

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing ceremonially welcomed by Economic Development Minister Mr Maxim Reshetnikov and Guards of Honour of the Russian Federation at Vnukovo International Airport in Moscow last evening.

Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing leads high-level delegation to Russian Federation

AT the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, a high-level Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning left Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport by special aeroplane to pay an official visit to the Russian Federation.

The Senior General and his party were seen off at the airport by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the SAC Sec-

retary, council members, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, officials from the Embassy and the office of Military Attaché of the Russian Federation to Myanmar.

The Senior General is accompanied by SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Council member General Nyo Saw, Union Ministers U Than Swe, Admiral Moe Aung, Dr Kan Zaw, U Ko Ko Lwin and Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Bago Region

Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, and military and civilian officials.

During the visit, the Myanmar delegation led by the Senior General will meet President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of the Russian Federation, the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, the Chairman of the State Duma, and officials of the Russian Government. Moreover, the Myanmar delegation will hold talks about further strengthening strategic co-

operation in all sectors including friendly relations, economic and security sectors between the two governments and peoples of both countries.

The high-level Myanmar delegation arrived at Vnukovo International Airport in Moscow in the evening Russian Standard Time. The Senior General and his entourage were welcomed by Mr Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

SEE PAGE 3

Article

Saya Maung Khin Min (Danubyu)'s landmark reference book on sixty Myanmar linguistics treatises.

By Myint Zan

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL

PAGE 4



Central Committee on Copyright discusses copyright-related matters

BUSINESS

PAGE 7



MoC urges rice traders to adhere to fair market prices

NATIONAL

Government Promotes Political Dialogue to Counter Terrorism and Foster National Peace

A civilized society cannot fully accept resolving armed conflicts through terror attacks without political dialogue. Therefore, insurgents must be recognized as a common enemy, and the government will continue to work towards peace and stability, not only in Shan State (North) but across the entire nation.

(Excerpt from the speech on security conditions of the State delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 6 August 2024)

1 special criminal appeal case, 3 special civil appeal cases passed judgements, and 4 special criminal appeal cases heard

THE special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice U Tha Htay and judges of Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Tint, U Khin Maung Gyi, Daw Khin May Yi and U Thein Ko Ko was convened yesterday at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed judgements for one special criminal appeal case

No 15/2024 (Yangon) and three special civil appeal cases — Nos 79/2024 (Mandalay), 81/2024 (Magway), 82/2024 (Mandalay). In addition, a total of four special criminal appeal cases: Nos 16/2024 (Kayin), 17/2024 (Yangon), 1/2025 (Mandalay) and 2/2025 (Mandalay) were heard. MNA

8th State Central Sangha Working Committee begins Day 2 of 7th meeting



The second-day session of the seventh meeting of the Eighth State Central Sangha Working Committee in progress yesterday in Yangon.

THE Eighth State Central Sangha Working Committee of the Sangha held its second-day session of the seventh meeting at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning.

The meeting was presided over by SSMNC Vice-Chairman Aggamaha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Candanasara, while Joint Secretary Sayadaw Aggamaha

Pandita Bhaddanta Sandavamsa Lankara Bhivamsa acted as master of ceremonies.

At the meeting, the Sayadaws supplicated brief reports on the work processes regarding Vinicchaya and religious affairs and educational matters within a year of the meeting and concluded the first session.

At noon, the Sayadaws continued the discussion to seek approvals and concluded the

second-day meeting.

Meeting participant members of the Sangha were served day meals by Daw Toe Toe and son U Kyaw Phone Win (Customs officer), U Myo Kyaw Kyaw (Tha Tha Na) + Daw Ei Thuzar Ko (Tha Tha Na), grandchildren Ma Yoon Pan Myat Hay Thi and Maung Kyaw Zin Hein dedicating to the deceased Captain Tin Htay (Rtd). — MNA/KTZH



Public Health Department

Public Notice: Advisory for Prevention against Hepatitis A Infection

HEPATITIS A, caused by the Hepatitis A virus, is an infectious and epidemic disease that can affect any age group, especially children.

Transmissions

- Consuming contaminated food or drinks that contain dirt from an infected person.
- Close contact with infected individuals.

Symptoms

- Fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, vomiting, stomach pain, yellowing of the skin and eyes, dark urine, pale-coloured faeces, and pain in the bones and joints.
- Severe hepatitis can lead to sudden liver failure, posing a life-threatening risk.
- Those with Hepatitis B or C and HIV may suffer severely.

Preventive measures

- Be cautious of personal hygiene, washing hands with soap systematically before touching food, cooking, eating, and using the toilet.
- Wash all food thoroughly with clean water before cooking.
- Drink boiled water or purified water with water purification tablets or FDA-certified purified water.
- Avoid raw food and food that flies land on.
- Ensure that toilets and septic tanks are kept from leaks, and use the fly-proof toilet.
- To prevent the spread of diseases, if a vendor is affected by an illness, they should stop handling and selling food for at least 10 days after their skin and eyes have turned yellow.

Go to the nearest health departments immediately if symptoms are experienced.

Objectives of 80th 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.

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)

Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing leads ...

FROM PAGE 1

of the Russian Federation and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov, and Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen

Moe Kyaw.

At the airport, the Senior General was accorded a ceremonial welcome by the Guard of Honour of the Russian Federation following the traditional protocol for welcoming visiting heads of state on an official friendship visit.

During the ceremony, the Guard of Honour played the national anthems of both countries as a mark of respect. Moreover, the Senior General took the march-past salute from the Russian Federation's Guard of Honour.

The Minister of Economic

Development of the Russian Federation introduced officials of the Russian Government to the Senior General who also introduced his entourage.

The Guard of Honour of the Russian Federation marched past the Senior General.

This year, the Russia-My-

anmar diplomatic relations turned 77 years with bilateral relations, exchanges of State leaders and improvement in sector-wise cooperation. Moreover, a plan is underway to enhance further promotion of relations between the two countries. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Abbot of Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Centre in Moscow

THE high-level Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently in the Russian Federation, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Thit Linn Ohn and the Myanmar Military Attaché, paid homage to the abbot of the Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Centre in Moscow yesterday evening.

After paying homage to Abbot of Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Centre Mahasaddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Acchariya at the centre's Suddhamma Jotika Ordination Hall, the Senior General supplicated religious affairs, accommodation and travel, the centre's requirements, and missionary measures for propagating Buddhism in Russia and fulfilled the needs.

The Sayadaw administered the Five Precepts. The Senior General and party donated cash for nine prerequisites and alms to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

Under the guidance of State Ovadacariya Chairman of Shwegyin Nikaya 16th Shwe-



SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers donations to Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Acchariya and members of the Sangha at the Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Centre in Moscow.

gyin Sangharaja Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies and Sitagu Hospitals Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Abhidhaja Mahasaddhammajotika Mahadhammakathika Bahujan-

ahitadhara Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara and Professor Dean of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dhammaduta Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Chekinda and

the patronage of SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), families of the Myanmar

Embassy to Russia and the office of the Myanmar Military Attaché to Russia and families of scholarship trainees arranged the Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Centre for propagation of the Buddhism in Russia starting from 2013. The ceremony to share the merits of the centre's construction took place in 2015.

