

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

People warmly welcome back high-level Myanmar delegation led by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who made efforts for enhancement of friendship and cooperation with the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid official State visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Gregorovich Lukashenko and left Tolmachevo Airport of Novosibirsk, the Russian Federation, yesterday afternoon. The Senior General and party were seen off at the airport by Governor of Novosibirsk Mr Travnikov Andrey Alexandrovich, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation U Thit Linn Ohn, the Myanmar Consul-General and officials.

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Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who paid official State visits to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus being heartily welcomed back by the people at the Tatmadaw Airport in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 March 2025.



NATIONAL

Communities Urged to Unite Against Armed Groups to Safeguard Peace and Security

RESIDENTS must work together to prevent the presence of armed groups in order to reduce acts of terror, as these groups undermine peace and stability in the region and threaten residents' security.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the Kayah State government, state-level departmental officials, town elders and locals on 4 September 2024)

Objectives of 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2025

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



၂၀၂၅ ခုနှစ် ကမ္ဘာ့စားသုံးသူအခွင့်အရေးများနေ့
World Consumer Rights Day 2025



လူနေမှုဘဝအစဉ်တည်တံ့ဖို့ မျှတအသွင်ကူးပြောင်းဖို့
A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles

၂၀၂၅ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ ၁၅ ရက်

Bagan's Thanaka service boosts local income



Vendors prepares Shinmataung Thanaka and stone slabs for sale at Ananda temple. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

THE service of applying traditional Myanmar Thanaka for domestic and international travellers visiting the pagodas and temples in the Bagan Cultural Zone is a source of income for the locals of Bagan, and the travellers also enjoy applying Myanmar Thanaka, according to the locals.

“The travellers like wearing Thanaka in different shapes like bayan leaf, leaves and heart shape. The women wear their hair in braids. Both the local and foreign travellers like them. They like hand-painting and

wearing Thanaka. Such services highlight Myanmar tradition, and we also get income,” said a local.

The use of Myanmar's Thanaka can be seen in the murals in the Aplyadana and Culamani pagodas. The service of applying Thanaka is preserving Myanmar culture, and all are happy with it, said the locals.

“Myanmar people use Thanaka at their homes. However, the smell of Thanaka applied in Bagan and the feeling are power of Bagan. Foreign travellers can get a feeling of

Myanmar culture regarding the Thanaka. Seeing the travellers wearing Thanaka happily in Bagan is a pride for Myanmar traditional Thanaka,” said U Myo Myint Aung, assistant director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan).

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture will conduct education campaigns regarding Myanmar Thanaka culture to submit Myanmar Thanaka to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity before March 2025. — Thitsa (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.

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 Consulate-General commissioned into service in Novosibirsk of the Russian Federation

A ceremony to inaugurate the Consulate-General of Myanmar in Novosibirsk of the Russian Federation took place at Grand Autograph Hotel in Novosibirsk, Russia yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

They all saluted with the songs on national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

On the occasion, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe delivered an opening address, saying that Myanmar and Russia have maintained diplomatic relations for 77 years, and the opening of the Myanmar Consulate-General in Novosibirsk marks a significant milestone in their bilateral ties. Novosibirsk, a major economic, trade, technological, industrial, and financial hub in Russia's Asian region, is the only Russian city with direct air links to Myanmar. The establishment of the Myanmar Consulate-General in Novosibirsk aims to strengthen relations between Myanmar and Russian citizens residing in the region, enhance mutual understanding between the two countries, support the Myanmar community in the area, and provide consular services.

The Governor of Novosibirsk said that he was very delighted at establishment of the Myanmar Consulate-General in Novosibirsk. This opening will create great opportunities for cooperation between Novosibirsk and Myanmar. The signing of the sis-

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing urged families of Myanmar Consulate-General and officer trainees to enhance friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Novosibirsk.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Than Swe and the Governor of Novosibirsk cut the ribbon of opening ceremony of the Myanmar Consulate-General.

ter city memorandum of understanding between Mandalay and Novosibirsk is also a significant step towards strengthening collaboration. Novosibirsk will continue to work towards enhancing cooperation with Myanmar, with wish for the prosperity and development of both our countries.

The mayor of Novosibirsk also extended greetings.

The Senior General, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Governor of Novosibirsk cut the ribbon to open the Myanmar Consulate-General.

On arrival at the Myanmar Consulate-General in Novosibirsk, the Senior General was welcomed by staff members of the Consulate-General. The Senior General sprinkled scented water on the signboard of the consulate-general.

Also present at the ceremony were 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, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation U Thit Linn Ohn, deputy ministers, Governor of Novosibirsk Mr Travnikov Andrey Alexandrovich, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar, the Myanmar Consul-General and officials from the Consulate-General, officer trainees learning in Novosibirsk and guests.

The Senior General met with families of the Consulate-General and officer trainees learning in Novosibirsk. He explained needs

to promote friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Novosibirsk, development of trade, and plans to send more scholarship trainee to universities of Novosibirsk, and fulfilled their needs.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs and cash awards to families of the Consulate-General and officer trainees.

After signing the guest book of the Consulate-General, the Senior General cordially greeted families of the Consulate-General and officer trainees. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

People warmly welcome back high-level Myanmar ...

FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General was accompanied by Council 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, Chief Minister of Bago Region U Myo Swe Win, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, military and civilian officials.

On 4 March during the visits to the Russian Federation and Belarus, the Senior General met Russian Federation President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, Speaker of Hluttaw and officials from the Government of the Russian Federation to talk about relevant sectors and attended the Myanmar-Russia Business Forum. Moreover, the Senior General opened the Myanmar Consulates-General in Saint Petersburg and Novosibirsk. The high-level Myanmar goodwill delegation signed the agreements between two governments of Myanmar and Russia and memoranda of understanding on cooperation in economy and conducted the enhancement of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

On 7 March, the Senior General held talks with Belarusian President Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko, the Speaker of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is seen off by Governor of Novosibirsk Mr Travnikov Andrey Alexandrovich at the airport yesterday.

and officials of the Belarusian Government and delivered a speech at the Myanmar-Belarus Business Summit. Moreover, the Myanmar delegation signed the agreements between two governments and MoU on economic cooperation.

On the way back to My-

anmar, the Senior General replied to queries raised by media aboard the special aeroplane.

On arrival back at the Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport yesterday evening, the high-level Myanmar goodwill delegation led by the Senior General was welcomed back by SAC

Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, council members, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, officials from the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Myanmar and the Military Attaché Office.

The Myanmar delegation led by the Senior General left Nay Pyi Taw and visited Novosibirsk, Moscow, Saint Petersburg, and Samara of the Russian Federation, as well as Minsk in the Republic of Belarus. During its visit, the delegation experienced temperatures ranging from -2 to -12 degrees Celsius (cold conditions) due to the climatic differences between Myanmar and these countries. The total round-trip distance covered was over 10,000 miles.

