



Fifth National Sports Festival concludes successfully

Qualified players from the festival will undergo training to prepare for achieving success in the 2025 XXXIII SEA Games and 2026 XIII ASEAN Para Games in Thailand.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed his deep acknowledgement and honour over the patriotism and love for the country of every citizen.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the closing ceremony of the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General underscored that in international sports competitions, there is nothing prouder and more joyous than being honoured on the global stage with nation's flag raised and the national anthem played upon achieving victory as a reflection of elevating both sports and national pride.

This grand national sports festival, which is significant for the entire nation and aims to enhance national unity and morale, has been successfully organized and held in this way

thanks to Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members, and State service personnel who are protecting and safeguarding the country.

It is a grand festival showcasing national movement and strength, a celebration that demonstrates unity and peace, and a remarkable occasion reflecting the resilience, strength, and pride of the entire nation more than just a sporting event.

All citizens residing collectively within the Union of Myanmar are individuals who discharge their respective duties according to serving interests of the nation and the people, and their patriotism are deeply recognized.

It is necessary for the people, the government, and Tatmadaw to unite with collective strength and solidarity to defend against internal and external threats and instances of interference.

SEE PAGE 3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the closing event of the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024

1. He solemnly and respectfully honours all Tatmadaw members, MPF members, People's Military Servant members, civil servants, and other patriotic citizens who sacrificed their lives in defending the nation and the people.
2. It is necessary for the people, the government, and Tatmadaw to unite with collective strength and solidarity to defend against internal and external threats and instances of interference.
3. It is necessary to defend against attacks from all sides with the combined strength and unity of the people, the government, and Tatmadaw.
4. Qualified players from the festival must be organized to undergo training as part of preparations to achieve success in the XXXIII SEA Games and XIII ASEAN Para Games to be hosted by Thailand in 2025 and 2026.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses contingent assembly at the closing ceremony of the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 in Nay Pyi Taw.

NATIONAL

Collective Strength: Key to Sustainable Development Beyond Government Efforts

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

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of presenting awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination 2024 with distinctions in all subjects on 22 July 2024)

Gold Market Rate as of 20 December 2024

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with a density of 19.25 and above is K5,250,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Well Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 20 December 2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Well Marked Low-Pressure Area over the Westcentral Bay and adjoining Southwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move northwestwards and further intensify into a Depression over Westcentral Bay of Bengal during next 12 hours and it is likely to move north-northeastwards during 36 hours. — DMH

Special Weather News

Issued at (18:00) hours MST on 20 December 2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (16:30)hrs MST today, due to the convergence of warm air from the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and cold air from the China high pressure system and the remanent of Well Marked Low-Pressure Area over Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining Southwest Bay of Bengal, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Rakhine State and scattered to fairly widespread in Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls today evening upto 23 December 2024.

Advisory

People should be awared of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightnings, hails, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 20:00 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.5) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 12 miles southwest of Mawlaik), Latitude 23.56 °N, Longitude 94.25 °E, depth (80) kilometres, about 46 miles south of the Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (19) hrs (43) mins (06) secs MST on 20 December, 2024. — DMH

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 57/2024
5th Wanning of Nattaw 1386 ME
20 December 2024

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Chief Justice for Kachin State High Court

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Daw Aye Aye Maw to the duties of Chief Justice for the Kachin State High Court under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
General
Secretary

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 58/2024
5th Wanning of Nattaw 1386 ME
20 December 2024

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Judge for Kachin State High Court

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Daw Pyone Pyone Kyi to the duties of Judge for the Kachin State High Court under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
General
Secretary

Myanmar Gazette

Transfer and Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

- The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed Professor Dr Aye Aye Khin, Rector of the University of Medicine 2 (Yangon) of the Department of Human Resources for Health under the Ministry of Health, as Director-General of the Department of Medical Research from the date she assumes charge of her duties.
- The State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Ngu Thida General Manager Myanmar Post Ministry of Transport and Communications	Managing Director Myanmar Post Ministry of Transport and Communications
(b) Professor Dr Latt Latt Win Professor/Head of Department Department of Pharmacology University of Medicine (Taunggyi) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health	Rector University of Pharmacy (Yangon) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health

NATIONAL

THE fellow citizens need cohesion, unity and discipline. They are necessary to exert efforts not to lose sight of the main goal and not to deviate from the path, regardless of any kind of incitement by the unscrupulous elements.

[An excerpt from the radio speech delivered by Bogyoke Aung San on 1 January 1947.]



Inlay Lake. PHOTO BY MYO MIN HTIKE (IPRD)

Fifth National Sports Festival concludes ...

FROM PAGE 1

It is necessary to defend against attacks from all sides with the combined strength and unity of the people, the government, and Tatmadaw. Therefore, the Senior General solemnly and respectfully honours all

Tatmadaw members, MPF members, People's Military Servant members, civil servants, and other patriotic citizens who sacrificed their lives in defending the nation and the people. He also acknowledged officials at different sectors to hold opening and

This grand national sports festival, which is significant for the entire nation and aims to enhance national unity and morale, has been successfully organized and held in this way thanks to Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members, and State service personnel who are protecting and safeguarding the country.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents the championship trophy (above), and fireworks light up the sky during the closing event (left).



closing ceremonies of the festival on a grand scale, ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Council, regional and state governments, service personnel, artistes, students, officials from sports federations, referees, juries, administrators, coaches and athletes for their participation in the festival. Qualified players from the festival must be organized to take training as part of preparations to achieve success in the XXXIII SEA Games and XIII ASEAN Para Games to be hosted by Thailand in 2025 and 2026.

Before the ceremony, famous vocalists performed song entertainment.

SEE PAGE 4

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)

Fifth National Sports Festival concludes ...

FROM PAGE 3

The Senior General, his wife and guests watched the final match between the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Construction in the football tournament of the 2024 National Sports Festival. In the match, the Ministry of Construction clinched the title with a 1-0 win over the opponent in 87 minutes.

After the football match, the closing ceremony of the festival followed. The Senior General, his wife and party enjoyed the song entertainment “Revitalization of Ata Thingyan as Traditional Heritage” to mark the recognizing the Traditional Myanmar Ata Thingyan Festival on the World’s Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Next, a video clip titled “enhancing the sports to safeguard the State” highlighting the 2024 Fifth National Sports Festival was screened.

At the awarding for the football tournament, SAC members General Nyo Saw, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, General Maung Maung Aye, Admiral Tin Aung San and General Mya Tun Oo presented best player awards for goal-

keeper, defender, mid-fielder, forwarder and the player of the tournament to relevant athletes respectively.

Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo presented individual medals and mascots to players from the third-prize winning Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development while Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe gave individual medals and mascots to players from the second-prize winning Ministry of

petition, respectively.

When the festival was closed, fireworks were displayed to mark the successful completion of the festival.

Players from the Myanmar Martial Arts Sports Federation demonstrated their skills and ethnic people from regions and states presented traditional dances. Those from the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs performed aerobic dances. The ceremony successfully concluded

val, southeast corner of Wunna Theikdi Stadium, ignited by selected Myanmar athletes at the opening ceremony of the festival on 9 December was put out.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Council Joint

Festival took place in Yangon with 22 sports events from 3 to 16 May 1992, the second in Yangon with 24 sports events from 25 January to 6 February 1994, the third in Yangon with 29 sports events from 11 to 24 January 1997 and the fourth in Nay Pyi Taw with 27 sports from 13 to 28 February 2015.

The fifth festival was held in Nay Pyi Taw with six sports events for union-level organizations and ministries, 23 sports events for Nay Pyi Taw Council, regions and states and four sports for the athletes with disabilities. So, more than 10,000 athletes, administrators, coaches, referees and juries participated in the fifth festival starting from 2 December till 20 December.

The Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 was held on a grand scale to aim at enhancing the nation’s sports standards, achieving success in the 33rd Southeast Asian Games and other international competitions, and turning out outstanding athletes and new-generation athletes who can bring national honour, fostering greater collaboration and unity between regions, states, and ministries in order to further promote sports activities and stipulating public interest in sports to join in sports activities. — MNA/TTA

All citizens residing collectively within the Union of Myanmar are individuals who discharge their respective duties according to serving interests of the nation and the people, and their patriotism are deeply recognized.

Planning and Finance.

The Senior General presented championship trophies to Champion Ayeyawady Region team in the Inter-State and Region parasports competition, Champion Yangon Region team in the Inter-State and Region sports competition and Champion Ministry of Defence team in the Inter-Ministry sports com-

petition with the song titled “Towards the Golden State Together”.

The veteran athletes who uplifted prestige of the State through sports and the athletes with disabilities bringing honour to the State were individually introduced, and fireworks were launched to mark the successful completion of the ceremony.

The flame to mark the festi-

Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, council members and their wives, union ministers, union-level dignitaries and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander, deputy ministers and invitees.

The First National Sports



This picture captures the grand entertainment honouring the Traditional Myanmar Maha Thingyan, recognized by UNESCO on the World’s Intangible Cultural Heritage List, at the closing event of the Fifth National Sports Festival in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 December 2024.

NATIONAL



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts the Credentials of the Ambassador-designate of Cambodia to Myanmar.

Myanmar, Cambodia to mark 70th anniversary of founding of diplomatic relations

Myanmar and Cambodia forge the betterment of bilateral diplomatic ties and friendly relationships.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepted the Credentials of Ambassador-designate of Cambodia to Myanmar Mr Cheng Manith at the Credentials Hall of the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am yesterday.

At the discussion, they highlighted holding the ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, and further promotion of bilateral cooperation.

They frankly discussed cementing bilateral diplomatic relations and friendly relations between Myanmar and Cambodia, the potential for economic cooperation, the promotion of bilateral trade, and efforts to further enhance bilateral trade, the development of the tourism industry, and cultural exchange.

Also, present at the ceremony were Council Joint Secretary Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Director-General U Zaw Tun Oo of the Protocol Department. — MNA/TTA

Five National Objectives for 77th Anniversary of Independence Day 2025

1. To address armed conflicts and differing perspectives lawfully, ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To safeguard the State with unity and strength of all citizens, guided by the spirit of the Union
3. To conduct a free, fair, and credible general election to establish a genuine, disciplined democratic system
4. To promote balanced development across all sectors of the Union through the collective strength of the entire people
5. To collectively advance politics, the economy, defence, national identity, and spirit with perseverance, diligence, and dedication, guided by the motto: “Keep Moving Forward to Achieve Our Goal”



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the Laotian Ambassador-designate to Myanmar.

Friendship bridge promotes amicable relations between Myanmar and Laos

Myanmar and Laos plan to expand operations of direct flights to promote tourism services.

Ambassador-designate of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to Myanmar Mr Bounphieng Chanthavong presented his Credentials to State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Credentials Hall of the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw at 10:30 am yesterday.

At the discussion, they emphasized that due to using

the friendship bridge, amicable relations between Myanmar and Laos will enhance friendly relations between the two countries and people.

They also exchanged views on the promotion of friendly ties and cooperation between Myanmar and Laos which are good neighbourliness, further enhancement of border trade, promotion of bilateral trade, expansion of direct flights between the two countries to develop tourism services, exchange of scholarship students, and plans to bilaterally exchange cultural troupes.

Also, present on the occasion were Council Joint Secretary Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister, and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, and Director-General U Zaw Tun Oo of the Protocol Department. – MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

State Administration Council enacts Amendment to Myanmar Motion Pictures Law

THE State Administration Council on 20 December 2024 enacted the Amendment to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Law signed by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing as Law No 59/2024 under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sub-sections (a), (b) and (h) of the law shall be substituted with new definitions. Moreover, Sub-section (i) shall be added as a new definition. “Myanma Motion Pictures Enterprise” mentioned in Sub-section (a) of Section 3 shall be substituted with the word “Myanmar’s Motion Pictures” and “film artistes and film professionals” in Sub-section (d) with “film artistes and technicians”.

The word “Myanma Motion Pictures Enterprise” mentioned in sections 4, 7, 24, 25, 26, 27, 36 and 39 of the law shall be substituted with “the department”.

Sub-sections (i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n) of Section 4 shall be added as opening motion picture training schools, renting shooting equipment, giving film production services, operating film studios, developing pictures, sounding and special effects for motion pictures, establishing online cinemas, screening motion pictures with the use of applications and through online platforms.

Sections 5 and 8 shall be substituted with new provisions on the department functions. Section 8 mentioned substitutions of usages for the managing director

of Myanma Motion Pictures Enterprise and the director-general of Information and Public Relations Department with the director of Myanmar’s Motion Pictures and the director of the Information and Public Relations Department.

Section 28 mentions the authority of the department.

Amendments in Chapters VII and VIII emphasize penalties for those who violate the provisions of the law. Section 30 mentions that the department shall impose a fine of K50,000 to K100,000 or revoke the licences of offenders. Moreover, Section 31 states the department shall impose a fine of K30,000 to K200,000 or revoke the cinema licences of offenders.

Those dissatisfied with the decision

or order of the motion pictures censor board or the department may appeal at the Ministry of Information within 30 days.

According to Sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42, those who operate businesses related to motion pictures without licence or screen films without censor certificates will face deterrent legal action.

Section 49 of the law empowers the Ministry of Information to release necessary bylaws, rules and regulations following the agreement of the Union government, while the department, the motion pictures censor board and the assessment board of the Ministry of Information have the authority to release necessary notifications, orders, directives and procedures. — GNLM/TTA

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Laotian Ambassador

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Bounphieng Chanthavong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the courtesy call, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs congratulated the Ambassador

on his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They engaged in a cordial and constructive exchange of views on strengthening the traditional bonds of friendship between the two counties through the existing bilateral mechanisms, focusing on various sectors of mutual interest, including trade, connectivity and energy sector, and advancing cooperation on regional and international spheres. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe receives the Lao Ambassador yesterday.

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Cambodian Ambassador



The Cambodian Ambassador calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Cheng Manith, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the courtesy call, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs congratulated the Ambassador on his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Repub-

lic of the Union of Myanmar. They candidly exchanged views on further advancement of the existing friendly bilateral ties, and intensification of mutually beneficial cooperation across areas of common interest, including trade, tourism, and closer collaboration in regional and multilateral arenas. – MNA

Corrigendum

PLEASE read ‘Mr Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India’ instead of ‘Mr Md Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the Interim Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh’ in the caption of the news “DPM MoFA Union Minister attends Informal Consultation in Bangkok” mentioned on page 5 of this newspaper issued on 20 December 2024. Error is regretted. – Ed

NATIONAL

80th anniversary of Vietnam People’s Army observed in Myanmar

A ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Vietnam People’s Army and the 35th anniversary of the All People’s Defence Festival took place at Melia Hotel in Yangon on 19 December. It was attended by Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein of the Yangon Command, Vietnamese defence attaché Senior Colonel Dao Van Duy, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Ly Quoc Tuan, relevant officials, DSAC members and invitees.

Attendees first saluted the national flags with national anthems of the two countries, and watched the

documentary of the Vietnam People’s Army. The Yangon Command commander, Vietnamese defence attaché and ambassador cut the ceremonial cake together.

