK Park in Myawady, Kayin State.

A total of 3,333 foreign nationals who illegally entered Myanmar were arrested from 30 January to 1 March. Of these, 757 were systematically transferred to their respective countries through Thailand as per legal procedures. The remaining 2,576 foreign nationals are now ready to be transferred to their respective countries and are reportedly being securely detained. — MNA/KZL



Immigration and officials processing foreign undocumented entrants.

## Two-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K234M

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 28 February, the combined teams impounded six kinds of industrial material worth K143.294 million without official documents from five containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, two kinds

of industrial materials worth K7.142 million without official documents from a container at the Myanmar Terminal (TMT) Port, an unregistered Mazda Bongo (approximately K18 million) in Loikaw Township, a Mitsubishi Canter truck (approximately K30 million), travelling from Kyaikto to Yangon, carrying two kinds of consumer goods valued at K2.01 million

without official documents near Shwethanlwin tollgate in Phayagyi, an unregistered Toyota Voxy (approximately K2 million) in Phado, Nyaunglebin Township, and 3.372 tonnes of illegal timbers (approximately K458,592) in Nyaunglebin and Pyay districts. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law, the Forest Law, and Customs procedures.

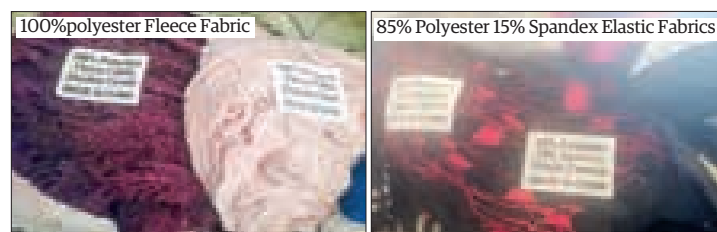
On 1 March, the combined on-duty teams seized 11 kinds of industrial materials valued at K15.988 million without official documents from a warehouse in Hpa-an Township,

an unregistered vehicle and an unregistered motorbike (approximately K10.3 million) at the Yadanabon bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township and an unregistered vehicle (approximately K5 million) in Sagaing Township. The action was conducted under the Export-Import Law and Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 14 arrests on 28 February and 1 March, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K234 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated items at the Myanmar Terminal (TMT).



Seizures at Myanmar Industrial Port.



Seized vehicles in Sagaing Region.

## 20-year sentences for trafficking women to China for forced marriages

TWO individuals involved in trafficking women to China for forced marriage have been sentenced to 20 years in prison.

The Myanmar Police Force reported that Khin Myo Kyi (aka) Myat Noe from Sanpya Village, Myaing Township, Magway Region, and Thet Htar Swe (aka) Thet Htar from Myinchin Village, Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region, had planned to transport two women — aged 22 and 24 — from Shwebo and two other women — aged 30 and 24 — from Chauk Township, Magway Region, to China. They promised the women K10 million each once they were married to Chinese men.

Offenders were charged Sections 35/44, under the Anti Trafficking in Person Law, and their cases were submitted to the court. The case was heard on 27 February 2025 at the District Court of Aungmyaythazan, where the two arrestees, Khin Myo Kyi and Thet Htar Swe, were sentenced to 10 years each, totalling 20 years for their roles in the human trafficking scheme. — MNA/KZL

## YRIC endorses domestic and foreign enterprises

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) gave a green light to one domestic enterprise and one wholly foreign enterprise with an estimated capital of K796.95 million and US\$1 million to execute a hotel service business and manufacturing of apparel on the Cutting-Making and Packing (CMP) basis, at the recent 2/2025 meeting held on 26 February, creating 1,920 jobs for locals.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and committee members inspected the sample products manufactured by existing businesses. They also coordinated general matters of 13 companies during the meeting.



A general view of the CMP workplace.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in the Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a CMP basis. Myanmar's manufacturing sector is focused on garments and textiles produced on a Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, contributing to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

The regional investment committee has been endorsing investment projects under rules and regulations under Myanmar Investment Law to spur investments and create more job opportunities. — San Kyaw Oo/ KK

## Fisheries Dept launches fingerling sales

THE Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will sell fingerlings.

The department produces, distributes and sells fingerlings at 25 fishery camps to contribute to food security, enhance fish farming businesses and encourage fish consumption. The department also conducts water quality tests and identifies fish diseases. Fish breeders will start to add healthy and fast-growing fingerlings into

the ponds in April, and they can buy fingerlings of rohu, carp, barb, Catla Catla, Common Carp, striped catfish, silver pomfret and other commercially valued fish at 25 fishery camps from regions and states at cheaper rates.

Interested buyers can contact the Yezin Fishery Camp in Nay Pyi Taw at 09 791095060, the Hlawga Fishery Camp in Yangon at 09 783788163, the Laydauntkan Fishery Camp in Yangon at 09 428506200, the Bago Fishery Camp at 09 425300568, the Thayatgon Fishery Camp in Mandalay at 09 456003027, the Thaton Fishery Camp in Thaton at 09 793455008, the Pathein Fishery Camp at 09 787980606 and the Talokhla Fishery Camp in Maubin at 09 781592003, respectively. Moreover, fish farmers and entrepreneurs can also attend basic fish farming and artificial breeding courses offered by the Department of Fisheries. They can enquire about details through the Fisheries Department in Nay Pyi Taw at 067 408476 and 067 418538. — NN/KK



## IRAN EXPO 2025 invites Myanmar business delegates

THE seventh edition of IRAN EXPO 2025, which will take place from 28 April to 2 May 2025 in Tehran, Iran, welcomes the participation of Myanmar business delegates, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

This expo will bring together networks with leading industrialized countries, explore innovations and observe diverse cultures across the globe.

The four-day exhibition will feature products and services of the largest companies

and brands in Iran, including food industries, agriculture, livestock, poultry and fisheries, automobiles, electricals and electronics, telecommunication, industrial and mechanical groups, stationary, and educational industries, household appliances, textile, leather and clothing industries, tourism and handicrafts, chemical, cellulose and sanitary products, medical equipment, building industries, technical and engineering services, mining groups, petrochemical

groups and insurance, financial groups, customs and transportation service groups.