Likewise, the Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Vihara was built with contributions of SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), families of the Myanmar Embassy to Russia and the office of Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air), monks and people, scholarship officer trainees in Russia under the guidance of the Sitagu Sayadaw for members of the Sangha and people to take meditation. In 2021, the Senior General and well-wishers shared merits for the completion of the Vihara. At present, Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Vihara is essential for Buddhists in the Russian Federation and neighbouring countries in carrying out religious affairs. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Central Committee on Copyright discusses copyright-related matters

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo addressed the first meeting of the Central Committee on Copyright held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union minister, who is also chairman of the committee, said efforts are being made to establish an efficient and up-to-date copyright system that can support the socioeconomic development of the country. Among the four copyright laws enacted in 2019, the Trademark Law, the Industrial Design Law and the Copyright Law came into force in 2023, and the Patent Law in 2024. Moreover, a system to protect the copyright of entrepreneurs and inventors aiming to promote innovations and literature is also adopted like other regional coun-



The first meeting of the Central Committee on Copyright in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, addressed by SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo.

tries and ASEAN countries. The currently-practised copyright system also needs to conform to international standards and also with the current situations

for the political, economic and education sectors of the country. The enforcement of an intellectual property protection system in the country will sup-

port the emergence of innovative and competitive government and private sectors and contribute to the economic growth of the country. Therefore, all should work

together to develop this sector. Human resources play a key role in the economic development of respective countries where intellectual property rights are being adopted, so education programmes should be conducted for the students and young people to stimulate their passions, and the creations by universities and research departments are also being introduced with the MSME entrepreneurs. Therefore, the copyright system being established in the country should be an effective action for the whole nation.

The committee's vice-chairman reported on the decisions made during the previous meeting and outlined the progress achieved.

Afterwards, the attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

MoFA Deputy Minister receives Regional Director of UN Women AP Office in Bangkok

U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Ms Christine Arab, Regional Director of UN Women Asia and Pacific Office in Bangkok yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially exchanged views on matters related to the future programme of UN Women in Myanmar and explored ways to enhance cooperation between Myanmar and UN Women.

Also, present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA



The Regional Director of UN Women Asia and Pacific Office in Bangkok calls on Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw.

MSWRR Deputy Minister meets UN Women's Regional Director

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Kyi met Ms Christine Arab, Regional Director of UN Women Asia and Pacific Office, yesterday afternoon at the ministry's reception hall.

During the meeting, they discussed the ministry's ongoing efforts, including livelihood training programmes for displaced persons in conflict-affected and disaster-prone areas, support provided to survivors of gender-based violence, and the establishment of One-Stop Women Support

Centres (OSWSC) to offer integrated services for women affected by violence. They also exchanged views on the implementation of the National Action Plan on the Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and the signing of a Work Plan between the Department of Social Welfare and UN Women.

The meeting was attended by the deputy director-general (Operations) of the Department of Social Welfare, relevant officials, and representatives from UN Women. — MNA/MKKS



Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi receives the UN Women's Regional Director yesterday.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar-India Friendship Association hosts Agriculture and Economic Development Meeting



Officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to unveil the first meeting on Agriculture and Economic Development of Myanmar. **PHOTO: MAUNG THI**

THE Myanmar-India Friendship and Development Association organized the first meeting on Agriculture and Economic Development of Myanmar, India, Singapore, Malaysia and Canada at Esperado Lake View Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

Association Chairman U Zaw Zaw Naing and the GO-PLO International Business Council General Secretary first played the video clip featuring the activities of the association.

Association Chairman

U Zaw Zaw Naing, Deputy Minister to Myanmar Ashish Sharma, Malaysian GOPIO International Business Council Chairman S Gunasekaran, Myanmar Tourism Bank and Myanmar Tourism Association Chairman U Yan Win, the GO-PLO International Business Council General Secretary from India, Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Shein Win, Business Advisor from Singapore, GOPIO Myanmar officials and

other relevant officials cut the ribbon to inaugurate the event.

After the ceremonial procedures, the attendees continued the discussion.

The Myanmar-Indian entrepreneurs meeting will be held for three days; the second meeting will be in May in Malaysia, and the third meeting will be in India plus five countries trade fair from 22 to 24 August, and the fourth meeting will be in Myanmar in December. — MNA/KTZH

UMTA inspects site for new tourist destination

TO implement a proposal made during the Yangon Regional Tourism Development Forum held on 15 July 2024, executive members from the Union of Myanmar Travel Association went on an inspection trip to develop a new tourist destination, Sein Hill, where Okkan, Hlegu and Bago meet, on 1 March.

During this summer holiday, families have gone on day trips to resorts and recreation places around the Yangon Region on weekends and holidays and there is the arrival of local visitors to beaches, Moe Yun Gyi Lake, pagodas in Bago Township, Zalun, Shwesettaw, pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw, Kyaiktiyo, Taunggyi, Inlay, Pindaya, Kalaw and Bagan-NyaungU. — MT/ZS



Officials from the Union of Myanmar Travel Association pose for a commemorative group photo during their visit to a new destination.

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 3 March 2025)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 4 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 Mandalay, Lower Sagaing, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

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 and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 MARCH 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 MARCH 2025: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 MARCH 2025: Generally fair weather. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar about seven miles southeast of Taikkyi latitude 17.25°N, longitude 96.06°E, depth 10 kilometres, about 27 miles north-northwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 10 hours 03 minutes 13 seconds MST on 3 March 2025. — DMH

COVID-19 report, 3 MARCH 2025

NEW TESTS

5,652

NEW CASES

Nil

CASUALTIES

Nil

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NATIONAL

Shwesandaw Pagoda: Southern stairway renovation and escalator installation underway



This photo captures devotees pilgrimaging the Shwesandaw Pagoda.

THE southern covered stairway of Shwesandaw Pagoda in Pyay Township, Bago Region, is being renovated with traditional Myanmar handicrafts, and an escalator is being installed, according to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

As part of the ongoing upgrades, religious buildings are being renovated, the Buddhological Museum is

being improved, the pagoda's square is being expanded, and a four-storey Dhammayon is under construction.

"The next phase of the renovation focuses on the southern covered stairway, where a well-wisher has donated an escalator. Donors are invited to contribute towards the restoration of traditional Myanmar handicrafts for the

stairway. A donation centre has also been set up at the pagoda," said U Moe Zin, a member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Shwesandaw Pagoda attracts pilgrims from across the country, with approximately 400 visitors daily, 800 on holidays, and around 1,000 on religiously significant days. — ASH/KTZH

Nationwide premiere of Myanmar's 'Blood River' set for early Mar

THE 'Blood River' movie is set to be released in cinemas across the country in early March.

The film's screenplay and direction were handled by Aung Chan Lu, with 3H Production overseeing its production.

'Blood River' explores themes of human cruelty, greed, desire, and devotion. It is the second film by director Aung Chan Lu, known for his work on 'Thone Ka' (3A). Additionally, the movie marks the return of Academy Award-winning actor Tun Tun (Examplez) to the big screen after more than four

years. A special highlight of the film is the performance of 60-year-old newcomer U Sonpalon Munnee, who lives in a small fishing village and stars alongside seasoned professionals.

The film introduces two new lead actors, U Sonpalon Munnee and Mary Myo, alongside Academy Award-winning actor Tun Tun, Kyaw Zeya, and many other performers. Classified under the PG-13 content rating, 'Blood River' is deemed unsuitable for children under 13 years of age. — ASH/MKKS



This image showcases a poster for the 'Blood River' movie.

Travellers gear up for Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung, and Shwethaungyan Beaches

ACCORDING to information from tour companies, travellers are already preparing to visit Shwethaungyan Beach as usual, in addition to Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches in Ayeyawady Region.

Fewer tourists have been travelling to these two beaches mentioned above for the past few days, but they are planning to promote it again.

"After the examinations, travellers are preparing to go to these two beaches. There are also inquiries. People are interested in going there. Shwethaungyan Beach has also become an interesting destination recently," said an official from a tour company.

Shwethaungyan Beach is located near Chaungtha Beach, and it is another option for tourists.

"Recently, more people are interested in Shwethaungyan Beach. The beach is relaxing, and Chaungtha/ Ngwehsaung is not too far from Yangon. Here, people can relax with no worries. The road conditions are also good. It is safe," said a Chaungtha resident. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Press release highlights TV series featuring renowned actress



Actors included in the TV series are present at the media show.