Afterwards, they had dinner and enjoyed the entertainment programmes. — MNA/KTZH

The commemorative group photo of the 80th anniversary of Vietnam People’s Army held in Yangon on 19 December 2024.



Indonesia-donated polio vaccines arrive in Myanmar

A total of 2.716 doses of polio vaccine (bOPV) worth Indonesian Rupiah 8.7 billion donated by the Indonesian government to Myanmar arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

Indonesian Director of Southeast Asia Affairs Mr Mirza Nurhidayat and charge d’affaires of the Indonesian Embassy to Myanmar Mr M Arif Hidayatullah handed over polio vaccines to officials of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar. The vaccines were transported to central cold storage facility (Yangon).



The official reception ceremony for Indonesia-donated polio vaccines being held yesterday.

These polio vaccines will be used in various immunization programmes of the Public Health Department of the Ministry of Health while implementing polio-free activities. — MNA/KTZH

YBS drivers to be terminated for tampering with card readers

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) will penalize drivers found tampering with card readers by forming a tribunal, said YRTC joint secretary U Lyan Cing Mang at a press conference on 19 December.

Previously, YRTC issued one-month suspensions to drivers based on passenger complaints via phone or call centre, but this approach proved ineffective. Now, they will ensure that drivers who tamper with card readers will no longer be permitted to drive.

If reports are made to the YRTC, investigations will be conducted immediately with the traffic rules enforcement task force. If dishonesty is

found, effective action will be taken according to the tribunal’s decision.

“Some drivers disable card readers intentionally. We will take strict action against such drivers by forming a tribunal. If the failure of the card reader is due to intentional tampering by the driver, not a machine fault, we will ensure they are banned from driving all YBS bus lines,” he said.

The Yangon Region chief minister instructed to ensure the YBS bus system is convenient for public transport during a regional-level meeting on 11 December.

Currently, 3,600-3,800 YBS buses serve 1.5 million passengers daily. — MT/ZS



The Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) hosting a press conference on 19 December.

Counter-argument to false information



This screenshot validates misinformation.

Media claims about airstrike in Patheingyi Township

MALICIOUS media outlets intentionally spread false reports that Tatmadaw carried out an airstrike on 19 December in Myakantha and Htanpingon villages, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, injuring one monk.

According to a regional security official, such news was invalid, and security forces conducted routine security measures in Patheingyi Township, and did not launch any airstrikes. Terrorists initiated the attacks using drones and heavy weapons in villages and wards. Subversive media outlets intend to circulate false claims and misinformation as a propaganda campaign and mislead the public about security forces carrying out security duties. — MNA/KTZH

OPINION

Sustain success from the National Sports Festival to the future

THE Fifth National Sports Festival of 2024, which highlighted the nation's dignity and the patriotism of its citizens, as well as unity, national spirit, and collaborative efforts, was successfully and grandly held from 9 to 20 December 9, showcasing peace and stability.

Successfully hosting the National Sports Festival has contributed to achieving the following objectives: enhancing the nation's sports standards, achieving success in the 33rd Southeast Asian

In Myanmar, the National Sports Festival has been held four times, in 1992, 1994, 1997, and 2015. Throughout different eras, talented ethnic national athletes have achieved numerous awards not only in these domestic sports competitions but also in international sports events. They have proudly raised the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar high atop flagpoles among other winners, bringing honour to the nation.

the development and promotion of the sports sector. These sports competitions are great chances for citizens to show off their talent and skills in relevant sports.

In perspectives related to sports, the belief that "promoting and developing sports is equivalent to defending and safeguarding the nation" is held in the highest regard. It emphasizes that the spirit and strength gained from sports competitions should be utilized to protect the nation. When individuals face challenges in life, they learn from sports to embody a spirit of resilience, refusing to yield or give up, and confronting difficulties with confidence and courage. These qualities, experienced through sports, serve as a practical testament to perseverance. With this mindset, individuals are encouraged to continue fostering and utilizing such attributes boldly and diligently for their benefit and the nation's welfare.

It is necessary for the entire population, including students, youth, and persons with disabilities, to actively participate and contribute. Successfully and magnificently hosting the National Sports Festival not only elevates the sports sector but also contributes to national development through the unity, camaraderie, enthusiasm, patriotism, and revitalized national spirit that emerges from sports.

Games and other international competitions, turning out outstanding athletes and new-generation athletes who can bring national honour, fostering greater fraternity between regions, states, and ministries to promote sports activities further, and stipulating public interest in sports to join in sports activities.

In Myanmar, the National Sports Festival has been held four times, in 1992, 1994, 1997, and 2015. Throughout different eras, talented ethnic national athletes have achieved numerous awards not only in these domestic sports competitions but also in international sports events. They have proudly raised the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar high atop flagpoles among other winners, bringing honour to the nation.

The sports achievements that raised Myanmar's national flag to the top of the mast have inspired all citizens and elevated the nation's honour and prestige. Therefore, it is essential for every citizen to participate more actively in

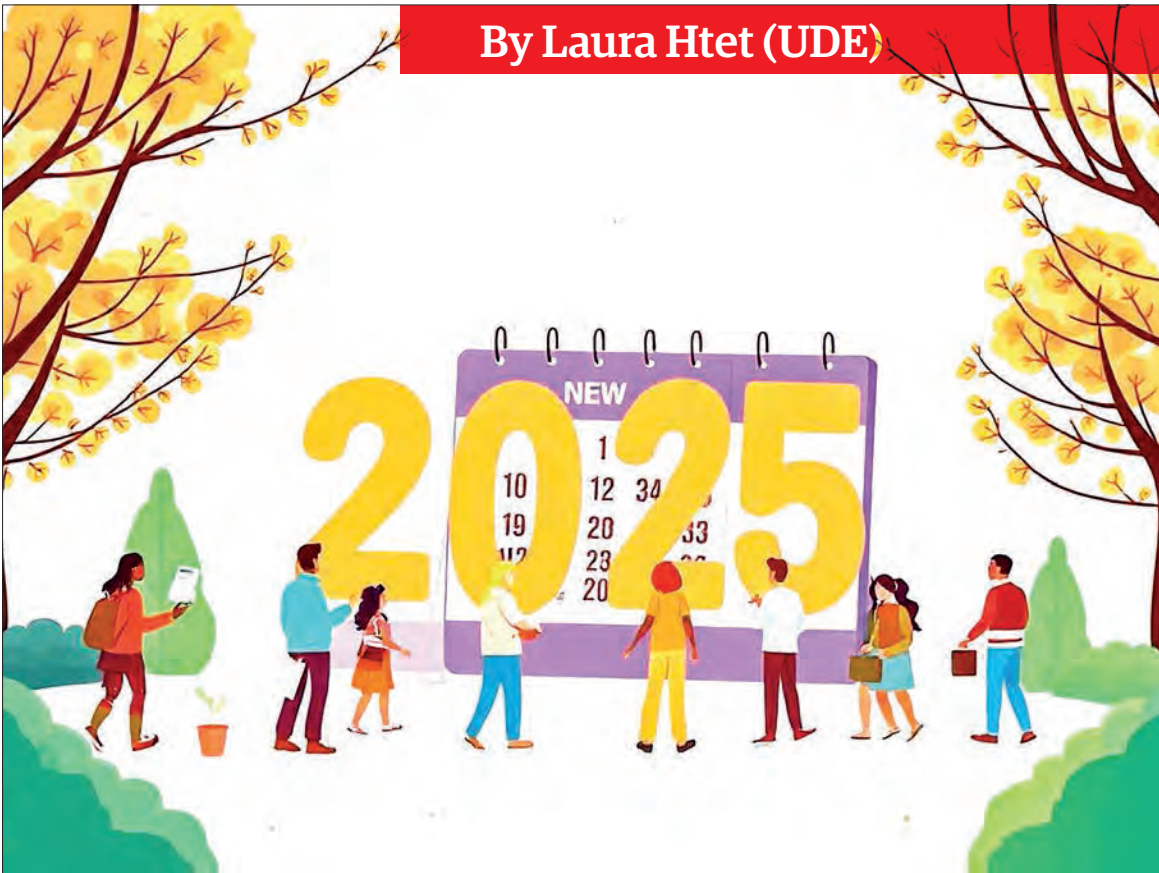
How 2025 Can Be the Year of Meaningful Change