Ethnic children, the band, pompom dance troupes, traditional dance troupes, artistes and residents took positions from the ladder of the aeroplane

to the VIP lounge of the airport and the roundabout to the Tatmadaw Airport to welcome back the high-level Myanmar delegation led by the Senior General for praising his efforts during the trip day and night to grasp opportunities of cooperation between the people and businesspersons in enhancement of agriculture, economic, trade, academic and tourism sectors with these countries for the sake of Myanmar. They welcomed back and honoured the Myanmar delegation with loud cheers and great enthusiasm by holding the vinyl posters bearing "May the friendship between Russia and Myanmar be long-lasting. May the comprehensive strategic cooperation between Russia and Myanmar continue to expand across various sectors. We warmly welcome Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the SAC and Prime Minister, for his efforts in strengthening Russia-Myanmar relations. May Russia and Myanmar always stand together in friendship. May Myanmar-Russia cooperation achieve lasting success. May Belarus-Myanmar friendship be enduring and strong. Warmly welcome to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who has endeavoured for the all-round development of Myanmar in addition to a heartfelt welcome to the Prime Minister and delegation, and strengthening Russia-Myanmar friendship."

They also waved miniature flags of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus and chanted "May Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is striving for the nation, religion, and faith be in good health. May the Russia-Myanmar friendship and the Belarus-Myanmar friendship be long-lasting and strong. May they be firm and enduring."

On arrival back at the airport, Leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun who accompanied the Senior General replied to questions raised by media.—MNA/TTA



A special plane carrying a high-level Myanmar delegation led by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was being cleaned before leaving the airport due to the covering of snow.

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Novosibirsk to further enhance friendly relations through bilateral cooperation

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who arrived in Novosibirsk of the Russian Federation received Andrey Alexandrovich Travnikov, the Governor of Novosibirsk, at Grand Autograph Hotel in Novosibirsk yesterday morning.

They exchanged views on promotion of cooperation between Myanmar and Novosibirsk Region, operation of bilateral tourism and trade services, potential for further enhancement of friendly relations between the two countries through bilateral cooperation, learning of Myanmar officer trainees at universities in Novosibirsk, running of direct flights between Novosibirsk and Myanmar and Mandalay, bilateral export of products, opening of the Myanmar Consulate-General to promote relations and cooperation Myanmar and Novosibirsk, and potential for development of health, education, health, transport, tourism, industry, and economic and commercial sectors



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Governor of Novosibirsk Travnikov Andrey Alexandrovich meet at Grand Autograph Hotel in Novosibirsk yesterday.

if Mandalay and Novosibirsk establish sister cities.

After the meeting, they exchanged commemorative gifts.

Also present at the meeting

were Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Council member General Nyo Saw, Union ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian

Federation U Thit Linn Ohn, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials. The Governor of Novosibirsk was

accompanied by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar and officials of the Government of Novosibirsk Region. — MNA/TTA

Union Election Commission Office celebrates its 15th anniversary

THE 15th anniversary celebration of the Union Election Commission was held at 10 am yesterday in the Union Election Commission Office's Conference Hall.

The event was attended by Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Ko Ko, former Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, members of the commission, former commission member U Nyunt Tin, invited guests, and staff.

The Chairman of the Union Election Commission stated that over the past 15 years, various commissions have held three general elections and three by-elections, with the current commission reviewing the wrongdoings of the 2020 Election Commission and preparing for the upcoming general election through reforms, while sub-commissions at all levels work diligently, despite various difficulties, to



Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko presents the award to employees.

successfully hold the general election, the ultimate goal of the State Adminis-

tration Council. He also expressed his special gratitude to the Union Ministers

and the Chief Ministers of Regions and States for their assistance to the commission office staff working in various regions and states, who have been displaced due to the security situation.

During the year 2024, employees who received the Technical Excellence Medal (third class), the Management Excellence Award (second and third class), those who diligently performed their duties despite the dangers posed by insurgents in various regions, those who protected the department's assets, 11 employees recognized for outstanding achievements in training courses, and three family members — one who won six distinctions, one who won three distinctions in the 2024-2025 academic year, and one who won second prize in the Myanmar Women's Day essay competition at the national level—were all honoured. Cash prizes totaling about K10 million were awarded through raffle. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing replies to questions raised by media aboard the special aeroplane

I am on official State visits at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, and President of Belarus Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko. Since these are official invitations, the visit is highly beneficial for our country. During the trip, we had extensive discussions and collaborations in various sectors between our two nations. In particular, we focused on economic cooperation. Moreover, we emphasized expanding tourism sector. We also discussed cooperation in education, science and technology, healthcare, sports, culture, law, and defence. Moreover, I had the opportunity to explain Myanmar's political developments, which were fully acknowledged and accepted by



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

both nations. Next, I also explained the situation regarding the upcoming election. When I explained it, they expressed their support and commitment

by sending representatives to observe the election process. The best part is that this meeting helped build a great deal of trust between both sides. I

have seen that not only Russia and Belarus but also the people in those countries have developed a keen interest in Myanmar. This is a positive

sign for the future of our country. Moreover, I have stated that we will hold a multiparty democratic election, and we are committed to making this happen. If we truly desire a multiparty democratic system, we should not just engage in arguments but rather work together in collaboration. If we do that, our country is bound to succeed. I firmly believe in this, and I am confident in saying so. To the people, this is my stance—I want to say this clearly. I strongly believe that everything will be successful. I also wish good health and prosperity to all. May everyone work together to achieve progress in all aspects. If you truly believe in a multiparty democracy, I urge everyone to cooperate and participate. Thank you very much.

Leader of Information Team of the State Administration Council replies to queries raised by media

The Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister undertook official State visits to Russia and Belarus from 3 to 9 of this month, following an official invitation from both countries. Since we have been providing timely news updates, the media is already aware of the activities and engagements that took place. Therefore, I do not wish to elaborate further on these matters. The main point I want to talk about is what benefits this has brought to the country. When we look at it, we can divide it into three main sectors: politics, economy, and social affairs. Regarding politics, we have gained assurances in terms of international relations. Countries like Russia and Belarus have long stood by Myanmar on the international stage, and we have now received firm assurances that they will continue to do so. The second point is related to elections in Myanmar. As everyone knows, the earliest possible date for the election would be the last week of December, while the latest would be the second week of January. Regarding the election, not only Russia and Belarus but also other international countries have



Leader of Information Team of the State Administration Council Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun

expressed their support. In particular, Russia and Belarus have not only strongly backed the election process but have also indicated that they will send monitoring and observation teams. As for the people, the good news is that we will unwaveringly move towards and implement the multiparty democratic system that the people have long desired. This is related to successful political transitions. Regarding the economy, Russia and Belarus have more

advanced technology than our country. As you all know, our country has been designated as one that will focus on an agriculture- and livestock-based industrial economy. We have great opportunities to achieve this. Speaking of countries like Russia, let's take Belarus as an example. Belarus is only about one-third the size of Myanmar. It is a landlocked country with a population of just 9.1 million. However, the GDP from just its agricultural sector alone reaches nearly \$9 billion. When we look at this, we see that Belarus has less agricultural land than Myanmar and also faces several limitations. Currently, in Belarus, nighttime temperatures range between -2 to -12 degrees Celsius, and some areas remain cold year-round. The country has restrictions in terms of land availability for farming as well as climate limitations. Yet, despite these challenges, Belarus has achieved economic success. Given that Myanmar has an abundance of water, land, and favorable weather conditions, there is no reason why we cannot achieve similar success. What is needed is a modern agricultural system. We have signed agreements related to this. There

are many requirements for a modern agricultural system. We are working to meet the fertilizer needs of our farmers. Agreements have been signed regarding this. Moreover, we have invited investment in fertilizer plants in Myanmar. We are also working with China to establish a fertilizer plant. Moreover, Myanmar has three major deep-sea ports that are crucial for the economy: Kyaukpyu, Thilawa, and Dawei. The Dawei deep-sea port project has been stalled for a long time. However, we have signed an MoU with Russia to work on this project. Although we are mainly working with Russia, we welcome participation from any country. Another important aspect is the social sector. Countries like theirs have advanced education and healthcare systems. We are making efforts to improve our own education and healthcare sectors. In summary, this trip has created positive prospects for Myanmar's future. It contributes to our goal of returning to a multiparty democratic system, making progress, achieving success, and ensuring nationwide development. — Lei Yi Hlaing/TTA

NATIONAL

Myanmar extradites 214 foreign nationals

THE government is cracking down strictly on telecom fraud and criminal activities by cooperating with international countries, including neighbouring countries, and systematically deporting foreigners involved in these illegal activities. Authorities transported 214 Chinese nationals via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II on humanitarian grounds and for the sake of bilateral relations yesterday.