THE TV series 'Atta Yaung Htoo Chon Su' features Academy recipient Moh Moh Myint Aung as

a special character. It was shown in a press release on 1 March at Kanthaya Shopping Mall's Ran-

goon Cineplex in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon.

The story is written by Min Taw Win, who also plays the scriptwriting role along with Paing Soe Thu Maung and directed by Htut Tint Tun. It will be produced from ELLA production.

"I enjoyed many films of Moh Moh Myint Aung and longed to make movies with her, in a character of her son. I got a chance to star together with her in this story which expresses ego. I would like to say the audience to give me comments," said Min Taw Win.

The TV series will be broadcast on Channel 7 starting from 5 March, from Monday to Friday at 9 pm as well as on the HEY Play application on 3 March. — ASH/ZS

MoC urges rice traders to adhere to fair market prices

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce stated that reasonable market prices of rice for March 2025 were issued, and non-compliance with the set prices is subject to legal action.

The Ministry of Commerce issued reasonable prices for all varieties; K68,000-K80,000 per 108-pound bag of non-premium rice (Aemahta, Ngasein, Sinthukha, Ngasein Yakyaw, Kayinma, Yadanatoe, Tunpu, GW-11, Sawshoke 747, Theepu, Shweman, and Hnankauk among others), K82,000 per bag of rice varieties (Zeeya, Ngweto, Minaya, Hnankauk, Shweman) that are consumed locally and exported, K94,000 to K99,000 to Shwethwe, Anyatha, Pakan, Hmawby -2,3, 90-day short matured rice, Manaw Thukha, Sinthuka, Byawtun, Ayeyapadetha and Ayeyamin produced from Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago regions, K90,000-K150,000 to moderate quality rice including Magyantaw, Ay-



Workers efficiently stack export rice bags at warehouse.

eyamin and Ayeyapadetha produced from Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and upper Myanmar regions, and premium Pawsan rice (Ayeyawady Pawsan and Shwebo Pawsan). The retailers are not entitled to make more than eight per cent of the set reasonable market prices, the ministry announced.

The ministry determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors: fair profit for farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices and other commodities prices. There are separate prices for modern trade with consumer packaging at mini-marts and supermarkets.

If individuals have difficulty buying rice, they are urged to contact the Myanmar Rice Federation. The buyers can complain about overpricing to the Consumer Affairs Department and MRF.

MRF warned that overpricing, sales with inaccurate measurement and quality and non-compliance with directives are subjected to fines, taxation and prosecution under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. Thus, rice millers, rice shops, traders and merchants are encouraged to follow the rules. — NN/KK

Altogether 486 companies default on COVID loans

A total of 486 companies and enterprises that fail to repay the loan from the COVID-19 fund will be declared in state-run newspapers, according to the committee to remedy the economic impacts caused by COVID-19. The one-year loans were disbursed to the businesses with a one-per-cent interest rate from the COVID-19 Fund to mitigate the economic impacts of the coronavirus on the businesses starting from April 2020. The maturity date was extended for them year over year. Those companies were notified on 6 June 2024 to repay the loan at the earliest possible date by 30 June 2024.

The committee stated that those business entities from regions and states were notified on 10 August 2024 that they would be warned in state-run newspapers of failure to repay the loan and interest and face actions under management. Those companies which have not paid any interest or loan by December 2024 will be officially declared with full business information, including the owner of the business. — NN/KK

Kachin State govt to expand cassava planting and contract farming

KACHIN State government stated that it will implement expanding cassava planting and contract farming as they focus on agribusiness development, improving agricultural productivity in the state and selecting regionally adapted and high-yielding pedigree seeds.

The State's Agriculture Department and a Chinese company joined hands to conduct on-farm trials for cassava cultivation on five acres in Zeelun Farm in Myitkyina, Kachin State, resulting in

a fruitful result. Consequently, expanding cultivation under a contract farming system will be carried out.

The cassava market is growing domestically and globally. It is a versatile crop with many industrial uses. It is a potential cash crop for industrial raw materials to a variety of products if growers receive technical and financial assistance. The Kachin State government will encourage the growers to participate in contract farming of cassava cultivation.

Cassava can be grown in temperatures between 25°C and 32°C and with 30 to 120 inches of rainfall. It can also be traditionally grown by placing seedlings into a pile of soil. Row cropping is also used.

It is usually grown in early May and harvested at the end of December. An acre can have 1,200 soil mounds with two seedlings per mound. The output is estimated at 3,000 visses of tapioca. It is a commercially valued and regionally suited crop. — ASH/KK

YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate holds steady

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market stayed the same at K6,905 per viss this week from 3 to 9 March like last week's rate, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

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



Cooking oil bottles are arranged for sale at the supermarket.

price is way too high.

The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal

action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing

companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

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

OPINION

Avoid acts to discriminate against people suffering from diseases

EVERYBODY wishes to enjoy good health and avoid the suffering caused by diseases. It is well known that some diseases can be completely prevented or controlled. While medical doctors and health professionals can help patients manage some diseases, they can only relieve the symptoms of major illnesses such as HIV, diabetes, and certain types of hepatitis.

Whatever the disease may be, nobody wishes to suffer from it, so they try to spend their property and assets on treatment. Hence, individuals should not discriminate against patients with any disease, as they are members of society just like those in good health. No one should take pride in their health condition, as it can change at any time.

In line with the 2025 Zero Discrimination Day theme, "We Stand Together", UNAIDS urges global communities to focus on sustaining the AIDS response now and in the future. This moment calls for reaffirming our commitment to community autonomy, justice, dignity, and health equity. Let us stand together with all patients, regardless of their condition, to build a healthier and more inclusive society. Such an act will be a good example for the next generations to initiate valuable activities for the patients.

hold providers accountable for human rights violations, according to the UNAIDS.

UNAIDS emphasizes that people worldwide should recognize its initiatives to mark Zero Discrimination Day, observed annually on 1 March. Discriminating against patients in society is not only unjust but also detrimental to their health. A truly prosperous society is one where all individuals, regardless of their health status, unite and support one another. In consequence, such collective efforts successfully contribute to the effective prevention and control of deadly disease outbreaks.

In line with the 2025 Zero Discrimination Day theme, "We Stand Together", UNAIDS urges global communities to focus on sustaining the AIDS response now and in the future. This moment calls for reaffirming our commitment to community autonomy, justice, dignity, and health equity. Let us stand together with all patients, regardless of their condition, to build a healthier and more inclusive society. Such an act will be a good example for the next generations to initiate valuable activities for the patients.

Communities are essential to the sustainability of the HIV response and global health efforts, remaining steadfast in their mission to ensure that all people living with and affected by HIV are treated with dignity and respect. However, for more than 40 years, they have faced adversity – stigma, discrimination, criminalization, funding cuts, and political backlash – despite their crucial role in ensuring health services reach those in need, including the most vulnerable populations.

All religions advise individuals to have high thoughts that nobody can avoid the impacts of suffering from diseases. Hence, communities of people living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV are at the forefront of progress in the HIV response. They provide and connect individuals with person-centred health services, build trust, drive innovation, monitor policy and service implementation, and

Saya Maung Khin Min (Danubyu)'s landmark reference book on sixty Myanmar linguistics treatises.

SAYA Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) reached the venerable age of eighty-five on 24 January 2025, but regrettably, he passed away less than four days later on 28 January 2025.

Saya Maung Khin Min (24 January 1940-28 January 2025) (hereafter MKM) has published 133 books dealing mainly with literature, linguistics, memoirs, and belles' letters. Yours truly has read 9 or 10 books of Saya MKM in their entirety. The second-last book MKM published before his demise is titled in translation 'References to (and commentary on) sixty treatises on Myanmar language and linguistics' Myanmar Bartha Sagar Kyan Khauk Hse Ah Nhun.