AS the days grow shorter and the world turns the page to another year, there's a sense of quiet anticipation in the air. December carries with it a unique mix of reflection and hope – a season for looking back on the roads we've travelled and forward to the paths we have yet to tread. The close of one year and the start of another is a powerful reminder that change, while inevitable, can also be intentional. With 2025 just weeks away, now is the perfect time to ask ourselves an important question: **How can we become better versions of ourselves in the coming year?** The answer lies in deliberate and unexpected changes, ones that challenge both our habits and our mindset.

It starts with embracing the beauty of imperfection. For years, self-improvement has been marketed as a polished process of ticking boxes – perfect morning routines, flawlessly executed goals, and picture-perfect lives shared on social media. But perfection, as enticing as it sounds, often becomes a burden. In striving to be flawless, we forget to appreciate the beauty of being human. 2025 should be the year where we allow ourselves to stumble, laugh at our mistakes, and learn from them without judgment. After all, growth often hides in the messy, unpolished corners of life.

Another transformative approach is to rethink our relationship with time. It's easy to say, "I don't have enough time," especially in a world that feels like it's speeding up with every notification and deadline. But time isn't a resource to be managed; it's an experience to be lived. In 2025, let's strive to cultivate moments of stillness – pausing to savour a cup of tea, to watch a sunrise, or to listen, truly listen, to a friend. The paradox of modern life is that the faster we try to go, the more we miss out on living. By slowing down, we can reclaim the magic of the present moment.

One unexpected path to



As we approach 2025, becoming better versions of ourselves involves meaningful changes, kindness, curiosity, connection, and gratitude. ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/PEXELS

self-betterment is to let curiosity lead the way. As adults, we often feel compelled to master everything before we even begin. But what if 2025 was the year of experimenting without the pressure to excel? Learn to play a musical instrument, even if you can only manage a simple tune. Try your hand at drawing, even if your sketches are little more than doodles. Join a conversation club, even if you're nervous about speaking in a group. These small acts of curiosity can expand our worlds and rekindle the sense of wonder we often lose in adulthood.

Connection, too, plays a crucial role in our journey to becoming better versions of ourselves. Yet, in a digital age, true connection can feel like a rarity. This coming year, let's challenge ourselves to create moments of genuine human interaction. Call instead of texting. Visit instead of messaging. Spend quality time with family, or host a dinner party with neighbours. And for those of us who struggle with shyness or social anxiety, even a simple

smile or compliment to a stranger can open the door to meaningful connection. The better version of ourselves in 2025 seeks out and nurtures bonds with others.

Surprisingly, one of the most powerful ways to transform is to embrace the power of rest. Rest is not a reward for hard work; it's a necessity for living well. Yet, in our hyper-productive world, rest is often seen as laziness. In 2025, let's reframe that narrative. Rest can take many forms: a 10-minute nap, a leisurely walk in the park, or a guilt-free afternoon doing absolutely nothing. When we honour our need for rest, we replenish our creativity, resilience, and joy.

Equally important is how we relate to our environment. In 2025, let's aim to be not only better versions of ourselves but also better stewards of the planet. Small, mindful changes in our daily habits – reducing plastic waste, supporting sustainable brands, planting a tree, or simply turning off the lights when leaving a room – can collectively make a big difference. These actions remind us that self-improvement

isn't just about personal gains; it's about contributing to something larger than ourselves.

Another key to becoming our best selves lies in cultivating gratitude. It's easy to dwell on what we lack or wish for in life, but gratitude shifts our focus to what we already have. A gratitude journal, where we jot down three things we're thankful for each day, can work wonders for our mindset. Gratitude isn't just about appreciating the big things like a promotion or a new car; it's about cherishing the little joys – a kind word, a favourite meal, a moment of laughter. In practising gratitude, we not only enrich our own lives but also inspire positivity in those around us.

Self-awareness is another powerful tool for transformation. In 2025, let's make it a habit to check in with ourselves regularly. What are we feeling? Why are we feeling this way? What do we need in this moment? These questions may seem simple, but they're often overlooked in the chaos of daily life. Journaling, meditation, or even a quiet moment

of reflection can help us better understand ourselves. And with that understanding comes the ability to make choices aligned with our values and aspirations.

Perhaps one of the most radical steps we can take in 2025 is to redefine success. Success has long been measured by external achievements – titles, salaries, and possessions. But what if we measured success by how kind we are, how much we've learned, or how deeply we've loved? The better version of ourselves isn't necessarily the one who has it all but the one who lives with intention, purpose, and heart.

Finally, let's not forget the transformative power of giving. Volunteering, mentoring, or even small acts of kindness like buying a meal for someone in need can bring immense fulfillment. When we shift our focus from what we can gain to what we can give, we unlock a profound sense of purpose. In giving, we often discover parts of ourselves we never knew existed.

As we stand on the threshold of 2025, the path to becoming better versions of ourselves is not about perfection, competition, or grand gestures. It's about small, meaningful changes. It's about being kinder to ourselves and others. It's about choosing curiosity over fear, connection over isolation, and gratitude over longing. It's about recognizing that every day is an opportunity to start fresh, to grow, to learn, and to love.

All in all, as we prepare to step into 2025, let's remember that meaningful change starts with intention and small, deliberate actions. The journey to becoming better versions of ourselves doesn't require perfection or grand resolutions – it's about embracing imperfection, cultivating curiosity, and fostering genuine connections. It's about slowing down to savour the present, resting without guilt, and giving back to our communities and the planet. In 2025, let's commit to creating a life rooted in gratitude, kindness, and self-awareness. By doing so, we can not only transform ourselves but also inspire positive change in the world around us. The year ahead holds infinite potential for growth and joy, and it begins with one choice: to live each day with purpose, compassion, and an open heart.

Stimulating hypothalamus restores walking in paralyzed patients: Study

The treatment not only enhanced mobility during rehabilitation but also led to long-term improvements, suggesting reorganization of residual nerve fibres, as shown in a study published in Nature Medicine.



Researchers have achieved remarkable results in using DBS to improve lower limb movement in individuals with SCI. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/VISUAL ART

RESEARCHERS at EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) and Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), led by professors Grégoire Courtine and Jocelyne Bloch, have made a groundbreaking advancement in the treatment of spinal cord injuries (SCI). Their innovative work has significantly enhanced the recovery of lower limb movements in two individuals with partial SCI through deep brain stimulation (DBS), targeting a previously unrecognized region of the brain—the lateral hypothalamus (LH). This novel approach has greatly improved the patients' autonomy, mobility, and overall well-being, marking a major step forward in SCI rehabilitation.