Four-night hotel stay, food, transportation in the city and interpretation service will be provided for participants. Interested Myanmar businesspeople can register through <http://www.iranexpo.co/2025/vr> and enquire about details through WhatsApp at +66 646 411 089 or the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 and email [event.td.myantrade@gmail.com](mailto:event.td.myantrade@gmail.com). — NN/KK



A farmer applying fertilizer in a paddy field.

## Fertilizer prices stable in Q1 2025

THE Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) announced that fertilizer reference prices have been stable in the first quarter (January-March) of 2025.

The reference prices for March 2025 stay the same as the rates registered in January and February. They are set at K95,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Urea fertilizer (large granular), K124,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Rock Phosphate and K135,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Di Ammonium Phosphate.

The prices may vary a bit depending on transportation charges in other regions and states as the aforementioned prices are set for the Yangon Region, MFSPEA stated.

Additionally, reference prices will be further announced

as per rules and regulations. For overcharging, consumers can complain to the committee through contact numbers 067 410032 and 09 988539360. MFSPEA has already asked the member companies to stick to the reference prices. At present, the Fertilizer Committee holds a quarterly meeting to ensure quality fertilizer for growers without facing shortages. Under the approval of the Fertilizer Technology Group, 11,573 fertilizer registrations have been granted after the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Fertilizer Committee. With individuals' consent, 1,957 registrations were voluntarily cancelled. The department revoked 2,793 registrations for expiration of validity, and 6,823 registrations are still under processing. — NN/KK

# OPINION

## Save prospects of small and large coastal cities

AS part of a prediction about the future of coastal cities, researchers from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore have estimated that if carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise, the global sea level could increase by 1.9 meters by the year 2100 compared to current levels. If this happens, numerous coastal towns and cities could be submerged, raising concerns about the dangerous rise in sea levels.

They noted the importance of carefully controlling carbon dioxide emissions to prevent the submergence of a large number of coastal towns and cities, including many more in the United States of America and England, within the next 75 years. Practically, the world is already experiencing severe impacts from rising temperatures, driven by greenhouse gas emissions caused by excessive fossil fuel use and a growing global population. Increasing global heat accelerates glacier melting and the expansion of ocean water, leading to rising seawater levels.

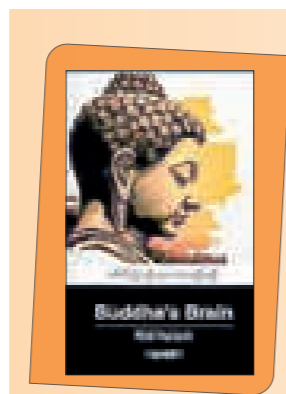
People worldwide are responsible for making efforts to reduce global warming, as it is crucial for the survival of humankind. However, no single country can tackle this challenge alone. Therefore, all nations worldwide must reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy sources. By doing so, they can help protect the future of island nations and coastal cities, both large and small. In consequence, improvement of the global weather conditions including adjusting the sea level can save the future of mankind.

According to valuable records on sea levels, the sea level rose by 1.3 millimetres per year during the period from 1901 to 1971 and by 1.9 millimetres per year from 1971 to 2006. Moreover, the sea level increased by 3.7 millimetres per year from 2006 to 2018, showing a continuous rise over time. The 2023 United Nations report also predicted that the global sea level could rise by 0.6 to one metre by the year 2100.

The year 2024 was recorded as the hottest on record in the world. The global average temperature exceeded pre-industrial levels by 1.5° Celsius. European scientists noted that in 2024, the average global temperature was 1.6° Celsius higher than the average during the period between 1850 and 1990, which includes the Industrial Revolution. As such, all global people need to try hard to adjust the temperature of the world as much as possible. For example, they have to grow trees and establish forests as the best policy to improve the global weather.

People worldwide are responsible for making efforts to reduce global warming, as

it is crucial for the survival of humankind. However, no single country can tackle this challenge alone. Therefore, all nations worldwide must reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy sources. By doing so, they can help protect the future of island nations and coastal cities, both large and small. In consequence, improvement of the global weather conditions including adjusting the sea level can save the future of mankind.



Book Title - Buddha's Brain  
 Author - Zaw Win Kyu (Pinyinmana)  
 Publishing House - Thar Nge  
 Publication Date - January 2025 (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)  
 Price - K17,000

## Buddha's Brain By Rick Hanson

BEFORE introducing the book titled "Buddha's Brain", we would like to present the author Hanson (PhD), who is a neuropsychologist and an editor of the Wise Brain Bulletin. He is a co-founder of the Wellspring Institute for Neuroscience and Contemplative Wisdom. His seven books have been published in 33 languages and include Making Great Relationship, Neurodharma, Resilient, Hardwiring Happiness, Just One Thing, Buddha's Brain, and Mother Nurture - with over a million copies in English alone. He is also a New York Times best-selling author. House writer of Thar Nge Sarpay Saya Zaw Win Kyu (Pinyinmana) translates the book "Buddha's Brain" into the Myanmar Language. The book does not mention the unique structure and working processes of Buddha's brain, but it explores how the Buddha's practices can affect the human brain and nervous system and how they can cause changes in the brain. The book presents explanations, references and shreds of evidence from two experts from Neuroscience.

Indeed, the book features how neuroplasticity occurs in the brain due to the teachings of Buddha, and so its title is Buddha's Brain. Sayadaw Nanda Sara MBC, University of Hong Kong MA (Buddhist Studies), University of Kelani-

ya commented on the book, "If the Buddhists read and understand the book deeply, they will develop the pride, a greater admiration for the Buddha, and an increased faith and devotion." This book explains how practical inner ways can reach into your brain to enhance well-being, loving kindness and wisdom. It also explores the psychological, neuroscience and mindfulness practices regarding the answers to two questions: What brain conditions are based on well-being, loving kindness and wisdom? How can you use your mind to stimulate the positive condition of the brain?

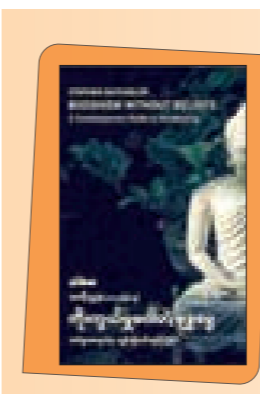
You can change your brain

gradually through various methods. If you can change your brain, you can change your life.