Most of these foreign nationals were lured into engaging in online gambling, telecom fraud, and other illegal activities in the Shwe Kokko, Maethawtalay, and KK Park areas of Myawady after entering the country illegally. According to their confessions, almost all of them crossed into Myanmar illegally through border crossings with neighbouring countries.



Immigration and officials processing the transfer of 214 foreign undocumented entrants.

The handover ceremony was attended by Kayin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Min Thu Kyaw, Deputy Director-General Mr Liu Ning Ning of the Criminal Investigation Department of

China's Ministry of Public Security, officials from Thailand's Immigration Department in Tak Province, and other authorities, who transferred the documents to the relevant officials from the respective countries.

Yesterday, 140 more foreign nationals who had entered the Myawady-Maethawtalay areas through illegal routes were detained. Their personal information and records are being collected by depart-

mental teams for immediate repatriation to their respective countries.

From 30 January to 9 March, a total of 4,842 foreign nationals who entered Myanmar illegally were identified and detained. Of them, 2,189 have been systematically handed over to the relevant countries via Thailand according to legal procedures, while the remaining 2,653 foreign nationals are ready for repatriation and are being securely detained.

The government is also intensifying efforts to crack down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with international countries, including neighbouring countries, particularly through the Myanmar-China-Thailand Trilateral Cooperation, and systematically repatriating foreigners involved in these operations. — MNA/KZL

Earthquake News

(Issued at 22:35 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.0) Richter Scale with its epicentre Myanmar Sea (about 67 miles southeast of Pyapon), latitude 15.37°N, longitude 96.03°E, depth 10 kilometres, about 101 miles south of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 22 hours 22 minutes 36 seconds MST on 9 March 2025. — DMH

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

1. Office of the State Administration Council https://sacoffice.gov.mm	
2. Ministry of Defence https://www.mod.gov.mm	3. Ministry of Legal Affairs https://www.mlis.gov.mm
4. Ministry of Information https://www.moi.gov.mm	5. Myawady Webportal https://myawady.net.mm
6. Myanmar National Portal https://myanmar.gov.mm	

Gold Market Rate as of 9 March 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,490,000 as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Khisa Khin wins Miss World Myanmar 2025 Crown

KHISA Khin won the title of Miss World Myanmar 2025 on 7 March at the Sedona Hotel in Yankin Township, Yangon Region.

Khisa Khin won the title of Miss World Myanmar 2025, while Nan Hak Hoam was named first runner-up. May Nu Zan placed the second, Han Su Khin Khin placed the third, Saw Myat Ei Khaing placed the fourth, and Ju Ju No Van Tun placed the fifth in the pageant.

"I am very proud to be selected as Miss World Myanmar 2025. This success is not due to my ef-

forts alone but also to the continuous support and encouragement of everyone around me. I received this award only because of all the mentors and fans who supported me," said Miss Khisa Khin.

Miss World Myanmar 2025, Khisa Khin, represented Myanmar at the Miss Tourism International held in Malaysia in 2023. She was also crowned the Miss Earth Land Myanmar 2023 winner and received the Best of Speak Out Award at the Miss Earth Myanmar 2023 competition. — ASH/MKKS

'Natthamee Natkhet' drama cast meets fans at special event

A fan meeting event for the cast of the drama series: 'Natthamee Natkhet' (Venus' Luck) took place on 7 March at the Myanmar Plaza Promotion Area in Yankin Township, Yangon Region, where fans had the opportunity to interact with their favourite actors.

The storyline of the drama was written by Moe Ni Lwin, while the script was prepared by Moe Ni Lwin and the Sky Ward Art Team. Director Pwint Theingi Zaw was responsible for directing the series, which

was produced for the Bebee TV application.

Regarding the event, actress Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi, who played a role in the series, said, "Today's event is both an introduction to the drama 'Natthamee Natkhet' and a fan meeting. In this series, I play the character Chit Chit Htoo Zan. My character is a Leo. Who will she meet as her destined partner? Please watch and enjoy the series! I'm also grateful to the fans for coming in large numbers to support us."

The drama 'Natthamee Natkhet' features a cast including Academy winner Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi, Tyron, Academy Aye Chan Maung, Aung Ye Htike, Henry San, Hein Thit Sa, and Kiera. At the same time, Nay San, Bhone Hlyan, Nwet Nwet San, Soe Moe Kyi, Yoon Shwe Yi, Han Lay, Miko Khant and Chris also star in the series. The show began airing on the Bebee TV application on 22 February and continues to be released weekly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. — ASH/KZL

OPINION

Enhance friendship between Myanmar and Belarus

MYANMAR is making it a bridge between Southeast Asia and South Asia. The country is one of the world's top rice-exporting countries and ranks as the second-largest exporter of beans globally. The country has a strong agricultural and livestock sector, as well as well-developed water, land, and transportation networks. With vast natural resources, Myanmar is striving to contribute to global food security and sustainability.

The official State visit of the Head of State to the Republic of Belarus aims to strengthen diplomatic relations. It is believed that if Myanmar integrates Belarus's modern and advanced agricultural techniques, livestock breeding methods, machinery, and support systems into practical applications, it will bring significant benefits not only to Myanmar but to both countries.

Furthermore, during this visit, the head of state of Belarus extended an invitation for Belarus to explore investment opportu-

Soon, ministers and senior officials from Belarus will visit Myanmar. Likewise, relevant experts and officials from Myanmar will also make reciprocal visits. Through these exchanges, both countries will explore and implement potential opportunities to foster economic development. There are promising prospects for signing memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements related to bilateral cooperation as soon as possible. During this visit, as the Head of State of Myanmar has extended an invitation to the President of Belarus to visit Myanmar, friendly and cooperative efforts will yield beneficial outcomes for both countries.

the agricultural and pharmaceutical sectors. This year, a joint committee on science and technology will also be established to facilitate cooperation in these fields. Furthermore, Belarus will provide full support for Myanmar students studying in the country, aiming to enhance bilateral cooperation.

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nities across various sectors in Myanmar. Belarus is a country deserving of gratitude on the international stage, as the Belarusian government and people have shown goodwill towards Myanmar. Therefore, cooperation will be strengthened not only in bilateral relations but also in international engagements.

Myanmar has significant deep-sea ports along its extensive coastline, stretching over 1,300 miles. In particular, the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the Dawei Special Economic Zone, and the Kyaukphyu Deep-Sea Port offer great investment opportunities, making them attractive options for potential investors.