One of the participants in the clinical trial, Wolfgang Jager, a 54-year-old from Kappel, Austria, had been using a wheelchair since a ski accident in 2006 left him with a spinal cord injury. After undergoing DBS therapy, Jager experienced firsthand the profound effects of this treat-

ment. He recalled, "Last year on vacation, it was no problem to walk a couple of steps down and back to the sea using the stimulation." For Jager, the therapy has not only restored his ability to walk but also improved his daily activities. "I can also reach things in my cupboards in the kitchen," he added, expressing his newfound independence.

Deep brain stimulation is a well-established neurosurgical technique that involves implanting electrodes into specific regions of the brain to modulate neural activity. It has traditionally been used to treat movement disorders like Parkinson's disease by targeting brain areas responsible for motor control. However, applying DBS to the lateral hypothalamus for the treatment of partial paralysis represents a groundbreaking approach. This research taps into an unexpected neural pathway that was previously unconsidered for motor recovery, opening up new possibilities for SCI treatment.

Published in Nature Medi-

cine, the study revealed that DBS not only immediately improved walking during rehabilitation but also produced long-lasting results. Remarkably, these improvements persisted even after the stimulation was turned off. These findings suggest that the treatment promotes the reorganization of residual nerve fibers, contributing to sustained neurological recovery.

Courtine, a professor of neuroscience at EPFL, CHUV, and UNIL, and co-director of the NeuroRestore center, explains, "This research demonstrates that the brain is needed to recover from paralysis. Surprisingly, the brain is not able to take full advantage of the neuronal projections that survive after a spinal cord injury. Here, we found how to tap into a small region of the brain that was not known to be involved in the production of walking in order to engage these residual connections and augment neurological recovery in people with spinal cord injury."

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

2 arrested for doctor's abduction and murder in Mandalay

A case of abduction and murder of a doctor in Mandalay occurred on 17 December, and the perpetrators were arrested on 19 December.

Dr Aung Myint Myat Tun was abducted early in the morning, around 9:20 am on 17 December, as he was en route to his private clinic. Hours later, at approximately noon, his family received a phone call from the number 09 681201457, in which the kidnappers demanded a ransom of K300 million for his safe return.

The family transferred the ransom in cash to the kidnappers. Following their instructions, the money was delivered via Mini Oway taxi drivers. The perpetrators assured the family that Dr Aung Myint Myat Tun



Offenders are seen alongside seized money, motorbikes and a car.

would be freed.

However, Dr Aung Myint Myat Tun had not returned home, and the family reported the case to the police. The police opened an initial investigation report No 260/2024 under sections 365, 387, and 114 of the Penal Code. Investigators were able to identify and arrest the main suspect, Dr Aung Zin Phyto, along with

his accomplice, Lwan Zin Aung (also known as) Moe Di on 19 December.

Dr Aung Zin Phyto had lured his friend, Dr Aung Myint Myat Tun, to his clinic with the intent to abduct him. When Dr Aung Myint Myat Tun resisted, a violent struggle ensued, ultimately resulting in the victim's death. The ransom demand continued even after the victim had already died.

Further investigation revealed that the ransom money was spent on indulgences, including car and motorcycle purchases, as well as entertainment. Dr Aung Myint Myat Tun's body was discarded in a ditch near an old airfield.

It was also uncovered that Dr Aung Myint Myat Tun and Dr Aung Zin Phyto had been friends since their time in medical university. Dr Aung Zin Phyto, however, had fallen into significant debt due to his involvement in online football betting and two- or three-digit lottery gambling. In desperate need of money, he planned to kidnap his friend and extort his parents for ransom.

Both Dr Aung Zin Phyto and Lwan Zin Aung will face legal consequences for their actions. This tragic incident highlights that, despite Dr Aung Zin Phyto's professional background, his financial desperation – caused by his gambling habits – led him down a dark path of crime, ultimately resulting in the abduction and murder of his friend. — MNA/TKO

Police rescue kidnap victim, 6 perpetrators shot dead

MYANMAR Police Force said six suspects were shot dead during an arrest for their connection with abducting one man, the owner of OK money transfer store, in Maekhaung ward of Tachilek Township, Shan State (East), together with weapons, drugs, and other materials.

On 13 December morning, three men (still investigating) arrived in front of the house of U Yan Htin Chan, owner of OK money transfer store on Bogyoke Street, Maekhaung ward of Tachilek Township, by Toyota Crown Royal Saloon, and arrested U Yan Htin Chan. The security forces conducted an operation to rescue the victim and arrest the suspects according to the tip-off.

Security forces received a report that the suspects were residing at No (Pa Sa-1/270) in Sinphyumin Street, Parset ward in Tachilek Township, and raided the house at 5:30 pm on 18 December.

During the raid, the suspects exchanged shots with the security forces to escape from that house, and six male suspects including Kyan Bi Yin (still identifying) and Maung



A vehicle, weapons and related items used by the six perpetrators in their crime.

Maung Oo (still identifying) were shot dead. Moreover, one Zoraki M906-T380 pistol, four bullets, one magazine, one M-16 gun, 17 bullets, one magazine, six number plates of vehicle, two bulletproof vests, one security force uniform, one raincoat, one sweater, three hats, one ID card, two driving licences, four 5.56 empty bullets, four empty bullets of pistol, one SHN-12 7K-9997 Toyota Crown Royal Saloon, three mobile phones, 65,000 WY stimulant tablets, and victim U Yan Htin Chan was rescued.

Six offenders were shot dead during the arrest and action was taken under the law. The people are urged to report to authorities regarding the insurgent movements. — MNA/KTZH

2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K565M

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

During inspections on 18 December, the combined on-duty teams impounded illegal teak weighing 0.27 tonne worth K125,550 in Hinthada Township, an unregistered motorbike worth K200,000 in Wakema Township and an unregistered vehicle and two unregistered motorbikes (estimated value of K13.5 million) in Kyaikto, Thaton and Mawlamyine Townships. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export-Import Law.

Similarly, on 18 and 19 December, the combined teams nabbed 0.762 tonne of illegal teak and 3.570 tonnes of illegal timbers valued at K735,912 in Yamethin and Kyaukse Townships, a Nissan Condor truck (estimated value of K43 million) carrying foodstuffs worth K37.504 million without official documents over the vehicle checkpoint on the outskirts of Singaing Township and two Yutong buses (estimated value of K95 million) carrying 13 industrial materials and consumer goods worth K29.028 million without official documents on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway. The action was conducted under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

Additionally, on 19 December, the combined on-duty teams seized 0.352 tonne of illegal teak worth K130,000 in Lewe Township, two unregistered vehicles and an unregistered motorbike (estimated value of K13.16 million) in Sagaing and Kalay Townships and 1.216 tonnes of illegal teak, 1.465 tonnes of hardwood and 0.309 tonne of timbers valued at K2.109 million in Nyaunglebin district. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export-Import Law.

Similarly, the Customs on-duty teams confiscated two industrial materials worth K193.199 million without official documents from three containers at the Asia World Port container checkpoint and two vehicles with a trailer (estimated value of K85 million), heading to Yangon from Myawady, carrying industrial materials and consumer goods worth K53.233 million without official documents at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. The action was conducted per Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 22 arrests on 18 and 19 December, confiscating illegal items worth K565 million. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Myanmar-German Red Cross
hosts disaster preparedness
workshop in Mandalay

THE Disaster Risk Management Department of the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the German Red Cross organized the “Disaster Preparedness Planning Workshop” under the jointly implemented “DRM and Anticipation in Fragile Contexts in Myanmar” project, which took place in Mandalay during the third week of December.

The workshop was attended by a total of 20 participants, including officials from the Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee, the Disaster Management Department, District Red Cross Corps commanders, Township Red

Cross Corps commanders, and deputy commanders from 17 townships within the Mandalay Region Red Cross Society branches.