It is a non-fiction book offering knowledge about the working processes of the brain, brain ability, developing a peaceful mind, systematic enhancement of loving-kindness, compassion and reducing ego.

A reader commented, "It is a good book in which we can know how the brain works and we can apply the brain abilities and control our mind to be peaceful. I want the readers to practice the instructions mentioned in this book. I have found peace by thinking, visualizing and experiencing the practices as instructed."

This book introduces Buddha's concepts in a simple and modern way, helping 21<sup>st</sup>-century youths understand who the Buddha was among the knowledge-seeking young generation. It is an introduction to mindfulness constructed by Buddha for human society. You can use this book to apply your brain ability and to rewire your brain in the long run for stronger well-being and peace."



Book Title - Buddhism Without Beliefs By Stephen Batchelor Treatise on Utubhojana Sangaha  
 Writer - Mawri Sha  
 Publishing House - Pann Satt Lann  
 Publication Date - February 2025 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)  
 Price - K9,000

## Buddhism Without Beliefs by Stephen Batchelor

STEPHEN Batchelor is the original author and a Western researcher known for his writings on Buddhist subjects, and a travelling meditation teacher who conducts retreats at international Vipassana centres. He openly advocates secular or agnostic Buddhism.

Sir Mawri Sha is a literary translator working on social matters, psychology, treatise and mindset books and his books are one of the best-selling translation books.

The content of the book is seemingly simple yet shares deep insights and profound understanding upon reading. The original author introduces in the preface that Buddha is not some kind of supernatural and magical figure

but indeed a human who provided a solution to deal with struggles in life understood the cause of suffering and instructed how to live a good life, concisely summarized with mind-blowing facts.

Moreover, Buddhism and Buddha's teachings do not portray blind faith but practices that can resonate with one's daily life. Buddha's enlightenment is an awakening that one can comprehend the true nature of things and the teaching is accessible to all beings regardless of their religions or faiths, supported with reasonable arguments.

The author critiques common misconceptions, such as the belief that merely worshipping statues and performing rituals and donations results in a good

return and memorizing sacred Buddhist teaching or meditating mindfulness leading to enlightenment (Nibbana). It is just a vicious circle of misunderstanding under the influence of Tanha (physical or mental desire, greed). Only genuine efforts and introspection can achieve true understanding and freedom from suffering and ignorance, he firmly stated.

He explained the concept of Tanha that cultivating non-attachment is the first step to overcoming struggles and causes pervasive influence on living beings.

Ego and attachments are akin to fire and heat, leading to greed, anger and darkness. The craving deeply entrapped and rooted in our mind is challenging and ingrained to be destructed or controlled.

The author simplified how the cessation of desire is too powerful to be resisted with a quote "from the one strongly compelled by a craving to smoking, to deep apprehension about health and quality of life".

The book provides practical methods to escape from craving by looking at oneself through self-reflection and understanding one's desires and motivations, providing a specific instance that removing a venomous snake wrapping around one's arm forcefully and suddenly can provoke it to bite. The safest action is trying to remain calm and giving it a path to retreat. One must find the reason for the snake coiling you. Likewise, one must get to know oneself through reflection, find the reason for craving and analyze one's own thoughts and behaviours by taking a step back to gain deeper self-awareness.

The translator emphasizes the importance of self-reliance and personal effort in understanding and practising the Dharma. He stresses that true wisdom and liberation come from one's own practice and experience, not just from blindly following traditions or treatises. Those who examine and understand their own minds and lives beyond philosophy or beliefs can achieve victory.

**(In honour of Peasants' Day)**  
**(တောင်သူလယ်သမားနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု)**

**Benefactor ကျေးဇူးရှင်**  
 By Chit Ko Pe

Come rain or shine, farmers have no rest time. In the farm field, they toil and till. Cultivating paddy and crops, food is supplied a lot.

(In honour of Peasants' Day)

နေပြင်း မနာ၊  
 မိုးရွာ မနာ၊  
 နေထွန်း လယ်သမား မအား၊  
 တောင်သူများ မအား၊  
 ကောက်စိုက်သွား စပါး၊  
 သီးနှံထွား အများ၊  
 ပြည့်လျှံစား အစား။

ချစ်ကိုးစေ

**Winning Chemistry Queen with Fragrant Thanaka**  
 By Mya Thae (Research)

■ Ma Ma is a student from Mawlamyine University.  
 ■ Her major subject is Chemistry.  
 ■ She is as beautiful as a fairy.  
 ■ She likes the flower of cherry.  
 ■ She is graceful and wears a Myanmar costume every.  
 ■ Ma Ma put on fragrant Thanaka very.  
 ■ She adorned a flower in her hair fashionably.  
 ■ She received a queen of chemistry.  
 ■ Her birthday is the twenty-fifth of February.  
 ■ Oh! Ma Ma, I evoke you sadly.  
 ■ But I wish you to be healthy and wealthy.

**Ghost of March**  
 By Minthuwan, Translated by Myint Zan

trees in the month of March blossoms with fresh leaves they happily sing and dance

young cuckoos sing new songs sweetly, mellifluously how beauteous they are!

due to the change of seasons old leaves wither and fall (to the ground) still, will the new tree of March with fresh leaves lovelessly forget?

old era passes: the songs lose their lustre the young cuckoo sing new songs 'tis that the not-so-sweet song of old won't be forgotten, would they?

တပေါင်းသစ်ပင်၊ ရွက်နုဆင်၍ ရွှင်ရွှင်ပျပျ၊ သီဆို က၏ ။ ။  
 ဥသြငှက်ပျို၊ တေးသစ် ဆို၍ ချိုချိုမြမြ၊ သာယာလှ၏ ။ ။  
 ရာသီကြာညောင်း၊ ကြွရွက်ဟောင်းကို တပေါင်းသစ်ပင်၊ ရွက်နုဆင်၍ မကြင်သဘော မမှအံ့လော ။ ။  
 ခေတ်ကုန်လွင့်မျော၊ တေးဂုဏ်လျှောက် ဥသြငှက်ပျို၊ တေးသစ်ဆို၍ မချိုသဘော မမှအံ့လော။ ။ ။

မင်းသုဝဏ်

၁၉၃၆ ခုနှစ် ရန်ကုန်တက္ကသိုလ် ဒုတိယကျောင်းသားသပိတ်တိုက်ပွဲ တွင် ပါဝင်ခဲ့သောကျောင်းသူတို့၏ နှုတ်စာအုပ်တွင်ရေးဖွဲ့သော ကဗျာ

Composed by Sayagyi Minthuwan on 11 March 1936 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> University strike and written in a notebook of a female University student. Translated on 11 February 2025 soon after what would have been the 116<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sayagyi Minthuwan (10 February 1909-15 August 2004).