Myanmar and Belarus successfully convened bilateral meetings, during which they engaged in detailed discussions on economic cooperation projects. They also addressed humanitarian collaboration efforts. Regarding food production from Myanmar, Belarus will provide technological support to contribute to global food security. The two

countries will collaborate in the agricultural and pharmaceutical sectors. This year, a joint committee on science and technology will also be established to facilitate cooperation in these fields. Furthermore, Belarus will provide full support for Myanmar students studying in the country, aiming to enhance bilateral cooperation.

IN a world where words dance and gestures sing, communication emerges as the vibrant thread weaving through the fabric of human connection. It is an art form as ancient as humanity itself, a symphony of spoken nuances and written elegance that transcends mere words to embrace the subtleties of tone, the eloquence of silence, and the unspoken poetry of body language. From the lively chatter of a bustling Myanmar marketplace to the poised exchanges in global boardrooms, the ability to convey ideas, emotions, and desires with clarity and grace has ascended as a cornerstone of modern existence. As the 21st century unfolds, with its tapestry of technological marvels and cultural crossroads, communication skills illuminate the path to personal fulfilment, professional triumph, and societal harmony—bridging generations, cultures, and dreams in an ever-shrinking world.

Communication skills are the ability to convey our ideas, feelings, attitudes, perceptions, wants, needs, knowledge, etc. in a precise and lucid manner in line with the intention of the person communicating the message, either in the spoken, or written form, face-to-face or via communication devices, such as phone, email, and video conferencing. Since communication is usually a two-way interaction between two or more persons, one must also include listening and reading skills among the communication skills.

Communication is not just using words. Spoken communication also involves the use of a variety of features to express different nuances of

meaning, such as body language which includes facial expressions, posture, gestures, tone of voice, eye contact, proximity between speaker and listener, etc. On the other hand, written communication exploits choice of word, order of words, sentence patterns, the sound system of the language concerned, the organization of texts, size, and design of letters of the alphabet, etc. to gain specific communicative effects. In addition, an interpretation of human communication is made more complex due to the fact that more than one meaning can be conveyed by a single utterance, and indirectness is frequently used to communicate different shades of meaning including the opposite of what is said. Moreover, such non-verbal features as the style and colour of one's clothes and hair, and for women and some men, the use of certain kinds of jewellery, make-up, lipstick, perfume, etc. may be employed to subtly convey information about the personality of a person.

There are many reasons for communication skills to have come to be regarded as a vital life skill in the 21st century. Firstly, it would be extremely difficult to fulfil even our most basic needs and wants, as anyone who has had the experience of travelling in a foreign country whose language he or she does not know will

Building Bridges in an Ever-Shrinking World

By Min Zan

especially the English language, and the ability to translate and interpret, has risen to the forefront of the skills much in demand these days.

On the other hand, with more parents going out to work and a reduction in the number of extended families, there seems to be less opportunity for young people to communicate with people of different generations or to receive their guidance on how to converse appropriately. This situation is compounded by the fact that a lot of young people in cities spend more time with their cell phones playing games, and surfing the net than talking with other people. It is my impression that young people need to be trained to overcome their shyness and reticence to talk with persons of different generations and to make appropriate use of the polite forms traditionally used in conversing with older persons and more formal contexts.

Some people have the gift of being able to communicate effectively, but some do not. However, this does not mean that it cannot be developed. The place to begin training young people to develop communication skills is the home.

It is important that parents talk with their children as often as possible, not only to stay connected with them but also to develop their language skills.

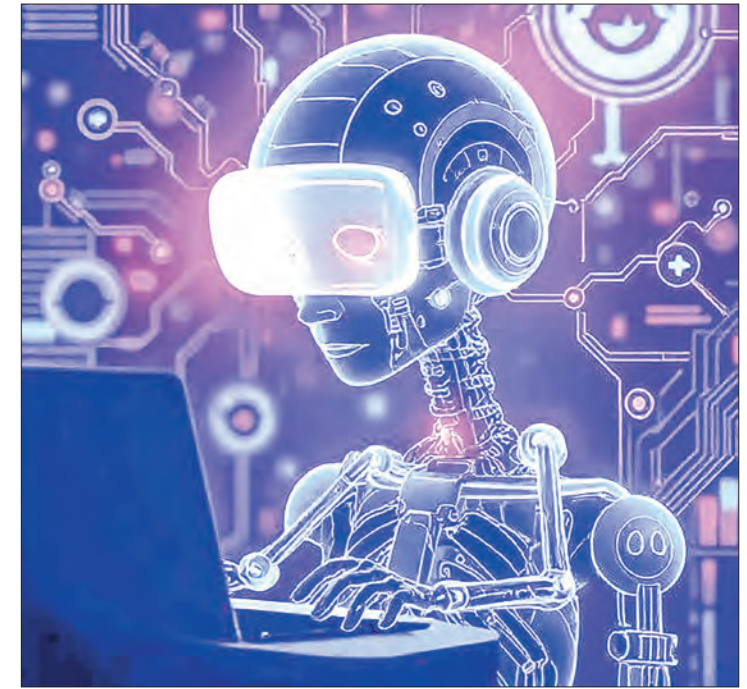
Through parental talk, children can enrich their stock of vocabulary and sentence patterns and at the same time, develop critical thinking, satisfy their curiosity about their surroundings, and expand their knowledge about the world around them. When children are old enough, parents should begin teaching them to use more polite language.

The goals of schools and universities should include the promotion of effective communication, as it is not just a vital life skill, as pointed out earlier, but it is also a skill that will bring academic success. Communication skills can be taught as part of the Myanmar and English language courses, or they could be integrated into all the subjects that students have to study. The latter has the advantage of giving more opportunities to use communication skills by students across the curriculum and also strengthening linkage among knowledge, cultural norms, thinking, and communication, which are crucial not only for students but also for those in employment. Below are some of the prerequisites for developing communication skills:

1. Overcoming shyness, brevity, and reluctance to talk, so that one can interact with both people one is familiar with, as well as strangers
2. being aware of the audience - age, gender, job, status, interest, educational background, knowledge, etc., to adjust the style of one's language and topics
3. be aware of the setting, the place, and the occasion where the interaction is taking place, to make one's communication appropriate to it
4. having relevant knowledge, vocabulary, and structure to interact on a wide range of topics
5. making one's communication informative, so that it will be



Foster early interaction, patient teaching, and a culture of communication to build eloquent, globally connected students, bridging divides with understanding.



Machine learning accurately predicts GAD recovery, enabling personalized treatments based on individual predictors, improving long-term outcomes. ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART

AI can help clinicians personalise treatment for Generalized Anxiety Disorder: Study

Artificial intelligence (AI) models may help clinicians identify factors to predict long-term recovery and better personalize patient treatment, according to researchers.

INDIVIDUALS with generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), a condition characterized by daily excessive worry lasting at least six months, have a high relapse rate even after receiving treatment.

Artificial intelligence (AI) models may help clinicians identify factors to predict long-term recovery and better personalize patient treatment, according to researchers.

The researchers used a form of AI called machine learning to analyze more than 80 baseline factors — ranging from psychological and sociodemographic to health and lifestyle variables — for 126 anonymized individuals diagnosed with GAD. The data came from the US.

National Institutes of Health's longitudinal study called Midlife in the United States, which samples health data from continental US residents aged 25 to 74 who were first interviewed in 1995-96.