The workshop aimed to ensure that the Red Cross Supervisory Committees and Township Red Cross branches can carry out disaster response activities in a balanced, timely, and effective manner, support humanitarian assistance to disaster-affected people based on the capabilities of the Township Red Cross branches, and collaborate with local organizations in disaster management and response activities. — ASH/TKO



This photo showcases the Disaster Preparedness Planning Workshop organized by the Disaster Risk Management Department of the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the German Red Cross in Mandalay.

Santawshin Myat Mawtinsun
Pagoda Festival to be held in
early 2025



This photo depicts the Santawshin Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda in Ngaputaw Township, Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region.

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Mawtinsun Pagoda in Ngaputaw Township, Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region, will be held in early 2025, according to U Kyaw Swa Win, a member of the pagoda’s board of trustees.

“The Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Santawshin Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda is scheduled to take place in early 2025. It has not yet been decided whether the festival will last for a month or 15 days at

this time. If the festival lasts 15 days, it will occur in February 2025. If we use the Myanmar calendar, it will run from the 1st Waxing of Taboung to the Full Moon of Taboung. If the festival lasts for a month, it will be held from the Full Moon of Tabodwe to the Full Moon of Tabaung,” said U Kyaw Swa Win.

The pagoda attracts pilgrims throughout the year, with up to 400 visitors known to visit on public holidays. Restaurants, hotels, and

guesthouses are available near the pagoda, and visitors can reach it by boat or via the Pathein-Mawtin road.

Many local travellers regularly attend the pagoda festival. Safe coastal boats will be available from Mawtin Jetty and Phonegyi Street Jetty to facilitate travel during the event. In addition, chartered vehicles will be arranged to take visitors directly to the foot of the mountain where the pagoda is located. — ASH/MKKS

Mt Phonkanrazi trekking tours to start in PutaO, Feb 2025

ACCORDING to the organizers of the Mount Phonkanrazi trekking tours, tours to the mountain in PutaO Township, Kachin State, will begin in February 2025 for casual hikers and those interested in snow-capped mountain climbing.

These Mount Phonkanrazi trekking tours, spanning nine days and catering to both novice hikers and seasoned mountaineers, are designed for those inter-

ested in exploring snow-capped mountains. The tour will start and end in PutaO. The itinerary includes stops at Ziyadam, Aukthitpingyi camp, Khamtaukmyit, Ice Cliff camp, and the mountain summit. The return journey will retrace the same path.

The 11,920-foot Mount Phonkanrazi trek involves overnight stays at various camps: Ziyadam village at the base, Aukthitpingyi camp at 6,500 feet



This photo reveals the Mount Phonkanrazi trekking area.

high, Khamtaukmyit camp at 8,000 feet, and Ice Cliff camp at 10,000 feet. Organizers have also recommended that all partici-

pants, regardless of experience level, begin a 10-day training programme consisting of daily three-mile hikes and one-mile runs, and undergo a medical checkup before the trek.

Starting from the base village of Ziyadam, the trekking tour will include all meals and necessary equipment provided by the tour organizers. The expected cost for the trip is approximately K2.6 million per person. — ASH/TRKM

GlobalNEW LIGHT of MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

APTERR to distribute 3,500 tonnes of rice to disaster-hit communities

UNDER the programme of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), 3,500 tonnes of rice to be provided by China and the Republic of Korea will be reserved and distributed to disaster-prone communities next year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Myanmar received 8,938.8 tonnes of stocks donated by the ROK, Japan and China under the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Tier-3 programme between 2017-2023.

Under the guidance of the State Administration Council, they were systematically distributed to disaster-stricken communities through the Natural Disaster Management Committee. APTERR Fund comprises the Endowment Fund, which is the capital contribution to long-term financial support and the annual contribution to the operational cost utilized to support



Diligent workers loading export rice bags onto an overseas-bound merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

the operation and activities of the APTERR. With Myanmar being a member of APTERR, the ministry has actively participated in the APTERR Tier-3 programme for rice donations to

natural disaster-affected communities since 2017.

Under the APTERR Tier 3 programme, 3,000 tonnes from the Republic of Korea and 500 tonnes of rice purchased with

cash donations from China will be stocked and contributed to people affected by natural disasters and calamities in 2025.

A work coordination meeting of the Programme Manage-

ment Team (PMT) of APTERR was held on 18 December at the meeting hall of the ministry. Dr Ye Tint Tun, Director-General and PMT vice-president, addressed activities implemented under the APTERR programme. The hybrid meeting highlighted distribution plans of APTERR Tier 3 2023 and 2024 programmes and future activities.

APTERR Tier 1 involves the release of emergency rice reserves under the pre-arrangement terms for anticipated emergencies, APTERR Tier 2 is the release of emergency rice reserves under long-term loan or other agreements and APTERR Tier 3 provides stockpiled emergency rice reserves under the contribution of severe emergencies and humanitarian responses. The Department of Agriculture, being APTERR's party, is responsible for emergency rice reserves distribution for natural disaster events. — NN/KK

CBM to sell over 10M yuan to importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will sell 10 million yuan to importers on the foreign exchange trading platform, announced on 19 December. It sold 1.36 million yuan and 2.48 million baht on that day.

CBM injected \$30 million and 2.14 million baht on 18 December; \$150,000 and over 810,000 Thai baht on 17 December and \$28 million, one million Thai baht and over 710,000 yuan on 16 December; 340,000 yuan and 400,000 Thai baht on 13 December; \$28.51 million and 600,000 Thai baht on 12 December and 500,000 yuan again on 11 December into the financial market as well.

CBM announced on 10 December that it would sell \$35 million and 40 million baht through the foreign exchange trading platform. Then, it sold about 900,000 yuan on 10 December; \$15 million, over one million yuan and 200 million baht on 6 December; over 1.55 million yuan on 5 December after sales of 1.48 million yuan on

4 December and 1.43 million yuan on 3 December.

Furthermore, on 2 December; CBM injected \$38 million, 1.48 million yuan and 107.46 million baht into online foreign exchange trading platforms.

CBM pumped over \$59 million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November and over \$91 million, over 610 million baht and 9.8 million yuan in October into the financial market.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Myanmar bags US\$1.363M from honey export in Apr-Nov



A beekeeper harvesting honey from the hive.

MYANMAR exported 908.48 metric tonnes of honey valued at US\$1.363 million in the past eight months (April-November) of the current financial year 2024-2025, according to the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

The seaborne honey export exceeded 860.68 tonnes while the border posts registered 47.8 tonnes of honey exports from April to November 2024.

Myanmar's honey is mostly sent to Japan with 658.66 metric tonnes worth \$987,870, followed

by Thailand with 201.51 tonnes worth \$302,265, China with 45.8 tonnes worth \$68,696, Chinese Taipei with two tonnes worth \$3,003 and the Republic of Korea with 0.5 tonne worth \$750.

Myanmar delivered over 2,200 metric tonnes of honey to foreign trade partners in the last FY 2023-2024 (April-March), the Apiculture Division's data indicated.

Sagaing and Mandalay regions are the leading producers of Myanmar's honey. Myanmar's beekeeping businesses are also found in Yangon, Bago

and Magway regions, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan states. Myanmar produces sesame honey, jujube honey, Niger honey, sunflower honey, lychee honey and flower honey.

Myanmar's honey production is estimated at over 4,000 metric tonnes annually. Sixty per cent went to foreign markets while the remaining was designated for domestic consumption. Honey is utilized as a traditional medicine in the country.

There are some state-owned beekeeping stations with 6,200 beehives in 31 townships and over 950 private beekeeping businesses operating with nearly 200,000 beehives.