# NATIONAL Entertainment

## Senior musicians to receive tribute visits

FOR those who are unable to attend the respect-paying ceremony for senior musicians, visits will be made to their homes to pay respects, said L Seng Zi, who participated in organizing the event.

The singer said this at the 14<sup>th</sup> respect-paying ceremony for senior musicians

of the Myanmar Music Association (Central) held at the Sky Stat Hotel in Tamway.

"I would like to thank the senior musicians as they are living in good health. We will pay respect to those unable to attend at their houses," she said. There are over 200 senior musicians between over 70 and 100, and all

of them cannot attend the event. A total of K41,690,000 was provided to the musicians at the event.

L Seng Zi is the daughter of composer La Zung Twe Wah, and she will release duet songs with L Loon Wah. - Htun Htun/KTZH



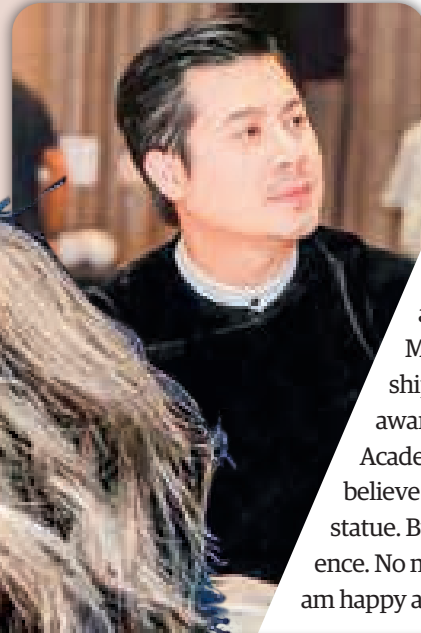
### Wah Wah Win Shwe

"I am so happy for Kit Kit (Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi) for winning the Academy award and so sad for Moe (Moe Hay Ko) as she missed one. I also had feelings when missing the award. Don't be depressed. You are still young in the movie industry. Keep going. Fighting," Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe said for two young artistes. Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe makes live sales for her jewellery, and she also sold with her family on 1 March.



### Nay Toe

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization organized a dinner event for the Academy Award-winning artistes and others involved in the event at the Myawady Media Centre in Yankin Township, Yangon, on 26 February. The Academy awardees and invitees joined the event. Four Academy awards winner Nay Toe said, "Some believe the true value of the Academy lies in the statue. But I believe it lies in the hearts of the audience. No matter whether I win the Academy or not, I am happy as I receive the awards from my fans."



### May Khalar

VOCALIST May Khalar invited her fans, saying, "Please participate in the first anniversary of 225 by listening to Top 90s songs with your families and friends." She will sing at the first anniversary of 225 Entertainment Lounge on 7 March. The people can listen to the famous songs of May Khalar with the performance of the Fly Machine Band.



### Tun Tun

AN official trailer of the 'Blood River' movie, in which Academy Tun Tun starred, was broadcast online at 7 pm on 28 February. Director Aung Chan Lu directed it, the cast includes Academy Tun Tun, Sun Palun Money, Kyaw Zeya and Marry Myo. At the press show, Tun Tun interviewed the journalists regarding their opinions of the film.



### Khin San Win (Makeup)

A two-day 'Love Stories by Melia Wedding Fair 2025 (Ch-3)' event will be organized on 7 and 8 March at the Melia Yangon. Fashion designers Mya Myintzu and Pyae Soe Aung will facilitate, along with Makeup Artist Khin San Win. As a special promotion, it will include the lucky draw to go on a honeymoon to overseas Melia hotels and US\$1,000 cash back. If the couple holds a wedding reception at Melia Yangon, they can have the opportunity to hold another event. - Htun Htun/KTZH



# CELEBRITY

## BRIEF

### Jewel

VOCALIST Jewel will organize the Yangon Night Event concert on 1 and 2 March, accompanied by the Crotchet Band at the Secretariat in Yangon. The concert features funfairs and games for kids, and famous singers Po Po, Phyo Pyae Sone, Jason Ace, Wutyee Htet, Rebron Band, Atar Min Thu and Wint Wah will also sing at the event.



# NATIONAL

## Weekly ROUNDUP

# MCC to hold Miss Yangon 2025 Beauty Pageant

THE Miss Yangon 2025 Beauty Pageant will take place at the Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC) in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, on 7 March, according to the Yangon Region Women's Committee.

The event is organized by the Yangon Region Women's Committee to commemorate International Women's Day in 2025.

The competition will be held at the MCC hall in Mayangon Township, Yangon, starting at 9 am on 7 March 2025. Contestants have already been invited to apply, said a spokesperson from the committee.



This image shows a promotional poster for the Miss Yangon 2025 Beauty Pageant.

To qualify for participation in the Miss Yangon 2025 pageant, contestants must be unmarried women, at least 5 feet and 4 inch-

es tall, and weigh between 120 and 160 pounds. They must be aged between 18 and 28 years and have at least a high school educa-

tion. Contestants must also be free from any criminal record and not suffer from any infectious diseases. — ASH/KZL

# Mobile medical team delivers healthcare in Mahaaungmyay

A mobile medical team of the Central Command performed healthcare services at the Than Yadana Dhamma Beikman building of Icchasaya Monastery in Yemon (South) Ward in Mahaaungmyay Township of Mandalay yesterday

morning. In carrying out these activities, the medical team provided necessary health check-ups and treatments for 41 members of the Sangha and 106 residents concerning hypertension, arthritis, diabetes, mater-

nal health issues, respiratory diseases, eye diseases, dental and oral diseases, surgical conditions, pediatric diseases, and general illnesses. Moreover, they conducted health education talks and discussions. For those requiring further

treatment, arrangements were made for them to receive medical care at the local Tatmadaw hospital. Officials from Mandalay Station supervised the healthcare services and attended to their needs. — MNA/TTA

### Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

1. Ministry of Defence <https://www.mod.gov.mm>
2. Ministry of Legal Affairs <https://www.mlis.gov.mm>
3. Ministry of Information <https://www.moi.gov.mm>
4. Myawady Webportal <https://myawady.net.mm>
5. Myanmar National Portal <https://myanmar.gov.mm>

## Poppy plantation destroyed in Hsihseng

A combined team comprising members of the Myanmar Police Force, local security forces and departmental personnel are destroying some 22 acres of poppy plantation planted in the area, about two furlongs northeast of Loimang Village of Hsihseng Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in Shan State (South) starting from 1 March.