The machine learning models identified 11 variables that appear most important for predicting recovery and nonrecovery, with up to 72 per cent accuracy, at the end of a nine-year period. The researchers published their findings in the March issue of the Journal of Anxiety Disorders.

"Prior research has shown a very high relapse rate in GAD, and there's also limited accuracy in clinician judgment in predicting long-term outcomes," said Candice Basterfield, lead study author and doctoral candidate at Penn State.

"This research suggests that machine learning models show good accuracy, sensitivity and specificity in predicting who will and won't recover from GAD. These predictors of recovery could be really important for helping to create evidence-based, personalized treatments for long-term recovery."

The researchers found that higher education level, older age, more friend support, higher waist-to-hip-ratio and higher positive affect, or feeling more cheerful, were most important to recovery, in that order. Meanwhile, depressed affect, daily discrimination, greater number of sessions with a mental health professional in the past 12 months and greater number of visits to medical doctors in the past 12 months proved most important to predicting nonrecovery.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

Organizations issue statements praising SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing for his efforts in contributing to State sector-wise development

A high-level goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid official State visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of President of the Republic

of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on 3 March 2025 and could hold meetings to achieve positive results for Myanmar.

Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central), All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar), Faith Evangelical Church (Bago), Deliverance Church (Yangon), Pinnaygone Yakhine

Jaame Mosque, Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association, Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), Myanmar Comedians' Association, Myanmar Shiah Muslim Religious Association (central), Myanmar Sports Media Federation, All Ethnicities Unity and Service Association (Interim), Myanmar Writers' Association and

Myanmar MSME (Cluster) Slippers Enterprises Organization (Central) issued statements praising Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, for his efforts in contributing to the development and progress of various sectors in Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

Statement of Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque

9 March 2025

WE are deeply honoured and pleased with the success achieved through the official State visits to the Russian Federation and Belarus, upon the invitation of President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia and President Aleksandr Lukashenko of Belarus. During the visits, the high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing engaged in discussions to enhance cooperation across various sectors including economics, politics and social matters. These fruitful discussions have led to the further enhancement of alliance relations. In light of these historic successes, Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque expresses our deep pride and joy, and we wholeheartedly support these historic achievements.

Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque

Statement of Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

9 March 2025

AT the invitation of Russian Federation President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko, the official State visits to the Russian Federation and Belarus were undertaken by the high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. During the visits, the delegation achieved historic successes for the benefit of the nation and its people. The Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) extends its congratulations and expresses deep satisfaction for these achievements. We wish for the further success of the country's responsibilities and the ongoing development of Myanmar.

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

Statement of Myanmar Writers' Association

9 March 2025

1. We are deeply honoured and thrilled by the historic successes achieved during the official State visits to the Russian Federation and Belarus, invited by President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia and President Aleksandr Lukashenko of Belarus. During these visits, the high-level Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing made significant achievements that we take great pride in.
2. This State goodwill visits have been of great benefit to the country and its citizens. We hope that these efforts will continue to foster further cooperation and lead to even greater success for Myanmar in the future.

Myanmar Writers' Association

Statement of Myanmar Shiah Muslim Religious Organization (Centre)

9 March 2025

MYANMAR Shiah Muslim Religious Organization (Centre) expresses deep appreciation for the achievements made during the official State visits of the high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who travelled to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus at the special invitation of the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Belarus. The organization acknowledges the discussions of the delegation to advance the interests of the nation and its people with positive outcomes.

Myanmar Shiah Muslim Religious Organization (Centre)

Statement of Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association

9 March 2025

A high-level goodwill delegation, headed by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, undertook official State visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of President Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko. These visits led to the exchange of memoranda of understanding on cooperation between Myanmar and both Russia and Belarus, covering various sectors including sports, tourism, legal affairs, agriculture, and food safety.

The Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association takes great pride and joy in recognizing the achievements made to the welfare of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association

Statement of Myanmar MSME (Cluster) Slippers Enterprises Organization (Central)

9 March 2025

IN accordance with the invitation extended by President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing successfully held talks with Heads of State of Russia and Belarus, resulting in the signing of agreements to foster bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

With a significant increase in trade relations expected between the two nations, Myanmar is confident that this will bring substantial benefits for the nation's peace, stability and economic growth.

The Myanmar MSME (Cluster) Slippers Enterprises Organization (Central), its Chairman and Executive Members express their heartfelt congratulations and pride in these diplomatic achievements for these visits.

Chair and EC members of Myanmar MSME (Cluster) Slippers Enterprises Organization (Central)



NATIONAL

YMBA (Central)'s statement of delight

9 March 2025

AT the invitation of Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, President of the Russian Federation and Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko, President of Belarus, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing led a high-level delegation on official State visits to Russia and Belarus. During the visits, significantly historic successes were achieved in various sectors. We are greatly honoured and pleased by these accomplishments of the Myanmar goodwill delegation led by the Senior General. We hope these efforts contribute to the country's development and the socioeconomic progress of the citizens of Myanmar.

Chairman
CEC and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area,
Region and State YMBAs
Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) (Central)

Statement of All Ethnicities Unity and Service Association (Interim)

9 March 2025

AS per the invitation of Russian Federation President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Belarus President Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko, the official State visits led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus have been undertaken. During this State visit, the high-level delegation, led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, engaged in discussions to further enhance the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries across various sectors.

Throughout the official State visits, discussions held between the leaders of both nations have resulted in historic achievements. The All Ethnicities Unity and Service Association (Interim) congratulates and expresses deep satisfaction over these outcomes. We extend our wishes for further progress in the country's development and the social and economic betterment of the citizens of Myanmar.

All Ethnicities Unity and Service Association (Interim)

Statement of Myanmar Comedians' Association

9 March 2025

LED by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, a high-level goodwill delegation made official State visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of President Aleksandr Lukashenko. During these visits, they engaged in discussions to bolster political, economic, and social cooperation, further solidifying the Myanmar-Russia partnership and alliance.

Myanmar Comedians' Association would like to express its special pride and joy for the contributions made to the interest of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar Comedians' Association

Statement of Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)

9 March 2025

LED by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, a high-level goodwill delegation made official State visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of President Aleksandr Lukashenko, where they met with top leaders in Russia, including the Russian president, strengthening and solidifying the ties between Russia and Myanmar.

Therefore, Faith Evangelical Church (Bago) is extremely proud of the historic achievements made for Myanmar and wishes the Head of State success in advancing the interests of the country and citizens.

Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)

Statement of Deliverance Church (Yangon)

9 March 2025

A high-level goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid official State visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of President Aleksandr Lukashenko, marking a new chapter in history to further strengthen Myanmar-Russia relations and achieve Myanmar's peace and economic development.

The Deliverance Church (Yangon) would like to express its special pride and joy for the contributions made to the interest of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Deliverance Church (Yangon)

Statement of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

9 March 2025

THE All Myanmar Hindu Central Council proudly expresses its appreciation for the official State visits of Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko. During these visits, agreements were successfully signed to enhance bilateral cooperation, and trade between the two nations is expected to grow further. Believing that these developments will contribute to national peace, stability and progress, the council extends its congratulations.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

Statement of Myanmar Sports Media Federation

9 March 2025

AT the invitation of Russian Federation President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Belarusian President Aleksandr Gregoryevich Lukashenko, the high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing successfully completed its goodwill visits. During the visit, the delegation successfully signed agreements to promote investments between Russia and Myanmar, as well as agreements on protection. The Myanmar Sports Media Federation expresses its heartfelt congratulations and deep satisfaction regarding these achievements.