Structure and Organization of the Treatise

There are eight Parts in the Book. Some of the titles can be briefly mentioned: 'Grammar' Thada (Part II, Chapters 6 to 20), Myanmar (Modern) Vocabulary Waw har ya (Part IV, Chapters, 25 to 33), Dictionary Abidan (Part V, Chapters 34 to 40), Alphabet and System of Writing) Eik Kha Yar Sar Ayae Athar Sanit (Part VII, Chapters 50 to 54), Myanmar Language (general matters) (Part VII, Chapters 55-60).

There are sixty treatises mentioned in this superb reference book with descriptions and commentaries. As a diletante, I am familiar with the titles of about twenty of them. I have learned a lot from each and every Chapter, for which I am grateful to Saya Maung Khin Min. This review can only be selective, indeed eclectic.

A Myanmar scholar's work on Burmese linguistics in English published in the early 1960s

Seven of the sixty treatises on aspects of Myanmar language and linguistics are in English. Six of them are written or edited by mainly foreign scholars and specialists of the Myanmar language and linguistics. One of them is written by a Myanmar scholar.

Perhaps one can start with that treatise written by a Myanmar scholar titled (in English) Report on Studies on Burmese Grammar by Min Latt (Praha). Saya MKM praises Min Latt as one of the very rare linguistics scholars of Burmese heritage. He also states that U Min Latt's work published over 60 years ago is of 'great value' in that it was a product of scientific, scholarly research work. MKM writes that Saya Min Latt's work gives fresh perspectives and fresh knowledge in the study of linguistics.

A younger contemporary of Min Latt was Maung Tha Noe (1932-2022) whose book Ba Mar Sar Ba Mar Zagar (Bama spoken and written language) (Part VIII, Chapter 58, first published 1972) was also discussed (pages 276-84). Maung Tha Noe proposed writing in colloquial Burmese in a paper read in Mandalay in December 1965. U Minn Latt had in his treatise written in English several years earlier also made a similar proposal in that the classical style of writing Burmese should be eschewed.

The 'Loom' of Pali linguistics and a bit of Indo-European languages

About 18 books in Saya MKM's treatise on the treatises (so to speak) pre-date the 20th century. It is the assiduity and good fortune of Saya that he was able to collect all the volumes authored by Myanmar learned persons (pyin nya shi) a few dating back to the mid-18th century, albeit they were republished in the late 19th and 20th centuries. One of the earliest treatises was composed by the Kyaw Aung San Htar Sayadaw I (the first) and republished in 1962 (Part II, Chapter 6, pages 46-9).

A fairly frequent theme or noticeable feature in the classical and indeed modern (that is up to about the mid-20th century and beyond in the treatises be it on grammar, old Myanmar usage (Paw Ra Na), Modern Myanmar usage (Waw Har Ya) alphabet and writing systems (Ek kha Yar Ya Thar Poan Sa Nit) is the loom



By Myint Zan

Note: This article was written on 20 January 2025, just a week before Saya Maung Khin Min passed away on 28 January 2025. Only a few changes have been made, taking into account Saya Maung Khin Min's demise,

of the Pali language. It is an influence that cannot be avoided.

Yours truly may be allowed to make a 'spillover' observation regarding foreign influence in what is Burmese customary law. Two scholars Sayagyi Dr E Maung (among others a former Supreme Court Justice and emigrant jurist) (1898- July 1977) and Sayagyi Dr Htin Aung (among others, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Rangoon) (18 May 1909-10 May 1978) have stated that Myanmar customary law is a (totally) separate genre from that of Hindu law. Perhaps for a few centuries now it is 'free of Hindu law' but the partial inchoate origins of Hindu law should not be denied which apparently the two Sayagys did not. In a different genre, the influence of Pali on the development of both classical Burmese nay even in modern usages is significantly greater than the influence of Hindu law on Burmese customary law.

I noticed two typos in the Chapter on the work of the first Kyaw Aung San Htar Sayadaw. On page 48, 2nd paragraph yae

that phyin (... 'Sayadaw has written') should be yae thar chin. On page 49 there is a sentence "The Sayadaw at the end of the Nyaung Yan dynasty in the year 1871 wrote a treatise on Myanmar grammar in juxtaposition with Pali grammar". The Nyaung Yan/Toungoo dynasty ended in the mid-18th century. The year 1871 was the last 14 years of the Kongbaung dynasty of 1752-1885. Hence Kyaw Aung San Htar Sayadaw wrote his treatise in the year 1748 at the end of the Nyaung Yan dynasty and not in '1871'.

Immediately following it is another treatise on grammar written by Taung Twin Sayadaw in the period of 1724 to 1762 (pages 49-56) followed by the Grammar of the Burmese language written by the Baptist missionary Dr Adoniram Judson (9 August 1788-12 April 1850). On page 56 it is stated that Judson's book was published in the year 1816. I think this date is almost certainly a typo. Judson and his first wife arrived at Rangoon port on 13 July 1813 with very little -indeed almost nil- knowledge of the

Landmark work in the mid-18th century on the differences between Pali and Myanmar linguistics by Kyaw Aung San Htar Sayadaw II

MKM devotes over 10 pages to the treatises of the second

Burmese language. Even for a dedicated preacher determined to propagate the gospel in the vernacular, it would have taken more than 3 years to write a treatise on the Burmese language. Perhaps the year the first edition of the book was published was 1826 not '1816'. Quoting scholar U Wun (Minthuwun) MKM states that Judson was fluent in Greek, Latin and English. Hence Judson's view or perspective on the Burmese language is in the 'format' of Indo-European languages. Just as Pali's influence was quite pervasive especially in medieval and to a certain extent in modern Burmese the influence of English grammatical structures can be discerned in grammar treatises published starting those from Judson in the 1820s to the grammar treatises written in the 1940s and 1950s.

Kyaw Aung San Htar Sayadaw (Sayadaw ID) whose work 'Treatise on the Vocabulary (rough translation) Waw Har Ya Pakathani Kyan completed around the start of the Konbaung era in the year 1769. The essay appears in Part IV ('Vocabulary') pages 135-46). Again, quoting U Wun MKM wrote that one of the most prominent personages who extrapolated into and more importantly distinguished Pali grammatical rules from Myanmar is the 2nd Kyaw Aung San Htar Sayadaw (page 136). The Sayadaw was not a Pali 'purist' so to speak. In fact, Sayadaw can be considered a pioneer in pointing out the differences between the Pali and Myanmar languages semantically and grammatically. Producing a long excerpt from the Sayadaw's treatise reproduced in 1958 MKM writes that even in the 18th century Sayadaw was clearly aware of (some) distinct differences between Pali and Myanmar languages. Yours truly learned from the 2nd Kyaw Aung San Htar Sayadaw through MKM that Pali (one could add somewhat like French?) has gram-

matical gender which the Myanmar language does not have (page 137). The rest of MKM's article produces excerpts from Sayadaw's treatise on both the influence of and differences between the Pali and Myanmar languages. At the end of the Chapter Saya Maung Khin Min solidly gives tribute to the Sayadaw's great work. He states that it would stand as a landmark in the annals of Myanmar language and linguistics (page 146).

Two critical Chapters

In every Chapter MKM after describing the book makes some comments. A few of the comments are brief. Some of the comments are more extensive. Most of the comments are complimentary. Some are solid praises. But naturally, almost inevitably there are a few treatises where MKM makes critical comments. I will mention two.

In 1984 the then Myanmar Sar Aphewi (Myanmar Sar Commission) published a book on Myanmar grammar (Myanmar Thadar). MKM discusses this treatise in Part II (Chapter 19, pages 104-110). It is intended for (as it then was) fifth to the tenth (Matriculation) standards and for first- and second-year University students (for all majors or disciplines, where Myanmar Sar is a compulsory subject.) From pages 107 to 110 MKM made ten numbered comments. Some of the comments can be described as critical. On point 7, MKM stated that there is no such designation as an adjective (nar ma wi thay thana) and adverb (kyi wa wi thay tha na) in Myanmar grammar. The delineation in the treatise for students that there is such a lexical category in Myanmar grammar is doubtful (pages 108-9).