The activities of destroying poppy plantations were supervised by Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Sein Win and Commander of Shan State Police Force Police Brig-Gen Win Min Thein, who presented foodstuffs to those who are participating in the destruction of poppy plantations in hilly areas of Hsihseng Township. — Kyaw Zin (Taunggyi IPRD)/TTA

### 23 February

#### Myanmar, Russia to promote mutual economic cooperation

THE Russian Federation is ready to put investments in generating electricity and producing fertilizer, oil and chemical products which are essential for Myanmar, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Maxim Reshetnikov at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw.

#### Myanmar, Thailand to promote sector-wise cooperation

MYANMAR is clearly carrying out activities of exposing and taking action against offenders in telecom fraud and online gambling as a national duty, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who received by Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Maris Sangiampongsa at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw.

### 25 February

#### Social protection measures essential for government

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

### 28 February

#### CBM launches national QR standard MMQR for secure transactions

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 Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the launching ceremony of National QR Standard MMQR held at Jade Hall of MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw.

### 1 March

#### Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to visit Russian Federation

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council issued a press release stating that at the invitation of Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay an official goodwill visit to the Russian Federation in the coming days. — GNLN/TTA

# ECONOMY WORLD

## India and EU to finalize free trade agreement by year-end



Von der Leyen, who is on a two-day visit to India with her college of commissioners, is seeking to hedge against her bloc's souring relations with the United States and said they were "expecting a lot from our trade negotiators". **PHOTO: AFP**

*India aims for a "mutually beneficial" EU trade deal by year's end, Modi announced.*

INDIA will finalize a "mutually beneficial" free trade deal with the European Union by the end of this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday after meeting with EU chief Ursula von der Leyen.

"We have asked our teams to work out a mutually beneficial bilateral free trade agreement by the end of this year," Modi said in New Delhi.

Von der Leyen, who is on a two-day visit to India with her college of commissioners, is seeking to hedge against her bloc's souring relations with the United States and said they were "expecting a lot from our trade negotiators".

Deeper access to India's rapidly expanding market was at the top of the delegation's agenda, and the EU chief looked visibly pleased after her meeting with Modi and his ministers.

The EU is already India's largest trading partner, accounting for 124 billion euros (\$130 billion) worth of trade in goods in 2023 — more than 12 per cent of total Indian trade, according to Brussels. The Indian market offers many opportunities for sectors ranging from defence to agriculture, cars and clean energy. Yet, protected by high tariffs, it currently accounts for only 2.2 per cent of EU trade in goods. — AFP

## Why Mexican manufacturers seem unfazed by threat of Trump tariffs

IF US President Donald Trump is to be taken at his word, Mexican imports to the United States will be hit with 25-per-cent tariffs on Tuesday.

But exporters in Mexico, the United States' biggest trading partner, remain upbeat about the future of the \$840-billion business relationship.

Mexico's economy has gone from strength to strength on the back of the free trade agree-

ments it has enjoyed with the United States and Canada since 1994. The value of its exports to the United States now far exceeds that of its imports from its northern neighbour — a major bone of contention for Trump.

On Tuesday, the tariffs he announced on all Mexican imports shortly after taking office are due to go into effect, after being suspended for a month. — AFP



The Tijuana region is home to hundreds of 'maquiladoras' — factories that assemble imported parts into finished products for export. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Some standout pavilions at 2025 World Expo Osaka

THE Osaka Expo pavilions showcase diverse national identities and future visions. Chile's pavilion blends Mapuche textile art with modern design, emphasizing sustainability and astronomy.

Australia's flower-inspired structure, built with recycled materials, highlights indigenous heritage and environmental stewardship.

Portugal's ocean-themed pavilion, designed by Kengo Kuma, focuses on marine conservation using recycled materials, featuring a rope facade and cork flooring.

The UK's pavilion, a modular structure with aluminium panels, celebrates innovation and British achievements, hosting events with iconic brands. — Kyodo



Interior of Chile's pavilion. **PHOTO: CHILE PAVILION AT EXPO 2025 OSAKA / KYODO**

## Overseas Cambodian labourers send home US\$2.95 bln in 2024

OVERSEAS Cambodian workers sent home about US\$2.95 billion in 2024, slightly up from \$2.94 billion in the year before, said the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training's report on Saturday.

A total of 1.38 million Cam-

bodians had worked abroad as of last year, up from roughly 1.35 million in a year earlier, the report said.

"In 2024, the ministry had found overseas job opportunities for 44,862 Cambodian workers including 17,270

women," Minister of Labour and Vocational Training Heng Sour said.

At the same time, 18,561 overseas Cambodian labourers including 6,934 women had returned home, he added. — Xinhua

# Microsoft retires Skype, internet call pioneer



Microsoft on Friday announced it was retiring Skype, the online voice and video call pioneer that the tech titan acquired in 2011. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/CANVA**

MICROSOFT on Friday announced it was retiring Skype, the online voice and video call pioneer that the tech titan acquired in 2011.

“Starting in May 2025, Skype will no longer be available,” said a post from Skype support on X, directing users to sign into Microsoft’s Teams

platform for further use of its services.

Skype was founded in 2003 by Scandinavians Niklas Zennstrom and Janus Friis in Estonia,

revolutionizing internet communication by offering free voice calls between computers and affordable rates for calls to landlines and mobile phones. Over the years, and as internet speeds improved, Skype evolved to include video calls, instant messaging, file sharing and group communication features.

By 2005, Skype had already reached 50 million registered users, demonstrating its rapid global adoption.