Moreover, two million acres of crops yearly contribute to bee pollination annually. The beekeeping businesses near the crop fields contribute to the successful yield of the crop as well as quality bee production. — NN/KK

Amazon workers in US strike days before Christmas

The union claims to represent 10,000 workers, calling it the largest strike against Amazon in history.



The move comes amid a Teamsters national organizing campaign at Amazon, which has long fought unionization. PHOTO: AFP

THOUSANDS of workers at Amazon facilities across the United States went on strike Thursday, the Teamsters Union said, halting

work at the height of the busy holiday gift-giving season. The union, which says it represents some 10,000

workers at the massive online retailer’s facilities around the country, called the action the “largest strike against Amazon in US history”. Workers will picket at facilities in New York, Atlanta, southern California, San Francisco and Illinois, with other Amazon Teamsters “prepared to join them”, the union said in a statement. “The nationwide action follows Amazon’s repeated refusal to follow the law and bargain with the thousands of Amazon workers who organized with the Teamsters,” it said. — AFP

Cambodia spends US\$ 2.18 bln for oil imports in first 11 months of 2024

CAMBODIA'S imports of diesel fuel and petroleum oils increased by 11.3 per cent in the first 11 months of 2024, according to the latest report from the Ministry of Commerce on Friday. The value of diesel fuel and petroleum oil imports totalled \$2.18 billion during the January-November period, up 11.3 per cent year-on-year, the report said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PHU THANH 36 VOY.NO. (24.02)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PHU THANH 36 VOY.NO. (24.02)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Title : **Rehabilitation, Operation, Maintenance and Management (ROMM) of Ahlone Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant of around 154MW Power Capacity**
Project : **ROMM Project for Ahlone Power Plant**
EOI No. : **EPGE-EoI-01/2024**
Date : **20th December, 2024**

1. Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) has planned the Rehabilitation, Operation, Maintenance and Management (ROMM) for existing Ministry owned Ahlone Combined Cycle Power Plant located in No.39, Kannar Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon Region (hereinafter referred to the Power Plant) to increase the power generation. MOEP intends to appoint a qualified Developer who can rehabilitate, operate, maintain, and manage the Power Plant, including the arrangement of the fuel supply (HFO fuel) for generating of the Power Plant by inviting the Expression of Interest (EoI).
2. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) as the executing agency under MOEP intends to assign the Developers for the ROMM of the Power Plant by inviting the EoI. The Developer shall rehabilitate the Power Plant, using existing the combined cycle technology, operate with the qualified operators together with EPGE’s employees, maintain the Power Plant to keep the best performance during the operating period and manage with the well-organized teams for safe and reliable operation. Furthermore, the scope of works for ROMM shall include its owned arrangement of fuel supply for the generating of Power Plant. The detailed scope of ROMM process is outlined in Section V of the EoI Document.
3. The tendering process shall be in two stages, first stage (EoI) is selection of qualified Applicants, and second stage (Request for Bid) is the bidding stage after selecting the qualified Applicants.
4. The expected commercial operation date of the ROMM project is targeted to achieve within [17] months after the issuance of Notice of Award to the winning Bidder. And Power Purchase Agreement shall be signed with EPGE for the ROMM project.
5. A complete set of the EoI document, available in English language, can be purchased for a fee of 100,000 MMK at the following address from the date of invitation and before submission of EoI:
Procurement Department,
Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Ministry of Electric Power, Office 27, NayPyiTaw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
6. Applications for EoI should be submitted in sealed envelopes and delivered to the address below by 20th January, 2025, 14:00 hr Myanmar Standard Time and be clearly marked “Application to EoI for the ROMM (including fuel arrangement) of Ahlone Power Plant (EPGE-EoI-01/2024)”. Late applications shall be rejected. Interested entity may enquire at the address below during office hours 09:30 to 16:30 Hrs.

Attn: Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Ministry of Electric Power
Office: No.27, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Phone: +95 9688872872, E-mail: ahlonerommproject@gmail.com

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:



09 255597511

09 454237515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA BITBURG VOY.NO. (448W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA BITBURG VOY.NO. (448W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (444N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (444N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-12-2024** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VIMC DIAMOND VOY.NO. (0UVB2S1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VIMC DIAMOND VOY.NO. (0UVB2S1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-12-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/ AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Slovak troops to monitor security on oil, gas pipelines

The operation comes in response to heightened concerns about potential terrorist activities targeting energy facilities.



Slovak Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Estok confirmed the identification of a terrorist cell planning to attack critical infrastructure. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

SLOVAK troops will participate in maintaining the security of oil and gas pipelines in the country, Slovak newspaper reported.

The servicepeople will monitor the security of more than 80 objects, the newspaper said, adding that the operation, dubbed Iron Stream, will also involve dozens of units of armed

vehicles, drones, and Black Hawk helicopters.

In early December, Slovak Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Estok said that members of a terrorist cell that may have been preparing a terrorist attack on the country’s critical infrastructure had been identified. They were deported to Ukraine and Hungary. The minister also noted that there was “a real suspicion of a possible preparation of an attack consisting in the destruction or disabling of an important energy facility, namely a gas or oil pipeline. The prepared attacks reportedly targeted the Druzhba pipeline. — SPUTNIK

Malaysia has agreed in principle to resume search for flight MH370, says transport minister

THE Malaysian government has agreed in principle to resume the search for Malaysian Airlines flight MH370, Malaysian Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook said on Friday.

Loke told a press briefing that the cabinet has agreed in principle to accept the proposal from exploration firm Ocean Infinity to proceed with seabed search operations to locate MH370 in a new area estimated at 15,000 square kilometres in the southern Indian Ocean.

“This endeavour will be based on the ‘no find, no fee’ principle. Under this principle, the Malaysian government will not be required to pay Ocean Infinity unless the wreckage of the aircraft is discovered,” he said.

Loke also said the proposed new search area, identified by the firm, is credible based on the latest information and data analyses conducted by experts and researchers.

The disappearance of MH370 was a tragic incident that occurred on 8 March 2014, when the Boeing 777,

en route from Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia to Beijing Capital International Airport in China, vanished from radar screens with all 239 on board. — Xinhua



Numerous previous searches have yielded no results. **PHOTO: AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE/AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEFS

Ukraine plans to create joint gas hub with Poland

UKRAINE is working to create a joint gas hub with Poland to compensate for the loss of the Russian gas transit, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported Thursday, citing Deputy Energy Minister Mykola Kolisnyk.

“The end of transit marks the beginning of competition among new routes and resources, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), which is actively increasing its share in the EU’s overall energy mix,” Kolisnyk said.

The proposed Eastern European gas hub would leverage Ukraine’s storage facilities and Poland’s LNG terminals to store and supply gas for consumers in Europe, he added.

Ukraine used to be a key transit route for Russian gas supplies to Europe. — Xinhua

Cholera vaccine production up but stockpiles still short: WHO

ORAL cholera vaccine production last month reached its highest level in more than a decade, the WHO said Wednesday, but warned there was still not enough to meet the surging demand.

The World Health Organization had warned in October that the global stockpile was effectively depleted, hampering attempts to bring the disease under control.

The UN health agency said production of oral vaccine doses surged last month thanks to new formulations and manufacturing methods.

“This increase allowed the average stock to rise to 3.5 million doses in November compared to 600,000 in October – closer to the five million doses needed for emergency stockpile at all times for effective outbreak response,” the WHO said in its monthly situation report. — AFP

US troops in Syria more than twice previously declared number: Pentagon

APPROXIMATELY 2,000 US troops are deployed to Syria, much higher than the previously reported figure of around 900 troops, the Pentagon acknowledged on Thursday.