At point 10 MKM writes that parts of the high school curriculum can be considered as (unintentionally) encouraging the students to learn by heart the rules of grammar. There are also some lessons which may be beyond the comprehension of most of the young students. The last sentence of MKM's comments reads (in my translation): 'Parts of the text may not fulfil the stated purpose, instead, it may be a hindrance (Ahant-Atar) of facilitating students to be able to write

grammatical Burmese which is the aim of the text written in its Preface' (page 110)

Another article is on Part VII (Alphabet and Writing System, Chapter 53, pages 250-56). The book is written by U Thuang Lwin (BA). It has a sub-title in English: Burmese Alphabetology. MKM again makes numbered comments. On point 4 (page 255) MKM states that there are several sentences in the book) which can be considered somewhat personal. He writes that it can negatively affect, more or less (ahne hntin amyar), the scholarly value and objectivity of the treatise. (page 255).

A few typos and the usage of hmar

In a work of this magnitude, there could be some typos. I have pointed out two of them which occur in the same Chapter.

In Part VII, Chapter 57 in his discussion Myanmar Sar Hti ka by Saya U Thein Naing (born 27 March 1936) on page 273 MKM stated that the era that King Asoka 'flourished' was '13th century BC'. Online sources state that Ashoka died in 232 Before the Common Era (BCE). Hence the insertion of an extra 'one' makes it the 13th century BC!

Another point which I want to humbly raise is Saya Maung Khin Min's very frequent use of the word hmar, instead of the more formal twin or hnike. I have made about two dozen notations in my copy of the book changing hmar to either twin or hnike.

Saya MKM writes stylistically in formal prose but a few times colloquialisms creep in. For instance, on page 44 in the last line, the phrase *taw taw twin kyey* (quite prevalent) can be written as *ah-tan pin twin kyey* which is less colloquial and more formal and fits more with the formal style of Saya Maung Khin Min's prose.

Landmark book of great value and an outstanding contribution

Saya Maung Khin Min's book is, to repeat, a landmark work. It is a labour of love, devotion, careful research and relevant, persuasive commentary on the sixty treatises dealing with the intricacies of Myanmar language and linguistics. With this review, I give my humble tribute to the late Saya Maung Khin Min.

NATIONAL

Stimulant tablets seized in Padaung



Six offenders are seen alongside seized drugs in Padaung Township.

THE police seized K1.53 billion worth of 1.02 million stimulant tablets at Bubet village inspection camp in Padaung Township on 28 February.

Acting on a tip-off, the security forces conducted checks at Bubet village inspection camp in Padaung Township and seized K1.53 billion worth of 1.02 million stimulant tablets in six cartons on a Sojen vehicle together with Than Aung Swe, Kyaw Win Tun and Kyaw San Min, and Kyaw Zin Latt, Khin Maung Myint Shwe and Kyi Kyi Khine with a Probox vehicle.

Based on the confessions of the offenders, Kyaw Win and Thaug Tun were arrested in a Hijet vehicle in Pyay Township.

Suspect Kyaw Win testified that he agreed with Kyaw Lin (still at large) and Sai Kyaw Hla (still at large) to transport

the drugs from Yangon to Rakhine State at K85 million. Then, he agreed with Khin Maung Myint Shwe to transport the drugs arriving in Yangon to Talaitaung village of Maei Town at K35 million.

According to the confession of Khin Maung Myint Shwe, he hired a Probox of Kyaw Zin Latt to transport the drugs with his wife Kyi Kyi Khine under the instructions of Kyaw Win, and then he hired a Sojen vehicle of Kyaw San Min and he contacted Kyaw San Min, driver Than Aung Swe and conductor Kyaw Win Tun to go together.

Security forces conducted security measures to arrest fugitives Kyaw Lin and Sai Kyaw Hla. The whistleblowers and those who help arrest the suspects will be covertly rewarded. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

False reports on security forces' actions in Sagaing, Magway spread

REPORTS have been spread by subversive media outlets claiming that security forces have carried out aerial bombings and artillery attacks on villages in the western part of Myaung Township, Sagaing Region, and the Yaleykyun area in Magway

Region.

According to a security official, security forces do not indiscriminately attack villages where civilians reside, as these are not military targets. Instead, it is terrorist groups that are using heavy weapons and drones to launch attacks on wards and villages that do not support them, aiming to instil fear among the local population.

The reports circulated by these media outlets are intended to conceal the violent acts of terrorist groups while misleading the public about the actions of security forces. Additionally, false reports are being spread on social media using unrelated images to manipulate public perception. — MNA/MKKS



This screenshot discloses misinformation.

False claims of military training for released Muslim prisoners spread on social media

ON 26 February, the Facebook page Ayeyarwaddy Times published misleading and inaccurate information under the headline "Released Muslim prisoners taken from Insein Prison being given military training in Sittway."

The government is conducting military conscription under the law. However, the claim made by the Ayeyarwaddy Times aims to mislead the public and misrepresent the government's actions. — Thitsa/MKKS

Myanmar detains 253 illegal entrants



Immigration processing undocumented foreign migrants.

MYANMAR authorities yesterday arrested 253 foreigners who illegally entered the Myawady-Shwe Kokko and

KK Park areas via land border crossings passing through some neighbouring countries, including Thailand, to run on-

line gambling, telecom fraud and other criminal acts.

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

From 30 January to 3 March 2025, the government arrested 3,727 foreigners who illegally entered the country, and 757 of them were transferred to their respective countries via Thailand. The remaining 2,970 are also ready to be transferred and are currently being securely detained. — MNA/KTZH

Goat farming surges in Meiktila as demand for castrated goats rises

THERE have been more goat breeders lately, according to the livestock market.

There are more buyers of castrated goats, including orders from Malaysia, and the largest number of goats is raised in Meiktila Township.

"Goat farming has become more popular lately, and the goat market is now more active. Previously, a viss of mutton was just around K6,000 in other cities. People are buying more castrated goats, which don't smell rank. Two or three months ago, we received orders from Malaysia. We haven't start-



This photo captures a small-scale goat farm.

ed exporting yet. Currently, the largest breeding town is Meiktila. It has got a market," said Ko Thura Soe, owner of Maha Nandaw Goat Farm in Thanlyin Township.

Goat farmers can quickly reach a market in a short time if they mainly breed pure-bred goats, and most goats in

Thanlyin Township are raised through the free-range system.

"My advice to goat breeders is to focus on breeding pure breeds. Time is short to breed. They can quickly reach a market. Pure breeds are tall with high heels. On my farm, we breed them using technology and a cottage system. In our area, many farmers use the free-range system. Breeding is a really good job. If you breed pure breeds carefully, they will be available in the market in about three months. You make money quickly," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

Sri Lanka Railways announces new speed limits to protect wild elephants

SRI Lanka Railways announced on Monday that it will implement new speed limits and revised night train schedules in areas prone to elephant crossings to prevent frequent train-elephant collisions.

The Department of Railways said the revised schedule will take effect on 7 March 2025, adding that trains will now operate outside peak elephant movement hours to minimize risks, with speed limits enforced in high-risk zones.

Officials acknowledged that the new restrictions may cause potential delays, but emphasized that reducing train speeds is necessary to protect Sri Lanka's wildlife.

Train collisions with elephants occur frequently in certain areas of the country. On 20 February, a train accident in Gal Oya killed seven wild elephants. — Xinhua

Small-budget sex worker romp 'Anora' triumphs at Oscars



US actress Mikey Madison holds her Oscar for Best Actress in a Leading Role for "Anora" during the 97th Annual Academy Awards Governors Ball at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California on 2 March 2025. PHOTO: AFP

INDEPENDENT film "Anora" — the tale of a sex worker whose marriage to the son of a Russian oligarch quickly unravels — was the big winner at the Oscars on Sunday, scooping five awards including best picture.