Online auction site eBay acquired Skype in 2005 for approximately \$2.6 billion, but the expected synergies never panned out, and in 2009, eBay sold a majority stake to a group of investors, who then sold it to Microsoft. — AFP

# Meta fires employees for leaks amid Zuckerberg’s Trump pivot

META on Thursday said it had laid off 20 workers for leaking information to the media, as the social media giant faces pressure over the recent political shift of its boss Mark Zuckerberg towards US President Donald Trump.

“We tell employees when they join the company, and we offer periodic reminders, that it is against our policies to leak internal information, no matter the intent,” a Meta spokesperson said, confirming a story first reported in The Verge.

“We recently conducted an investigation that resulted in roughly 20 employees being

terminated for sharing confidential information outside the company, and we expect there will be more,” the company added.

“We take this seriously, and will continue to take action when we identify leaks.” The round of firings came following a recent series of reports based on Zuckerberg’s meetings with employees.

In one meeting, first reported by The Verge, Zuckerberg told employees he would no longer be forthcoming with information because “we try to be really open and then everything I say leaks. It sucks.” — AFP



Meta on Thursday said it had laid off 20 workers for leaking information to the media, as the social media giant faces pressure over the recent political shift of its boss Mark Zuckerberg towards US President Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Kenya's forex reserves hit four-week low amid shilling's decline

KENYA'S foreign exchange reserves dropped by a record US\$200 million this week, reaching a four-week low amid the weakening of the shilling, the central bank said in its weekly financial markets update released on Friday evening. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) said that forex reserves stood at \$9.05 billion, or 4.6 months of import cover, on Thursday, down from \$9.25 billion on 20 February.

Forex reserves had reached a high of \$9.37 billion on 13 February before beginning a downward trend, the apex bank said. Despite the decline in foreign exchange reserves, CBK said that the reserves “remain adequate, meeting CBK’s statutory requirement to endeavour to maintain at least four months of import cover.” — Xinhua

## Chinese EV maker XPENG enters Indonesian market

CHINESE automaker XPENG made a debut in the Indonesian market on Friday as the Southeast Asian country tries to boost its electric vehicle (EV) adoption.

XPENG, headquartered in Guangzhou,

south China’s Guangdong Province, is partnering with PT Erajaya Active Lifestyle (ERAL), owned by Erajaya Group, to distribute its products in the region.

ERAL Chief Executive Officer Djohan Su-

tanto said that the strategic collaboration aims to introduce XPENG’s advanced electric vehicle technology to Indonesian consumers by leveraging ERAL’s market network and retail expertise. — Xinhua

## Future growth trajectory of India will be led by revival in private investment: SBI

FUTURE growth trajectory of the country will be led by revival in the private investment, according to a report by the State Bank of India (SBI).

The report added that the decline in gross capital formation (GCF) in FY24 is a matter of concern, and a revival in investment, particularly by private corporations, will be crucial for India’s future econom-

ic growth. SBI said “we believe, revival in private investment (particularly of private corporations) will be a major key to the future growth trajectory”.

The report highlighted that gross capital formation—which represents overall investment in the economy—dropped from 32.6 per cent of GDP in FY23 to 31.4 per cent in FY24.

The major reason for this decline is the slowdown in private sector investment, which had reached a 10-year high of 25.8 per cent of GDP in FY23 but fell to 24.0 per cent in FY24.

Despite this, public sector investment increased and reached an all-time high of 8.0 per cent of GDP in FY24, the highest since FY12. — ANI

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC JUNDE VOY.NO. (2502S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD**

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



People look on as loggerhead sea turtles are released into the Mediterranean Sea at the Palmachim beach near central Israeli city of Rishon Letzion, 29 March 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

1 MARCH

## UN nature talks unlock \$200 bln deal for conservation

*This agreement, finalized just before midnight on Thursday, is considered vital for advancing the landmark 2022 deal aimed at stopping the widespread destruction of nature.*

Rich and developing countries have hammered out a delicate compromise on raising and delivering the billions of dollars needed to protect species, overcoming stark divisions that scuttled their previous meeting in Colombia last year. The agreement in Rome just before midnight on Thursday is seen as crucial to giving impetus to the landmark

2022 deal to halt the rampant destruction of nature this decade, which included a goal to provide \$200 billion a year in finance.

The new deal sets out two main strands of action in the coming years – to find billions of dollars in extra funding for biodiversity and to decide on the institutions that will deliver that money. – AFP

28 FEBRUARY

## Trump crackdown triggers Panama reverse migration chaos

Boatloads of migrants have returned to South America this week from a new departure point in Panama – part of an increasing and chaotic reverse migratory flow triggered by US President Donald Trump's hardline policies.

In total, around 2,200 migrants have entered Panama from the north in recent weeks, according to the government, having abandoned their hopes of a new life

in the United States.

More than 200 migrants left on Thursday by boat from Panama's Caribbean port of Miramar, which has emerged as a new gateway on the sea route from Central to South America. The journey south was as hard as travelling north, said Francisco, a 31-year-old Venezuelan who did not want to give his full name because of worries about his safety. – AFP

27 FEBRUARY

## Japan births fall to new historic low

Births in Japan hit another record low in 2024, falling for the ninth-straight year as young people delay marriage while the elderly population rises, government data showed Thursday.

The numbers highlight the dramatic demographic challenges facing the world's fourth-biggest economy, where a shrinking workforce is having to shoulder the costs of caring for a ballooning elderly population.

In 2024, 720,988 babies were born in Japan, including to foreign nationals, down five per cent from 758,631 in 2023, according to preliminary health ministry data.

The number of births shrank to the lowest since government started tracking the data in 1899.

Deaths were more than double the number of births, rising 1.8 per cent from 2023 to 1.62 million. – AFP

26 FEBRUARY

## Technological revolution provides new opportunities: Brunei Sultan

Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiyah said at Brunei's Legislative Council on Wednesday that the technological revolution, particularly artificial intelligence, provides new opportunities to the country.

During the opening of the First Meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Legislative Council, the Sultan emphasized the importance of enhancing human capital development and national capabilities in

the new global technological revolution.

Brunei is a Southeast Asian country with beautiful natural scenery and rich oil and gas resources.