Myanmar Sports Media Federation

Statement of Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar)

9 March 2025

THE Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) is proud to announce that the high-level delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has achieved many outstanding benefits for Myanmar and its citizens during the official State visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of President Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Union of Myanmar Methodist Church
(Lower Myanmar)

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INTERVIEW



U Zaw Zaw Naing (Chair, Myanmar-India Friendship and Development Association)



Daw Ni Ni Aung (resident)



Dein Daung



Daw Nang Khin Hmwe (Organizer, Myanmar Theatrical Association-Central)



Naung Taw Lay (Chief Editor, Myanmar National Post)



U Aung Kyaw Soe Moe (Staff Officer, Ministry of Defence)



U Tein Nyunt (Myanmar Theatrical Association-Central)



Daw Aye Aye Moe (resident)



Saw Lal Kapaw (Supervisor, Myanmar Post)

Interviewee:
Myo Hset Thit

Photos:
Ko Kyaw Htein Aye

State economy will develop and young people in Myanmar will have access to many employment opportunities through Myanmar-Russia cooperation in various sectors.

U Zaw Zaw Naing

I am confident that many benefits through activities on Myanmar-Russia official State visit of the Prime Minister will come to the country as well.

Dein Daung

THE delegation led by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, consisting of SAC members, Union ministers, and senior officials, began their official State visits to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of President of Belarus Mr Lukashenko starting from 3 March.

During these goodwill visits, the Myanmar delegation further strengthened strategic cooperation in friendly relations between governments and people, economy, security, and other areas. Upon their return yesterday evening, the delegation was warmly welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport by officials from religious associations, artistes, government employees, students, ethnic cultural groups, and residents with loud cheer and honour. They greeted the delegation with great enthusiasm and respect. The delegation also expressed their gratitude for the efforts made during the visits towards Myanmar's all-around development and shared their joyful words with the people.

U Zaw Zaw Naing (Chair, Myanmar-India Friendship and Development Association)

TODAY marks the day when the Prime Minister returned from Russia after signing numerous agreements aimed at the development of various sectors in Myanmar. Through these agreements, young people in Myanmar will have access to many employment opportunities. Russia and Belarus are among the most technologically advanced countries in the world. Collaborating with such countries has contributed significantly to the economic development of our country. So, we came from Yangon to express our honour and gratitude for welcoming the Prime Minister's efforts with a warm welcome. We are also proud to have received opportunity for such a warm welcome.

Daw Ni Ni Aung (resident)

I came from Balatheikdi Ward of Zabuthiri Township to extend a warm welcome to the delegation led by the Prime Minister. Since the Prime Minister's visit to Russia, I have been continuously following the news from television. Later, when the leader of Russia and our country's Head of State met, I felt a great sense of pride and honour. I believe that in the future, our country would experience much growth and develop-

ment. Therefore, today, I am here to offer my heartfelt greetings with joy and smiles.

Dein Daung (Chair, Myanmar Comedians' Association-Central)

I always watch the news about the Prime Minister's foreign trips. If I speak from the perspective of my own understanding of the Prime Minister's actions, I believe our country will soon develop rapidly and improve significantly. I am confident that many benefits will come to the country as well. Therefore, I am here to warmly welcome back the Prime Minister. I wish for Myanmar to achieve lasting peace and prosperity as soon as possible, and for the country to stand side by side with others, reaching complete wealth and success.

Daw Nang Khin Hmwe (Organizer, Myanmar Theatrical Association-Central)

AS a representative of our organization, we are here to wish for the long-term, stable, and strong friendship between Myanmar and Russia. We have had the opportunity to observe the Prime Minister's trips through the media. Seeing the actions taken for the development of our country, as a citizen, I am amazed and pleased. It is also something to be proud of for our nation. Therefore, we have made efforts to come and welcomed back the Prime Minister and all those in charge with respect and appreciation.

Naung Taw Lay (Chief Editor, Myanmar National Post)

AS for me, today's welcome ceremony is a moment of joy and pride, both as a media person and as an individual to honour and express my congratulations. I have been following the results of the Prime Minister's trip. When he visited China, he was able to accomplish the best outcomes for the benefit of both countries. Now, this trip is even more significant. The positive results from this journey have given us a lot of hope for the country's future. The public should be proud of this achievement. All efforts made for the betterment of the country should be celebrated by the people. The country's leaders are working hard to ensure stability, peace, and development. Therefore, both the service personnel and the people must unite on this matter, and through this unity, our nation will continue to be stable, peaceful, and develop. I would like to say that we should follow the leadership of the country's top

leaders with confidence.

U Aung Kyaw Soe Moe (Staff Officer, Ministry of Defence)

I am pleased to welcome back the Myanmar delegation for its goodwill visits to Russia and Belarus, achieving results that will benefit the people. I feel took pride as a citizen of signing MoUs by the Myanmar delegation to support the development of both Russia and Myanmar. I also feel a sense of responsibility on behalf of the ministry with the chance to welcome back the high-level Myanmar delegation.

U Tein Nyunt (Myanmar Theatrical Association-Central)

I hope that the activities undertaken during the Prime Minister's trip will bring great benefits to our country. Just as I expected, I am pleased to see the country's leaders working diligently and effectively. Therefore, it is with great joy and pride that I welcome back them today. Upon arriving back at this welcoming place, I am also happy to meet my fellow ethnic national brethren all together. For me, having the honour of welcoming back them today is not only a privilege but also a responsibility that I take with gratitude and pride, as it allows me to serve my country.

Daw Aye Aye Moe (resident)

I am from Tatkon Township to welcome the return of the Prime Minister from his overseas trip. As this is my first time welcoming back such an event at the national level, I am extremely happy and honoured. I have heard that during this trip, agreements have been signed to enhance various sectors in Myanmar. I hope that the benefits from these outcomes will be felt by our people as soon as possible.

Saw Lal Kapaw (Supervisor, Myanmar Post)

I deeply take pride of the Prime Minister on his official State visit in signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) that will bring significant benefits to our country. I am very happy to join this grand welcoming event. I am proud and delighted that this trip has enabled us to make significant strides in advancing various sectors of our country. I also wish for the friendship between Russia and Myanmar to continue to grow stronger and more enduring.



Japan's shortage of full-time workers at worst level since COVID

JAPANESE firms are feeling the most acute shortage of full-time workers since the COVID-19 pandemic, with more than half of firms understaffed, according to a private-sector survey.

Among the around 11,000 companies who responded to the January survey, 53.4 per cent said they need more full-time workers, the highest since April 2020 and close to the all-time high of 53.9 per cent in November 2018, Teikoku Databank Ltd said.

The sector most in need of full-time workers is information services, with shortages of system engineers, followed by construction.

The survey also found 30.6 per cent of firms lack part-time workers, with staffing firms feeling the most acute shortage of nonregular workers ahead of restaurants.

Among the around 11,000 companies who responded to the January survey, 53.4 per cent said they need more full-time workers.



The survey came as economists keep close tabs on whether the robust wage growth seen last year will continue. Major Japanese firms will soon decide their response to demands for pay hikes by their labour unions, wrapping up their annual "shunto" negotiations by the end of this month.