Sean Baker's black comedy also took home the Academy Awards for best director, best editing, best original screenplay and best actress for 25-year-old star Mikey Madison.

"This is a dream come true," said Madison.

"I grew up in Los Angeles, but Hollywood always felt so far away from me. So to be here standing in this room today is really incredible."

A shellshocked Madison later told reporters backstage she was still processing a win that looked set to open career doors — even though she had no idea

what was next.

"I just know that tonight I'm going to go home to my new puppies and probably clean up their mess," she laughed.

Her win was something of an upset, as she bested 1990s megastar Demi Moore, who had been the odds-on favourite to cap a late career flourish with a golden statuette for body-horror flick "The Substance".

Baker used one of his four acceptance speeches to urge support for independent movies.

"I want to thank the Academy for recognizing a truly independent film. This film was made on the blood, sweat and tears of incredible indie artists," he said.

The five wins by "Anora" — out of six nominations — was an impressive haul for a movie made for just \$6 million, a tiny sum by Hollywood standards. — AFP

"Ne Zha 2" box office success reflects China's rising cultural soft power: Hong Kong scholar



People watch "Ne Zha 2" in 4D at a cinema in Dongcheng District in Beijing, capital of China, 16 February 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINESE animated blockbuster "Ne Zha 2" reflects a growing global interest in Chinese culture and serves as a testament to China's rising cultural soft power, a local scholar in culture and arts education told Xinhua.

"Ne Zha 2" has soared to the top of the global animated film box office, drawing widespread attention and acclaim. The film was released in Hong Kong on 22 February.

Gordon Munro, acting director of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, recently attended a screening of the film. "I was really fascinated to see the extent of interest in this movie in Hong Kong. It was really great to see family engagement."

He said that the film's ability to draw three-generational family audiences demonstrates how Chinese cultural narratives, rooted in folklore and mythology, can resonate universally.

The film's success is a testament to the timeless nature of Chinese stories and their ability to transcend cultural boundaries.

One of the most striking aspects of "Ne Zha 2" is its seamless integration of traditional Chinese elements with modern

storytelling techniques.

"The film draws heavily on Chinese folklore and mythology, incorporating fantastical elements such as immortals, demons, and dragons," Munro said. At the same time, it employs cutting-edge animation and visual effects to bring these elements to life in a fresh and innovative way.

This fusion of tradition and innovation creates a unique cultural product that appeals to both domestic and international audiences. By presenting these stories in a visually stunning and emotionally compelling way, "Ne Zha 2" has captured the imagination of audiences worldwide.

With a background in music and education, Munro also praised the film's score, which skillfully blends traditional Chinese musical elements with Western orchestral or digital arrangements, creating a grand and majestic soundscape that complements the film's epic narrative. "The music is so beautifully integrated into the film that you almost don't notice it."

This East-meets-West artistic fusion not only enhances the film's artistic expression but also offers audiences a fresh cultural experience.

"Ne Zha 2" has received high ratings on well-known film review websites, reflecting the growing global interest in Chinese culture. Munro believed that the film's ability to "capture the imagination" of audiences across the globe signals a new way of global engagement with Chinese cultural products.

The commercial success of "Ne Zha 2" highlights the vibrancy of China's film market and the robustness of its cultural and creative industries. The fact that audiences are willing to pay for such cultural experiences reflects not only the film's popularity but also the thriving consumer market and cultural industry in China.

As Munro observed, "People want entertainment, and obviously, there's a very buoyant economy in the film market."

He further emphasized that through works like "Ne Zha 2", Chinese culture is engaging in global cultural exchanges with increasing confidence.

Munro expressed his own enthusiasm for exploring more Chinese films and believed that as China's cultural industry continues to innovate and develop, more works like "Ne Zha 2" will shine on the international stage. — Xinhua

ECON:
WORLD/AD

AI, trade tensions to mark Barcelona mobile industry meet

FRANTIC optimism about artificial intelligence's potential to empower gadgets is set to clash with fears about trade tensions stoked by the White House at this week's Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona.

The annual gathering for smartphone makers, telecom operators and other connected-services providers is set to draw around 100,000 attendees to the Spanish Mediterranean port city, the day before fresh American tariffs come into force on Chinese goods.

Many exhibitors at the MWC hail from China, and will thus be paying an additional 10-per-cent levy to import into the United States on top of the 10 per cent already imposed by Trump since he took office in January.

The billionaire president is also pushing neighbours Mexico and Canada to follow suit.

Higher costs for trade could impact the entire global tech and smartphone market if Trump



Signage showing 6G is displayed during the MWC (Mobile World Congress), the world's biggest mobile fair, in Barcelona on 3 March 2025. PHOTO: AFP

keeps the China tariffs in place and extends them to other major economies like the European Union, as he has threatened.

"We expect the current geopolitical situation... to be a hot topic of conversation" at MWC, said Ben Wood, research direc-

tor at CCS Insight, pointing to "ongoing uncertainty around US tariffs and sanctions".

Many of the most important components for tech gadgets including vital semiconductors are manufactured in China.

"Nobody really knows

what's going to happen" on trade, said Pekka Lundmark, CEO of major network hardware maker Nokia, at a pre-MWC event late Sunday.

"Obviously a global tariff war would not be to anyone's benefit," Lundmark added, say-

ing that his company was "calculating different alternatives based on the scenarios that we have seen" for US trade policy.

AI, AI everywhere

On Sunday, some of the many Chinese smartphone makers set to attend MWC alongside other global telecom heavyweights focused their pre-show announcements on new products and investments.

Manufacturer Honour — a spinoff from tech behemoth Huawei — said it was launching a new phase in its development that would transform it into "a global leading AI device ecosystem company".

Future "intelligent" smartphones would come equipped with AI "agents", developed in partnership with American firms Google Cloud and Qualcomm, who are able to take on tasks like scheduling events or reserving a table at a restaurant, Honor said. — AFP

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(Pursuant to Insolvency Rule 9)

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U Kyaw Tin
Certified Public Accountant (CPA) (No. 108)
Liquidator

Liquidator's Office: Uniteam Marine Office Building, 8th Floor, Unit#1, No. 84, Pan Hlaing Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, 11111

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Japan's new car sales rise 19% in Feb

JAPAN'S domestic new car sales, including mini vehicles, rose 19 per cent year-on-year to 409,347 units in February, marking the second consecutive month of growth, industry data showed Monday.

The rebound was driven by a recovery from the significant decline caused by automaker Daihatsu's certification fraud scandal, according to data from the Japan Automobile Dealers Association and the Japan Light Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Association. Daihatsu saw a remarkable increase from the previous year, selling 41,374 units, following the resumption of production at all its domestic factories in May 2024 after the scandal-induced suspension in late 2023. — Xinhua

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Sri Lanka receives half million tourists in 2025

SRI Lanka's tourist arrivals surpassed the half-million mark on 2 March, local media reported on Monday.

According to the report, 485,102 tourists arrived in January and February, which was the highest recorded for those months in Sri Lanka's history. With approximately 18,000 more visitors on 1 and 2 March, the total crossed 500,000. The Central Bank previously reported that tourism earnings in January 2025 were estimated at US\$401 million. — Xinhua

Vietnam to invest over US\$501 mln in semiconductor chip plant

VIETNAM will invest about 12.8 trillion Vietnamese dong (US\$501.2 million) to build a small-scale semiconductor chip manufacturing plant to serve research, design, production, packaging and testing, local media reported Monday.

Nguyen Khac Lich, director of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, said enterprises investing in the plant would be supported.

He said the country would support 30 per cent of the total investment

directly from the central budget in case the plant is accepted and put into production before 31 December 2030, with the total support amount not exceeding 10 trillion dong (\$391.6 million).