Pentagon press secretary Pat Ryder confirmed the change at a press briefing on Thursday, noting that the additional deployments were made in response to the evolving security situation in Syria and to safeguard critical US interests in the region.

“As I understand it and as it was explained to me, these additional forces are considered temporary rotational forces that deploy to meet shifting mission requirements, whereas the core 900 deployers are on longer-term deployments,” Ryder explained at the briefing. — Xinhua

SPORTS

IOC presidential candidate Watanabe suggests 5-continent Olympics



File photo shows Japan's IOC presidential candidate Morinari Watanabe giving a speech after he was elected as the International Gymnastics Federation President for a third term in October 2024 in Doha. PHOTO: THE INTERNATIONAL GYMNASTICS FEDERATION / KYODO

JAPAN'S IOC presidential candidate Morinari Watanabe has proposed staging the Summer Olympics in one city from each of the five continents simultaneously to share the excitement around the world and reduce economic costs to host cities.

The 65-year-old president of the International Gymnastics Federation, the first Asian to hold the position, outlined his radical vision in his IOC candidature document released Thursday. Re-elected for a third term in October, he argued that the idea would allow many more, including smaller cities, to consider hosting the games.

"The Olympic Games have grown so large, and it is now economically and environmentally difficult to host them in most cities," said Watanabe, an IOC member since 2018. "We will study the development of the new model of the Olympic Games".

Watanabe's proposal would have 10 sports per host city and 50 sports in total, with the games to be broadcast and streamed 24 hours a day, enabling "worldwide promotion by worldwide partners". — Kyodo



This photo captures the Myanmar team undergoing training.

Vietnam and Myanmar to face off in ASEAN Cup Match

THE final day of Group B matches in the 2024 ASEAN Cup will be held on 21 December, with Myanmar facing Vietnam in an away match.

The final Group B matches of the 2024 ASEAN Cup will be played today at 7:30 pm. Vietnam will host Myanmar, while Indonesia will host the Philippines. Both matches will decide the teams advancing. Myanmar, currently tied with Indonesia on four points, needs a win or a draw to have an opportunity to progress.

Myanmar's head coach, U Myo Hlaing Win, said, "We know Vietnam is the strongest team in the group. They have a well-balanced squad with both experienced and young players, and they have clearly been preparing for this tournament for a long time. As for our team, we hope to maintain the same high spirits and effort that we showed in the match against Laos. We have already planned how to replace Maung Maung Lwin and adjust our tactics. Both Vietnam and Myanmar need to score points to advance to the next round, so it's sure to be an exciting match". — MNA/TRKM

Myanmar finishes third at 4th Asian Roll Ball Championship



The Myanmar men's skate team.

MYANMAR men's skate team secured third place (bronze medal) in the fourth Asian Roll Ball Championship held in Goa, India, on 15-19 December.

Myanmar faced off against India, Iran, Sri Lanka and Malaysia in the group fixture on 16-19 December. In the third-place play-off, Myanmar bested the Philippines and grabbed the third prize. Vice-president U Aung Myint Tun and U Lwin Latt led the Myanmar skate team, and a total of nine skaters participated in the event. — Arkar Lin/KTZH

WORLD ESPORTS SUMMIT

World Esports IESF

WES24

#1

INDONESIA

PBSFI

1949

#2

MYANMAR

MEBF

1910

#3

POLAND

ESA

1833

#4

HUNGARY

HUNESZ

1822

The World Esports Summit and score results.

1821

Myanmar Esports Federation secures 2nd place in IESF rankings

IN this year's rankings of the best esports countries by the International Esports Federation (IESF), the Myanmar Esports Federation achieved second place. Indonesia took the top award, with the ceremony held in Busan, South Korea during the IESF World Esports Summit, according to an IESF statement. Awards were based on criteria such as operational skills, competition achievements, market exploration, and efforts in national and global esports growth.

Among the top five esports federations, Indonesia scored 1,949 points, Myanmar 1,910 points, Poland 1,833 points, Hungary 1,822 points, and Serbia 1,821 points. Myanmar was narrowly defeated by Indonesia but had a significant lead over third-place Poland.

"Myanmar national DOTA 2 team and Myanmar national PUBG Mobile team contributed to this award. This is an honour for the Myanmar esports industry," said a DOTA 2 player.

The Myanmar national DOTA 2 team, Yangon Galaticos, won a silver medal in the 2023 IESF World Esports Championship and reached the top eight in the 2024 championship. The Myanmar national PUBG Mobile team, Genesis Esports, ranked fourth in the 2024 championship. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS



Xi stresses adherence to ‘one country, two systems’ as Macao SAR celebrates silver jubilee

CHINESE President Xi Jinping stressed on Friday the long-term adherence to “one country, two systems” as Macao celebrates a quarter-century of transformative success since its return to the motherland.

At a televised ceremony held in a major sports stadium in Macao, Xi swore in Sam Hou Fai, a 62-year-old former senior judge, as the sixth-term chief executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR). Sam’s team of principal officials for the SAR government was also sworn in before Xi.

After the inauguration, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, addressed an audience of over 1,000 people in the stadium.

Xi stated that great achievements of Macao since its return have proven to the world that “one country, two systems” has prominent institutional strengths and tremendous vitality.

Macao and its neighbour Hong Kong are China’s two SARs governed under the “one country, two systems” policy since China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over them following long periods of Portuguese and British rule. The policy allows them to maintain their capitalist systems and ways of life within socialist China.

Xi said “one country, two systems”

is a good policy that helps maintain long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao, a good policy that serves the noble cause of building a stronger country and achieving national rejuvenation, and a good policy that helps realize peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation between different social systems. — Xinhua

Xi on Friday delivered a speech at a meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of Macao’s return to the motherland and the inaugural ceremony of the sixth-term government of the Macao SAR.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, administers the oath of office to principal officials of the sixth-term government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), who are led by Sam Hou Fai, the sixth-term chief executive of the Macao SAR, at the Macao East Asian Games Dome in Macao, south China, 20 December 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Rescuers extend search for Vanuatu quake survivors



Australian rescue workers comb through the site of a collapsed building in Port Vila, the capital city of Vanuatu / © **AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE/AFP**

RESCUERS say they have expanded a search for trapped survivors in quake-rocked Vanuatu to “numerous places of collapse” beyond the capital on Friday, after the death toll climbed to at least 10.

The 7.3-magnitude earthquake struck off the main island on Tuesday, toppling concrete buildings in Port Vila and setting off landslides. It has damaged water supplies, knocked out mobile networks, halted operations at the capital’s main shipping port and led to a suspension of commercial flights.

Ten people have been confirmed killed so far, according to ministry of health figures relayed Thursday by the United Nations’ humanitarian affairs office.

Toll figures issued by the authorities have sometimes been contradictory as officials grapple with the disaster. Vanuatu President Nikenike Vurobaravu said there were “around 16 dead”, citing the police, in a televised address posted by the public broadcaster VBTC News to social media. — AFP

Trump threatens government with total paralysis, says debt ceiling could plunge US into depression

DONALD TRUMP has threatened lawmakers with a costly and perhaps fatal government shutdown unless Congress ups the debt ceiling or eliminates limits to federal government borrowing altogether.

“We’re not going to fall into the debt ceiling quicksand,” Trump told US media Thursday. “There won’t be anything approved unless the debt ceiling is done with,” he warned. The president-elect warned the US could be thrust into an economic depression if government spending exceeded limits set out by Congress – something expected to happen in the coming months – soon after he takes office in January. — SPUTNIK