Some 68.1 per cent of firms hit by labor shortages are planning to raise wages for full-time workers in fiscal 2025 from April, according to the research institute, apparently to secure and retain necessary workers. — Kyodo

People join a rally demanding pay hikes for nonregular workers in Tokyo on 5 February 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Türkiye's daily oil production reaches 132,000 barrels: minister

TÜRKIYE has significantly increased its domestic oil production, reaching a daily output of 132,000 barrels as of March, Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar told the semi-official Anadolu Agency on Saturday.

The Turkish minister announced plans to drill 153 new oil wells, primarily in the Gab-

ar region of southern Sirnak province, eastern Van province, and southern Diyarbakir province, along with the areas near the Türkiye-Syria border.

He said the Gabar oil field, discovered in 2021 and recognized as the largest oil find in Türkiye's history, has significantly contributed to the national economy, noting that the regional production now

adds US\$2 billion annually to the country's economy.

When elaborating on work to enhance Türkiye's natural gas production, the minister said that 7 million cubic metres of natural gas is produced daily from the Sakarya Gas Field in the Black Sea, enough to meet the needs of approximately 3 million households. — Xinhua



The Turkish minister announced plans to drill 153 new oil wells, primarily in the Gabar region of southern Sirnak province, eastern Van province, and southern Diyarbakir province, along with the areas near the Türkiye-Syria border. **PHOTO: FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY**

Brunei cultural tourism visitors increase 70 per cent in 2024



The Brunei Maritime Museum showcases the nation's rich maritime culture and history, attracting tourists and fostering cultural understanding. **PHOTO: BRUNEIRESOURCES**

BRUNEI has seen an increase in visitors touring cultural galleries, libraries, and historical sites, with 8,655 visitors recorded in 2024, up 70 per cent compared to 2023, a minister has said.

Overall, 271,000 visitors have been recorded since relevant data began to be compiled, the local daily Borneo Bulletin reported on Sunday, quoting Haji Nazmi Mohammad, Brunei's minister of culture, youth,

and sports.

The minister also said that to uphold cultural heritage and showcase the uniqueness of the local culture, 1,547 activities were held in 2023 and 2024, attracting 67,908 participants.

Among the festivals were showcases of seven ethnic groups, cultural trails, and competitions portraying traditional songs, as well as workshops on local games, arts and cultural artifacts. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

DPRK top leader calls for bolstering up navy's combat power

The primary goal for bolstering the navy's combat power includes the simultaneous modernization of both surface and underwater warships, as well as improving their operational capabilities.

THE top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) called for bolstering up the navy's combat power while inspecting the country's major shipyards, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Saturday.

The basic orientation for radically bolstering up the navy's combat power is "to simul-

taneously push forward with the modernization of water-surface and underwater warships and the further improvement of their operational capabilities," Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, was quoted as saying.

He stressed the need to decisively enhance the war-



In this undated photo provided on 8 March 2025, by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea government, DPRK top leader Kim Jong-un (centre) visits a shipyard to construct warships at an undisclosed place in the country. **PHOTO: KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY**

ship-building capacity on the basis of the existing experience and technology and "put spurs

to the improvement of overall technical processes," in a bid to build a large number of modern

warships of different missions desired by the naval force. — Xinhua

Israel to send team to Doha as Hamas pushes for phase two of Gaza truce



The initial phase of the Israel-Hamas truce brought relative calm to Gaza after more than 15 months of war devastated the territory. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAEL on Sunday prepared to send a delegation to Doha for further talks on the Gaza truce, as Hamas called for an immediate start to negotiations on the ceasefire's second phase, which it hopes will lead to a permanent end to the war.

Representatives of the Palestinian militant group, which waged a deadly war with Israel before a truce took effect on 19 January met with mediators in Cairo over the weekend, stressing the urgent need for humanitarian aid to re-enter the besieged territory

"without restrictions or conditions", according to a Hamas statement.

"Hamas stresses the urgency of forcing the occupation to immediately begin second-phase negotiations under the agreed parameters," senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Mardawi told AFP, adding that this would pave the way for a permanent end to the war.

Hamas's key demands for the second phase include a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, an end to the Israeli blockade, the reconstruction of the Pal-

estinian territory and financial support, Mardawi said.

Following talks with mediators, Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif Al-Qanoua said indicators were so far "positive".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said it would send delegates to Doha on Monday, while the Israeli media reported that the government's security cabinet would discuss the matter later on Sunday.

Israel says that it wants an extension of the truce's first phase until mid-April. — AFP

Thailand: Students now free to choose their hairstyles, as court annuls 50-year-old regulation

THE Supreme Administrative Court has abolished a controversial Education Ministry regulation that restricted students' hairstyles for over five decades, Bangkok Post reported.

The court's ruling, made final on Wednesday, puts an end to a long-standing issue that had caused disputes among teachers, students, and parents.

The court ordered the annulment of a 1975 regulation the ministry issued, effective immediately, on the grounds that it violated individual freedom protected by the constitution and was out of touch with a changing society, as per Bangkok Post.

The regulation dictated specific hairstyles for male and female students. Boys were required to have short hair and were prohibited from having beards or mustaches, while girls were not allowed to grow their hair below their ears or wear makeup.

According to the Bangkok Post, the court found that this rule infringed upon individual freedom and was out of touch with modern society. The regulation was also deemed to be in conflict with the Child Protection Act of 2003 and had a negative impact on students. — ANI

Nepal: Thousands of teachers protest over delay in endorsing education bill

THOUSANDS of teachers took to the streets in Kathmandu on Saturday to protest the government's delay in endorsing the School Education Bill.

The teachers, led by the National Teachers Federation (NTF), demanded further amendments to the bill, claiming it fails to address their concerns and is not justifiable in the current context.

The protest, which saw teachers marching along a 1-kilometre stretch near the iconic Maitighar Mandala, was the culmination of a series of protests and lobbying efforts by the NTF, demanding that the government endorse a bill with further amendments and implement the agreement signed in the year 2023. — ANI

SPORTS

Myanmar women's squad honoured for Nepali tournament victory



Officials present cash award to the Myanmar women's national football team. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

A ceremony to honour the Myanmar women's national football team, which won champions in the Four-Nation Women's Football Invitational Tournament

held in Nepal from 17 to 26 February, took place yesterday at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel.

During the ceremony, a video

recap showcasing the team's performance throughout the tournament was screened. Officials made congratulatory messages and presented K573 million to the team.

During the ceremony, forward Win Theingi Tun and striker May Thet Lu expressed gratitude on behalf of the Myanmar women's national team. The event concluded with a group photo session with attendees.

In the tournament, Myanmar competed in a round-robin format against Nepal, Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon. The team secured a 3-1 victory over Lebanon, a 5-0 win over Kyrgyzstan and played to a 2-2 draw against host Nepal, finishing as group leaders and advancing to the final. In the championship match, Myanmar defeated Nepal 2-0 to claim the title. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Japan's Rio Takeda celebrates after winning the Blue Bay LPGA tournament at the Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Course on China's Hainan Island on 9 March 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Golf: US LPGA rookie Takeda rolls to 6-shot win in China

JAPANESE golfer Rio Takeda picked up her first win of her US LPGA rookie season Sunday, cruising to a six-shot victory at the Blue Bay LPGA tournament in China.

Takeda, who earned the right to play on the US tour when she won the Japan Classic last November, an event co-sanctioned by both tours, had a 17-under 271 total at the Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Course on Hainan Island.