During the project preparation and implementation, an annual deduction of more than 10 per cent but not exceeding 20 per cent of the enterprise's taxable income can be made for the enterprise's technology development fund to supplement the project, he said. — Xinhua

JAL unveils jet with Gundam images ahead of 2025 World Expo in Osaka

JAPAN Airlines Co on Monday unveiled a special jet wrapped with images of Gundam, the main mechanical figure of the popular Japanese sci-fi anime, that will fly on domestic routes ahead of and during the World Exposition starting in Osaka next month.

The Gundam images on the Boeing 737-800 jet have been taken from video footage that will be shown at Japanese

toymaker Bandai Namco Holdings Inc's pavilion during the expo. The plane also features images of the expo's official character Myaku-Myaku. The aircraft was unveiled to media at Tokyo's Haneda airport on Monday prior to its inaugural flight to Tokushima in western Japan. The plane will continue to operate domestically until around November, according to JAL. — Kyodo

Turkish annual inflation falls below 40%

TÜRKIYE'S annual inflation rate slowed for a ninth consecutive month in February, falling below 40 per cent for the first time since June 2023, official data showed on Monday.

The drop comes as the central bank will make its latest decision on interest rates on Thursday after lowering borrowing costs at its last two meetings.

Consumer prices rose by 39.05 per cent last month, down from 42.1 per cent in January, according to the country's statistics institute.

Türkiye has experienced double-digit inflation since 2019, making life increasingly more expensive for millions of people.



Women shop at a market in Istanbul on 22 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP

The central bank began to raise interest rates in 2023 after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dropped his opposition to orthodox monetary policy. Annual inflation soared to 75 per cent in

May last year but began to ease the following month. The central bank lowered its key interest rate in December for the first time in nearly two years. It lowered the rate again in January to 45 per cent.

The ENAG group of independent economists disputes the official inflation rate, estimating it at 79.5 per cent — more than double the figure released by the statistics agency. — AFP

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M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2505E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2505E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2025** 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:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (064N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (064N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2502S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2025** 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

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Hospitalized pope stable, rested overnight: Vatican



Candles are laid at the statue of John Paul II outside the Gemelli University Hospital where Pope Francis is hospitalized with pneumonia, in Rome on 3 March 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

POPE Francis rested well during his 17th night in hospital, the Vatican said on Monday, a day after reporting the 88-year-old was in a “stable” condition.

The Argentine head of the Catholic Church was admitted to Rome’s Gemelli hospital on 14 February with bronchitis, which later developed into pneumonia in both lungs.

After a breathing crisis on Friday, the Vatican had on Saturday reported his condition was “stable”, an assessment it repeated on Sunday evening.

“The pope rested well all night,” the Holy See said in a typically brief update on Monday morning.

The leader of the world’s almost 1.4 billion Catholics had required non-invasive mechanical ventilation — a mask — on Friday and Saturday, but the Vatican said Sunday this was no longer required.

He was however still receiving high-

flow oxygen therapy, it said.

It added that he did not have a fever, and on Sunday morning he participated in mass, spending the rest of the day alternating rest with prayer.

A Vatican source said that with 48 hours now passed since Friday’s crisis, it appeared there had been “no further consequences” from the episode.

However, the Holy See statement added that “in view of the complexity of the clinical picture, the prognosis remains reserved”.

Francis had also on Sunday received Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican’s secretary of state, and Edgar Pena Parra, a Venezuelan archbishop who is also a senior Vatican official.

The Jesuit, who has been pope since March 2013, is being treated in a special suite reserved for pontiffs on the 10th floor of the Gemelli. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oscar winners in main categories

HERE are the winners in key categories for the 97th Academy Awards, which were handed out in Hollywood on Sunday.

“Anora” was the big winner of the night, with five Oscars: best picture, best director, best actress, best film editing and best original screenplay.

- Best picture: “Anora”
- Best director: Sean Baker, “Anora”
- Best actor: Adrien Brody, “The Brutalist”
- Best actress: Mikey Madison, “Anora”
- Best supporting actor: Kieran Culkin, “A Real Pain”
- Best supporting actress: Zoe Saldana, “Emilia Perez”
- Best original screenplay: Sean Baker, “Anora”
- Best adapted screenplay: Peter Straughan, “Conclave”
- Best international feature film: “I’m Still Here” (Brazil)
- Best animated feature: “Flow”
- Best documentary feature: “No Other Land”
- Best film editing: Sean Baker, “Anora”
- Best costume design: Paul Tazewell, “Wicked”
- Best production design: Nathan Crowley and Lee Sanders, “Wicked”
- Best makeup and hairstyling: “The Substance”
- Best original song: Clement Ducol, Camille and Jacques Audiard, “El Mal” from “Emilia Perez” — AFP

More homes at risk as massive wildfire expands in northeastern Japan

A massive wildfire in northeastern Japan expanded Monday with over 2,100 hectares burned since last week, putting more homes at risk.

The fire in Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture, has forced residents to evacuate since breaking out Wednesday and spreading over a wide area towards the Pacific coast, according to local governments.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba pledged during a parliamentary session to “deploy all firefighting and Self-Defence Forces capabilities to prevent people’s homes from being impacted”. — Kyodo

Japan’s Prince Hisahito, 2nd in line to throne, vows to fulfil role



This handout photo taken and released on 3 March 2025 by the Imperial Household Agency of Japan shows Japan’s Prince Hisahito attending his first press conference at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

PHOTO: IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY OF JAPAN / AFP

JAPAN’S Prince Hisahito, the nephew of Emperor Naruhito and second in line to the Chrysanthemum Throne, expressed Monday his desire to approach his public duties with care and awareness as he fulfills his role as an adult member of the imperial family.

Speaking at his first press conference, held at the Akasaka Estate residence in Tokyo to commemorate his coming-of-age, the 18-year-old said the symbolic role of the emperor “is a presence that always thinks of the people and stays close to them”.

“It is important (for the imperial family) to pay attention

to people’s lives and the state of society,” he added.

Under Japan’s postwar Constitution, the emperor’s role is defined as being “the symbol of the state and the unity of the people of Japan”.

The prince reached adulthood last September, becoming the first male member of Japan’s imperial family to do so in around 39 years since his father, Crown Prince Fumihito, in December 1985. He was also the first imperial family member to reach adulthood under Japan’s revised Civil Code that lowered the age of adulthood to 18 from 20 in April 2022.

Currently a third-year stu-

dent at Tokyo’s Senior High School at Otsuka, University of Tsukuba, Prince Hisahito will study biology at the university’s School of Life and Environmental Sciences from April.

“I have long been fascinated by insects, particularly dragonflies, and I hope to study them more broadly. I want to fully commit to my studies while also engaging in extra-curricular activities,” he said.

Regarding marriage, the prince said he “had not yet given much thought to the ideal timing or partner”.

A coming-of-age ceremony traditionally held within the imperial family will take place on his 19th birthday on 6 September. The event was fixed on that date, after he graduates from high school, so as not to affect his studies, according to the agency.

The young prince is the only heir of his generation in the Japanese imperial family, as the Imperial House Law states that only males with male lineal descent from emperors can ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne. The other heirs are his father and the emperor’s uncle Prince Hitachi. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Leno the hero as Fulham beats Man United to make FA Cup last 8

FULHAM goalkeeper Bernd Leno was the hero for his side, making two crucial saves in a penalty shootout to eliminate FA Cup holder Manchester United from the tournament.

The defeat dealt another blow to Ruben Amorim's team, which now travels to play Real Sociedad in the Europa League on Thursday, its only remaining hope for silverware this season.

Calvin Bassey put Fulham ahead in first-half injury time, capitalizing on United's poor defence of a cross from the right. Bruno Fernandes equalized in the 71st minute with a smart left-foot finish.

Neither side managed to score again during regular or extra time on Sunday. In the penalty shootout, Leno saved efforts from Victor Lindelof and Joshua Zirkzee, while Fulham's players converted all their spot kicks to secure victory.