The Sultanate has been committed to promoting economic transformation and diversification, focusing on the development of sectors such as downstream oil, tourism, international trade, and high-tech advancements. – Xinhua

25 FEBRUARY

## Syria conference lays out post-Assad priorities

A national dialogue conference held Tuesday in Damascus set out a path for the new Syria following the fall of Bashar al-Assad but did not receive support from Kurdish leaders, who were not invited.

Among the principles agreed to was a state monopoly on arms, which came with Syria's Kurds at odds with the new government over the future of their armed units.

Interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa, in a speech to attendees, said the country

was at a "new historic phase" after more than a decade of civil war.

A closing statement included 18 points that "will serve as a basis" for the reform of state institutions and touch on Syria's political life, economy, defence policy and rights.

The statement read out by Houda Atassi, a member of the conference's preparatory committee, called for "a monopoly on weapons by the state" and a new professional national army. – AFP

24 FEBRUARY

## French surgeon in sex abuse trial admits to 'hideous' acts

A former French surgeon went on trial Monday charged with raping or sexually assaulting almost 300 patients, most of them children at the time, in one of the country's largest child sex abuse cases.

Judge Aude Buresi declared the hearing in the western city of Vannes open as Joel Le Scouarnec, 74, took his place in

the dock.

He was "perfectly aware that these wounds cannot be erased or healed" and that he was ready to "take responsibility" for his actions.

The former surgeon has already been in jail after being found guilty in 2020 of abusing four children. – AFP

23 FEBRUARY

## Japan emperor greets public on his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, hopes for happiness

Emperor Naruhito on Sunday greeted thousands who gathered to celebrate his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, joined by Empress Masako, their daughter Princess Aiko and other imperial family members, expressing hope for the people's happiness and good health. Ahead of his birthday, the emperor expressed hope at a press conference that

the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II later this year would serve as an occasion to renew a pledge for peace.

The emperor said, "I wish for a peaceful spring for each and every one of you in all parts of the country. I hope for everyone's good health and happiness." – Kyodo

# SPORTS



A silky smooth second run from Henrik Kristoffersen delivers the Norwegian his first giant slalom of the season.

PHOTO: AFP

## Kristoffersen nails Slovenia giant slalom to break Brazil hearts

HENRIK Kristoffersen kept his head to deliver a flawless second run and seal his first giant slalom win of the season in Slovenia on Saturday.

The Norwegian was leading in Kranjska Gora after the first run but was up against it as former Norwegian now competing under the Brazilian flag Lucas Pinheiro Braathen, seventh after the first leg, put in a storming second run to jump to the top of the pack with six skiers still to go.

One by one they fell short of the mark - Alexander Steen Olsen, fourth in the morning, trailing in 19<sup>th</sup>, Joan Verdu (third) settling for ninth, and Marco Odermatt slotting in second.

Then it was all eyes on whether Kristoffersen could

deny Brazil their first ever World Cup win, with all Pinheiro Braathen's previous wins coming before he switched allegiance to his mother's country after a falling out with the Norwegian ski federation.

The 30-year-old Kristoffersen wasn't about to let his first win of the season go abegging, going green in all the sectors for a combined time of two minutes 18.18 seconds, 0.41 clear of Pinheiro Braathen, with Odermatt 0.52 away in third. "This means a lot, it was areally nice race, almost better on the second run," he said. The former double world champion (giant slalom in 2019 and slalom in 2023) was taking his World Cup tally to 32 wins, eight of them giant slaloms. — AFP

## Four Myanmar fighters to compete in Silver Belt Championship

FOUR fighters representing Myanmar will compete with Chinese fighters in a boxing championship, the Asian Friendship Silver Belt Championship, in Thailand.

At the championship which will take place at World Siam Stadium in Bangkok on 8 March, four Myanmar fighters — Nay Htet Aung versus Jun Luo in the 122-pound class, Myo Khant Kyaw versus Gaocong Ding in the 140-pound class, Naing Win Tun will fight with Chen Zhao in the 154-pound class and Van La Thaw will fight with Gui Ming Li in the 118-pound class.

At present, Myanmar boxers are under training for the championship, and MBC has planned to send about 15 Myanmar boxers in the next compe-



Myanmar fighters who will compete in Asian Friendship Silver Belt Championship

titions, which are scheduled to take place in Japan, Thailand and Cambodia this year. — Htun Htun/ZS

## Shan United sets record with sixth MNL Championship



Myanmar Football Federation Patron U Aung Ko Win presents the gold trophy to unbeaten champions Shan United. PHOTO: THAW GYI

THE 2024-2025 Myanmar National League (MNL) season concluded on 1 March, with Shan United securing a dominant 4-0 victory over Hanthawady United at Taunggyi Stadium. Shan United completed the season unbeaten and claimed its sixth MNL championship in the past seven seasons, making it the most successful club in domestic league history.

By defeating Hanthawady United, Shan United also extended its unbeaten season streak to four, including three consecutive seasons. The team became the first in MNL history to win five consecutive league titles. With a flawless season featuring 20 victories, Shan United set new records for the most wins and the highest point tally of 62 by any champion in MNL history. The club previously won MNL championships in 2017, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, and 2024-2025. The squad also finished the 2019, 2022, 2023,

and 2024-2025 seasons without a single defeat.

Despite squad rotations, Shan United controlled the game from the start against Hanthawady United yesterday. By halftime, they had already secured a 4-0 lead, with goals from Ye Yint Aung at nine and 28 minutes, Khun Kyaw Zin Hein at 17 minutes, and Rintaro at 38 minutes. Ye Yint Aung was named the best player of the match for his performance.

Following the final match, an awards ceremony took place. Hanthawady United, the third-place team, received individual medals and a K30 million cash prize, while runners-up Yangon United earned medals and K50 million. Champions Shan United received individual medals, the championship trophy, a K70 million cash prize and a special gold trophy for their unbeaten season. The awards were presented by Shan State Chief Minister U

Aung Aung, government officials, Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) patron U Aung Ko Win, MFF president U Zaw Zaw and other dignitaries.

At Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, Dagon Port and Rakhine United played to a 1-1 draw. At the end of the season, Shan United finished as champions with 62 points (20 wins, two draws, without losses). Yangon United secured second place with 51 points, while Hanthawady United claimed third with 44 points. Dagon Star United (40 points), Maha United (33 points), Rakhine United (31 points), ISPE FC (29 points), and Thitsa Arman finished fourth through eighth with 24 points. Ayeyawady United and Dagon Port, both with 17 points, secured ninth and tenth places, respectively. Rakhine United collected 14 points, and Myawady FC (nine points) was relegated. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Barca defying expectations with treble fight: Flick



Barcelona's German coach Hansi Flick said his side were defying expectations from the beginning of the season. PHOTO: AFP

BARCELONA coach Hansi Flick said Saturday that at the start of his reign nobody expected the Catalan giants would be fighting for three trophies in March.

The German coach replaced Xavi Hernandez last summer after a disappointing campaign where Barcelona finished without silverware.

Flick's side lead La Liga

on goal difference ahead of champions Real Madrid, are in the Copa del Rey semifinals against Atletico and will face Benfica in the Champions League last 16.

It leaves Barca with a packed schedule in the weeks ahead, starting with the visit of Real Sociedad in La Liga on Sunday, but Flick said he had no complaints. — AFP

**P**resident Donald Trump is set to make English the official language of the United States in a bid to bring “cohesion” to a country characterized by immigration from all over the world, according to a White House document seen Friday.

“It is long past time English is recognized as the official language of the United States,” the document, provided by an official



The sign outside Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy on South Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo, New York, displays a message to its students during the COVID-19 pandemic: “we miss you” and “wash your hands”. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

## Trump to order English as official language in US

*Trump's executive order aims to affirm that a common language enhances national unity and will reverse a 1990s mandate from President Bill Clinton that required federal agencies to assist non-English speakers.*

on condition of anonymity, said.

Trump's executive order “affirms that a common language fosters national cohesion”.

The order will overturn a presidential mandate from the 1990s under then president Bill Clinton requiring federal agencies and agencies receiving federal funding to provide assistance to non-English speakers. According

to the new document, agencies will still have “flexibility” to decide how much help to offer in languages other than English.

Trump has issued a blizzard of executive orders in his first weeks in office, seeking to put his hard right-wing stamp on the country. However, many of his orders are being challenged in court, particularly when they

seek to annul federal funding approved by Congress.

While acknowledging that more than 350 languages are spoken in the United States, the White House document says that English has always been “the language of our nation, with historic documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution written in English”.

Nearly 68 million people spoke a language other than English at home, according to government figures from 2019. While English is by far the majority language, more than 40 million people in America are estimated to speak Spanish at home. — AFP

## Jungle theme park with dinosaur ride to open in Okinawa on 25 July

A jungle theme park will open in Okinawa Prefecture on 25 July, with its operator hoping to attract both domestic and overseas travellers with an immersion in nature alongside thrills including a dinosaur-themed ride.

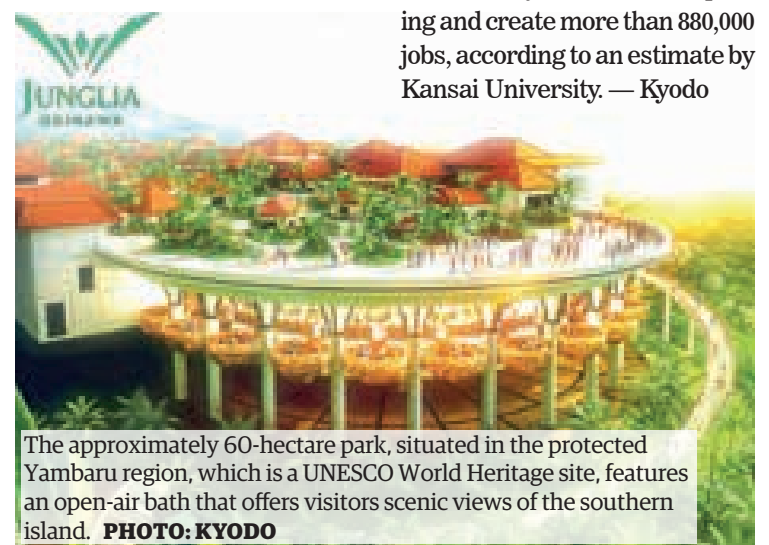
Junglia Okinawa, built in the village of Nakijin in the northern part of Okinawa's main island, will offer 22 attractions, including a balloon ride for a panoramic view of the surrounding jungle area. Visitors can also hop on a vehicle to explore the jungle and simulate the experience of fleeing from pursuing dinosaurs, its operator Japan Entertainment said.

The roughly 60-hectare park, located in the protected region

*The park is expected to generate an economic impact of about 6.8 trillion yen and create over 880,000 jobs in its first 15 years.*

of Yambaru, a UNESCO World Heritage site, also has an open-air bath that allows visitors to enjoy scenic views of the southern island, according to the firm.

The jungle theme park is forecast to have an economic impact of about 6.8 trillion yen in the first 15 years since its opening and create more than 880,000 jobs, according to an estimate by Kansai University. — Kyodo



The approximately 60-hectare park, situated in the protected Yambaru region, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, features an open-air bath that offers visitors scenic views of the southern island. **PHOTO: KYODO**



An elephant returns to the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage after taking his daily bath in a river in Pinnawala on 16 February 2025. **PHOTO: ISHARA S KODIKARA/AFP/FILE**

## Sri Lanka reports massive tolls in human-elephant conflicts

SRI Lanka vowed Thursday to urgently tackle costly clashes between villagers and wild elephants after reporting the deaths of nearly 1,200 people and over 3,500 animals in a decade.

Environment minister Dammika Patabendi told parliament that they will build more electrified fences and deploy additional staff to help reduce elephant raids on villages near wildlife sanctuaries.

“We are allocating more money to reduce the human-elephant conflict, and are hopeful that within a short period of time we will be able to mitigate the situation,” Patabendi said. Between 2015 and 2024, 1,195 people and 3,484 wild elephants

*Between 2015 and 2024, 1,195 people and 3,484 wild elephants were reported killed.*

were killed, he said.

In January this year, three more people and 43 elephants were killed.

Opposition legislator Nalin Bandara said the toll was “shocking” and urged authorities to protect people, while also ensuring that the wild animals were not harmed. — AFP