After taking a two-stroke lead into the final round, the long-hitting 21-year-old pulled away with three birdies in her first four holes and added five more on the back nine en route to a bogey-free 64, the best score of the day.

"On the final day I started at the top and I had a desire to win this tournament. I could win this tournament finally, so I feel really great now," she said.

Takeda had a dominant 2024 season in Japan, winning eight times, including two majors, and finishing as the tour's points leader.

"I'm really happy to win this tournament because the course layout, it's really, really different...compared to Japanese courses," she said. "I could win this tournament because my strongest point is driving distance, so it worked well".

Australia's Minjee Lee (67) finished alone in second, followed by Japan's Ayaka Furue (68) in third at 10-under.

Three other Japanese claimed top-10 finishes, with Mao Saigo tying for fifth at 6-under and Miyu Yamashita and Nasa Hataoka sharing eighth a shot further back. — Kyodo

Daw Yadana Su Zin Lin wins Sports Management Scholarship



Regional Minister for Social Affairs U Htay Aung presents the 2025 Sports Management Diploma Scholarship to Daw Yadana Su Zin Lin from the Futsal Subcommittee of Yangon Region on 8 March.

THE International Carrier Institute awarded the 2025 Sports Management Diploma Scholarship for excellence at a ceremony held on the afternoon of 8 March at the Novotel Hotel on Pyay Road, Yangon.

Daw Yadana Su Zin Lin, representing the and the Futsal Subcommittee of Yangon Region Football Federation received the scholarship award from U Htay Aung, Regional Minister for Social Affairs and Chairman of the Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Committee.

The professional sports management programme is conducted by international experts and it covers 13 specialized subjects related to sports administration. This marks the first time a recipient from the Yangon Region Football Federation has been awarded this scholarship among all state and regional football federations.—ASH/KZL



Dominik Paris added the super-G to his downhill win in Kvitfjell, Norway. **PHOTO: NTB/AFP**

Paris claims super-G in Kvitfjell as Odermatt edges closer to title

ITALY'S Dominik Paris won the super-G in Kvitfjell, Norway, on Sunday, while World Cup leader Marco Odermatt finished fourth to move closer to the crystal globe.

It was a successful weekend for 35-year-old Paris, who adds the super-G to the downhill victory he picked up on Friday to take him to a career-total 24 World Cup wins.

He raced past the line in a time of 1min 08.98 seconds, with Canada's James Crawford 0.38 second slower and Slovenian Miha Hrobat completing the podium a further 0.09sec behind.

"It was really good skiing from my side and the feeling was amazing," said Paris.

"I was just trying to be smooth and to bring always the speed... Seeing the green light, that was really surprising for me too".

Odermatt missed out on the podium by 0.01sec, but the Swiss star is assured of the super-G small globe after his main contender Mattia Casse injured himself during training last Wednesday.

With the 27-year-old being pipped to the podium by Hrobat, Sunday's race broke a streak of 22 consecutive men's World Cup super-G races with a Swiss skier among the top three — dating back to March 2022.

"It's a nice feeling also to beat the Swiss," said Hrobat. "They're really, really good this year and it's quite an achievement".

Nonetheless, Odermatt moved 570 points ahead of Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen in the overall standings, meaning he needs just 30 more points to ensure himself a fourth consecutive title. — AFP



Chinese Market
Growth

Vietnam welcomes
over 3.9 mln int'l
arrivals in 2 months

VIETNAM welcomed over 3.9 million international arrivals in the first two months of 2025, an increase of 30.2 per cent year-on-year, local media reported on Saturday, citing the General Statistics Office.

During the period, foreign arrivals in Vietnam by air reached nearly 3.4 million, accounting for 85.7 per cent of the total, followed by road with roughly 467,200 (11.8 per cent) and sea routes with 99,400 (2.5 per cent). Most of the arrivals were from Asia with over 3 million, surging 34.7 per cent year-on-year, according to the report.

The Chinese market showed a massive growth at 77.8 per cent, while some other markets saw steady increases, such as South Korea, which grew 4.9 per cent, the United States by 15.7 per cent and Japan by 37.3 per cent, Vietnam News reported. Travel and tourism revenue in the first two months was estimated at 14.1 trillion Vietnamese dong (nearly US\$551.7 million), up 16.4 per cent compared to last year. — Xinhua

Global collaboration vital for sustainable
digital future: ChinaEU president

Nations and corporations must unite to build a secure and interconnected digital ecosystem for 5G and 6G.

GLOBAL collaboration is the key to unlocking technological progress and building a sustainable, inclusive future, said business insider Luigi Gambardella in an exclusive interview during the Mobile World Congress 2025.

Gambardella, president of the Brussels-based international digital association ChinaEU, told Xinhua that as 5G continues to mature and 6G appears on the horizon, nations and corporations must unite to construct a “truly interconnected and secure digital ecosystem.”

With mobile technology rapidly evolving, international cooperation has never been more critical, Gambardella underlined. “No single country or company can fully harness the potential of 5G, artificial intelligence (AI)-driven networks, and the emerging 6G ecosystem alone.”

The mobile industry flourishes through cross-border partnerships in re-



A man takes a selfie with a Xiaomi SU7 Ultra at the 2025 Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, on 6 March 2025. PHOTO: ZHAO DINGZHE/XINHUA

search, development and standardization, Gambardella said, and joint efforts will accelerate breakthroughs in AI-powered telecom networks, quantum communications, and next-generation connectivity. Meanwhile, harmonized global standards are vital to ensure smooth interoperability across borders.

A unified approach also strengthens supply chain resilience, reducing vulner-

abilities stemming from trade restrictions and geopolitical tensions, Gambardella told Xinhua. Sustainability is another crucial area where global collaboration can ignite significant progress, he stressed. Developing energy-efficient mobile networks, cutting down on e-waste, and integrating climate technology solutions are essential steps towards achieving net-zero emissions in the telecom sector. — Xinhua

Attack on Iran nuclear plant would leave Gulf without water, Qatar PM warns

QATAR'S Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassem Al-Thani has warned that an attack on Iran's Gulf coast nuclear facilities would leave countries across the region without water.

In an interview with right-wing United States media personality Tucker Carlson, who is close to US President Donald Trump, the premier said Doha had simulated the effects of an attack,

The sea would be “entirely contami-

nated” and Qatar would “run out of water in three days”, he said.

The construction of reservoirs since then had increased water capacity, he added, but the risk remained for “all of us” in the region.

“No water, no fish, nothing... no life,” Sheikh Mohammed added in the interview published on Friday, the same day that Trump said he had invited Iran to nuclear talks.

Alluding to military action, Trump said he would “rather see a peace deal” but that “the other will solve the problem”.

Qatar, which sits 190 kilometres (120 miles) south of Iran, relies heavily on desalination for its water supply, as do other Gulf Arab countries in the arid desert region.

Iran has a nuclear power plant at Bushehr on the Gulf coast, though its uranium enrichment facilities, key to building atomic weapons, are located hundreds of kilometres (miles) inland.

Referring to sites “on the other side of the coast”, Sheikh Mohammed said Qatar had “not only military concerns, but also security and... safety concerns”.

He said Qatar opposed military action against Iran and that it would “not give up until we see a diplomatic solution between the US and Iran”. — AFP



The skyline of Qatar's capital Doha, which like other Gulf Arab states is in an arid desert region. PHOTO: AFP/FILE