Manchester United's Dutch striker (11) Joshua Zirkzee reacts after missing the final penalty in the penalty shoot-out in the English FA Cup fifth round football match between Manchester United and Fulham at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on 2 March 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Newcastle United's hopes of reaching two cup finals in the same season were dashed by Danny Welbeck's extra-time goal, giving Brighton a 2-1 win at St James' Park.

Alexander Isak opened the scoring for Newcastle with a 22nd-minute penalty, but Brighton equalized just before half-time through Yankuba Minteh.

Both teams were reduced to 10 men in the second half, with Anthony Gordon sent off for Newcastle in the 83rd minute and Tariq Lamptey dismissed during added time.

Gordon's red card means he will miss the Carabao Cup final against Liverpool, adding to Newcastle's disappointment. — Xinhua

One Championship schedules upcoming fights for 3 Myanmar warriors



Soe Lin Oo will fight Russia's fighter, Dmitrii Kovtun. PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

ONE Championship issued the bouts for three Myanmar fighters in the coming matches.

In the ONE Friday Fights 99 on 7 March, Myanmar fighter Thet Lwin Aung will meet Japan's Haruyuki in his debut

in the One Championship. As Haruyuki has secured three successive wins in the One Championship with knockout wins in the last two bouts, Thet Lwin Aung is likely to face his opponent with difficulties.

The bout for Myanmar fighter Soe Lin Oo will take place in ONE Fight Night 29 in the early morning of Myanmar Standard Time on 8 March. Soe Lin Oo will fight Russia's fighter, Dmitrii Kovtun, and it will be the sixth bout in the One Championship. Despite securing three consecutive wins, Soe Lin Oo has lost to his opponents in two consecutive matches since he signed the contract with One. Dmitrii experienced two wins and one loss in his three matches in the One Championship.

The One Friday Fight 100, to be held on 14 March, will arrange a kickboxing match for Myanmar fighter Super Yay Chan, who will fight Thai fighter Sangarhit Looksaikongdin. In this regard, it will be a debut for Sangarhit in the One Championship. Super Yay Chan experienced one win and one loss. In the last match, he knocked out the Thai fighter in the first round. — Shine Htet Zaw/TTA

Troubled Milan sunk at the last by Lazio as furious fans revolt

AC Milan plunged deeper into crisis on Sunday after Pedro's penalty in the eighth minute of stoppage time condemned the seven-time European champions to a 2-1 home defeat to Lazio in front of livid fans.

Pedro was cool from the penalty spot to fire Lazio into fourth and the Champions League places, a point ahead of Juventus who host Verona on Monday night.

The former Spain forward was given the chance to snatch the win by Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan cleaning out Gustav Isaksen just as Samuel Chukwueze's 85th-minute leveller looked like giving Milan a barely-deserved point.

Instead Sergio Conceicao's team languish in ninth place following a largely dismal home display in which Milan had to play with 10 men for over 20 minutes after Strahinja Pavlovic

was sent off for chopping down Gustav Isaksen.

"It's not an easy period for the club, the players can feel everything that's going on around them," said Conceicao to DAZN.

Mattia Zaccagni thought he had decided the match with his 10th goal of the season in all competitions in the 28th minute but Pedro stepped up to save the day for Lazio at the last.

An eventful match was almost a sideshow to the vociferous fan protests at the San Siro, with Milan's hardcore supporters not entering the stands until the 15th minute as a demonstration of anger at performances and the direction of the club.

And when they did show up the fans offered no support for the team, instead loudly calling the players "shameful" and demanding American owners Red Bird sell the club. — AFP



Lazio's Spanish defender (4) Patric (L) and Lazio's Italian goalkeeper (94) Ivan Provedel celebrate after winning the Italian Serie A football match between AC Milan and SS Lazio at San Siro stadium in Milan, on 2 March 2025. PHOTO: AFP

All set for Madrid derby thriller

REAL Madrid and Atletico Madrid go head-to-head in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Tuesday night.

The tie will be played in a packed Santiago Bernabeu, with the return leg across the Spanish capital in the Metropolitano Stadium next week.

Atletico travels to the Bernabeu after leapfrogging

Real Madrid in the La Liga table thanks to a narrow 1-0 win at home to Athletic Club Bilbao at the weekend, while Real Madrid slipped to a worrying 2-1 defeat away to Betis.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti will be glad to welcome Jude Bellingham back into his side after his suspension on Saturday, while Eduardo Camavinga is also likely to start. — Xinhua



China's manned lunar exploration programme under steady progress

CHINA aims to land its astronauts on the moon before 2030 for scientific exploration. The China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced on Monday that the country has been steadily advancing the lunar landing phase of its manned lunar exploration programme.

By 2025, China's manned space programme will focus on two major tasks: the application and development of the space station and the manned lunar exploration, said the CMSA.

The CMSA disclosed that, by now, major space flight-related products, such as the Long March-10 carrier rocket, the Mengzhou manned spacecraft, the Lanyue lunar lander, the Wangyu moon-landing spacesuit, and the Tansuo manned lunar rover, are in preliminary development stages with phased progress.

Meanwhile, the test and launch facilities related to the lunar landing mission at the Wenchang Space Launch Site in southern China's Hainan Province are being developed and constructed in an orderly manner.

The overall plan for the lunar exploration mission's ground systems, such as the landing site, has been completed, and the construction works will be carried out as planned.

Various large-scale tests will be conducted on initial samples of the above-mentioned major space flight-related products, according to the CMSA.

China's manned lunar exploration



This photo shows the exterior design of China's moon-landing spacesuit during the third Spacesuit Technology Forum in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, 28 September 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

programme will continue to promote the digital transformation of research and development, targeting the effective improvement of quality and efficiency, the CMSA added.

The country plans to carry out a manned lunar landing before 2030. Two

carrier rockets will be launched to send a manned spacecraft and a lunar lander into lunar orbit. The spacecraft and lunar lander will rendezvous and dock, and then astronauts will enter the lander.

Upon the lander's arrival on the moon's surface, astronauts will drive the

lunar rover for scientific exploration.

In February, the CMSA unveiled that the moon-landing spacesuit is named Wangyu, meaning gazing into the cosmos, and the manned lunar rover is named Tansuo, meaning to explore the unknown. — Xinhua

One dead in Israel stabbing attack, assailant killed: first responders



The attack took place at a bus and train station in the Israeli coastal city of Haifa. **PHOTO: AFP**

A stabbing attack at a transport station in the Israeli city of Haifa left one person dead and several wounded on Monday,

medics said, in what police called a "terror attack" whose perpetrator was killed. "A terrorist exited a bus, stabbed

multiple civilians, and was subsequently neutralized by a security guard and a civilian at the scene," the police said in a statement.

It said the perpetrator was a member of Israel's Druze minority from the northern Israeli town of Shfaram who had returned to Israel last week after several months abroad.

Attacks by members of the Arabic-speaking Druze community are rare, as they are generally considered to have a strong allegiance to the Israeli state.

It was the first fatal attack in Israel since a ceasefire took effect in the Gaza Strip on 19 January between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.

The attack came as negotiations between the two sides stalled after the first phase of the Gaza ceasefire ended at the weekend. — AFP

Cambodia introduces enterprise innovation index guidelines

CAMBODIA on Monday introduced the Cambodia Enterprise Innovation Index (CEID) guidelines, aiming at enhancing the national innovation capabilities of businesses and their competitiveness.

Speaking at the event in Phnom Penh, Hem Vandy, minister of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, said enhancing enterprises' innovation capability presented a new and crucial opportunity to elevate Cambodia's prestige by improving its position in the Global Innovation Index.

"This advancement will foster sustainable and inclusive socioeconomic growth and create a favourable environment for our journey towards innovation-driven development," he said. — Xinhua